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Ministers and others who make Statements or answer Questions are referred to only by name, not their ministerial or other title. The current list of ministerial and other responsibilities is as follows.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<b>Baroness Stowell of Beeston</b>	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
<b>Earl Howe</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
<b>Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Transport
<b>Baroness Anelay of St Johns</b>	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<b>Baroness Altmann</b>	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Lord Ashton of Hyde</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Bates</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Lord Bridges of Headley</b>	Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office
<b>Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Wales Office and Whip
<b>Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen</b>	Whip
<b>Earl of Courtown</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Dunlop</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
<b>Baroness Evans of Bowes Park</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Faulks</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Justice
<b>Lord Freud</b>	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Lord Gardiner of Kimble</b>	Deputy Chief Whip and Spokesman for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Lord Keen of Elie</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland
<b>Lord Maude of Horsham</b>	Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<b>Lord Nash</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
<b>Baroness Neville-Rolfe</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department for Culture, Media and Sport
<b>Lord O'Neill of Gatley</b>	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
<b>Lord Prior of Brampton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
<b>Baroness Shields</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture Media and Sport
<b>Lord Taylor of Holbeach</b>	Chief Whip
<b>Baroness Verma</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development
<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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# Written Statements

Thursday, 28 May 2015

## Government's Legislative Programme

[HLWS5]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** My Rt Hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

Following yesterday's State Opening of Parliament, and for the convenience of the House, I am listing below the Bills which were announced yesterday:

Armed Forces Bill Bank of England Governance Bill Buses Bill Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Bill Childcare Bill Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill Education and Adoption Bill Energy Bill Enterprise Bill European Union (Finance) Bill European Union Referendum Bill Extremism Bill Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill Housing Bill Immigration Bill Investigatory Powers Bill National Insurance Contributions Bill Northern Ireland (Stormont House Agreement) Bill Police Reform and Criminal Justice Bill Psychoactive Substances Bill Public Services Ombudsman Bill (Draft) Scotland Bill Trade Unions Bill Votes for Life Bill Wales Bill

The High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Bill is also carried over from the last Parliament

Detailed information about each of these Bills can be accessed from the No.10 website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/prime-ministers-office-10-downing-street>

## Government's Legislative Programme (Northern Ireland)

[HLWS2]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Theresa Villiers) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The First Session UK legislative programme unveiled in the Queen's Speech on 27 May contains measures of relevance to the people of Northern Ireland.

The following is a summary of the legislation announced in the Queen's Speech and its proposed application to Northern Ireland.

The list also identifies the lead Government department.

1. The following Bills will extend to Northern Ireland, in whole or in part, and deal mainly with excepted/reserved matters. Discussions will continue between the Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that, where provisions that are specifically for a transferred purpose are included in any of these Bills, the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly will be sought for them:

Finance Bill (HM Treasury)  
National Insurance Contributions (HM Treasury)  
Bank of England (HM Treasury)  
Immigration (Home Office)  
Scotland (Scotland Office)  
Wales (Wales Office)  
Northern Ireland (Stormont House Agreement)  
(Northern Ireland Office)  
EU (Referendum) (Foreign and Commonwealth Office)  
EU (Finance) (HM Treasury)  
Investigatory Powers (Home Office)  
Psychoactive Substances (Home Office)  
Armed Forces (Ministry of Defence)  
Votes for Life (Cabinet Office)

2. The following Bills may extend to Northern Ireland to varying degrees. They may require the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly in relation to provisions in the devolved field:

Full Employment and Welfare Benefits (Department for Work & Pensions)  
Energy (Department of Energy and Climate Change)  
Enterprise (The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills)  
Policing and Criminal Justice (Home Office)  
Extremism (Home Office)

Discussions will continue between the Government and the Northern Ireland Executive on those Bills that might include provisions that require the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly

3. The following Bills will have limited or no application to Northern Ireland:

Housing (Department of Communities and Local Government)  
Education and Adoption (Department for Education)  
HS2 (carried over from last Parliament) (Department for Transport)  
Buses (Department for Transport)  
Cities and Local Government Devolution (Department of Communities and Local Government)  
Charities (Social Investment and Protection) (Cabinet Office)  
Trade Unions (The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills)  
Childcare (Department for Education)

## Government's Legislative Programme (Scotland)

[HLWS1]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of state for Scotland (David Mundell) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

17 of the 24 new Government Bills for this Session of Parliament contain provisions that apply to Scotland, either in full or in part.

The Government's ambitious programme of legislation will help to create jobs and support working people. It will reduce the tax burden on the lowest earners and will ensure there are no rises in VAT or National Insurance contributions for the next five years, and no rise in the income tax levels for which the UK Government has responsibility.

Bringing the different parts of the United Kingdom together is a priority for the Government. For Scotland we will meet our commitment to deliver in full the recommendations of the cross party Smith Commission on further devolution. The new Scotland Bill will give the Scottish Parliament wide-ranging new powers, including greater flexibility to make its own decisions and making it more accountable for raising the revenue it spends, while keeping the advantages of being part of the United Kingdom

Other measures affecting Scotland include a focus on energy security and support for the North Sea oil and gas sector and moves to tackle extremism and strengthen counter-terrorism. The legislative programme also includes measures to control immigration and to hold a referendum on membership of the European Union.

This statement provides a summary of the Government's new legislative programme and its application to Scotland. It does not include draft Bills.

At present the only bill that triggers the need for a Legislative Consent Motion under the Sewel Convention is the Scotland Bill. However, it is possible that the need for consent may arise as bills are prepared for introduction.

The Government is committed to the principles of the Sewel Convention, and we will continue to work constructively with the Scottish Government to secure consent for Bills that contain provisions requiring the consent of the Scottish Parliament.

The Bills listed in section 1 will apply to Scotland, either in full or in part, on introduction. Section 2 details Bills that will not apply in Scotland at introduction. In addition to the new bills listed below there will also be a Finance Bill and the HS2 Bill from the last Session will be taken forward.

*Section 1: New legislation applying to the United Kingdom, including Scotland (either in full or in part);*

Scotland Bill  
Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill  
Energy Bill  
Immigration Bill  
Enterprise Bill  
Trade Unions Bill  
Wales Bill

Northern Ireland (Stormont House Agreement) Bill

EU Referendum Bill

Investigatory Powers Bill

Psychoactive Substances Bill

Extremism Bill

National Insurance Contributions Bill

Bank of England Bill

European Union (Finance) Bill

Votes for Life Bill

Armed Forces Bill

*Section 2: New legislation that will not apply in Scotland*

Childcare Bill

Housing Bill

Education and Adoption Bill

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

Police Reform and Criminal Justice Bill

Buses Bill

Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Bill

### **Government's Legislative Programme (Wales)**

[HLWS3]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for Wales (Stephen Crabb) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government's First Session legislative programme announced in the Queen's Speech on 27 May contains a wide range of measures that will apply to Wales, either in full or in part.

The following Bills and draft Bills will extend to Wales in whole or in part:

Wales Bill (Wales Office)

Scotland Bill (Scotland Office)

Northern Ireland (Stormont House Agreement) Bill (Northern Ireland Office)

Psychoactive Substances Bill (Home Office)

European Union Referendum Bill (Foreign and Commonwealth Office)

Charities (Protection and Social Investment Bill) (Cabinet Office)

Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill (Department for Work and Pensions)

Finance Bill (HM Treasury)

National Insurance Contributions Bill (HM Treasury)

Energy Bill (Department of Energy and Climate Change)

Immigration Bill (Home Office)

Enterprise Bill (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

Trade Unions Bill (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

Extremism Bill (Home Office)

Investigatory Powers Bill (Home Office)

Police Reform and Criminal Justice Bill (Home Office)

Armed Forces Bill (Ministry of Defence)

European Union (Finance) Bill (HM Treasury)

Bank of England Bill (HM Treasury)

Votes for Life Bill (Cabinet Office)

The following Bills will not extend to Wales:

Housing Bill (Department of Communities and Local Government)

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill (Department for Communities and Local Government)

Childcare Bill (Department for Education)

Education and Adoption Bill (Department for Education)

Buses Bill (Department for Transport)

Discussions will continue with the Welsh Government on Bills that might include provisions that require the consent of the National Assembly for Wales or Welsh Ministers.

## Safety at HM Naval Base Clyde

[HLWS4]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am informing the House at the earliest opportunity on the investigation of each of the claims made by Able Seaman William McNeilly about the operational effectiveness, safety and security of our nuclear deterrent.

Having now completed our investigation, and having consulted with the appropriate regulatory and operating authorities, I can assure the House that neither the operational effectiveness of our Continuous at Sea

Deterrent nor the safety of our submariners or members of the public have been compromised.

The Naval Service operates its submarine fleet under the most stringent safety regime, which is subject to independent scrutiny. The Naval Service does not put a submarine to sea unless it is safe to do so, and there are appropriate procedures in place to deal with any issues that may arise during its deployment. There are robust regulatory mechanisms, both within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) but independent of the Royal Navy and, externally with the Office of Nuclear Regulation, to ensure this. The MOD is also held to wider account by Parliament.

Able Seaman McNeilly published his comments following his first submarine deployment. He was under training, and his access and exposure to activities and material on board were appropriate to his security clearance. We have found no evidence that he raised any concerns with colleagues on board or with the Chain of Command: had he done so, the more senior and experienced submariners would have been able to explain how the boat operated and why McNeilly's concerns were unfounded. A number of the issues he raised did not occur during his patrol.

Most of McNeilly's concerns proved to be either factually incorrect or the result of mis- or partial understanding; some drew on historic, previously known, events none of which had compromised our deterrent capability and, where appropriate, from which lessons had been learned to develop our procedures as part of a continuous improvement programme. Only one of the allegations remains to be fully examined – the allegation that e-cigarettes were being used within the submarine. No independent corroboration of this has been found but even if it were true, there is clear evidence that their use did not put the safety of the boat at risk.

Able Seaman McNeilly was arrested having not reported for duty after a period of leave. He was released the next day, but confined to a specified location in Portsmouth while interviews were conducted. He is being afforded the duty of care that we give all our personnel, is in contact with his family, and is still in the employ of the Royal Navy.

# Written Statements

Monday, 1 June 2015

## Foreign Affairs Council/Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) and General Affairs Council

[HLWS7]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Right Honourable Friend the Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington) has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Philip Hammond) attended the Foreign Affairs Council, and My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon) attended the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence), and they both attended a joint session with Foreign and Defence Ministers. I attended the General Affairs Council (GAC). The Foreign Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) were chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, and the General Affairs Council was chaired by the Latvian Presidency.

*Foreign Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)*

A provisional report of the meeting and Conclusions adopted can be found at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2015/05/18/>

*Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) & European Defence Agency (EDA)*

The EDA Ministerial Steering Board discussion focussed on preparations for the June European Council. The Defence Secretary welcomed the work that the EDA has done in delivering the major programmes agreed to at the December 2013 European Council and encouraged the Agency to remain focused on delivering progress on these programmes at the June Council. Ministers also endorsed the Small Medium Enterprise (SME) action plan.

Defence Ministers discussed CSDP Missions and Operations in the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence), where greater political will by Member States in force generation and increased EU-NATO co-operation were highlighted as being key to success. The Defence Secretary reaffirmed the UK's support for the counter piracy operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and highlighted that a combination of Naval forces and development of best management practice by industry and private contractors remained important in order to suppress the pirates' business model. The Defence Secretary also emphasised the UK's continued commitment to the maintenance of the Executive Mandate for EUFOR ALTHEA. This mandate was an essential international safeguard against a return to violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*Joint Meeting of Foreign Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)*

Over lunch, EU defence and foreign ministers exchanged views on the security in the EU's broader neighbourhood with NATO Security General Jens Stoltenberg. Ministers then discussed the preparations for the European Council in June 2015, which cover the Common Security and Defence Policy, and debated ongoing work reviewing changes in the EU's strategic environment, including the preparation of a report by the High Representative to the European Council on 25/26 June. The Foreign Secretary noted that the June European Council should be a stocktake of the work begun in December 2013 and highlighted the importance of the EU's cooperation with NATO.

The Council then took stock of the follow-up to the European Council of 23 April, which focused on migration issues. It approved a crisis management concept for a possible EU military operation and established an EU naval operation to disrupt the business model of human smugglers in the Southern Central Mediterranean. The Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary spoke in support of the establishment of the operation, but, noted that prior to its launch, clarity would be required on the handling of migrants rescued, smugglers apprehended, and the necessary legal base for the operation would need to be established. All four phases (surveillance/intelligence; seizure of vessels on the high seas; seizure and potentially destruction in Libyan waters/ashore; and withdrawal) needed to be enactable. A number of Ministers set out their position on resettlement and relocation, including the Foreign Secretary who made clear the UK would not accept compulsory resettlement.

*Foreign Affairs Council*

- Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

Ministers exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East and on prospects for the peace process, following the formation of a new Israeli government and ahead of a visit of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the region. Ms. Mogherini would be accompanied by Fernando Gentilini, the newly appointed EU Special Representative for the MEPP. The Foreign Secretary recognised the widespread frustration on the MEPP and argued that the EU should keep in step with the US and that there would likely be no progress until the Iran nuclear talks ended.

- Other Items

Ministers agreed a number of other measures:

- The Council adopted Conclusions on Burundi;
- The Council adopted Conclusions on the Common Security and Defence Policy;
- The Council adopted the EU position for the twelfth meeting of the EU-Uzbekistan Cooperation in Brussels on 18 May; and



- The Council adopted the draft agenda for the EU-Gulf Cooperation Council Joint Council and ministerial meeting, to be held on 24 May 2015 in Doha.

#### *General Affairs Council*

A provisional report of the Council meeting can be found at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac/2015/05/19/>

The General Affairs Council (GAC) on 19 May focused on: follow-up to the April Emergency European Council; preparation of the June European Council; and the Four Presidents' Report on economic governance in the euro area.

#### *Follow-up to the April Emergency European Council on migration*

The Latvian Presidency and European Commission updated the GAC on developments since the 23 April Emergency European Council discussed migration pressures in the Mediterranean.

I reiterated the points made by the Foreign Secretary at the Foreign Affairs Council and informed Members States about UK activities to help prevent further loss of life in the Mediterranean. I emphasised the importance of addressing the causes of illegal immigration and tackling the organised criminals behind it, and the need for the EU to focus on the longer term picture.

#### *Preparation of the June European Council*

The GAC began preparations for the 23 and 24 June European Council, which the Prime Minister will attend. The June European Council will focus on security and economic issues including: defence and the European Security Strategy; relations with Russia and Ukraine; follow-up of the February European Council on terrorism and April European Council on migration; the digital single market; the 2015 European Semester; TTIP; and economic governance in the euro area.

#### *Four Presidents' Report on economic governance in the euro area*

The European Commission updated the GAC on preparations of the Four Presidents' Report on the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) to be presented to the June European Council.

## **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**

[HLWS6]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Tobias Ellwood) has made the following written Ministerial statement:

The House may welcome a report on the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, held at the United Nations in New York between 27 April and 22 May to review progress and agree future actions against the NPT's three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Review Conference was a substantive event, which

advanced discussion on each of the Treaty's three pillars but concluded without reaching a consensus outcome.

The UK played an active role both in the preparation for the Review Conference and at the Conference itself. As part of its preparations for the Review Conference, the UK invited certain non-nuclear weapons states and civil society representatives, for the first time, to the UK-hosted P5 Conference of nuclear weapon states in February this year. The UK also submitted a revised National Report setting out the action the UK is taking to support the NPT. We encouraged and participated in five rounds of informal consultations between Israel and Arab States on a Conference on a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE, set out the UK's approach and progress against NPT objectives on the opening day of the Conference. The UK delegation participated actively, both in the main Conference and at side events, including on our pioneering verification work and nuclear energy. We engaged constructively in the negotiations throughout, seeking to reach agreement and to make progress on all three pillars of the Treaty.

We were disappointed that, despite the progress made in many areas, the Conference was not able to find common ground on how to make further progress on the proposed Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. This issue was the reason that consensus was not reached on the draft outcome document. The UK sought a process which was meaningful and based on arrangements freely arrived at by all states of the region. The proposed text would not have enabled tangible progress to be made and so we were unable to support the draft conclusions. We remain committed to the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, the creation of a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and the steps agreed in 2010 towards that end.

The UK's commitment to the Treaty and to fulfilling our NPT obligations, including under Article VI on disarmament, remains undiminished. As a responsible nuclear weapon state and an original party to the NPT, the UK remains committed to creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. We have reduced our nuclear forces by well over half since the Cold War peak and dismantled all of our air delivered nuclear weapons. In 2010 the UK committed to reducing the number of operationally available warheads to no more than 120; we have now achieved this which means that our Vanguard submarines now carry 40 warheads. We also remain on course to reduce our total stockpile of nuclear weapons to no more than 180 warheads by the mid 2020s.

