

Item 11 - Question TimeResponse to Mrs I McCallum

No powers transferred as of this moment. The Highland Council has an existing Programme commitment that the management of and revenues from the Crown Estate in Scotland should be devolved 100% to the Scottish Parliament and from there to local authority, harbour authority and appropriately constituted community bodies, for example Development Trusts. Of the Highlands and Islands local authorities, Highland is currently the largest contributor to the revenues generated by the Crown Estate Commissioners and so Highland has the most to gain from devolution to local authority level. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth stated in the Parliament on 18 February 2015 that the Smith Commission recommendations would apply to "island and coastal local authorities" and we will continue to press for early progress on this. As part of this, the Chief Executive will be giving evidence on the Crown Estate to the Scottish Parliament on 5th March 2015 and will re-state the case for the Crown Estate assets and revenues within Highland to be fully devolved in line with the Smith Commission recommendations for Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles, as soon as possible.