

**March 26**

### **Commonwealth Scholarship Commission**

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-4WS, on FCO scholarships and fellowships, what assessment he has made of the rigour and transparency of selection methods for the (a) Commonwealth and (b) Chevening Scholarship schemes. [195766]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The selection process for Commonwealth scholars is both rigorous and transparent. The changes we are making to the Chevening scholarship scheme, set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-24WS, will improve the consistency of the selection of Chevening scholars.

### **Departmental Scholarships**

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written Ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 23WS, on FCO scholarships and fellowships, if he will publish the review. [195650]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I will arrange for a copy of our 2006 review of the Chevening scholarship scheme to be placed in the Library of the House.

**March 27**

### **Commonwealth Scholarship Commission: Finance**

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with the (a) Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and (b) others before deciding to end his Department's funding for new awards with effect from 2009-10. [195627]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The 2006 review of Chevening scholarships was based on broad consultations with a range of stakeholders, including other Government Departments and outside organisations. Officials have been in regular, close contact with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had no discussions himself with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission.

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with (a) UK universities and (b) universities in Commonwealth countries on the effect that the withdrawal of his Department's support for Commonwealth scholarships will have on the ability of Commonwealth students to attend UK universities. [195765]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no such discussions, but officials have regular contact with UK universities. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is withdrawing funding for Commonwealth scholarships only

for developed Commonwealth countries. Overall, Government funding for Commonwealth scholarships will be higher in each of the next three years than it is in the current academic year. Students from developed Commonwealth countries are still eligible for Chevening scholarships: and a large number of students from developed Commonwealth countries study in the UK funded from other sources.

### April 1

#### **Commonwealth: Overseas Students**

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements he will make to ensure financial support for future high quality doctoral students from Commonwealth countries wishing to join research teams in United Kingdom universities. [196633]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has committed £79,110,000 to scholarship funding (including to Commonwealth countries) over the next three years, in accordance with the FCO's global strategy and priorities. Other sources of funding for overseas doctoral students performing research in the UK are available through research councils and universities themselves.

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with the Prime Minister on the implementation of the announcement at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in November 2007 of an increase of UK funding for Commonwealth scholarships over the coming three years. [196635]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any such discussions. The increase in UK funding for Commonwealth scholarships over the next three years is being made through the Department for International Development.

### April 3, 2008

#### **Commonwealth: Overseas Students**

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultations took place with (a) the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission and (b) other external interests before the announcement to end his Department's funding for new awards from 2009-10; and if he will publish the review associated with this decision. [196634]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) had no prior consultations with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission on the specific issue of the ending of FCO funding for new Commonwealth scholars from 2009-10. Officials have regular, close contact with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. The 2006 review of FCO scholarships was based on broad consultations with a range of stakeholders. A copy of the 2006 review has been placed in the Library of the House.

## **Chevening Scholarships Programme**

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment was made of the relative effectiveness of Commonwealth Scholarships and Chevening Scholarships for Commonwealth countries prior to the decision to terminate these scholarships. [196632]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The purpose of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) scholarship schemes is to build personal relationships with international leaders of the future. Following a recent review of all scholarship funding, in accordance with the FCO's global strategy and priorities, it was concluded that the Chevening scholarship scheme achieved this purpose more effectively than the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

**22 April**

### **Commonwealth: Students**

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements he has made to ensure continued scholarship opportunities for high quality doctoral students from developed Commonwealth countries following his decision to terminate funding for Commonwealth Scholarships in the UK after 2008-09. [198364]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has committed £79,110,000 to scholarship funding (including to Commonwealth countries) over the next three years in accordance with the FCO's global strategy and priorities. Other sources of funding for overseas doctoral students performing research in the UK are available through research councils and universities themselves.

**23 Apr 2008** : Column 2122W

### **Commonwealth Scholarship Commission: Finance**

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which organisations were consulted by his Department prior to decisions to (a) terminate support for the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme and (b) reduce funding for the Chevening Scholarship Scheme. [198815]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) had broad consultations with a range of stakeholders during the 2006 review of FCO Scholarships, including the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the British Council, overseas posts and alumni. This fed into decisions to end our support for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and to reduce our funding for the Chevening Scholarship Scheme. Officials maintain regular contact with those stakeholders.

## **Commonwealth: Scholarships**

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements he has made to continue opportunities for collaboration between Commonwealth countries in hosting students following the termination of funding for Commonwealth Scholarships in the UK. [198713]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK, together with agencies in each participating Commonwealth state, will continue their work to facilitate hosting of Commonwealth scholarship students in different Commonwealth countries. The Government are withdrawing funding for Commonwealth scholarships only for developed Commonwealth countries, most of which are eligible for Chevening scholarships. Overall Government funding for Commonwealth scholarships will be higher in each of the next three years than it has been in 2007-08.

**24 April**

### **Chevening Scholarships Programme**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications there were for (a) Chevening and (b) Commonwealth scholarships in each of the last five years. [199079]

**24 Apr 2008 : Column 2190W**

**David Miliband:** Applications for Chevening and Commonwealth scholarships are made respectively to our overseas posts and to nominating agencies in Commonwealth countries. It would incur disproportionate cost to compile these figures.