The lack of a consensus outcome neither undermines the Treaty nor changes States' obligations. Of the eight previous Review Conferences, three have ended without consensus. Throughout, the Treaty has remained vitally important for the UK and for the international community as a whole, playing an unparalleled role in curtailing the

nuclear arms race and keeping the world safe. The Action Plan agreed at the 2010 Review Conference remains valid as a comprehensive roadmap for all NPT States to follow to take forward action on disarmament, non-proliferation

and peaceful use of nuclear technology, as do the agreements from 2000 and 1995. The UK will continue to pursue this roadmap, working closely with our partners in the NPT.



# Written Statements

*Tuesday, 2 June 2015*

## **Rail Franchising (East Anglia)**

[HLWS8]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Claire Perry) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

Today the Department for Transport has announced that the following companies have successfully pre-qualified to bid for the East Anglia Franchise competition:

Abellio East Anglia Limited\*

First East Anglia Limited

National Express East Anglia Trains Limited

\* (Joint Venture: Abellio Transport Group Ltd 60% Stagecoach Transport Holdings Ltd 40%)

In order to pass the pre-qualification evaluation each of the bidders had to demonstrate that they have the financial strength, legal, safety and operational experience to run this important franchise. This announcement marks another key milestone in the rail franchising programme and is the next step in delivering real change to the passengers in the East Anglia region.

The department plans to deliver an Invitation to Tender to the short listed bidders in August 2015. The bidders will be required to submit plans by December 2015 to demonstrate how they will deliver transformation and growth to passengers across the East Anglia region. The successful franchisee will commence their operation of the franchise in October 2016.

# Written Statements

Wednesday, 3 June 2015

## Cabinet Committees and Implementation Taskforces (Membership)

[HLWS9]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My Right Honourable friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Oliver Letwin) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today I am publishing an updated Cabinet Committees list. Alongside the Committees, the Prime Minister has created ten Implementation Taskforces to monitor and drive delivery of the Government's most important cross-cutting priorities. I have placed a copy of the new list in Libraries of both Houses.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Cabinet Committee List [150601 Committee list FINAL for publication v4.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-06-03/HLWS9/>

## Handling Members' Correspondence

[HLWS10]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My Right Honourable friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Oliver Letwin) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am today publishing a report on the performance of Departments and Agencies on handling correspondence from Members and Peers during the calendar year 2014.

Details are set out in the table below. Correspondence statistics for 2013 can be found on 13 May 2014, *Official Report*, Column Ref: 17WS.

Departmental figures are based on substantive replies unless otherwise indicated. The footnotes to the table provide general background information on how the figures have been compiled.

*Correspondence from MP/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives 2014 (1)*

Department or Agency	Target set for reply (working days)	Number of letters received	% of replies within target
Attorney General's Office	20	434	82
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	15	6,382	81
- Insolvency Service	15	87	87

Department or Agency	Target set for reply (working days)	Number of letters received	% of replies within target
- Intellectual Property Office	10	5	80
- Land Registry	15	151	92
- Met Office	10	1	0
- Ordnance Survey	15	4	100
- Skills Funding Agency	10	663	99
Cabinet Office	15	3,257	71
Charity Commission	15	225	89
Department for Communities and Local Government	10	8,574	42
- Planning Inspectorate	10	853	86
Crown Prosecution Service	20	450	98
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	20	3,638	85
Ministry of Defence	20	3,746	67
Department for Education	15	14,189	70
Department of Energy and Climate Change	15	5,046	66
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	15	10,595	72
- Animal and Plant Health Agency	15	26	65
- Rural Payments Agency	15	100	85
Food Standards Agency (*)	20	175	87
(*) FSA Ministers replies	20	101	85
(*) FSA Chair/CE replies	20	74	90
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	20	11,649	88
Department of Health	18	17,932	97
- Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	18	27	96
- Public Health England	18	42	98
Home Office	15	6,529	66
- UK Visas & Immigration/Immigration Enforcement/Border Force	20	45,206	89

<i>Department or Agency</i>	<i>Target set for reply (working days)</i>	<i>Number of letters received</i>	<i>% of replies within target</i>	<i>Department or Agency</i>	<i>Target set for reply (working days)</i>	<i>Number of letters received</i>	<i>% of replies within target</i>
- Her Majesty's Passport Office (2)	15	3,128	Jan - Aug: 71 Sep - Dec: 63	Office of the Leader of the House of Lords	15	103	96
Department for International Development	15	3,103	92	Office of Rail Regulation	20	51	78
Ministry of Justice	15	3,419	64	OFWAT (Water Services Regulation Authority)	10	68	94
- HM Courts Service and Tribunals Service (*)				Scotland Office	15	303	71
(*) Where Ministers replied	15	785	58	Serious Fraud Office	20	60	83
(*) Where CEO replied	15	323	94	Department for Transport	20	8,227	95
- National Archives (*)				- Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency	7	3,010	99
(*) Where Ministers replied	15	18	76	- Driving Standards Agency	10	128	98
(*) Where CEO replied	10	10	100	HM Treasury	15	8,242	52
- National Offender Management Service				- H M Revenue and Customs (*)	15	10,992	
(*) Where Ministers replied	15	1,148	72	(*) Where Ministers replied	15	2,161	65
(*) Where CEO replied	20	318	97	(*) Where CEO replied	15	8,831	81
- Office of the Public Guardian (*)				Treasury Solicitor's Department	10	19	100
(*) Where Ministers replied	15	58	83	Wales Office	15	80	97
(*) Where CEO replied	10	72	97	Department for Work and Pensions	20	16,542	83
- Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	15	16	56	- Child Maintenance Group (3)	15	958	99
Northern Ireland Office	15	404	68	- Health and Safety Executive	15	162	95
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Schools	15	367	80	- Human Resources	15	36	97
Office of Advocate General	15	71	95	- Director General	15	2,593	85
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	15	456	71				
Office of the Leader of the House of Commons	15	139	81				

(1) Departments and Agencies which received 10 MPs/Peers letters or fewer are not shown in this table. Holding or interim replies are not included unless otherwise indicated. The report does not include correspondence considered as Freedom of Information requests.

(2) The format used to report MP case performance was changed in September. From January to August 2014, HMPO reported performance of cases received each month. From September onwards, this has changed to performance of cases dispatched each month, regardless of the month they were received.

(3) Child Maintenance figures are shown separately although they also come under the remit of the Director General Operations

# Written Statements

Thursday, 4 June 2015

## Chemical Weapons Convention

[HLWS12]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister for Reserves (Julian Brazier) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Minister for Reserves, Mr Julian Brazier: The UK's chemical protection programme is designed to protect against the use of chemical weapons. Such a programme is permitted by the Chemical Weapons Convention, with which the United Kingdom is fully compliant. Under the terms of the Convention, we are required to provide information annually to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. In accordance with the Government's commitment to openness, I am placing in the Library of the House a copy of the summary that has been provided to the Organisation outlining the UK's chemical protection programme in 2014.

## National Employer Advisory Board

[HLWS13]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister for Reserves (Mr Julian Brazier) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Following open competition, I am pleased to advise the House of the appointment of seven new members to the National Employer Advisory Board (NEAB).

They are:

Mr Bagnall

Mr Bird

Mr Carter

Mr McTague

Mr Randeniya

Mr Sproule

Mr Walkinshaw

They join the other seven members of the Board, which is chaired by Mr Richard Boggis-Rolfe. The NEAB provides informed independent strategic advice to the Ministry of Defence and the Reserves community about how they can most effectively develop their relationship with employers across the UK and particularly employers of members of the Armed Forces and veterans. I take this opportunity to thank the NEAB for its work which is greatly valued by the Ministry of Defence

## Energy Council

[HLWS14]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Amber Rudd) has made the following statement.

In advance of the forthcoming Energy Council in Luxembourg on 8 June, I am writing to outline the agenda items to be discussed.

Under the first item on the agenda, the Council will hold a policy debate on implementation of the EU Energy Security Strategy, focussing on achievement in strengthening energy security in Europe since adoption of the strategy in 2014, priorities for next steps to be taken and how to ensure synergies between the various tools that can contribute to energy security in the EU. The UK considers that there have been a number of developments in the EU that will have a positive impact on energy security, including the agreement of the 2030 climate and energy framework and the development of the Energy Union. Looking ahead, the UK considers that delivering a fully functional single energy market, building resilience into the system and diversifying energy supplies should all continue to be priorities.

The Council will then be asked to adopt conclusions on the implementation of the Framework Strategy for the Energy Union focussing on empowering consumers and incentivising investments in the energy sector. The UK agrees that more needs to be done to enhance competitiveness in the internal energy market to deliver benefits for consumers and that particular priority needs to be given to the facilitation of new interconnection and investment projects.

The Commission will then report on developments in external energy relations, including recent tri-lateral talks on energy issues between the EU, Russia and Ukraine, and developments in the Energy Community.

The Czech delegation will update Council on discussions held at the plenary meeting of the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) which took place in Prague in May.

Finally, the Luxembourg delegation will inform the Council of the priorities for their Presidency in the first half of 2016.

## Service Personnel Deaths (Inquests)

[HLWS11]

**Lord Faulks:** My Honourable friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Family Justice (Caroline Dinenage MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

"Together with my Honourable friend the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, I present our latest joint statement on the progress of coroner investigations into the deaths of UK service personnel on active service overseas. Our Armed Forces demonstrate great courage, commitment and self-sacrifice in their service to our country, and it is right that they receive our heartfelt gratitude. Most of all we remember and honour those who have laid down their lives in the service of their country, and the families they leave behind.

This statement sets out the progress of investigations being held by the Senior Coroners for Oxfordshire, for

Wiltshire and Swindon and for other coroner areas in England and Wales as at 22 May 2015.

Tables to supplement this report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These give details of all cases, including whether there has been or will be a Service Inquiry (known as a Board of Inquiry in the earlier years covered).

The Defence Inquests Unit of the Ministry of Defence continues to work closely with coroners (including the dedicated cadre of coroners with special training in service personnel inquests), to make sure that everything possible is done to progress and complete investigations quickly and thoroughly. There is now provision under Section 12 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 for investigations to be held in Scotland, where appropriate, rather than in England and Wales.

We are thankful to all who are involved in the course of these investigations: to those who provide support and assistance to bereaved families; to the coroners and their staff who seek to conduct thorough investigations which put the bereaved families at their heart; and for the Chief Coroner for his leadership and oversight of the coroner service.

Repatriations of service personnel who have died overseas have mainly taken place at RAF Brize Norton and RAF Lyneham. To enable the Senior Coroners for Oxfordshire and for Wiltshire and Swindon to conduct inquests into these deaths alongside their local caseload, additional funding has been provided to both areas since 2007 by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice.

#### *Current status of inquests*

Since our last statement on 29 January 2015 there have been six inquests into the deaths of service personnel on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. This brings the total of inquests into the deaths of service personnel who have died on active service in Iraq or Afghanistan or who have died in the UK of injuries sustained on active service to 624. Three deaths of injured service personnel have not led to a formal inquest. Two of these were taken into consideration at inquests into other deaths which occurred in the same incidents. The third case concerned a serviceman in Scotland who made a partial recovery but later died from his injuries, and it was decided not to hold a Fatal Accident Inquiry.

#### *Coroners' investigations which have been opened*

As at 22 May, seven coroner investigations are open into the deaths of service personnel in Afghanistan.

The Senior Coroner for Oxfordshire has retained five of these. The other two investigations are being conducted by the Senior Coroners for Gateshead and South Tyneside and for West Sussex, whose courts are closer to the next of kin. A pre-inquest hearing date of 2 November 2015 has been set for one of these inquests. Hearing dates have not yet been listed for the remaining six inquests.

We will continue to inform the House of progress."

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Tables detailing Inquests into service deaths [WMS tables May 2015 passed by MoD.DOC]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-06-04/HLWS11/>

# Written Statements

Monday, 8 June 2015

## Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

[HLWS15]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Honourable Friend the Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy (Mr Ed Vaizey) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council was held in Brussels on 18-19 May. Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Government Minister for Culture, Europe, and External Affairs, represented the UK for the cultural and audiovisual section of the Council and Shan Morgan, the UK's Deputy Permanent Representative, represented the UK for the sport section of the Council.

### *Culture and audiovisual*

Ministers had a first exchange of views on the Commission's recently published Digital Single Market strategy presented by Commissioner Oettinger.

The strategy was generally welcomed, although many member states, including the UK, raised concerns about the implication for copyright and for funding content. In a Digital Single Market both consumer rights to access content, and producer rights to generate income from their material, need to be safeguarded. This would help foster innovation, cultural diversity, and economic growth.

The UK noted that there is now a real opportunity to look across the market and understand how to best deliver for Europe's creative industries and consumers.

It was also agreed that the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) remained valid in many domains, but needed to be adapted to take into account the consequences of convergence.

Driven by issues around the broadcast of Russian language content the Baltic States sought agreement to focus the forthcoming review of the Directive on territorial jurisdiction and derogation possibilities as well as procedural issues. Most member States agreed to solve such issues through enhanced cooperation, stressing the importance of the principle of freedom of expression. There was also general agreement on the importance of the country of origin principle - whereby each provider of audiovisual media services comes under the jurisdiction of only one EU Member State - as a cornerstone of European audiovisual policy.

It was also agreed that the review would need to take into account issues such as content funding, advertising, and protection of minors.

Following the policy debate, the Council adopted conclusions on cultural and creative cross-overs to stimulate innovation, economic sustainability, and social inclusion. These highlight how culture and artistic creativity can trigger innovation and enhance

competitiveness in industry and business, as well as in education, health care and the environment.

The cultural and creative sectors cover a broad range from arts, crafts, architecture, heritage, libraries and publishing, to film, television, games, music, advertising, and design. Despite numerous studies that have demonstrated the significant contribution of these sectors to GDP, job creation and exports, the synergies with other sectors have not yet been fully explored.

The council also adopted a decision designating Plovdiv in Bulgaria and Matera in Italy as European Capitals of Culture in 2019, following a recommendation from the Commission based on the reports of the selection panel and a positive opinion from the European Parliament.

The European Capitals of Culture initiative was launched in 1985, and over 40 cities have been designated since then. It aims to highlight the richness of European culture, and both its diversity and shared features.

*Under other business*, the Council was updated by the Commission on the culture and cultural heritage aspects of the Da'esh threat in Iraq and Syria: where on the one hand cultural sites are being destroyed for ideological reasons, and on the other archaeological objects are being illicitly traded to finance terrorist activities. The Commission was of the view that additional measures might be needed to prevent terrorist financing from illicit trafficking. The Portuguese Minister suggested, and offered to coordinate, a brief joint statement of Culture Ministers expressing condemnation and sorrow vis-a-vis the ongoing destruction.

The Council then took note of concerns from the Polish delegation, backed by several other Member States, regarding the maximum threshold of €5 Million for small-scale projects financed from the European Regional Development Fund. The Commission noted that these projects are designed to benefit small-scale infrastructures, and that alternatives exist to complement this particular funding stream.

The Council also took note of information from the Latvian Presidency on the main outcomes of the stocktaking exercise relating to Council conclusions on cultural governance which had been adopted in November 2012.

Finally, under this part of the agenda, the Council took note from the Luxembourg delegation of its main priorities in the field of culture when it takes over the Presidency for the period July - December 2015. These will include cross-sectoral cooperation on cultural issues, and the role of culture in the EU's international relations, especially those relating to cooperation and development.

### *Sport*

The Council adopted conclusions on maximising the role of grassroots sport in developing transversal skills, especially amongst young people. They highlight how voluntary activities in sport which act as a method of non-formal and informal learning can help young people acquire skills and transversal competences that



complement formal education and enhance their employability.

Sport is the largest non-governmental movement in Europe. Voluntary activities in the sport sector mainly take place at grassroots level in the role either of facilitator, organiser, or participant.

There was then a policy debate on physical activity as an essential element of quality education. The promotion of physical activity is a priority of EU policy-making in sport, and the debate included a comprehensive exchange on best practice. There was agreement that sport needed to be considered as an integral part of school life, with encouragement for young people to engage in extracurricular sport and physical activity. The extension of the use of community facilities was recommended to ensure that sports facilities are widely available: as was the fulfilment of the necessary safety and technical standards in partnership with local sports organisations and clubs.

The Council was subsequently briefed by the Presidency on the state of play regarding the European Union's signing of the Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions. To date 18 countries – of which nine EU Member States – have signed the convention, which is expected to come into force by 2016. With regards to EU signature, several delegations had submitted written questions to the

Council Legal Service, who would provide a written opinion in June.

The Council was also briefed by the EU representatives on the outcome of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) meeting which took place in Montreal earlier in May. The meeting was focussed on issues relating to the Anti-Doping Code, the budget, and data protection. The EU is represented on the WADA Foundation Board –its supreme decision making body - by Belgium, Luxembourg, and Malta. There are 38 members composed of representatives of the Olympic Movement and national Governments.

