

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S5W-27315

1. Finlay Carson MSP (Conservative and Unionist Party) is the member for Galloway and West Dumfries. This is Mr Carson's second question on fire and smoke alarms. His previous question was answered on 17 April 2018.

- To ask the Scottish Government how many deaths have arisen as a result of (a) no and (b) faulty smoke detectors or alarms being present in a property, and how many have arisen where fully-functioning smoke alarms or detectors were present in the last five years. (S5W-15831)

Answer: The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) publish annual statistics on dwelling fires and casualties by presence and operation of smoke alarms. These can be found on the SFRS's website at the link below (tables 19, 19a and 19b refer)

http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/1213027/2016_17_fire_and_rescue_statistics_tables.xlsx

2. Mr Carson is a member of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee and a substitute member of both the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee and Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee.

3. This question relates to changes to legislation which strengthen the standard for fire and carbon monoxide detection. The standard will apply to all homes, regardless of tenure.

4. The new standard was introduced on 1 February 2019, coming into force on 1 February 2021, however, we would encourage all homeowners to comply with the standard at the earliest opportunity.

5. The Fire and Carbon Monoxide Detection Loan Scheme for registered social landlords helps cover the cost of buying and installing smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms to meet new fire and smoke alarm standards. The scheme closed on 30 November 2019 and, to date, over £7 million has been paid out in loan funding. It is being administered internally, funded through the Financial Transactions provision in the Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency budget line.

6. To raise public awareness and ensure consistency of messaging, we are scheduling a meeting with communications colleagues from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and CoSLA in the coming weeks. Discussion at this meeting will include:

- highlighting the legislative changes and requirements for all homes;
- the UK Government 'Fire Kills' campaign and how this might complement our own activity in Scotland without confusing the different standards applicable;
- information provided to households during home fire safety visits; and
- potential engagement with national retailers following recent correspondence.

Contact Name: [redacted]
Ext: [redacted]

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S5W-31126

1. We are not aware of any specific constituency interest in this matter. Oliver Mundell MSP is a Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party member of the Scottish Parliament for Dumfriesshire and is a substitute member for the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.
2. Mr Mundell has not previously asked any fire safety related PQs.
3. An announcement was made on 28 March 2018 outlining our intention to strengthen the existing standards for fire alarms. The analysis report from the consultation on Fire and Smoke Alarms in Scottish Homes supported strengthening standards, ensuring that all homes have the highest level of protection, regardless of tenure.
4. The standard requires:
 - One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes (normally the living room/lounge);
 - One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings;
 - One heat alarm installed in every kitchen;
 - All smoke and heat alarms to be ceiling mounted; and
 - All smoke and heat alarms to be interlinked.

The new standard also extends the requirement for carbon monoxide alarms in the PRS across all tenures.

5. From February 2021, fire and carbon monoxide detectors must be fitted in Scottish homes – these are required to comply with the statutory Tolerable Standard which applies to all houses. Compliance with the Tolerable Standard is included as part of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) which social rented housing must meet and the Repairing Standard which private rented housing must meet.
6. An update to guidance for social rented housing, circulated to social landlords in May 2020, highlighted the forthcoming change to standards for social rented housing. Private rented landlords should already be aware of this requirement as it has been part of the repairing standard since October 2013.
7. The consultation also showed very strong support among respondents for both home owners and landlords to pay for any work needed to meet the new standard, although some respondents (particularly social landlords) had concerns about the potential costs of work needed for properties to comply with a new standard.
8. Taking on board the concerns of registered social landlords, we developed an interest free loan scheme repayable over 5 years. The scheme opened last June and we have paid out over £15 million in loan funding.

