

**June 4 2008**

### **Chevening Scholarships Programme**

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the selection criteria used for Chevening Scholarships tenable in 2008-09; and how these criteria differ from those which were applied in the allocation of Commonwealth Scholarships. [207207]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** A copy of the selection criteria for Chevening scholarships will be placed in the Library of the House. The essential difference is that the key criterion for eligibility for Chevening scholarships is the greatest potential to be a future leader with the capacity to benefit the UK, whereas the criteria for Commonwealth scholarships include a mixture of academic merit, leadership potential and the quality of the study plan.

### **Commonwealth Scholarships**

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the changes in funding for Commonwealth scholarships announced on 23 March 2008. [207500]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 366W, and to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton, North (Ms Keeble) on 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1103W.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people from each country received funding under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in each of the last five years. [207611]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1246-47W.

### **Overseas Students: Scholarships**

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what evidence he obtained from his recent review of his Department's funded scholarships enabling valid comparisons to be made of the respective past records of Chevening and his Department's funded Commonwealth scholarships in producing future leaders in the countries where they both operate; and if he will publish this evidence. [207243]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** There are eminent alumni both of the Chevening scholarship scheme and of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funded Commonwealth scholarships in the countries in which both schemes operate, but the FCO has not made comparisons between them.