WADA was established in 1999 to promote the fight against doping in sport. Its main activities include education, research, the development of anti-doping capacities, and monitoring of the World Anti-Doping Code.

Finally, under *other business* the Council took note of information from the Luxembourg delegation of its main priorities in the field of sport when it takes over the Presidency for the period July – December 2015. These will include the promotion of physical activity in schools: double careers in sport: EU representation and coordination in WADA: and the potential adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions.

# Written Statements

*Tuesday, 9 June 2015*

## EU Transport Council

[HLWS16]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Robert Goodwill) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

I will attend the final Transport Council under the Latvian Presidency (the Presidency), taking place in Luxembourg, on Thursday 11 June.

The Presidency is aiming for a general approach on a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels and repealing Directive 2006/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. The proposed Directive seeks to replace the detailed technical annex of Directive 2006/87/EC with simpler standards to be developed by a new international body (to be known as CESNI). The UK intends to support the proposed Directive as it streamlines existing processes; we have safeguarded crucial existing derogations for the UK inland waterway sector; and secured explicit links to the output of CESNI, which the UK considers to be the appropriate body to develop technical standards for inland waterway vessels.

There will be two progress reports, the first on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of the cancellation or long delay of flights and Regulation (EC) No 2027/97 on air carrier liability in respect of the carriage of passengers and their baggage by air (Air Passenger Rights). The Presidency has held a number of working level meetings over the last few months to try to resolve four main issues: the trigger points for when delay compensation is due; compensation for connecting flights; extraordinary circumstances; and cabin baggage. Limited progress has been made during the working groups, with most Member States still having significant concerns about at least one of these issues. On trigger points, the UK has supported fixed compensation amounts for delays of at least 5, 9 or 12 hours depending upon the length of the flight in question. Our analysis shows that such a regime would strike the right balance between adequately compensating passengers for time lost, while ensuring that burdens on industry are proportionate. The UK also considers that to include compensation for missed connections would place a significant burden on the operators of short-haul feeder flights, damaging connectivity.

On the issue of extraordinary circumstances in which compensation is not due to the passenger, we have supported the inclusion of a binding and non-exhaustive list in the text of the regulation. This would increase

clarity while retaining flexibility regarding what can be considered as extraordinary. We also oppose limiting the use of extraordinary circumstances to the current flight and the previous flight to help to minimise burdens on industry. On the number and type of cabin baggage items allowed, I am of the view that this issue should not be regulated and should be a commercial decision for the carrier.

Although this dossier is currently down for a progress report, there may be a wide ranging debate at Council, including a discussion on Gibraltar Airport. Regulation (EC) No. 261/2004 was adopted prior to the 2006 Cordoba Agreement and therefore contains a clause suspending its application to Gibraltar Airport, as was normal practice at that time. The Commission's proposal does not contain an amendment to remove the Gibraltar Airport suspension clause from the original regulation. The UK will continue to press for the extension of the regulation to Gibraltar Airport in line with the EU Treaties. I will work with the Minister for Europe on this and other aviation dossiers to ensure that any language on Gibraltar is acceptable.

The second progress report concerns the proposal for a Directive of European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2012/34 establishing a Single European Railway Area, as regards the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail and the governance of the railway infrastructure and a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 concerning the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail ("market pillar" of the 4<sup>th</sup> Railway Package). Negotiations of the market pillar by the Council began under the Italian Presidency in June 2014 and have progressed further under the Latvian Presidency. The Presidency has produced a set of draft amendments to the package. These have improved the text in a number of areas which could otherwise have resulted in additional burdens in the UK, for example the amendments no longer increase regulation of the transport planning process and have reduced the proposed new restrictions on outsourcing and cooperation by different businesses in the railway industry. The key outstanding sticking point is the question of when a public authority should be able to decide not to hold a competition for a rail contract and instead make a direct award to their chosen train operator. I plan to support the progress made by the Presidency in reducing the regulatory burden the Package would impose, while noting that there is still scope for further improvement. I intend to underline the success of liberalisation and competition in revitalising the UK railway market over the past twenty years and to argue that competition is vital for a competitive and sustainable railway sector. In particular I propose to state the use of direct awards should be restricted in order to promote competition. Any exemptions to competitive tendering of rail contracts therefore need to be based on objective criteria, where it can be demonstrated that a direct award is justified.

Under Any Other Business, the Commission will provide information on its review of the road safety strategy 2015-2020 and will provide an update on the Christophersen-Bodewig-Secchi Report on TEN-T and CEF ahead of the TEN-T Days taking place in Riga from 22-23 June. The Commission will also provide an update on the Shift to Rail proposal. The Presidency will report on the outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEM Transport Ministers' meeting held in Riga on 29-30 April at which the UK was represented at official level. Luxembourg, the incoming Presidency of the EU will present its work programme.

### **Justice and Home Affairs Pre-Council Statement**

[HLWS17]

**Lord Faulks:** My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has made the following written statement.

"The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council is due to be held on 15 and 16 June in Luxembourg. My Honourable Friend, Lord Faulks QC, Minister for Civil Justice and I will attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed.

Justice day on 15 June will begin with the Latvian Presidency seeking a general approach on the proposed Data Protection Regulation. The file is subject to Qualified Majority Voting.

This will be followed by the Presidency seeking a general approach on the draft Regulation on Promoting the Free Movement of Citizens and Businesses by Simplifying the Acceptance of Certain Public Documents in the EU. The aim of the proposal is to reduce the problems associated with language barriers when people present documents such as birth and marriage certificates in different Member States.

The Latvian Presidency is aiming for a consensus on the first sixteen articles of the draft European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) Regulation, covering certain aspects of its internal workings. The UK did not opt in to this proposal.

During lunch there will be a discussion on the judicial dimension of the new Digital Single Market Strategy. Under AOB, the Presidency will provide information on other current legislative proposals and on the EU-US

Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial meeting, which was held in Riga on 2-3 June.

Finally, the Luxembourg delegation will present the programme for their forthcoming Presidency (July-December 2015).

The interior session on 16 June will begin in Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen States). The Council will debate the Commission's Communication "A European Agenda on Migration", and receive an update on the outcome of the special meeting of the European Council on 23 April, which agreed a series of immediate actions to respond to the situation in the Mediterranean.

During the main interior meeting Member States will be asked to agree Council Conclusions establishing the EU Internal Security Strategy (ISS) for the next five years. This is in line with the commitment in the New Strategic Guidelines agreed at the European Council in June 2014 to review the ISS (2010-2014.) The renewed ISS will set strategic objectives for EU cooperation on internal security matters.

Ministers will then discuss progress in delivering European Counter-terrorism priorities since the 12 February Statement of the Member States of the European Council. These priorities are divided into three objectives: ensuring the security of citizens, preventing radicalisation and safeguarding values, and cooperating with international partners. National Security remains a Member State competence.

Under AOB, the Presidency will provide information on current legislative proposals and on the EU-US Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial meeting (held in Riga from 2-3 June 2015).

The Austrian delegation will then provide information on the Salzburg Forum Ministerial Conference, held in St. Pölten (Austria) from 4-5 May and on the International Ministerial conference on "Tackling Jihadism Together", held in Vienna on 20 March.

Finally, the incoming Luxembourg Presidency will present their programme and Slovenia will present on the Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Conference of the Brdo Process and South-East European Cooperation Process held in Budva (Montenegro) from 16-17 April 2015."

# Written Statements

Wednesday, 10 June 2015

## Agriculture and Fisheries Council

[HLWS18]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Elizabeth Truss) has today made the following statement.

The next Agriculture and Fisheries Council will be on 16 June in Luxembourg. My hon. friend, the Minister of State for Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (George Eustice), will represent the UK. We are expecting Dr Aileen McLeod MSP and Rebecca Evans AM to attend.

As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed.

On agriculture, the Presidency will aim to secure a general approach on the proposal for a Regulation on organic production and labelling of organic products. This will be followed by a presentation from the Commission and an exchange of views from Member States concerning a consultation on fishing opportunities for 2016.

There are currently three confirmed Any Other Business items:

- Proposal for a regulation on Animal Health;
- Outcome of a meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad group extended to Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia (18-19 May); and
- Extension of the eligibility period of expenditure for the Operational Programme Fisheries 2007-2013.

There are also four possible Any Other Business items:

- Proposal for a Regulation, amending the GM food and feed regulation, that would allow Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory;
- Communication from the Commission reviewing the decision-making process on genetically modified organisms (GMOs);
- The two recent reports from the Commission on mandatory country of origin labelling; and
- International Year of Plant Health 2020.

## Legal Aid

[HLWS19]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Courts and Legal Aid (Shailesh Vara) has made the following Written Statement.

"I am today confirming next steps for the criminal legal aid market.

Maintaining access to justice and upholding the principle that those accused of a crime have the right to

representation in their defence is vitally important. We recognise and value the reputation our legal profession enjoys internationally. We must preserve that reputation while enhancing the quality of advocacy in our courts.

We cannot escape the fact, however that there is a pressing need to ensure our criminal justice system performs more efficiently. Last year we spent £1.7 billion on legal aid. Although that is down from the 2009-10 peak, it is still far higher than many other developed economies. As a proportion of GDP, we spend more on legal aid than any other EU nation outside the UK. And per capita, we spend more on legal aid than most other Common Law jurisdictions – double the amount spent in Australia, Canada and the Republic of Ireland.

Of course no two legal systems are identical, but there is no doubt we still have a generous system compared to other countries. The continuing need to reduce the deficit means that we must make further progress. We must secure greater efficiencies whilst maintaining a high quality service and guaranteeing that everyone accused of a crime has the same access to a legal aid lawyer as they do now.

The Coalition Government announced a series of changes to secure savings in criminal legal aid, including:

- Reducing litigators' fees by 17.5%, with last year's initial reduction of 8.75% followed by a further reduction of 8.75% this year.
- Proceeding to introduce 527 new duty provider contracts, the tender for which was put out prior to the election.
- Reducing advocacy fees by £10 million per year.

In considering the programme set in train by the previous Government for the criminal legal aid market, we have listened very carefully to the concerns of the profession. We share the view that we must protect the quality of the service provided by litigators and that we must make sure that this high quality service remains sustainable in all parts of England and Wales. We recognise that changes in the litigation market have the potential to affect the provision of advocacy, and agree that high quality advocacy also must be preserved and enhanced. We will be taking steps to work with the profession to explore measures to achieve this.

Having considered the findings of Sir Brian Leveson's report into the efficiency of the criminal courts, the impact of broader criminal justice reforms, and the impact of changes already introduced, we have decided to press ahead with the second 8.75% reduction to litigators' fees announced by the Coalition government.

Before reaching this conclusion, we examined changes to our forecast legal aid expenditure, changes to the existing market, provider withdrawal rates and reasons, contract extension acceptance and early information from the duty provider contract tender. This reassured us that legal aid reforms so far have not had any substantial negative impact on the sustainability of the service.

The statutory instrument implementing this reduction will be laid today, and the change will come into force on 1 July.

We will also proceed with the new duty provider contracts, the tender for which is already well underway. The Legal Aid Agency is currently assessing bids and is on track to announce decisions in the Autumn. As intended by the Coalition Government, these changes will help mitigate the impact of the cut to litigators' fees. Organisations that are awarded duty provider contracts will have exclusive access to duty contract work and will benefit from economies of scale. Together, these changes will ensure there is a sustainable duty solicitor service across England and Wales.

We are particularly keen to ensure we retain a vibrant independent Bar and protect the high standard of advocacy which is a hallmark of our justice system. Having listened carefully to the case put by the profession, we have decided not to reduce advocacy fees at this stage. Instead we want to work closely with the

profession in order to explore alternative ways of securing savings through greater efficiencies in criminal proceedings. That will include implementing the findings of Sir Brian Leveson's report, which contained wide-ranging recommendations to deliver more efficient criminal courts.

Taken together, these changes must be closely monitored in order to ensure we preserve access to justice and high quality advocacy. We will therefore establish a review to assess the impact of the litigators' fee reduction and the dual contracting model on access to justice and the quality of litigation and advocacy provision. This review will be undertaken by an individual independent of Government, and will commence in July 2016.

Although the transition will be challenging, the changes we are pressing ahead with today are designed to ensure that we have a system of criminal legal aid that delivers value for money to taxpayers, that provides high quality legal advice to those that need it most, and that puts the profession on a sustainable footing for the long term."

# Written Statements

Thursday, 11 June 2015

## Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

[HLWS24]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (Jane Ellison) has made the following written ministerial statement.

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will meet on 18-19 June in Luxembourg. The Health and Consumer Affairs part of the Council will take place in the morning of 19 June.

The main agenda item is the following:

Regulations on medical devices and *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices: the Presidency plans a General Approach on medical devices. The regulations seek to address weaknesses in the current regulatory system, ensure a more consistent level of implementation across the EU, and ensure that the EU will continue to be viewed by business as an innovation-friendly regulatory environment.

The UK has broadly supported the Commission's proposals in order to ensure high standards of patient safety. At the outset of negotiations the UK identified three areas as priorities:

- avoiding an ineffective and bureaucratic process proposed by the Commission involving additional pre-market scrutiny of higher risk devices by a central committee of Member State experts;
- ensuring sufficient flexibility is in place to allow health institutions to manufacture and use diagnostic tests developed 'in-house'; and
- resisting proposals to introduce additional regulatory burdens.

Under 'Any Other Business' there will also be presentations on three other issues by the following delegations:

Slovenia - follow-up to the informal meeting of EU Health Ministers on a new framework for the EU alcohol policy;

Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Malta - importance of the health dimension in the European Agenda on Migration;

Luxembourg - priorities for their forthcoming Presidency, which will run from July until December 2015.

For information, a copy of the latest agenda is attached.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Health Council Provisional Agenda 19th June [Health Council June 19 Prov Agenda.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-06-11/HLWS24/>

## Environment Council

[HLWS25]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Amber Rudd) has today made the following statement.

My Honourable friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Rory Stewart) and I will attend the EU Environment Council in Luxembourg on 15 June.

Following the adoption of the agenda the list of "A" items will be approved.

During the legislative deliberations, there will be a policy debate on the proposal for a Directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants.

The one non-legislative item on the agenda is the road to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of the Parties in Paris, for which there will be an exchange of views. Over the lunch Ministers will be invited to discuss further aspects of the international climate change negotiations, namely the Lima-Paris Action Agenda and possible long term goals for 2050 and 2100.

The following Any Other Business items will be discussed;

1. Proposal concerning the establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme.
2. An update from recent international meetings.
3. The European fund for strategic investments - an opportunity for environmental projects.
4. The Lisbon Charter - a guide for public policy and regulation of drinking water supply, sanitation and wastewater management services.
5. The work programme of the incoming Luxembourg Presidency.

## Financial Services

[HLWS27]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Chancellor announced yesterday, following advice from the Governor of the Bank of England and N M Rothschild, the government's independent advisor, that the government plans to initiate share sales of RBS in the coming months. Copies of the advice have been made available on HM Treasury's website.

As Rothschild noted, the UK is currently in a position where alongside the United States, the taxpayer can



comfortably expect to secure proceeds which exceed what they put in to overall banking sector interventions.

The Chancellor was advised that it is in the interests of the taxpayer to begin sales soon, with decisions on specific details of a sale to be made in due course.

## Fiscal Sustainability Report

[HLWS23]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Greg Hands) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published its fifth Fiscal sustainability report (FSR). This document meets their requirement to annually prepare an analysis of the sustainability of the public finances, and provides an important insight into the state of the public finances and the impact that demographic change will have.

The OBR also published the second Welfare trends report (WTR). This report provides a transparent and independent analysis of welfare spending, in line with a request from the Chancellor in December 2013 to publish information on trends and drivers of welfare spending, and sources of error compared to the previous forecast.

The FSR was laid before Parliament earlier today and copies of both reports are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

Changes since last year's Fiscal sustainability report do not change significantly the path of the long-term projections, with the FSR's key conclusion reiterating that:

"longer-term spending pressures, if unaddressed, would put the public finances on an unsustainable path".

As the OBR notes in its analysis, this is due to the spending pressure generated by an ageing population, which is projected to increase age-related spending by 3.9% of GDP from 2019-20 to 2064-65. Without additional policy change, the overall budget surpluses that are assumed to continue after this Parliament bring debt down to a low of 54% in the early 2030s, before being outweighed by age-related pressures that put debt back onto an upward trajectory. Debt reaches 87% of GDP in 2064-65 and is expected to continue rising thereafter. The report projects that tax revenues will remain at a relatively constant share of GDP from 2019-20 onwards, although in its detailed analysis of oil and gas revenues, it highlights the sharp scale of the decline in tax receipts from the North Sea.

