

Highland Council: Questions: 25 June 2026**Member Questions****1. Mr A Christie****To the Leader of the Council**

Please list the dates of meetings have you have attended in 2026 with Scottish Government where the Transient Visitors Levy (TVL) was discussed, who was present, a summary of the points of the discussion and any agreed outcomes.

RESPONSE

I have not attended any meetings with the Scottish Government in 2026 where the Visitors Levy was discussed.

2. Mr A Christie**To the Leader of the Council**

Please can the Leader provide an itemised redacted departmental list of all current and past employees who have had a salary overpayment between the period 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2026 together with the amount of the original overpayment and the current balance outstanding.

RESPONSE

Salary overpayments for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 26 were £2.180m. The balance outstanding is £0.699m. Over the four-year period salary costs were £1.774 billion with overpayments of £2.180m which amount to 0.12% of this total.

Salary overpayments, per Cluster, for the period 1 April 22 to 31 Match 26 are as follows:

Cluster	Overpayments (£m)	Staff Costs Budget (£m)	Overpayments (% of Staff Cost Budget)
People	1.57	1,148.72	0.14%
Place	0.58	495.05	0.12%
Corporate	0.03	130.27	0.02%
Total	2.18	1,774.04	0.12%

3. Ms J McEwan**To the Leader**

Givern that that the Scottish Government gave £750 K for the Caithness Demonstrator project and to date £445 has been allocated to the cost of running the project, with only £44k allocated to improve two community halls. Will the Leader write to NHS and HIE requesting a full breakdown on the running costs and administration of this project.

RESPONSE

Council Officers have already been in touch with the Collective Leadership Team who have overseen this project, and they are working on providing a summary of not only the breakdown in costs for this project but also the wider outcomes and benefits from the work. Officers have sought clarification on timescales for producing this information.

4. Mr M Prosser

To the Chair of Education

Given that the Scottish Guidance on Home Schooling states that the decision to allow home schooled children access to local authority owned community and sports facilities on the same basis as for school children and informing home educating families of any projects or programmes which might reasonably be accessed by home educated children, is at the discretion of the local authority, will you work with the senior education officers to ensure that home schooled children can participate in extra curricular sports activities organised by the Council and are not excluded from such activities?

RESPONSE

Home educated pupils can access any extracurricular activities delivered by High Life Highland, which also includes music tuition. If any other partners or providers are running extracurricular clubs or activities, then home educated pupils should be able to access those directly through that provider and parents can make contact with providers to request information regarding what activities are available.

5. Mr M Gregson

To Leader of the Council:

Since August 2025 there have been 15 School Inspections conducted and published or awaiting publication by His Majesty's inspectorate (HMIE).

A number of Areas for Improvement have been identified. We are informed that 80% of schools gaining less than satisfactory ratings have new or acting head teachers.

Instability in school leadership can undermine all aspects of school life. As this 80% statistic seems high, can the Leader of the Council state how many Head Teachers and Depute Head Teachers have left post unexpectedly in the last three years?

RESPONSE

Head Teachers are not required to provide a reason for their resignation although they may choose to do so as part of the exit interview process, however this information is confidential to individual employees.