9. As a general principle, home owners are responsible for the costs of on-going work needed to protect and preserve their own property. As with other housing standards, it will be the responsibility of the homeowner, or landlord if the property is rented, to meet the new fire and carbon monoxide alarm standard. Local authorities have broad discretionary powers to provide advice and assistance to home owners with work needed to look after their homes.
10. We have consistently engaged with social landlords, and we will utilise other channels such as Tenant and Resident Groups and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to publicise the changes to the standard in the run up to the enforcement date.
11. In line with the Nuisance Calls Commission, we support businesses in best practice which help to identify rogue companies and better enable regulators to focus resources on persistent offenders. Trading Standards Scotland (TSS) received funding of £125,000 from the Scottish Government in 2017 for the purchase and roll out of call blocking devices. This allowed for the purchase of 1,200 units for distribution to the homes of the most vulnerable consumers in Scotland to prevent unwanted calls. Since the project began until February 2020, 448,565 nuisance calls, on a wide range of issues, have been blocked.
12. To facilitate the growth of this work TSS and SG have match funded £15,000 in order to maximise the number of units purchased (280) and in turn, maximise the number of consumers protected. The availability of the devices featured in the Shut out Scammers campaign 22 June 2020.

Contact Name: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 14:46
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

Thanks [redacted] – I'll change SFRS.

I know what you mean, I think it is worthwhile to mention the nuisance stuff as I am sure that will be where this question has come from and your addition makes sense.

[redacted] | Housing, Building and Fire Safety | Housing Standards and Quality | Scottish Government | Better Homes Division | Room 106, Russell House, King Street, Ayr, KA8 0BE | Tel: [redacted] | Blackberry: [redacted]

Like many, I will be working at home until further notice.

The mobile number above and email are the best options for direct contact for now.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 14:42
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

Thanks [redacted]

I think we should spell out SFRS in the answer. I am happy with publications, there's certainly stuff published online.

There is an extra space after para 6 in the BG. I know that the half million nuisance calls in para 11 aren't just for fire alarms but can you add something like "on a wide range of issues" here? Does that sound OK?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 14:32
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

Hi

Please see attached for improvements . . .

Thanks [redacted] – I've added a link.

[redacted] – I kept your original line as I don't think it needed changing

[redacted] – thanks for your input

Can you check the wording of the answer – are electrical publications a ‘thing’ or is there a better way to word it?

Thanks in advance

[redacted] | Housing, Building and Fire Safety | Housing Standards and Quality | Scottish Government | Better Homes Division | Room 106, Russell House, King Street, Ayr, KA8 0BE | Tel: [redacted] | Blackberry: [redacted]

Like many, I will be working at home until further notice.

The mobile number above and email are the best options for direct contact for now.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 14:14
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

Hi both

Sorry if I've confused matters.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 14:12
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

Ah! I see – I'll rejig a bit then.

Can I send over the updated version shortly for your enjoyment/perusal?

[redacted] | Housing, Building and Fire Safety | Housing Standards and Quality | Scottish Government | Better Homes Division | Room 106, Russell House, King Street, Ayr, KA8 0BE | Tel: [redacted] | Blackberry: [redacted]

Like many, I will be working at home until further notice.

The mobile number above and email are the best options for direct contact for now.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 14:10
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

She means it was added to the RS later than fire alarms – fire alarms were from 2013, CO from 2015

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 14:05
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

[redacted]

Can I just check the carbon monoxide aspect? The legislation for fire and CO alarms was made at the same time (January 2019) under the TS, do you mean it was added later to the repairing standard?

Thankies

[redacted] | Housing, Building and Fire Safety | Housing Standards and Quality | Scottish Government | Better Homes Division | Room 106, Russell House, King Street, Ayr, KA8 0BE | Tel: [redacted] | Blackberry: [redacted]

Like many, I will be working at home until further notice.

The mobile number above and email are the best options for direct contact for now.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 13:30
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

Thanks [redacted] / [redacted]

Just occurred to me that the requirement for carbon monoxide detectors came in later so might be better to remove the reference to that at the beginning, so contribution would read.

From February 2021, ~~fire, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors~~ alarms must be fitted in Scottish homes – these are required to comply with the statutory Tolerable Standard which applies to all houses. Compliance with the Tolerable Standard is included as part of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) which social rented housing must meet and the Repairing Standard which private rented housing must meet.