The government takes the sustainability challenge seriously. As life expectancy continues to increase, there is a need for a regular and structured way in which to consider changes to the State Pension age in future. That is why the government will carry out a regular review of State Pension age every 6 years, starting in this Parliament. Details of the core principle to guide that review were set out alongside Autumn Statement 2013, including that people should expect to spend on average

up to a third of their adult life in receipt of the State Pension. The OBR projects that this would have a substantial positive impact on long-term fiscal sustainability, with state pension spending projected to be 0.8% of GDP lower by 2064-65 than if the state pension age had risen with currently legislated changes.

Reforms to the state pension come alongside the government's reforms to public service pensions, which will rebalance taxpayer and member contributions in the short term while ensuring costs are sustainable and fair in the long term. The previous government implemented reforms to rebalance contribution costs between the taxpayer and the member, to change the uprating measure to CPI, and to reform the schemes' designs in line with Lord Hutton's recommendations. HM Treasury has estimated that these reforms will save more than £430 billion by 2061-62.

Spending on health rises from 6.2% of GDP in 2019-20 to 8.0% in 2064-65, as the population ages, with spending on social care rising from 1.2% to 2.2% over the same period. Given the particular spending pressures that arise in health and social care, including non-demographic factors, the government is committed to ensuring that care services are as efficient and effective as possible. This includes funding the NHS's own plan to deliver a modern, efficient and sustainable NHS and continuing to integrate health and social care services through policies such as the pooling of around £6 billion of health and care funding in Greater Manchester and the £5.3 billion Better Care Fund.

On the revenues side, the OBR have revised their oil and gas forecast down to £2.1bn between 2020-21 and 2040-41 with companies' net revenues expected to be low over the period. The OBR's analysis clearly demonstrates the impact of falling production and cost escalation on the profitability of the sector – the onus is now on industry to make real improvements in these areas to improve their competitiveness. At Budget, the Chancellor introduced a radical package of reforms to support the sector, worth £1.3bn, including reducing the headline tax rates and introducing a new Investment Allowance to reward companies investing in the UK Continental Shelf. This package is expected to lead to £4bn of additional investment and an increase in production by 15% by 2019-20.

Recognising the scale of the long-term challenge, the government is committed to ensuring that our public finances are put on, and remain on, a sustainable path for the long term. The OBR analysis makes it very clear that the government's medium-term fiscal consolidation plan is a vital step towards achieving long-term fiscal sustainability. This includes government reforms to change the welfare system to ensure it promotes work and personal responsibility, while putting expenditure on a more sustainable footing.

Over the last Parliament, the government halved the deficit from its post-war peak, but the deficit remains one of the highest in the developed world. This Parliament, the government will complete the task of getting the

public finances into surplus, so that we bear down on our excessive national debt, and begin to address the long-term challenges that we face.

The Fiscal sustainability report and the Welfare trends report published today are key examples of the great strides the OBR have taken in delivering greater transparency and credibility to our fiscal forecasts since its creation, 5 years ago. This government remains committed to supporting the OBR in its role to provide independent and authoritative analysis of the UK's public finances. The Chancellor has therefore asked Sir David Ramsden, Chief Economic Advisor to the Treasury, to complete a Treasury review on the existing regime and framework of the OBR including a focus on its role in enhancing UK fiscal credibility. The outcomes of the review will be published in the summer.

## NOMS Accounts

[HLWS22]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Prisons, Probation and Rehabilitation (Andrew Selous) has made the following Written Statement.

"I wish to apologise to the House on behalf of the Ministry of Justice following the provision of misleading information to members. In its annual accounts to be published today, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is releasing amended data for prison crowding. It has become apparent that crowding figures previously published in the NOMS Annual Report, and doubling figures published in the Prison Performance Digest, have understated the level of crowding in each year back to 2008/2009.

These incorrect figures have in turn informed public statements from the Ministry of Justice, including statements to Parliament.

There are two measures of prison estate capacity: (i) certified normal accommodation (CNA), also known as the uncrowded capacity, which refers to the number of prisoners that cells, cubicles or rooms were originally designed to hold, and (ii) operational capacity, which is the number of prisoners a prison has been assessed as capable of holding, taking into account regime facilities and the requirement to maintain order and control. Crowding means, for example, that two prisoners may be sharing a cell originally designed for one. All prisons' regimes, facilities and staffing are structured to provide for the total number of prisoners within it and NOMS will only crowd where it has been assessed as safe and decent to do so.

Errors in the published figures, used to provide parliamentary answers, were due to misinterpretation on the part of some prisons, which reported the number of prisoners held in excess of the number that cells were designed to hold (CNA), rather than the number of prisoners affected by crowding. In instances where two prisoners were held in a cell designed for one, both prisoners should be counted as being in crowded

conditions. Some prisons, however, were only counting the additional prisoner.

The public should rightly expect this information to be accurate. Publication of clear, reliable figures on how many prisoners we hold in crowded conditions is an important part of making sure we can be held to account. It is therefore unacceptable that these incorrect figures have been published over the last six years and that these errors were not identified sooner. Since discovering these errors, we have taken urgent steps to ensure that figures will in future be subjected to rigorous quality control.

The attached table shows updated national figures for crowding, which is measured as the percentage of prisoners who are held in a cell, cubicle or room where the number of occupants exceeds the uncrowded capacity of the cell, cubicle or room from 2008/09 to 2014/15. The table also contains amended data on the level of doubling, defined as the percentage of the prison population held two to a cell designated as a single cell.

The amended figures have been calculated following an exercise to validate data and make appropriate corrections. The new data will also be published in the 2014/15 NOMS Annual Report.

Going forward, we have put robust new checks in place to quality assure figures as they are submitted, and to prevent incorrect figures from being published again. I will be writing to members who have been provided with incorrect information and I once again apologise to the whole House for these mistakes."

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Prisoners in Crowded or Doubled Conditions [Table - Percentage of Prisoners in Crowded or Doubled Conditions.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-06-11/HLWS22/>

## Royal Mail

[HLWS20]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Rt hon Sajid Javid) has today made the following statement.

The Government has sold half of the 30% stake it retained in Royal Mail plc, at a price of 500 pence per share.

The sale has raised £750m, which will be used to reduce public debt.

Following independent financial advice, the Government decided that yesterday was a good opportunity to realise value for money from a sale of part of its remaining shareholding in Royal Mail. The shares were sold through an accelerated bookbuild process which enabled Government to take advantage of the current favourable market conditions. The sale was launched yesterday after the financial markets closed.

Royal Mail has demonstrated that it can thrive in the private sector. It now has the ability to access the funds it

needs to ensure that it has a sustainable future and can adapt to the changes in the postal market.

The universal postal service will continue to be protected by the regulatory regime set out in the Postal Services Act 2011. Ofcom has been given a primary duty to ensure that the universal postal service is maintained and the regulatory tools to intervene if it is under threat.

In addition, building on the success of the initial scheme, and in recognition of their work in turning around the Royal Mail, the Government intends to gift up to 1% of the shares of the Company to Royal Mail's UK employees. These shares will come from Government's remaining holding and they will be subject to sales restrictions.

This builds on the 10% of the total shares in the Company that were awarded to Royal Mail employees as part of the 2013 flotation.

The Government sees no policy reason to keep its remaining stake in Royal Mail.

Post Office Ltd, which operates the network of branches throughout the UK, remains wholly-owned by Government and was separated from Royal Mail in April 2012. The relationship between the Post Office and Royal Mail is a commercial one and a 10 year contract for the delivery of Royal Mail services through post offices was put in place in 2012.

## Telecommunications Council

[HLWS26]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Honourable Friend the Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy (Mr Ed Vaizey) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement. The Telecommunications Council will take place in Luxembourg on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015. I am representing the UK at this Council, and below are the agenda items and the positions, I intend to adopt on each of them.

The first item is an exchange of views on the Commissions Digital Single Market Strategy, which was published on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The debate will be informed by two questions from the Presidency. My intervention will include: This strategy is strongly welcomed by the UK; Europe should prioritise making it easier for small businesses to start up, scale up and add value to the whole EU economy; and that we should also prioritise the area of e-commerce. My intervention will also lay out early high level HMG views on various parts of the Digital single market package including telecoms framework, the data economy and cross border parcel policy.

The second item is for Council to reach agreement for a General Approach on the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a programme on interoperability solutions for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (First reading - EM11580/14). I am proposing to abstain from voting on this general approach. My intervention will make it clear that whilst we support the aims of ISA2 in

principle and hope to be able to support a final text following negotiations with the European Parliament, we cannot support the current text.

This will be followed by information from the Presidency on the 'state of play' on negotiations regarding 'A Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent' (EM13562/13 and 13555/13 + ADDs 1-2). My intervention will: stress UK's ambition that the Regulation contain a clear timetable of actions that will result in the eventual cessation of mobile roaming charges in the EU; and seek to ensure that the Regulation enables Member States to bring forward, or maintain, existing parental controls measures, thus permitting the UK to maintain our current regime of online protection for children. Discussion on this item will be preceded, and informed by an informal Ministerial breakfast whose aim is to reach political agreement on the Regulation; my interventions during this discussion will mirror those in Council.

This item will be followed by information from the Presidency on a Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to ensure a high level of network and information security across the Union (NIS Directive). (First reading - EM6342/13). I do not intend to intervene on this item. However, if a round table is initiated by others on this item I will remind Council that whilst the UK supports the aim of raising the level of, cyber security across the Union it would be prudent to take our time and make sure we get the detail right so the Directive is not unduly burdensome on business

The Council will then be given a progress report from the Presidency on Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the accessibility to public sector bodies' web-sites (First reading - EM16006/11). We do not expect a debate on this item and I do not propose to intervene.

There will then follow the adoption of draft council conclusions on the transfer of the stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the multi-stakeholder community. I will support these conclusions and do not expect a debate on this item.

Finally, under AOB, the Luxembourg delegation will inform the Council of their priorities for their forthcoming Presidency before Council adjourns until the next meeting in quarter four 2015.

## Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures

[HLWS21]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Section 19(1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 (the Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as

reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of her TPIM powers under the Act during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

TPIM notices in force (as of 31 May 2015)	2
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 31 May 2015)	1
TPIM notices extended (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revoked (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revived (during the reporting period)	0
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices (during the reporting period)	6
Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused (during the reporting period)	0
The number of subjects relocated under TPIM legislation	1

The TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. A TRG was held on 16 March 2015. The next TRG will take place in June.

On 20 April 2015 the Court of Appeal agreed that the appeal brought by DD in the case of *DD v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2014] EWHC 3820 (Admin) (which resulted in a judgement in which the High Court determined a preliminary issue in DD's appeal against the revival of his TPIM notice), could be withdrawn with all the issues to be heard again by the High Court. This Court of Appeal Order is available at <http://www.bailii.org/> reference T1/2014/4078.

The case of *DD v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2014] EWHC 3820 (Admin) was heard again at the High Court between 21 and 24 April 2015. The judgement is expected to be handed down in June.



# Written Statements

Monday, 15 June 2015

## Bilateral Loan: Ireland

[HLWS28]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

HM Treasury has today provided a further report to Parliament in relation to the bilateral loan to Ireland as required under the Loans to Ireland Act 2010. The report relates to the period from 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015.

A written ministerial statement on the previous statutory report regarding the loan to Ireland was issued to Parliament on 13 October 2014, Official Report, column 1WS.

## HGV Levy

[HLWS30]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Andrew Jones) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 all HGVs at or above 12 tonnes gross weight using UK roads have been required to pay the HGV Road User Levy. The Levy ensures all such HGVs contribute to the costs of UK road maintenance and removes some of the inequality UK hauliers feel when paying to use many roads abroad. The Levy costs up to £10 per day or £1,000 per year.

I am pleased to announce that the HGV Levy has proved to be a great success in its first year of operation. It has raised a total £192.5million in receipts, with £46.5million from foreign-registered vehicles and £146million from UK-registered vehicles. Receipts from foreign vehicles are significantly ahead of the projected £21m.

For most UK-registered HGVs, vehicle excise duty (VED) was reduced by the same amount as the Levy, and is conveniently paid alongside VED to keep administrative costs to a minimum.

Over 160,200 foreign vehicles have been registered on the Levy payment system. In total 1.9 million levies were

purchased for foreign HGVs. 91% were 'daily', i.e. covering only one or a few days. 3% were weekly, 5% monthly and just 1% annual, despite the discounts available on long duration purchases. This predominance of more expensive daily levies is a major factor in our original estimate being exceeded. Even so, in terms of revenue raised, 18% (£8.5m) came from annual levies and 48% (£22.3m) from daily levies. The number of levies purchased was greatest for Polish registered vehicles (27%), followed by Romania (12%), Spain (9%) and Hungary (7%).

The Levy has also been a success in terms of efficient digital delivery and customer service. The vast majority of transactions - 97% - are made through an on-line portal using registered accounts. The remaining 3% of sales have been through assisted digital point of sale terminals on ferries, at truckstops and through agents. This has all been supported by a multi-lingual customer service call centre.

Effective roadside enforcement has been provided by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) in Northern Ireland, and the police. This has contributed to a Levy compliance level for foreign vehicles inspected by DVSA at roadside check sites in Great Britain of 95%. Officers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland have issued over 3,000 fixed penalties for Levy offences during its first year raising more than £900,000 in fines. DVLA has enforced the Levy alongside VED for UK registered vehicles, and over 99% compliance has been achieved.

## Prudential Regulation Authority

[HLWS29]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15 of the Prudential Regulation Authority has today been laid before Parliament.

The Report forms a key part of the accountability mechanism for the Prudential Regulation Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, and assesses the performance of the Prudential Regulation Authority over the past 12 months against its statutory objectives.

Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

# Written Statements

Tuesday, 16 June 2015

## Departmental Statistics

[HLWS31]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Prisons, Probation and Rehabilitation (Andrew Selous) has made the following Written Statement.

"A typographical error has been identified in the table attached to the Written Statement I provided to the House on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

The table showed revised figures for the percentage of prisoners in crowded and doubled conditions, following errors in how the figures had been collated dating back to 2008/09. The revised doubling figure for 2013/14 was incorrectly presented as 24.5% of prisoners held. This figure was a duplicate of the 2014/15 doubling figure. The correct figure for the number of prisoners held in doubled conditions in 2013/14 is 23.2%. All other figures in the table are correct.

The table below shows the national figures for crowding and doubling, with the correct figure for 2013/14.

*Percentage of Prisoners in Crowded or Doubled Conditions*

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Crowding figures</i>	<i>Doubling figures</i>
2008/09	25.3%	24.2%
2009/10	24.6%	23.6%
2010/11	24.2%	23.3%
2011/12	25.1%	24.1%
2012/13	23.9%	23.0%
2013/14	24.1%	23.2%
2014/15	25.5%	24.5%

I have been reassured that this mistake was the result of an administrative error rather than any more serious flaw in how the department collates statistics. Once again, I sincerely apologise to the House for this mistake."

## Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council

[HLWS32]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Right Honourable Friend the Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington) has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will attend the Foreign Affairs Council on 22 June and I will attend the General Affairs Council on 23 June. The Foreign Affairs Council will be chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, and the General Affairs Council will

be chaired by the Latvian Presidency. The meetings will be held in Luxembourg.

### *Foreign Affairs Council*

#### *Asia*

Ministers will have a strategic discussion on Asia. The UK will emphasise the importance of deepening EU cooperation with Asia on traditional and non-traditional security challenges which affect all our interests, including involvement with regional multilateral structures such as the East Asia Summit. On China, the UK will encourage Member States to push for agreement on a substantial Investment Agreement, and to agree to seek a reference to an EU-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the EU-China Summit's Joint Statement, alongside an ambitious statement on climate change. The UK will also encourage the EU to make progress on the EU-Japan FTA. The UK will highlight its positive engagement with the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank and encourage other Member States to do the same. Council Conclusions on strengthening partnership between the EU and ASEAN and on Burma ahead of the November elections are also likely to be adopted.

#### *Lunch with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon*

EU Foreign Ministers will attend a lunch hosted by High Representative Ms Mogherini with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. This is an opportunity to hear, first hand, the most pressing areas of interest for the Secretary General. Discussions are expected to cover a range of issues including the Post 2015 Development Agenda, UN climate negotiations, migration in the Mediterranean, Yemen, Syria and Libya.

#### *Mediterranean Migration*

Mediterranean Migration will be on the agenda for the 25/26 June European Council (JEC), and ahead of this will be discussed at the JHA Council (16 June) and FAC (22 June). Some Member States want to agree arrangements to share the burden of refugees across the EU. We also expect discussion of a CSDP operation to disrupt the smugglers' business model. We need to break the link between being rescued and automatic entry into the EU, which means challenging the people-smugglers' business model that encourages potential economic migrants to believe that they can achieve settlement in Europe. We will argue strongly, at the FAC and JEC, that tackling the flows requires a comprehensive approach, incorporating development, capacity-building and good governance work in source and transit countries, action against smugglers, and robust arrangements to return economic migrants to source countries. We will also be pressing the EU and Member States to put their weight behind a political deal in Libya and – if one is agreed – strongly support a Government of National Accord.

