

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN ANSWER

31 July 2008

Index Heading: Education and Lifelong Learning

Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive how much public funding has been awarded to the Connected Communities project annually since its inception.

Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive how much public funding is budgeted for the Connected Communities project for 2008-09.

Mr Jim Mather:

Connected Communities is led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and it is HIE who deal with all operational matters around its funding and delivery.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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WRITTEN ANSWER

17 July 2008

Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive whether the broadband reach contract recently awarded to Avanti Communications will include the delivery of an affordable broadband service to households in the Western Isles and, if not, whether there are any plans in place to deliver such a service to those who are currently served by either BT or Connected Communities, who have "out of reach" problems.

Mr Jim Mather :

The Government's Broadband Reach contract will not cover any part of the Western Isles. Provision of broadband to out of reach areas in the Western Isles is the responsibility of Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and will be delivered through the Connected Communities network.

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