A update to guidance for social rented housing, circulated to social landlords in May 2020, highlighted the forthcoming change to standards for social rented housing. Private rented landlords should already be aware of this requirement as it has been part of the repairing standard since October 2013.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 13:15
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

We could add –

A update to guidance for social rented housing, circulated to social landlords in May 2020, highlighted the forthcoming change to standards for social rented housing. Private rented landlords should already be aware of this requirement as it has been part of the repairing standard since October 2013.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 11:49
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Draft PQ

Hi [redacted]

The following might fit in neatly after point 3 on your background note –

From February 2021, fire, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors must be fitted in Scottish homes – these are required to comply with the statutory Tolerable Standard which applies to all houses. Compliance with the Tolerable Standard is included as part of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) which social rented housing must meet and the Repairing Standard which private rented housing must meet.

[redacted] – are you happy with this or do you think we should provide more ?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 August 2020 15:41
To: [redacted]
Subject: Draft PQ

Hello

Please find attached draft answer and background note as discussed.

I am waiting for a contribution from [redacted]'s team on nuisance callers etc which should be useful

Let me know what's missing and any changes you think it needs.

Thanks in advance

[redacted]

[redacted] | Housing, Building and Fire Safety | Housing Standards and Quality | Scottish Government | Better Homes Division | Room 106, Russell House, King Street, Ayr, KA8 0BE | Tel: [redacted] | Blackberry: [redacted]

Like many, I will be working at home until further notice.

The mobile number above and email are the best options for direct contact for now.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 August 2020 16:04
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Draft PQ for approval please

Hi [redacted]

Please see attached PQ for approval as discussed.

Thanks in advance

[redacted]



PQ - Draft -
S5W-31126.docx

[redacted] | Housing, Building and Fire Safety | Housing Standards and Quality | Scottish Government | Better Homes Division | Room 106, Russell House, King Street, Ayr, KA8 0BE | Tel: [redacted] | Blackberry: [redacted]

Like many, I will be working at home until further notice.

The mobile number above and email are the best options for direct contact for now.

S5W-31126

Oliver Mundell: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to publicise the legal requirement to install interlinked fire alarms in all homes by February 2021.

PQ deadline is – 17/08/2020

Answer

An announcement was made on 28 March 2018 of our intention to strengthen the current standards we have in place for fire alarms. This announcement was widely reported in press, television and social media as well as housing and electrical related publications. An informative fact sheet was also made available on our website: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/>

A joint awareness raising campaign will be taken forward, coordinated across SFRS, Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to ensure consistency in approach in all local authority areas prior to the standard coming into force on 1 February 2021.

Background Note

1. We are not aware of any specific constituency interest in this matter. Oliver Mundell MSP is a Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party member of the Scottish Parliament for Dumfriesshire and is a substitute member for the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.
2. Mr Mundell has not previously asked any fire safety related PQs.
3. An announcement was made on 28 March 2018 outlining our intention to strengthen the existing standards for fire alarms. The analysis report from the consultation on Fire and Smoke Alarms in Scottish Homes supported strengthening standards, ensuring that all homes have the highest level of protection, regardless of tenure.
4. The standard requires:
 - One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes (normally the living room/lounge);
 - One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings;
 - One heat alarm installed in every kitchen;
 - All smoke and heat alarms to be ceiling mounted; and
 - All smoke and heat alarms to be interlinked.

The new standard also extends the requirement for carbon monoxide alarms in the PRS across all tenures.

5. From February 2021, fire and carbon monoxide detectors must be fitted in Scottish homes – these are required to comply with the statutory Tolerable

Standard which applies to all houses. Compliance with the Tolerable Standard is included as part of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) which social rented housing must meet and the Repairing Standard which private rented housing must meet.