#### *Energy Diplomacy*

The European External Action Service (EEAS) has produced an 'Energy Diplomacy Action Plan' for consideration by Ministers. The plan proposes EU foreign policy measures and actions in follow up to the European Commission's Communication of February 2015 'A



Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy' and the March 2015 European Council Conclusions. The UK broadly welcomes efforts to make best use of the EU's external diplomacy and cooperation mechanisms where this can add value to the work of Member States in support of secure, sustainable and competitive energy supplies. While further cooperation between Member States and the EU institutions may be useful in some situations, the UK will continue to argue against any extension of EU competence in the international energy sphere.

#### *Macedonia*

We expect a discussion on the ongoing political crisis in Macedonia and an update on EU-facilitated talks with political leaders.

#### *General Affairs Council*

The General Affairs Council (GAC) on 23 June is due to focus on: preparation of the European Council on 25 and 26 June 2015; the 2015 European Semester; the Better Regulation Agenda; and Macedonia.

#### *Preparation of the March European Council*

The GAC will prepare the 25 and 26 June European Council, which the Prime Minister will attend. The June European Council agenda is expected to include Mediterranean migration and security and defence issues as well as economic issues (including the Digital Single Market, the country specific recommendations of the 2015 European Semester and a report on better economic governance in the euro area). The Prime Minister will

continue his discussions with other Leaders on EU reform.

#### *European Semester*

The GAC will consider the Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs), published by the Commission to all non-programme EU Member States on 13 May, as part of the European Semester process. CSRs will also be considered by the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council on 18-19 June and the Economic and Financial Affairs Council on 19 June.

The advice to the UK is to continue reducing the deficit, boost housing supply and strengthen the labour market. These are generally in line with the Government's long term economic plan.

#### *Better Regulation Agenda*

The GAC will hold an initial discussion on the recently published better regulation package by the European Commission. The key part of the package is the Inter Institutional Agreement (IIA) on better regulation. The IIA focuses on red tape in the EU and the institutional cooperation among the Council of Ministers, the Commission and the European Parliament.

#### *Macedonia*

We expect a short discussion on the ongoing political crisis in Macedonia and an update on EU-facilitated talks with Macedonia's political leaders. We expect short conclusions setting out the EU's concerns about the current political crisis.

# Written Statements

Wednesday, 17 June 2015

## EPSCO

[HLWS33]

**Lord Freud:** My Right Honourable Friend The Minister for Employment (Priti Patel) has made the following Written Statement.

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will take place on 18 June 2015 in Luxembourg. The UK will be represented by the Minister for Welfare Reform, Lord Freud.

There will be a Policy debate on the European Semester 2015. As part of the discussion, the Council will seek approval of draft Council recommendations on the National Reform Programmes 2015 to each Member State; seek endorsement of the opinions of the Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC) for the Assessment of the 2015 Country-specific Recommendations (CSRs) and implementation of the 2014 CSRs and endorsement of the EMCO report on Employment Performance Monitor and Benchmarks.

The Council will seek a General approach on the Proposals for a Council Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States.

The Council will also seek to Adopt draft Council Conclusions on European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 3/2015 "EU Youth Guarantee: first steps taken, but implementation risk ahead"; and Draft Council Conclusions on equal income opportunities for women and men: Closing the gender gap on pensions.

The Council will receive Progress reports on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on improving the gender balance among

non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures; and the Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Under any other business, the Latvian Presidency will inform on current legislative proposals, and outcomes of the conferences organised by the Latvian Presidency. The Commission will provide information on the National Roma Integration Strategy – Annual Implementation Report; and the Report on the Functioning of the Transitional Arrangements on Free Movement of Workers from Croatia and accompanying Commission Staff Working Document. The Luxembourg delegation will provide information on the Work Programme of the incoming Presidency.

## Oil and Gas Authority

[HLWS34]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change (Andrea Leadsom) has today made the following statement.

I wish to inform the House that on 1 April 2015, whilst Parliament was prorogued, the Department of Energy and Climate Change ("DECC") established the United Kingdom's new arms'-length oil and gas regulator, the Oil and Gas Authority ("OGA"). Founding the OGA as an Executive Agency of DECC, represents a critical step in implementing the recommendations contained in Sir Ian Wood's 2014 report ("Wood Review") into maximising economic recovery from the United Kingdom's Continental Shelf ("UKCS").

Subject to the passage of legislation in this Session of Parliament, I expect the OGA to transition from an Executive Agency of DECC to a Government-owned company.

# Written Statements

*Thursday, 18 June 2015*

## EU Transport Council

[HLWS37]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Robert Goodwill) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

I attended the second Transport Council under the Latvian Presidency (the Presidency) in Luxembourg on Thursday 11 June.

The Council adopted a General Approach on the proposed Directive laying down technical standards for inland waterway vessels. There was broad support from Member States and the Commission for both the text and the related creation of the European Committee for Inland Navigation Standards (CESNI). The Commission indicated that it would now attempt to capitalise on this success by looking to harmonise other standards in the inland waterway sector, including training for crew.

The Presidency appreciated the support of all Member States and the Commission in their efforts to reach agreement with the European Parliament on the complex technical pillar of the Fourth Railway Package.

On the market pillar, however, the Presidency was clear that more time was needed. I welcomed the improvements to date to address concerns on over-regulation but pressed that more needed to be done to ensure that competition could flourish and rail continued to be an attractive investment. In highlighting the success of the UK's liberalised and competitive rail market, I invited other Member States to visit the UK to learn from our experience. The main point of contention was the nature of possible exemptions from competitive tendering with the Commission supporting an exemption based on performance criteria while some Member States called for an exemption based on their share of the EU rail market being less than one per cent. I strongly pressed that any exemptions to competitive tendering had to be based on objective criteria and fully justified.

On Air Passenger Rights, the Presidency presented their Progress Report.

I underlined the UK's strong support for the improvements in air passenger rights whilst reinforcing our position that the balanced and proportionate trigger points of 5/9/12 hours should be maintained, a view strongly echoed by some Member States. I also voiced strong concerns on the proposed inclusion of a compensation scheme for missed connecting flights, highlighting the negative impacts for both passengers and airlines. Two Member States called for a lower trigger point of three hours with another suggesting anything other than including three hours in line with interpretative case law from CJEU rulings was a step backwards in

passenger rights. There was no discussion on the application of the regulation to Gibraltar Airport.

Under any other business, the Commission presented the conclusions of their interim evaluation on road safety, taking stock of progress towards the 50% reduction in fatalities by 2020. With regards to next steps the Commission indicated that it was considering proposing a target for reducing serious injuries.

On the Trans-European Network –Transport (TEN-T) and Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the Christophersen-Bodewig-Secchi report which looks at making the best use of the new EU financial schemes for transport infrastructure projects, was presented. The authors called for urgent action to ensure the success of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) for the transport sector and presented twelve recommendations for bringing private capital to the transport sector. The Commissioner invited Member State views on these recommendations ahead of the TEN-T days set to take place in Riga on 22 and 23 June.

The Presidency presented the outcome of the third Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Transport Ministers' meeting where ASEM member countries made a strong commitment to fostering closer cooperation in the field of transport connectivity.

The Commission updated the Council on the Shift2Rail research and innovation programme. The Commission regretted the delay in the recruitment of the Executive Director but considered the remainder of the programme was on track. I joined several Member States in thanking the Commission for the update and encouraging all efforts to ensure an accelerated deployment of the programme.

The Luxembourg Minister for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure presented the work programme of their upcoming Presidency stating their focus would remain on the Fourth Railway Package and achieving a General Approach on the market pillar by the October Transport Council. He invited Ministers to an Informal Council on 7 October focussing on cycling, followed by the formal Council on 8 October where there would be a policy debate on the Commission's review of its transport white paper. At the December Council there would be a policy debate on social conditions in road transport.

## Local Planning

[HLWS36]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today setting out new considerations to be applied to proposed wind energy development so that local people have the final say on wind farm applications, fulfilling the commitment made in the Conservative election manifesto.

Subject to the transitional provision set out below, these considerations will take effect from 18 June and should be taken into account in planning decisions. I am also

making a limited number of consequential changes to planning guidance.

When determining planning applications for wind energy development involving one or more wind turbines, local planning authorities should only grant planning permission if:

- the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan; and
- following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing.

In applying these new considerations, suitable areas for wind energy development will need to have been allocated clearly in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan. Maps showing the wind resource as favourable to wind turbines, or similar, will not be sufficient. Whether a proposal has the backing of the affected local community is a planning judgement for the local planning authority.

Where a valid planning application for a wind energy development has already been submitted to a local planning authority and the development plan does not identify suitable sites, the following transitional provision applies. In such instances, local planning authorities can find the proposal acceptable if, following consultation, they are satisfied it has addressed the planning impacts identified by affected local communities and therefore has their backing.

## Onshore Wind Subsidies

[HLWS35]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Amber Rudd) has today made the following statement.

The Government is committed to meeting objectives on cutting carbon emissions and the UK's 2020 renewable energy targets. Onshore wind has deployed successfully to-date and is an important part of our energy mix. We now have enough onshore wind in the pipeline, to be subsidised by bill payers through the Renewable Obligation or Contracts for Difference, for onshore wind to play a significant part in meeting our renewable energy commitments. The Government was elected with a commitment to end new subsidies for onshore wind and to change the law so that local people have the final say on onshore windfarm applications. We are now giving effect to these changes in full through the introduction of an Energy Bill this session. The Energy Bill will devolve powers out of Whitehall so that applications for onshore wind farms are considered by democratically elected councils.

My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is today making a statement on onshore wind development and local planning in England. This will set out new considerations to be applied to proposed wind energy development so

that local people have the final say on wind farm applications.

I am now setting out proposals to end new subsidies for onshore wind, specifically in relation to the Renewables Obligation (RO). Onshore wind is currently subsidised through three schemes: Contracts for Difference (CfDs) introduced by the last Government, and the Renewables Obligation and Feed-in-Tariffs introduced previously.

With regard to CfDs, we have the tools available to implement our manifesto commitments on onshore wind and I will set out how I will do so when announcing plans in relation to further CfD allocations. I will also shortly be considering options for continued support for community onshore wind projects through the feed-in tariff (FITs) as part of the review that my department is conducting this year.

The RO supports the overwhelming majority of current and future onshore wind capacity. Unlike CfDs, which introduce competition for subsidy and therefore drive costs down more quickly, the RO is demand-led and so poses more risk of pressure on consumer bills from increased demand for the subsidy. I am therefore announcing today that we will be introducing primary legislation to close the RO to new onshore wind from 1st April 2016 – a year earlier than planned.

My department's analysis indicates that, after taking into account an early closure, onshore wind deployment under the RO will be in the region of 11.6GW. In addition to the 0.75GW of onshore wind that has secured a CfD, this puts us above the middle of the range set out in the EMR Delivery Plan, our best estimate of what we would need to meet our 2020 targets. It is therefore appropriate to curtail further deployment of onshore wind, balancing the interests of onshore wind developers with those of the wider public.

To protect investor confidence in the wider renewables sector, I am proposing a grace period which would continue to give access to support under the RO to those projects which, as of today, already have planning consent, a grid connection offer and acceptance, and evidence of land rights for the site on which their project will be built. I believe this draws the line in the right place but I want to hear views from the industry and other stakeholders before framing the terms of the legislation.

I intend that any final proposals are applied across Great Britain and I am in the process of consulting with Scottish and Welsh Ministers on this matter. Since energy policy is devolved in Northern Ireland, I am currently in discussions with Ministers there to agree how our commitments on onshore wind will be implemented in Northern Ireland.

## Questions for Written Answer - 2014/15 Session

[HLWS39]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** Further to the commitment made by my predecessor to publish annually the performance of departments on their promptness in

dealing with QWAs (HL Deb 8 May 2014, col 1575), I am today publishing data on departmental performance in answering Questions for Written Answer for the 2014/15 session.

Written questions are an important way in which Members hold the Government to account, and the House has agreed that they should be answered within 10 working days (Procedure Committee, 3rd Report, Session 2009-10). I take very seriously my responsibility as Leader of the House to ensure that responses are timely and accurate. I am pleased, therefore, that overall 91% of Questions for Written Answer were answered within 10 working days in the last session.

Nevertheless, we must always strive to do better. In that spirit I will write to the five departments with the greatest proportion of late responses to make clear the House's expectations and to stress the importance of timely responses. I will also continue to publish departmental performance data on an annual basis to enable performance to be compared over time. My office will continue to work with all departments to ensure prompt and comprehensive responses to all Questions for Written Answer.

Due to size constraints, full details are set out in the attached table.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

QWA-data-2014-15-session [QWA Data - 2014\_15.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-06-18/HLWS39/>

## Palace of Westminster (Restoration and Renewal)

[HLWS38]

**Lord Sewel:** An independent appraisal of options for the restoration and renewal of the Palace of Westminster is published today. It was requested by the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords House Committee in the last Parliament following a pre-feasibility study and preliminary strategic business case which was published in October 2012.

The new study has been carried out by a consortium consisting of Deloitte Real Estate, AECOM and HOK. The Independent Options Appraisal (together with two volumes of detailed supporting materials) is available on the Parliament website at [www.restorationandrenewal.parliament.uk](http://www.restorationandrenewal.parliament.uk).

The restoration and renewal of the Palace of Westminster will be a major challenge facing Parliament in the coming years and is certain to be a matter of public interest. The process to establish a Joint Committee, which will make recommendations to both Houses on how to proceed, is already under way. It will be for the Joint Committee to decide how best to carry out its task.



# Written Statements

*Monday, 22 June 2015*

## G6 Dresden

[HLWS41]

**Lord Bates:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The informal G6 group of Ministers of the Interior from the six largest European Union countries held its most recent meeting in Dresden on 1 and 2 June 2015. Representatives of the United States of America and the European Commission attended for part of the meeting.

The summit was chaired by the German Federal Minister of the Interior, Thomas de Maizière and I represented the United Kingdom. The other participating States were represented by Jorge Fernández Díaz (Spain), Teresa Piotrowska (Poland), Bernard Cazeneuve (France), and Filippo Bubbico (Italy). The USA was represented by Alejandro Mayorkas (Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security) and Loretta Lynch (US Attorney General). The European Commission was represented by Dimitris Avramopoulos (Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship).

The first two sessions took place on 1 June. The first consisted of a discussion on the upcoming JHA Council and organised crime, with a focus on burglary and vehicle theft. On the latter, the hosts explained that both crimes are on the increase in Germany and are often committed simultaneously by organised gangs who move around Europe. A number of other countries have experienced the same problem. In the UK car crime and burglary are falling. The second session was a discussion on cooperation on migration and refugee policy with third countries. The Commission set out their proposals. In the ensuing discussion, G6 members exchanged views on the scale of the problem which the EU faced, the scale of the response needed and the importance of Member States fulfilling their obligations under the Dublin Regulation.

On Tuesday 2 June, the third session covered Islamist terrorism with a focus on current developments and the prevention of radicalisation. Germany, along with other G6 countries, has seen large numbers of residents leave to fight in Syria or Iraq. A number of those have subsequently returned and discussion focussed on how best to prevent Member State nationals leaving their home countries and how best the movements of foreign fighters can be monitored. The fourth session was a discussion on international cooperation on cybercrime. As technology progresses and cloud computing grows, cybercrime is becoming an increasingly borderless crime. The G6 members discussed how best we are able to cooperate to

address the problem and considered the implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

In my interventions, I outlined the large amount of work the UK is doing to address the current migratory pressures including supporting Regional Protection Programmes, the deployment of UK vessels in the Mediterranean and our work to disrupt the groups carrying out organised immigration crime. In that context, I reiterated the UK's opposition to mandatory burden sharing at EU level. During the session on organised crime I highlighted the opportunities that are offered by the proactive use of the Second Generation Schengen Information System (SISII) to identify lost and stolen vehicles. When discussing the prevention of radicalisation I highlighted the need for the G6 countries to challenge the ISIL narrative and disprove the claims ISIL make. I also stressed the need for the Passenger Name Record (PNR) Directive to allow Member States to share information about the passenger movements, including those of foreign fighters, and the importance of allowing the collection of data on flights within the European Union. At the final session on Cybercrime I reiterated the UK's support for the implementation of the Budapest Convention and the need for international cooperation given the international nature of the crime.

I announced at the meeting that the next G6 will take place in the UK in November 2015.

## Gift of Equipment to the Kurdish Regional Government

[HLWS40]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am laying a departmental minute today concerning the gifting of military equipment to the Government of Iraq (GoI), including the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). This is at the request of the KRG.

The UK is providing extensive support to the GOI in the continuing fight against ISIL, with the gifting of equipment forming a significant part of this. Previously, HMG has gifted 50 tonnes of non-lethal support, 40 heavy machine guns and nearly half a million rounds of ammunition to the Kurdish Peshmerga. The latest equipment to be gifted to the Peshmerga consists of additional medical supplies. The supplies will consist of items such as tourniquets, bandage kits and dressings for wounds and will fill a significant gap in their resources, leading to the preservation of life and proper treatment of injuries sustained in combat.

It is estimated that the total cost of the equipment will be approximately £600,000, although this may change dependent on the need of the KRG.



# Written Statements

Tuesday, 23 June 2015

## ECOFIN

[HLWS43]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My right honourable friend the First Secretary of State and Chancellor of the Exchequer has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 19 June 2015. Ministers discussed the following items:

### *Bank Structural Reform:*

Council reached a General Approach on this file.

### *European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI):*

Ministers were updated by the Presidency on progress in relation to the EFSI. The Council Presidency anticipate reaching a First Reading agreement on the Regulation by the end of June.

### *Administrative Cooperation:*

Ministers held an exchange of views on the Presidency proposal on mandatory automatic exchange of information on tax rulings.

### *Interest and Royalties Directive:*

Ministers held an exchange of views on the Presidency compromise on the proposal for a common system of taxation applicable to interest and royalty payments made between associated companies of different Member States.

### *Current Legislative Proposals:*

The Presidency gave a state of play update on current legislative proposals in the field of financial services.

### *Commission Communication on corporate taxation:*

The Commission presented the main elements of the Action Plan on corporate taxation, which was released on 17 June.

### *Implementation of Banking Union:*

The Commission updated the Council on the status of implementation of the Banking Union, focusing on the ratification of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Single Resolution Fund and implementation of the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive.

### *Capital Markets Union:*

Council adopted Council Conclusions on Capital Markets Union.

*Contribution to the European Council Meeting on 25-26 June 2015: European Semester:*

Council discussed Country Specific Recommendations and prepared a discussion for the June European Council on the European Semester.

*Contribution to the European Council Meeting on 25-26 June 2015: Broad Economic Policy Guidelines:*

Council adopted a report to the European Council on the recommendations on Broad Economic Policy Guidelines.

*Contribution to the European Council Meeting on 25-26 June 2015: Report on preparing for next steps on better economic governance in the euro area:*

Council received a state of play update on the report on preparing for next steps on better economic governance in the euro area.

### *Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact:*

Council adopted Council Decisions and Recommendations in the context of the Excessive Deficit Procedure.

## Equitable Life Payments Scheme

[HLWS42]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

As of 31 May 2015, the Scheme has now issued payments totalling over £1.06 billion to 902,508 policyholders. The Scheme will today be publishing a further progress report, which can be found at [www.gov.uk/equitable-life-payment-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/equitable-life-payment-scheme).

87% of eligible policyholders have now been traced and had a payment issued; this represents nearly 92% of the total amount estimated to be due to policyholders.

The Scheme encourages any policyholders who believe themselves to be eligible to call the Scheme on 0300 0200 150. The Scheme can verify the identity of most policyholders on the telephone, which means any payment due can usually be received within two weeks.

## EU Payment Accounts Directive

[HLWS45]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today publishing a consultation on the draft Payment Accounts Regulations 2015.

The Regulations make provision regarding the transparency and comparability of fees charged in relation to payment accounts; payment account switching and access to payment accounts with basic features for all consumers legally resident within the EU.

The Regulations are required in order to implement the requirements of the Payment Accounts Directive (2014/92/EU) ("PAD") which was adopted on 23 July 2014. In order to meet treaty obligations, EU Member States must implement the majority of the measures set out in PAD by 18 September 2016.

The Government has already taken forward a number of initiatives for the purposes of improving the experience of UK current account customers. For example, the 7-day Current Account Switch Service (CASS) supports current

account switching and basic bank accounts have been available in the UK for over ten years, most recently augmented by the December 2014 agreement concluded by the nine largest providers of current accounts in the UK. That new agreement clarified and improved the terms upon which basic bank accounts are offered.

To complete the transposition of PAD, the UK must establish these initiatives in legislation and amend existing legislation related to the provision and regulation of payment accounts. However, due to the measures that the UK already has in place, the proposed Regulations aim to minimise any negative impact on structures and services that are working well.

PAD allows Member States to extend provision in a number of areas. Under the draft Regulations, application will not be extended beyond what is necessary.

The exception to this is Chapter IV of PAD (payment accounts with basic features), where UK policy on basic bank accounts is more developed than that set out in the Directive. As a result, the Government intends to implement PAD in such a way as to preserve the UK's existing basic bank account policy, while creating the necessary legal certainty for consumers required by PAD.

The consultation closes on 3 August. The consultation document is available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/latest?departments%5B%5D=hm-treasury>.

### **Justice and Home Affairs: Post-Council Statement**

[HLWS46]

**Lord Faulks:** My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has made the following written statement.

“The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council took place on 15 and 16 June in Luxembourg. My Right Honourable Friend, Lord Faulks QC, Minister for Civil Justice and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following items were discussed.

Justice Day started with the Latvian Presidency securing a General Approach on the Data Protection Regulation, following three and a half years of negotiations. The UK supported the text as a basis for negotiations with the Parliament, however, UK support had a number of caveats. The UK stressed the need for a balanced instrument that strengthens privacy rights in a simple, coherent and informed way and does not threaten innovation or the success of the Digital Single Market. The UK also voiced strong concerns on the effect on SMEs and other business, about the overly bureaucratic “one stop shop” model, and the threats posed to freedom of expression by the so-called “right to be forgotten”, which the UK opposes on principle. The UK sees no justification for an expanded right such as that contained in the Data Protection Regulation.

Luxembourg, as the incoming Presidency, stressed that it would keep all of these concerns in mind during

trilogue negotiations. Luxembourg is committed to keeping both the Regulation and Directive (covering personal data processed for investigating and prosecuting crime) together as a package, with the aim of full agreement on both instruments by the end of the year.

This was followed by agreement on a General Approach on the Simplification of Public Documents Regulation. The Council supported the Presidency compromise text, with many States noting that this helped to remove barriers and administrative burdens within the internal market. The UK and Ireland highlighted the importance of equal respect for common law and civil law traditions. The incoming Luxembourg Presidency would take forward trilogue negotiations with the European Parliament on the basis of this General Approach.

Over lunch, justice-related aspects of the Commission's Digital Single Market Strategy were discussed. The Commission wanted clear, simple and legally certain rules, with targeted legislation to harmonise only where there were gaps; they stressed they were not seeking a repeat of the proposed Common European Sales Law. The UK highlighted domestic legislation on online purchases of digital content and the UK's vibrant e-commerce sector, suggesting that this model could be a useful starting point for EU-level work. The UK emphasised that work on these proposals should respect better regulation principles, including appropriate consultations and impact assessments. The UK also raised combating illegal content online, arguing that a voluntary removals approach, working with industry, had greater global reach than legislation and could deliver more effective results on removals.

On the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), Ministers agreed "broadly expressed conceptual support" for the text of Articles 1 to 16 of the draft Regulation which cover the balance of power between the central office and delegated prosecutors. The UK reminded Member States that we would not participate in this measure.

Under AOB, the Presidency noted progress on the Data Protection Directive and work with the European Parliament to reach a compromise on the Small Claims Regulation. The Presidency and the Commission updated the Council on the recent EU-US JHA Summit in Riga. The Commission highlighted cooperation with the US on combating money laundering and terrorist financing, as well as progressing on the data-related Umbrella Agreement and Safe Harbour.

The incoming Luxembourg Presidency, starting in July, presented its priorities for the justice field: the two main priorities would be data protection and the European Public Prosecutor's Office. Linked to the European Public Prosecutor, they planned to drive forward progress on the draft PIF (“Fraud against the EU's financial interests”) Directive and Eurojust Regulation. In Civil law, they would introduce proposals on family law and continue work on the simplification of public documents. A motion underlining the Council's will to move towards EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights

would be put to the October JHA Council. Finally, the Luxembourg Presidency said they planned to present a proposal to improve political discussions at Council at their Informal JHA Council meeting in July.

The Interior session began with a policy debate on migration. While there was broad support for elements of the Commission's European Agenda on Migration, there was no agreement on the relocation proposal. The Commission pointed to the development of 'hotspots' to ensure processing of arriving migrants, beginning in Sicily, and progress on the proposed 'multi-purpose centre' in Niger to try to mitigate flows through that country, alongside enhanced efforts to combat the facilitators. The European External Action Service (EEAS) confirmed that the first phase of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission in the Mediterranean would be launched shortly. The UK joined other Ministers in emphasising the need to tackle the root causes of migration, to tackle people smugglers and traffickers, and to break the link between rescue at sea and the expectation of remaining in the EU by returning economic migrants while supporting their reintegration in their home countries. The UK also recalled the European Council's clear agreement that EU relocation and resettlement schemes should be voluntary rather than mandatory.

The incoming Luxembourg Presidency gave a presentation which confirmed the following priorities in the area of migration: more effective returns including use of readmission agreements; progress on operational proposals such as the centre in Niger and 'hotspots'; agreement to the draft Regulation currently under negotiation that would clarify the treatment of minors under the Dublin Regulation and political agreement on the Visa Package and the Students and Researchers Directive. Other priorities included: combating terrorism (in particular dealing with the threat from foreign fighters), implementing the new Internal Security Strategy, concluding trilogues on the Europol Regulation, and seeking agreement with the European Parliament on the Passenger Name Records (PNR) Directive by the end of the year.

During lunch there was a discussion on Returns which saw broad agreement that greater ambition was required in this area as part of the comprehensive approach on migration. More effective EU readmission arrangements were seen as an important element.

The Council Conclusions on the Internal Security Strategy were adopted without substantive discussion.

The Presidency presented papers which updated Ministers on progress since the 12 February Informal European Council Statement on the EU response to the Paris terrorist attacks.

The Commission (Avramopoulos) drew attention to its Communication 'The European Agenda on Security' and highlighted that in the short term Counter Terrorism (CT) priorities included: a high level Internet Industry Forum event in the Autumn; making the Europol Internet Referrals Unit (IRU) operational as quickly as possible;

swift adoption of an efficient and legally sound EU PNR Directive; and preparing for a revision of the EU Framework Decision on Terrorism.

The EU CT Coordinator (Giles de Kerchove) called for detailed planning on handling the increasing wave of European returnees from Syria/Iraq. This meant investing now in exit and rehabilitation programmes and supporting Commissioner Jourová work on prison radicalisation. In his view, the EU also needed to find the resources to enable Europol, Eurojust and CEPOL to enhance cooperation and capacity building in third countries.

The UK welcomed progress on the Europol Internal Referral Unit (IRU) and announced a UK secondeed into the unit. The UK also praised the work of the Syria Strategic Communication Advisory Team (SSCAT). Whilst welcoming the Commission's action in establishing the Industry Forum, the UK cautioned that certain aspects of tackling terrorist abuse of the internet (including encryption and interception) were matters of national security and thus for Member States rather than the EU. The UK called for robust minimum standards on legislation on firearm deactivation; for enhanced data sharing on illegal firearms and ammunition; and for the Commission to step up its work on proactive sharing of criminal records via the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS). Finally, the UK again underlined the urgency of adopting, with the European Parliament, a strong and effective PNR framework, including intra-EU PNR, before the end of the year.

Europol drew attention to the excellent cooperation it has received from Member States' intelligence agencies. Europol also reported significant increases in the use of their existing CT tools. Most notably, this included the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP) which had led to 3000 separate intelligence leads since the Paris attacks (some 1500 of which were related to foreign fighters). Europol was on track to establish the IRU by 1 July and had worked constructively with social media companies in recent months.

The Presidency urged renewed vigour to implement the post-Paris conclusions in order to keep pace with the threat. The Presidency would report the priorities outlined during the debate (and those identified in the Internal Security Strategy Council Conclusions) as the JHA Council's input to the June European Council's review of the post-Paris Statement it agreed in February.

Under AOB, the Commission provided a brief overview of the bi-annual report on the functioning of the Schengen area, noting that Schengen was the solution not the problem providing that all Member States fully applied the rules of the Schengen acquis. The Commission also confirmed that a new Smart Borders proposal would be published following the results of the pilot phase. The Presidency provided an update on the EU-US Ministerial meeting which took place in Riga on 2/3 June; this agreed a Statement defining the common EU-US JHA agenda over the next five years. The Presidency also provided an update on ongoing legislative negotiations including on the European Police College (CEPOL) and the European

Union's law enforcement agency (EUROPOL) Regulations and the Students and Researchers Directive."

## Telecommunications Council

[HLWS44]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Honourable Friend the Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy (Mr Ed Vaizey) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement. The Telecommunications Council took place in Luxembourg on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015. I represented the UK and below are the agenda items and the positions, where applicable, I took on each of them. Please be aware that the order of the agenda, as laid out in the pre-Council statement was changed by the Latvian Presidency at the last minute. This statement reflects those changes.

The first item was an exchange of views on the Commission's Digital Single Market Strategy, which was published on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The debate was informed by two questions from the Presidency. My intervention was as per the pre-council statement. The Commission Vice President Ansip opened the debate by identifying 3 priorities for the Digital Single Market - Goods and services; infrastructure; and e-commerce and e-society. He also noted the need for progress on geographic price blocking. On copyright, he also suggested that more work was needed to harmonise exceptions currently invoked by member states.

Member State interventions covered a range of issues, including e-skills, infrastructure, e-commerce and the internet of things. Copyright and platform regulation were also two of the more commonly raised issues, with clear emerging divisions between Member States. The UK, Finland, Netherlands, Poland and Sweden also linked the Commission's better regulation agenda and the Digital Single Market, noting the benefits of industry-led approaches where possible.

The second item was for Council to reach agreement for a General Approach on the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a programme on interoperability solutions for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2 - First reading - EM11580/14). As per my pre-council statement, I abstained from voting for the general approach. However, the rest of Council agreed to the general approach and this approach will now form the basis of the Council discussions going forward.

I hope that the improvements to the text that could not be agreed in Council will be made during the trilogue negotiations, so that the UK may support the proposal when it comes to final agreement. The UK continues to

encourage the inclusion of more tangible efforts to make ISA2 a more effective programme, including clearer prioritisation and evaluation of programme actions based on user needs and clearer analysis of how actions support efforts in other parts of the Commission.

The Presidency then presented a progress report on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the accessibility to public sector bodies' web-sites (First reading - EM16006/11). There was no debate on this item.

This was followed by the adoption of draft council conclusions on the transfer of the stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions to the multi-stakeholder community. Council agreed to the adoption of these conclusions and there was no debate on this item.

There were three items under AOB on the agenda. The first two items were information from the Presidency on the 'state of play' on negotiations regarding 'A Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent' (EM13562/13 and 13555/13 + ADDs 1-2) and information from the Presidency on a Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to ensure a high level of network and information security across the Union (NIS Directive). (First reading - EM6342/13). The Presidency updated Council on the progress of both, which are each in the middle of trilogue negotiations between the Council, Parliament and Commission. There was no substantive debate on either of these items and I did not intervene.

As noted in my pre-council statement, the readout from the Presidency on the Connected Continent package was informed by the informal Ministerial breakfast whose aim was to reach political agreement on the Regulation.

At this breakfast, Council could not reach such an agreement and the negotiation of this package therefore continues. At the breakfast, I intervened as per my pre-council statement, especially pushing the cessation of EU roaming charges in the near future and the importance of a future-proof approach to net neutrality. I was given strong support on this approach by Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. However, the majority of Council did not agree with this approach.

Finally, under AOB, the Luxembourg delegation informed the Council of their priorities for their forthcoming Presidency before Council adjourns until the next meeting in quarter four 2015.

# Written Statements

*Wednesday, 24 June 2015*

## **NATO Assurance and Deterrence Efforts: UK Contributions**

[HLWS47]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Last year the UK was at the forefront of NATO's response to the deteriorating security situation in Europe, and since the Summit in Wales last September, the UK has taken forward NATO's work to develop the Readiness Action Plan. As part of NATO Assurance Measures the UK deployed 3,000 personnel during 2014 on exercise with Eastern Allies; we also based four RAF Typhoons in Lithuania as our contribution to NATO Baltic Air Policing mission. In 2015, we will deploy over 4,000 personnel on exercises with Eastern Allies and UK Typhoons will again undertake a Baltic Air Policing deployment.

In addition to our significant support to NATO Assurance Measures, we are also making a major

contribution towards the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). The UK will lead NATO's VJTF in 2017 with a UK contribution numbering up to 3,000 personnel. This will include the Brigade Headquarters, armoured infantry and light role infantry Battlegroups plus communications, reconnaissance, intelligence capabilities, as well as combat support and logistic elements, which will ensure that the multi-national Brigade can operate as a rapidly deployable and effective fighting force.