6. An update to guidance for social rented housing, circulated to social landlords in May 2020, highlighted the forthcoming change to standards for social rented housing. Private rented landlords should already be aware of this requirement as it has been part of the repairing standard since October 2013.
7. The consultation also showed very strong support among respondents for both home owners and landlords to pay for any work needed to meet the new standard, although some respondents (particularly social landlords) had concerns about the potential costs of work needed for properties to comply with a new standard.
8. Taking on board the concerns of registered social landlords, we developed an interest free loan scheme repayable over 5 years. The scheme opened last June and we have paid out over £15 million in loan funding.
9. As a general principle, home owners are responsible for the costs of on-going work needed to protect and preserve their own property. As with other housing standards, it will be the responsibility of the homeowner, or landlord if the property is rented, to meet the new fire and carbon monoxide alarm standard. Local authorities have broad discretionary powers to provide advice and assistance to home owners with work needed to look after their homes.
10. We have consistently engaged with social landlords, and we will utilise other channels such as Tenant and Resident Groups and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to publicise the changes to the standard in the run up to the enforcement date.
11. In line with the Nuisance Calls Commission, we support businesses in best practice which help to identify rogue companies and better enable regulators to focus resources on persistent offenders. Trading Standards Scotland (TSS) received funding of £125,000 from the Scottish Government in 2017 for the purchase and roll out of call blocking devices. This allowed for the purchase of 1,200 units for distribution to the homes of the most vulnerable consumers in Scotland to prevent unwanted calls. Since the project began until February 2020, 448,565 nuisance calls have been blocked.
12. To facilitate the growth of this work TSS and SG have match funded £15,000 in order to maximise the number of units purchased (280) and in turn, maximise the number of consumers protected. The availability of the devices featured in the Shut out Scammers campaign 22 June 2020.

Contact Name: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S5W-31910

Background Note

1. James Kelly, MSP is a Scottish Labour Party member for Glasgow. Mr Kelly is a member of the Justice Committee and also sits on several cross party groups covering a variety of interests.
2. These two linked questions are the first questions Mr Kelly has submitted in relation to the new standards and it is unclear what has prompted his interest, however, there has been an increase in correspondence on the matter so this may stem from a constituent enquiry.
 - To ask the Scottish Government what penalties can be issued against home owners who do not comply with the new fire safety standards due to be introduced in February 2021. (**S5W-31909**)
3. An announcement was made on 28 March 2018 outlining our intention to strengthen the existing standards for fire alarms. The analysis report from the consultation on Fire and Smoke Alarms in Scottish Homes supported strengthening standards, ensuring that all homes have the highest level of protection, regardless of tenure.
4. The standard requires:
 - One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes (normally the living room/lounge);
 - One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings;
 - One heat alarm installed in every kitchen;
 - All smoke and heat alarms to be ceiling mounted; and
 - All smoke and heat alarms to be interlinked.

The new standard also extends the requirement for carbon monoxide alarms in the Private Rented Sector across all tenures.

5. From February 2021, fire and carbon monoxide detectors must be fitted in Scottish homes – these are required to comply with the statutory Tolerable Standard which applies to all houses.
6. The consultation also showed very strong support among respondents for both home owners and landlords to pay for any work needed to meet the new standard.
7. As a general principle, home owners are responsible for the costs of on-going work needed to protect and preserve their own property. As with other housing standards, it will be the responsibility of the homeowner to meet the new fire and carbon monoxide alarm standard. Local authorities have broad discretionary powers to provide advice and assistance to home owners with work needed to look after their homes.

8. We have worked with alarm suppliers who have invested in television and radio adverts to ensure accuracy and consistency of messaging. We are also liaising with retailers and will utilise channels such as Tenant and Resident Groups and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to publicise the changes to the standard in the run up to the enforcement date.
9. In line with the Nuisance Calls Commission, we support businesses in best practice which help to identify rogue companies and better enable regulators to focus resources on persistent offenders. Trading Standards Scotland (TSS) received funding of £125,000 from the Scottish Government in 2017 for the purchase and roll out of call blocking devices. This allowed for the purchase of 1,200 units for distribution to the homes of the most vulnerable consumers in Scotland to prevent unwanted calls. Since the project began until February 2020, 448,565 nuisance calls, on a wide range of issues, have been blocked.

Contact Name: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 September 2020 08:55
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: PQs for clearance please

Thanks very much for sight of these [redacted] – happy to clear.

In due course, I'd welcome sight of the plans for the awareness raising campaign and how that will be taken forwards – in particular if we've any concerns about deliverability of this in light of the unexpected nature of this year.

Thanks
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 September 2020 08:45
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: PQs for clearance please

Good morning [redacted] – I hope you're well.

Please see attached PQs for clearance please – they are similar to recently answered.

Thanks in advance

[redacted]

[redacted] | Housing, Building and Fire Safety | Housing Standards and Quality | Scottish Government | Better Homes Division | Room 106, Russell House, King Street, Ayr, KA8 0BE | Tel: [redacted] | Blackberry: [redacted]

Like many, I will be working at home until further notice.
The mobile number above and email are the best options for direct contact for now.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 September 2020 08:45
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: PQs for clearance please

Good morning [redacted] – I hope you're well.