In addition to this, we are now offering two additional UK contributions.

First, I have offered a Battle Group of 1000 personnel to the Polish-led VJTF in 2020. Our commitment demonstrates the leading role the UK is taking at the heart of NATO and it will assist in deepening our defence relationship with a key NATO Ally. We expect a matched Polish contribution to be part of the UK-led VJTF in 2017.

Second, I have offered a deployment of a further four RAF Typhoon aircraft to enhance NATO Baltic Air Policing mission next year. 2016 will be the third year running that the UK has made such an offer, which demonstrates the importance of the longstanding Baltic Air Policing mission.



# Written Statements

Thursday, 25 June 2015

## Arm's Length Bodies (Triennial Reviews)

[HLWS51]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (Jane Ellison) has made the following written ministerial statement.

I am today announcing the start of the Triennial Reviews of the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, the Human Tissue Authority, and NHS Blood and Transplant.

The Triennial Review programme ensures that all Government departments review their non-departmental public bodies on a regular basis. In order to ensure that the Department of Health is operating as an effective system steward and can be assured of all the bodies it is responsible for, it has extended the programme of reviews over the period 2014-17 to include all of its arm's length bodies.

The reviews are conducted in two stages. The first stage will examine the continuing need for the function and whether the organisation's form, including operating at arm's length from government, remains appropriate. If the outcome of this stage is that delivery should continue, the second stage of the review will assess whether the bodies are operating efficiently and in line with the recognised principles of good corporate governance.

## Correction to Written Question HL304

[HLWS56]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** An error has been identified in an answer to the written question asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon HL304 of 24 June. The information provided was as follows:

*Lord Stoddart of Swindon:* To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they expect the report of the Chilcot Inquiry to be published before the summer recess; and, if not, why not.

*Lord Bridges of Headley:* Sir John Chilcot and the Prime Minister exchanged letters on 15 and 17 January. In his letters, Sir John said that once the essential Maxwellisation process was complete, it was his intention to provide the Prime Minister with a timetable for the completion of the Inquiry's report.

The correct answer should have been:

"Sir John Chilcot and the Prime Minister exchanged letters on 15 and 17 June. In his letters, Sir John said that once the essential Maxwellisation process was complete, it was his intention to provide the Prime Minister with a timetable for the completion of the Inquiry's report."

The letters referenced are attached.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Letter from David Cameron to Sir John Chilcot [2015-06-17 Letter PM to Chilcot.pdf]

Letter from Sir John Chilcot to David Cameron [2015-06-15 Chilcot to Cameron.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-06-25/HLWS56/>

## Green Investment Bank

[HLWS48]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Sajid Javid) has today made the following statement.

Over the last two years, the UK Green Investment Bank has seen success in unlocking private sector investment in key low-carbon and green sectors. The GIB has helped develop markets and shown that investment in green projects is good business. I want to see this success continue and to see the GIB continue to accelerate investment across the UK's green sectors.

To meet our low carbon and green objectives, we know that we need to continue to see significant investment. I want to see the GIB continue to play an important role in the transition to a green economy.

Attracting private investment to GIB will, I believe, enable the company to do this. It will allow the bank to grow its business, giving the expert teams we have established within GIB access to a much greater volume of capital than would be the case if GIB were to remain in 100% Government ownership. This will enable the company to have the greatest possible impact in mobilising investment and lead to more green projects getting financed more quickly than would otherwise be the case.

In the debate on the Budget in March, the then Secretary of State for Business updated Parliament about work to explore options for bringing in additional capital into the Green Investment Bank (GIB) as a way to ensure it is an enduring institution and has the operational freedom for investment across the green economy. We have therefore been exploring options for how best to get that capital and, with my Right Honourable Friends the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, we have concluded that the best approach is to move GIB into private ownership subject to ensuring we achieve value for money. This should bring a number of important benefits, giving GIB greater freedom to operate across a wider range of green sectors in accordance with its green purposes, which are enshrined in legislation.

It has always been our intention that GIB should leverage the maximum amount of private capital into green sectors for the minimum amount of public money. Moving the company into private ownership is a natural development for GIB that further delivers this aim. Our aim is that a transaction should result in GIB no longer being classified as a public sector body. This would mean

GIB would be free to borrow capital so as to achieve its business ambitions without this having an effect on public sector net debt.

The detail and timing of any transaction will be set out in due course.

### Health Council: 19 June 2015

[HLWS52]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (Jane Ellison) has made the following written ministerial statement.

The Health Council met in Luxembourg on 19 June 2015 as part of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council meetings. Jane Ellison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, represented the UK

*Medical Devices* Member States agreed to a Partial General Approach on regulations concerning Medical Devices and in vitro Medical Devices. The compromise brokered by the Latvian Presidency represents significant progress on this issue – after almost three years of negotiations – and paves the way for trilogue negotiations with the European Parliament and Commission once remaining work on the recitals (and certain technical aspects of the texts) is completed. Overall it was a very positive outcome for the UK, enhancing patient safety but ensuring pre-market scrutiny remains light-touch and clinically-led, and that NHS in-house tests are exempted from most of the requirements of the regulations

*Alcohol Strategy* Slovenia requested that the Commission produce a new alcohol strategy, given the growing problems caused by alcohol abuse and the need for EU-level action to support Member States' own efforts to tackle it. The UK joined many other countries which spoke in favour of this proposition, highlighting the sharp rise in alcohol-related deaths and the strain being put on vital public services. In response, the Commission (Health Commissioner Andriukaitis) committed to considering the issue further

*Migration* Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Malta introduced a paper on the health aspects of the migration crisis in the Mediterranean, highlighting the strain being put on their health systems. The Commission noted that 60 million Euros had recently been allocated in emergency funding to assist them, but reiterated his call to Member States to provide bilateral assistance through the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism. The UK acknowledged the health dimension of the crisis, and saluted the efforts of hard-pressed health professionals in frontline Mediterranean Countries. Further, the UK emphasised the contribution of our armed forces in saving lives at sea, but also noted that the most effective solution remains addressing the root cause of the problem, and highlighted the work of DfID promoting stability and prosperity in source countries.

*Diphtheria* Spain introduced an addition to the agenda concerning the recent discovery of its first case of Diphtheria in 28 years. The main issue is one of access to

Diphtheria Anti-toxin (DAT), which is now patchy across Europe. Speakers called on Member States to work together to ensure that all have access to this treatment.

*Luxembourg Presidency* Luxembourg set out its priorities for its upcoming EU Presidency, which begins on 1st July. These include Innovation and Personalised medicine, Dementia, and Cross-border healthcare. As mentioned above, Luxembourg will oversee the finalisation of the Council position on Medical Devices, and further work will also be undertaken on Alcohol and lessons learnt from Ebola.

### Judicial Diversity Taskforce (Annual Report)

[HLWS53]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for the Courts and Legal Aid (Shailesh Vara) has made the following Written Statement.

“The Judicial Diversity Taskforce has today published its fourth annual report, which details the progress the group has made in addressing the 53 recommendations of the advisory panel on judicial diversity. The Taskforce comprises of senior members of the judiciary, the Judicial Appointments Commission, the Bar Council, the Law Society, the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives and the Ministry of Justice.

Our judges are rightly held in high regard around the world, and it is important that they reflect today's diverse society, which is why we are pleased such significant progress was made by members of the Taskforce over 2014. In large part this was driven by our collaborative approach to improving diversity and engaging in new ways of working across the legal and judicial professions.

Some of the achievements of the Taskforce include:

- Successful implementation of the Equal Merit Provision; which allows for a candidate to be recommended for appointment for the purpose of improving diversity within the judiciary in instances when two or more candidates are of equal merit.
- Extending the opportunity for salaried office holders to sit part-time in the High Court and above.
- Identification of ways to improve the selection and recommendation process for judicial appointments through an external review.
- Improvements in statistical reporting, and in data collection and management, to better monitor and evaluate progress on judicial diversity.
- Arranging a series of workshops and training programmes aimed at encouraging under-represented groups to enter the judiciary.
- Increasing the amount of Diversity and Community Relation Judges, who play a key role in outreach events and act as figureheads for diversity and community engagement.

The Judicial Diversity Taskforce held its last meeting in November 2014 and this will be its final annual report.

The oversight function of the Taskforce will now be the responsibility of the Judicial Diversity Forum, which brings together most of the parties who were in the Taskforce. The Forum will continue to review progress against the outstanding and ongoing recommendations listed at the end of the report, and will work to identify new opportunities for action. This will ensure that the goal of improving judicial diversity continues to be embedded in the working practices of the judiciary, legal professions and government.

Copies of the Taskforce's report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report is also available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/judicial-diversity-taskforce-annual-report-2014> “

### Leveson Inquiry

[HLWS49]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My Right Honourable friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Matthew Hancock) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The cost of support provided to Government Witnesses to the Leveson Inquiry through the Government Legal Department (formerly Treasury Solicitors) is £287,491.10.

### Personal Independence Payment

[HLWS54]

**Baroness Altmann:** My honourable Friend The Minister for Disabled People (Justin Tomlinson) has made the following Written Statement.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a major reform which is transforming the way we support disabled people to live independently.

PIP replaces the outdated Disability Living Allowance (DLA). PIP focuses support on those who need it most and, unlike DLA, a significant majority of claimants will have a face-to-face assessment as part of the application process. It is a more dynamic benefit with regular reviews to check entitlement remains correct – payments can increase as well as decrease - whereas 70% of those receiving DLA were on indefinite awards. And PIP is a more modern benefit which takes better account of mental health conditions.

I now intend to roll out the final phase of this vital reform, that of the reassessment of all remaining people on DLA for PIP. We have already rolled out PIP across GB for new claimants and for individuals who choose to claim PIP or whose circumstances change or where their DLA award comes to an end, including for children when they reach 16.

My original intention was to start this final phase in October 2015 GB wide. In May Departmental statistics confirmed that average reassessment claims for PIP were waiting only 4 weeks from returning their PIP forms until

an assessment, which is in line with our expectations. This improved performance means I am pleased to announce that we are now in a position to begin the final phase in July, initially at small volumes and in a limited number of areas. We recognise that this will result in some claimants being invited to reassessment earlier than they might have expected. But by operating at a smaller scale initially, this will enable us to monitor the system closely in small volumes to ensure an efficient reassessment process is in place.

It will also provide us with an opportunity to test key parts of the PIP process, such as the way in which we communicate with claimants. This is in line with the previous Government's response to recommendations in the independent review of PIP carried out by Paul Gray in December 2014. My priority remains safe and secure delivery of PIP and we will use evidence from this early roll out to ensure we are continuously improving the way in which we deliver PIP, offering the best claimant experience possible.

### Sasha Wass Inquiry

[HLWS55]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (James Duddridge), has made the following written Ministerial statement: It is normal practice, when a government department proposes to undertake a contingent liability in excess of £300,000 for which there is not statutory authority, for the Minister concerned to present a departmental minute to Parliament giving particulars of the liability created and explaining the circumstances; and to refrain from incurring the liability until fourteen parliamentary sitting days after the issue of the statement, except in cases of special emergency. I have today laid a departmental Minute proposing to provide an indemnity that is necessary in respect of a Foreign Office established independent Inquiry into alleged child abuse and associated cover-up on the British Overseas Territory of St Helena. The Government takes any such allegations extremely seriously, and the Inquiry reflects its commitment to a full and independent investigation into any wrongdoing. Last year (2014), the Foreign Secretary announced the establishment of the Inquiry (Hansard, column 13-14WS, on 20 November 2014) to be led by Sasha Wass QC. This indemnity will cover the entire duration of the Inquiry's work, from November 2014 until when the Inquiry submit their report in the autumn of 2015. The indemnity will cover Sasha Wass QC, the Inquiry panel, the Inquiry Solicitor and one staff member against any liability for any act done or omission made honestly and in good faith in the execution of his or her duty as such, or in the purported execution of his or her duty as such. The indemnity only applies to acts done or omissions made during the course of the Inquiry. If the liability is called, provision for any payment will be sought through the normal Supply procedure. The Treasury has approved the proposal in principle. If, during the period of fourteen

parliamentary sitting days beginning on the date on which this Minute was laid before Parliament, a member signifies an objection by giving notice of a Parliamentary Question or by otherwise raising the matter in Parliament, final approval to proceed with incurring the liability will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.

### **UK Debt Management Office (Business Plan)**

[HLWS50]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The United Kingdom Debt Management Office (DMO) has today published its business plan for the year 2015-16. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both houses and are available on the DMO's website, [www.dmo.gov.uk](http://www.dmo.gov.uk).

The Statement includes the following attached material:

DMO business plan [2015-06-23 - OFFICIAL - DMO Business Plan 2015-16.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-06-25/HLWS50/>

# Written Statements

*Monday, 29 June 2015*

## Magna Carta

[HLWS59]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Hugo Swire), has made the following written Ministerial statement: It is normal practice, when a government department proposes to undertake a contingent liability in excess of £300,000 for which there is no specific statutory authority, for the Minister concerned to present a Departmental Minute to Parliament giving particulars of the liability created and explaining the circumstances; and to refrain from incurring the liability until fourteen parliamentary sitting days after the issue of the Minute, except in cases of special urgency. I have today laid a departmental Minute proposing to provide an indemnity of £24,000,000 in respect of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-approved global tour of the Magna Carta and King's Writ celebrating the 800th anniversary. This indemnity will last from 1 September until 31 December 2015 and will cover loss or damage of the documents in this period. The 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta provides a unique opportunity to support our diplomatic and economic objectives. This global tour supports the UK's position as a mature democracy built upon the values it promotes globally, and our established position as a centre of finance, commerce and law. We have secured the agreement of the Dean and Chapter of Hereford Cathedral to use their 1217 Magna Carta and only surviving King's Writ from Runnymede 1215 for this tour. If the liability is called, provision for any payment will be sought through the normal supply procedure. The Treasury has approved the proposal in principle. If, during the period of fourteen parliamentary sitting days beginning on the date on which this Minute was laid before Parliament, a Member signifies an objection by giving notice of a Parliamentary Question or by otherwise raising the matter in Parliament, final approval to proceed

with incurring the liability will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.

## Office for Nuclear Regulation (Report to Parliament)

[HLWS58]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change (Andrea Leadsom) has today made the following statement.

My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change will today lay before Parliament an Annual Report to Parliament by the Secretary of State. The report sets out the use of the Secretary of State's powers under Part 3 of the Energy Act 2013, which created the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Both my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Department for Work and Pensions and the Office for Nuclear Regulation have been consulted. The report discloses which powers have been used under Section 108 of the Energy Act 2013 during the last financial year (2014-2015). For completeness the report also refers to the exercise of powers in the first short reporting period of ONR from 10 March 2014 to 31 March 2014.

## Office for Nuclear Regulation (Annual Report and Accounts)

[HLWS57]

**Baroness Altmann:** My honourable Friend The Minister for Disabled People (Justin Tomlinson) has made the following Written Statement.

Later today the Office for Nuclear Regulation's Annual Report and Accounts for 2014-2015 (HC 164) will be published. Having consulted the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who is accountable for nuclear security and the Office for Nuclear Regulation, I can confirm, in accordance with Schedule 7, Section 25(3) of the Energy Act 2013, that there have been no exclusions to the published document on the grounds of national security.



# Written Statements

Tuesday, 30 June 2015

## Agriculture and Fisheries Council

[HLWS64]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State (George Eustice) has today made the following statement.

I represented the UK at the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 16 June in Luxembourg. Aileen McLeod MSP was also present

### *Organic production and labelling of organic products*

The Council discussed the Presidency's latest compromise text on the Organic proposal with some Member States continuing to call for further changes. On the issue of the presence of non-authorized substances on organic produce, Belgium and a few other Member States argued for the ability to apply a strict decertification threshold to all produce. However, I supported the Presidency's text, with some minor modifications proposed by Germany, so that those Member States that already use thresholds could continue to do so but for a limited time period. This means that the UK will not be bound by the need to apply a specific decertification threshold and by the end of 2020 this will be the approach that applies across the whole of the EU. Belgium, Bulgaria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, all of whom agreed with the threshold, voted against the proposal. Denmark also voted against it as it disagreed with the move away from mandatory annual inspections to a risk-based approach. I, along with the remaining Member States, voted in favour of the proposal which secured a general approach. Trilogues will begin after the summer, once the European Parliament reaches its first reading position.

### *Fishing opportunities*

The Commission introduced its policy statement on setting fishing opportunities in 2016, which was generally welcomed by all Member States. Commissioner Vella emphasised the good progress made towards reaching the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) targets under the reformed Common Fisheries Policy. I agreed that we should continue to build on this, aiming to reach MSY by 2016 wherever possible. However, exceptions may be necessary, including the need to minimise discards of by-catch. Some Member States, particularly those fishing in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, argued for a gradual transition to MSY, with a final deadline of 2020. I also stressed the importance of the demersal landing obligation, including the need to adjust catch limits for those species covered next year, and the need to progress multi-annual management plans for the North Sea and Western Waters.