Please see attached PQs for clearance please – they are similar to recently answered.

Thanks in advance

[redacted]



S5W-31909 and
S5W-31910.docx

[redacted] | Housing, Building and Fire Safety | Housing Standards and Quality | Scottish Government | Better Homes Division | Room 106, Russell House, King Street, Ayr, KA8 0BE | Tel: [redacted] | Blackberry: [redacted]

Like many, I will be working at home until further notice.

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S5W-31909

- To ask the Scottish Government what penalties can be issued against home owners who do not comply with the new fire safety standards due to be introduced in February 2021.

Answer: As this will be a minimum standard for safe houses as part of the Tolerable Standard, local authorities will be able to use their statutory powers to require owners to carry out work necessary to meet the standard, although we would expect any intervention to be proportionate.

S5W-31910

- To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to promote new fire safety standards among home owners ahead of them being introduced in February 2021.

Answer: An announcement was made on 28 March 2018 of our intention to strengthen the current standards we have in place for fire alarms. This announcement was widely reported in press, television and social media as well as housing and electrical related publications. An informative fact sheet was also made available on our website: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes/>

A joint awareness raising campaign will be taken forward, coordinated across Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to ensure consistency in approach in all local authority areas prior to the standard coming into force on 1 February 2021.

Background Note

1. James Kelly, MSP is a Scottish Labour Party member for Glasgow. Mr Kelly is a member of the Justice Committee and also sits on several cross party groups covering a variety of interests.
2. These two linked questions are the first questions Mr Kelly has submitted in relation to the new standards and it is unclear what has prompted his interest, however, there has been an increase in correspondence on the matter so this may stem from a constituent enquiry.
3. An announcement was made on 28 March 2018 outlining our intention to strengthen the existing standards for fire alarms. The analysis report from the consultation on Fire and Smoke Alarms in Scottish Homes supported strengthening standards, ensuring that all homes have the highest level of protection, regardless of tenure.
4. The standard requires:
 - One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes (normally the living room/lounge);

- One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings;
- One heat alarm installed in every kitchen;
- All smoke and heat alarms to be ceiling mounted; and
- All smoke and heat alarms to be interlinked.

The new standard also extends the requirement for carbon monoxide alarms in the Private Rented Sector across all tenures.

5. From February 2021, fire and carbon monoxide detectors must be fitted in Scottish homes – these are required to comply with the statutory Tolerable Standard which applies to all houses.
6. The consultation also showed very strong support among respondents for both home owners and landlords to pay for any work needed to meet the new standard.
7. As a general principle, home owners are responsible for the costs of on-going work needed to protect and preserve their own property. As with other housing standards, it will be the responsibility of the homeowner to meet the new fire and carbon monoxide alarm standard. Local authorities have broad discretionary powers to provide advice and assistance to home owners with work needed to look after their homes.
8. We have worked with alarm suppliers who have invested in television and radio adverts to ensure accuracy and consistency of messaging. We are also liaising with retailers and will utilise channels such as Tenant and Resident Groups and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to publicise the changes to the standard in the run up to the enforcement date.
9. In line with the Nuisance Calls Commission, we support businesses in best practice which help to identify rogue companies and better enable regulators to focus resources on persistent offenders. Trading Standards Scotland (TSS) received funding of £125,000 from the Scottish Government in 2017 for the purchase and roll out of call blocking devices. This allowed for the purchase of 1,200 units for distribution to the homes of the most vulnerable consumers in Scotland to prevent unwanted calls. Since the project began until February 2020, 448,565 nuisance calls, on a wide range of issues, have been blocked.

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S5W-32521

1. This question is one of several by different MSPs on matters relating to the introduction of new rules on fire and smoke alarms in all housing, following a publicity campaign by a private company.
2. Regulations due to come into force on 1 February 2021 introduce two new elements in the tolerable standard for satisfactory provision of fire and smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in all homes. Details of the minimum standard are set out in statutory guidance for local authorities, who have responsibility to ensure houses in their area meet the standard. The new standard is the same as that which is currently required in private rented housing.
3. On 20 October 2020, the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning wrote to the Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee advising his intention to seek a 12 month extension to the commencement date for the changes to the tolerable standard, in light of the challenges posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Scottish Government is actively considering a delay in the deadline to carry out this important safety work, and that a decision would be announced shortly.
4. Change to the legislation will require the consent of the Parliament to amending regulations. An announcement of this should be made in the first instance to the Parliament. That has been done by the Minister's letter of 20 October, and this answer to a PQ provides an opportunity for the Minister to supplement that announcement.

Contact Name: [redacted]
Ext: [redacted]

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S5W-32559

1. Alexander Burnett MSP is a Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party member for Aberdeenshire West. Mr Burnett is a member of the Finance and Constitution Committee and is also a member of various cross party groups covering different interests.
2. Mr Burnett has not previously asked any fire safety related PQs.
3. In recent questions asked by Mr Burnett, over the period of the pandemic, he has made reference to the financial impact of Covid-19. This may suggest his question is aimed at the financial costs of the fire safety requirements for homeowners.
4. An announcement was made on 28 March 2018 outlining our intention to strengthen the existing standards for fire alarms. The analysis report from the consultation on Fire and Smoke Alarms in Scottish Homes supported strengthening standards, ensuring that all homes have the highest level of protection, regardless of tenure.
5. Home owners are responsible for the costs of on-going work needed to protect and preserve their own property, however, the legislation does not create a direct duty on home owners. Homes that don't have the right alarms will not meet safety standards, but nobody will be breaking the law if they are not able to comply. Local authorities have broad discretionary powers to provide advice and assistance to home owners with work needed to look after their homes.
6. The Scottish Government appreciates both the financial difficulties as well as the practical difficulties in fitting the new smoke and carbon monoxide alarms as a result of the pandemic and will seek the approval of the Scottish Parliament in delaying the legislation. This was announced on 20 October 2020.
7. The standard requires:
 - One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes (normally the living room/lounge);
 - One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings;
 - One heat alarm installed in every kitchen;
 - All smoke and heat alarms to be ceiling mounted; and
 - All smoke and heat alarms to be interlinked.
8. All repairs and maintenance can go ahead provided that the tradespeople and occupants of the house are well and are not showing coronavirus symptoms and there is no one in the household who is self-isolating. Good communication and planning between households and tradespeople entering homes will help to ensure a risk-based approach is adopted. Such visits should be subject to a risk assessment as well as ensuring that social distancing and correct wearing of masks is followed where appropriate. Households and tradespeople should

take reasonable account of these factors, especially if work requires access to two or more rooms.

Contact Name: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S5W-31224

1. This is a follow up to question S5W-31126 from Mr Mundell which was the only other fire safety related PQ he has previously asked.
2. From February 2021, fire and carbon monoxide detectors must be fitted in Scottish homes – these are required to comply with the statutory Tolerable Standard which applies to all houses. Compliance with the Tolerable Standard is included as part of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) which social rented housing must meet and the Repairing Standard which private rented housing must meet.
3. The Scottish Government looks to ensure all homes have the highest level of protection, regardless of tenure. Although home owners are responsible for work needed in their home, local authorities have broad discretionary powers to provide assistance if needed. The Scottish Government also developed an interest free loan scheme available to registered social landlords which helps cover the cost of buying and installing smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms to meet new fire and smoke alarm standards.
4. Local Care & Repair services which are available in most parts of the country offer older and disabled people practical help and support in relation to work involving the installation of adaptations and undertaking repairs. Four local authority areas in Scotland do not currently have a care and repair service. The Scottish Government champions independent living for older and disabled people within their community and living in the right home with the right support can be the key to enabling people to live safely and independently at home.
5. The Make the Call campaign was launched to ask partners and family members to identify those most at risk from fire in order to request a Home Fire Safety Visit.
6. A joint awareness raising campaign will be taken forward, coordinated across Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to ensure consistency in approach in all local authority areas. The campaign will look at addressing the risk of unscrupulous electricians potentially targeting the vulnerable and older tenants in our communities. It will also address the risk that people may buy more alarms only to discover they have bought the wrong type that do not meet the new regulations.

Contact Name: [redacted]
Ext: [redacted]