### *Any other business items*

#### *Country of Origin Labelling*

The Commission presented its reports on possible mandatory Country of Origin Labelling for a range of foods including dairy and certain meats. The Commission concluded that consumer interest was not strong enough to justify the likely extra costs. I, along with France, Italy and several other Member States, stressed that the issue required further consideration, especially for milk and dairy products. Luxembourg, Poland and Ireland, however, stated that they were not in favour of further discussion as the Commission's reports highlighted that the costs outweighed the benefits.

#### *Animal Health*

The Presidency confirmed that a final position on the Animal Health Regulation had been reached following trilogue discussions. I congratulated the Presidency on reaching agreement on the proposal but explained that we had been unable to fully support it, specifically the areas where Delegated Acts will be used to define technical detail such as the list of diseases to which the Regulation applies. This was an important point of principle because the list is a technical issue rather than a political one, which should be determined by Member States experts.

#### *Russian import restrictions on fishing sector*

Estonia provided an update on the unjustified export ban on all fish products originating from Estonia and Latvia that was imposed by Russia on 4 June, following a recent Russian official audit on their control systems. It called on the Commission to raise the issue in meetings with Russia and also to change the rules to allow for increased carrying over of 2015 fisheries quotas into 2016 and urgent assistance under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). I, along with Finland, Poland, France and Lithuania, supported Estonia and Latvia, arguing that it was crucial to maintain unity in the face of unjustified trade restrictions from Russia, that current actions were clearly disproportionate and that we needed to stand up to such aggression. The Commission stated that it would endeavour to do all it could to ease the impacts of ban, including supporting the sector from the EMFF and considering the option of carrying over 2015 fishing quotas into 2016 on the basis of scientific advice.

#### *Outcome of the Visegrad meeting*

Slovenia presented the outcome of a recent meeting of the Visegrad Agriculture Ministers and those Ministers from Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia at which they discussed trading practices in the food supply chain, Forest Europe and CAP simplification. Several Member States intervened to support the concerns about unfair trading practices in the food chain which the Commission stressed it was an issue it would look at further.

#### *Extension of eligibility period of expenditure for 2007-13 Rural Development*

The Commission confirmed that it would not be extending the eligibility for 2007-13 rural development expenditure for an additional 6 months, despite further calls from Romania and several other Members States to

do so. The Commission explained that it had not been possible due to a lack of legal provisions and limited financial and political flexibility.

*Extension of eligibility period of expenditure under the European Fisheries Fund*

Similarly to the item on rural development expenditure, the Commission also confirmed that it would not be extending the eligibility period for 2007-13 fisheries funding. Instead, it would look at existing flexibilities within the current legislation to assist Member States.

*International Year of Plant Health 2020*

The Presidency reported back from the Food and Agriculture Organisation Conference on 9 June, which had approved the initiative to declare 2020 the International Year of Plant Health.

## Environment Council

[HLWS62]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Amber Rudd) has today made the following statement.

My Honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Rory Stewart) and I attended the EU Environment Council in Luxembourg on 15 June. Dr Aileen McLeod, Scottish Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform also attended.

Ministers held a policy debate on the National Emissions Ceilings Directive. The UK expressed support for the Commission's ambition to halve the number of premature deaths caused by air pollution. Other Member States expressed similar support. Minister Stewart however noted proposed 2030 targets needed to be realistic given uncertainty around some of the assumptions underpinning them. The UK supported the deletion of methane from the Council's text. Regarding other pollutants, the UK was among other Member States that raised concerns about specific targets including ammonia, nitrous oxides and particulate matter. Some suggested the 2030 targets should be indicative while most called for firm binding targets.

The Commission welcomed the broad support for the headline health improvement target and reiterated that it was open to addressing specific national concerns about the 2030 targets, but strongly opposed the suggestion for indicative targets. The Commission were hopeful that a first reading agreement would be possible.

Ministers expressed views on the Road to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties in Paris this year (UNFCCC CoP 21). The Commission and some Member States raised the importance of further outreach to allies, the legal form, agreeing a 5 year cycle of review of mitigation commitments and a long term goal, developing a finance package and moving towards parity between mitigation and adaptation elements of the deal. I emphasised the importance of ensuring the EU had flexibility to negotiate on both adaptation and finance, and pursuit of a robust

review process both to ensure the adequacy of the agreement and public confidence. All Member States called for more Parties to present their mitigation pledges, or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), as quickly as possible. Some Member States indicated concern regarding specific dates or numbers within a long term goal and that parity between mitigation and adaptation would create false expectations.

The Presidency concluded that draft Council Conclusions would be prepared shortly for adoption at the additional Environment Council on 18 September.

Under any other business the Presidency and Commission noted the successful negotiation of a provisional agreement in the European Parliament on the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) Market Stability Reserve Decision, a first step in putting the carbon market back on track. The Council noted information provided by the Commission on recent international meetings, on the European Fund for Strategic Investments and by Portugal on the Lisbon Charter on drinking water. Luxembourg as the in-coming Presidency presented its priorities.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed further detail on the preparations for the Paris summit.

## EPSCO

[HLWS63]

**Lord Freud:** My Right Honourable Friend The Minister for Employment (Priti Patel) has made the following Written Statement.

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council took place on 18 June 2015 in Luxembourg. Lord Freud, Minister for Welfare Reform represented the UK.

There was a Policy debate on the European Semester 2015. As part of the discussion, the Council sought approval of draft Council recommendations on the National Reform Programmes 2015 to each Member State; sought endorsement of the opinions of the Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC) for the Assessment of the 2015 Country-specific. Most Ministers welcomed the streamlined process and outlined their acceptance for their respective CSRs and endorsed the EMCO report on Employment Performance Monitor and Benchmarks. Lord Freud highlighted the progress made domestically on issues such as childcare and skills.

The Council agreed a General approach on the Proposals for a Council Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States.

The Council adopted draft Council Conclusions on European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 3/2015 "EU Youth Guarantee: first steps taken, but implementation risk ahead"; and Draft Council Conclusions on equal income opportunities for women and men: Closing the gender gap on pensions.

The Council received Progress reports on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the

Council on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures; and the Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. On Women on Boards in particular, the Commission hoped for a General Approach at the October EPSCO Council in order for the file to be adopted by the end of the year.

Under any other business, the Latvian Presidency informed the Council on current legislative proposals, and outcomes of the conferences organised by the Latvian Presidency. The Commission provided information on the National Roma Integration Strategy – Annual Implementation Report; and the Report on the Functioning of the Transitional Arrangements on Free Movement of Workers from Croatia and accompanying Commission Staff Working Document. The Luxembourg delegation provided information on the Work Programme of the incoming Presidency, stating that they intended to make progress on the Platform on Undeclared Work and the Anti-Discrimination Directive and wanted to focus on inclusive growth. They also wanted to explore the challenges arising from technological developments in the workplace and the skills needed for young people to successfully enter the labour market.

### **Hatfield Colliery Partnership Limited**

[HLWS61]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise (Anna Soubry) has today made the following statement.

I want to update the House on matters concerning Hatfield Colliery Partnership Ltd (HCPL).

The previous Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Energy (Matthew Hancock), informed Parliament on 7 January 2015 that the Government had provided HCPL with a short-term commercial loan of £8m to avert the company's imminent insolvency at that time. The intention was to provide time for HMG to secure the appropriate legal basis for longer term support which would allow HCPL to continue operating until 2016.

In May 2015, the Government announced it had agreed to provide HCPL with a longer term, repayable grant of up to £20 million to enable the colliery to continue operating until its planned closure in August 2016. This support was state aid for which Government had secured approval from the European Commission, a strict condition of which was that the mine does not remain open beyond August 2016.

The Directors managed closure plan assumed that replacement contracts from June-2015 onwards would be secured for all their coal output at pricing similar to what had been achieved before. In June-2015 the directors of HCPL approached the Government to advise that the current UK demand for coal was weak with UK Power Companies already largely fully stocked for 2015.

Since being advised of this position, the Government has done all it can to assist the directors of Hatfield, including re-iterating its earlier commitment to provide up to £20m towards the costs covered by the State aid approval to help the company achieve an orderly and safe closure.

Despite this the Directors have concluded it is not economically viable to continue mining and so took the decision to stop coal production on 30 June 2015.

Our priority now is to support the workforce and to close the mine safely.

I understand this is a very difficult time for the individuals affected. The Jobcentre Plus rapid response service will be available to help support Hatfield's workers into new employment, and to arrange re-training where needed.

### **Summer Finance Bill 2015**

[HLWS65]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (David Gauke) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Summer Finance Bill 2015 will be published on Wednesday 15 July.

Explanatory notes on the Bill will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and placed in the Libraries of both Houses on that day. Copies of the explanatory notes will be available on GOV.UK.

### **UK Justice and Home Affairs Opt-in**

[HLWS60]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise (Anna Soubry) has today made the following statement.

I wish to inform the House that the UK has opted in to a proposal from the European Commission, for a Regulation protecting against the effects of the extra-territorial application of legislation adopted by a third country.

The proposed Regulation consolidates existing EU legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 2271/96 and its subsequent amendments); it does not contain any new and/or substantive material and does not change the existing measure in substance. It can therefore be supported.

Although the proposal does not cite a legal base in Title V of Part 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Government considers that there are Justice and Home Affairs obligations in Articles 4 and 6 of the draft EU regulation. Article 4 prevents certain judgments from outside the EU being recognised and enforced within the EU. Article 6 provides that the Brussels I (recast) Regulation applies to proceedings brought under that Article to recover damages.

These JHA obligations triggered the UK's opt-in. The Government communicated its decision to the President of the Council on 15 May.

# Written Statements

Wednesday, 1 July 2015

## Design and Technology GCSE

[HLWS66]

**Lord Nash:** My honourable Friend Minister of State for Schools (Nick Gibb MP) made the following announcement:

We are reforming GCSEs to make sure that they give students the best possible preparation for further and higher education, and for employment. We want new GCSEs to set expectations which match those of the best education systems in the world, with rigorous assessment that provides a reliable measure of students' achievement. The reforms are extensive and represent a new qualification gold standard.

Today we are publishing design and technology GCSE content that will assess both breadth and depth of knowledge, without limiting students on the materials they can work with. Current design and technology GCSEs have a wide range of titles each of which is focused on separate material areas (such as resistant materials, textiles or graphics). The new content will support a single qualification title, a change which subject experts felt is critical to the development of a qualification that requires students to have a broad knowledge of the design processes, materials, techniques and equipment that are core to the subject.

The content emphasises iterative processes of designing which all students should understand and be able to demonstrate. Subject experts have advised that such processes are at the core of contemporary practice. By teaching students this approach, the new qualification will prepare them for further study and careers in design, engineering, manufacturing and related areas.

The content also sets out, in detail, the mathematical and scientific content that students must know and use that relate closely to design and technology.

Together these changes aim to ensure that all students have the knowledge and skills to design and make products or prototypes, using the best material, equipment and techniques, to solve real world and relevant problems across a range of contexts.

## Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council

[HLWS70]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, Minister for Europe (David Lidington), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs attended the Foreign Affairs Council on 22 June. The Foreign Affairs Council was chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica

Mogherini. She also hosted the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon for a working lunch with EU Foreign Ministers. The General Affairs Council was chaired by the Latvian Presidency. The meetings were held in Luxembourg.

### *Foreign Affairs Council*

A provisional report of the meeting and Conclusions adopted can be found at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2015/06/22/>

### *Mediterranean Migration*

The Council approved the Council Decision to launch the EU CSDP operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED), activating Phase I (deployment and assessment). Ms Mogherini was grateful to Member States for launching the operation in record time. The Foreign Secretary said that the UK supported the operation, and was contributing a ship, HMS Enterprise, and a Merlin helicopter. The Foreign Secretary called for an audit of additional EU activity in source and transit countries to be presented at the July FAC, work on a stronger evidence base on migrant movements in source and transit countries, enhanced EU investment and a clear Roadmap to the Valletta Summit.

### *Energy diplomacy*

The Council discussed how to use EU foreign policy most effectively to meet the growing geopolitical risks associated with energy, with a focus on diversification, alternative routes, EU unity and work with a wider set of partner countries. The Foreign Secretary underlined the necessity of rapidly completing the internal single market in energy, noting the importance of harmonising strategic energy goals with market incentives.

### *Asia*

The Council held a strategic discussion on EU relations with Asia. There was general support for the need to continue to strengthen relations at a multilateral level, as part of a re-energised EU approach to the region. There was an emphasis on trade and economic cooperation, including in the exchange of views on relations with China, ahead of the EU-China Summit, which took place on 29 June 2015. There was also discussion of developing better connectivity in Asia, with a focus on ensuring compatibility with European transport networks.

### *EU – UN Cooperation*

During lunch UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, focused on preparations for forthcoming UN high-level events, including those taking place in Addis Ababa in July on Financing for Development, in New York in September on the post-2015 agenda and the climate change COP 21 in Paris in December. The discussion also covered EU-UN cooperation in tackling a number of current crises, and the Council approved EU priorities for the UN General Assembly.

### *Macedonia*

The Council discussed the political situation in Macedonia. Ms Mogherini expressed grave concern



regarding the ongoing political crisis, and welcomed the close cooperation between the EEAS and Commission. There was wide agreement that the current situation was unacceptable. Conclusions were subsequently adopted by the General Affairs Council on 23 June.

*Any Other Business*

*Middle East Peace Process*

Ms Mogherini briefed the Council following her recent trip to Jerusalem and Ramallah. Discussion centred on how the EU and its Member States could most effectively support the peace process. The Foreign Secretary emphasised the need for a coherent approach, and noted the important role of the EU, particularly on issues around settlements and Gaza. Ms Mogherini proposed a discussion item on the Middle East Peace Process at the 20 July FAC.

Ministers agreed without discussion a number of measures:

- The Council launched the EU naval operation to disrupt human smuggling in the Mediterranean;
- The Council adopted the EU priorities at the United Nations and the seventieth UN General Assembly (September 2015 – September 2016);
- The Council adopted conclusions on EU-ASEAN relations;
- The Council adopted conclusions on the forthcoming elections in Burma;
- The Council adopted conclusions on the EU strategy for Central Asia;
- The Council adopted conclusions on Burundi;
- The Council adopted conclusions on Lebanon;
- The Council extended the EU economic sanctions, which responded to Russia's destabilising role in Eastern Ukraine, until 31 January 2016;
- The Council approved the EU annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2014;
- The Council adopted conclusions on common principles for multi-purpose cash-based assistance to respond to humanitarian needs;
- The Council extended the mandate of Mr Lars-Gunnar Wigemark as European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a further four months (until 31 October 2015);
- The Council amended the EU restrictive measures against the Syrian regime.

*General Affairs Council*

A provisional report of the meeting can be found at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac/2015/06/23/>

The General Affairs Council (GAC) on 23 June focussed on: Macedonia; preparation of the European

Council on 25 and 26 June 2015; the 2015 European Semester; and the Better Regulation Agenda.

*Macedonia*

The GAC adopted Council Conclusions in response to the ongoing political crisis in Macedonia. These call on the political parties to honour their 2 June agreement and implement all the recommendations of the European Commission, starting with urgent reform priorities in relation to rule of law issues confirmed by, or arising out of, the current crisis. The Council will revert to the issue in the next months.

*Preparation of the June European Council*

The GAC prepared the 25 and 26 June European Council, which the Prime Minister attended. The June European Council focussed on: migration, including follow up to the April European Council; security issues including Common Security and Defence Policy, the European Security Strategy and follow-up to the February European Council on terrorism; and economic and competitiveness issues including the digital single market, 2015 European Semester, TTIP and economic governance in the euro area.

I emphasised the importance of a comprehensive approach to the Mediterranean migration situation including conclusions language on tackling the smugglers and the root causes of migration. I reiterated the Prime Minister's recent announcement of the extension of the Syria vulnerable persons scheme, and that the UK did not intend to participate in EU burden-sharing proposals.

I also stressed the importance of progress on the Digital Single Market, one of the biggest opportunities for the EU to reinforce competitiveness and innovation and focus on consumers, including a swift end to mobile roaming charges in the EU.

*European Semester*

The GAC considered the Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs), published by the Commission to all non-programme EU Member States on 13 May, as part of the European Semester process. CSRs were also considered by the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council on 18-19 June and the Economic and Financial Affairs Council on 19 June.

The advice to the UK is to continue reducing the deficit, boost housing supply and address problems in the labour market, in line with the government's long term economic plan.

*Better Regulation Agenda*

The GAC held an initial discussion on the recently published Better Regulation package by the European Commission. The key part of the package is the Inter Institutional Agreement (IIA) on Better Regulation, which focuses on red tape in the EU and the institutional cooperation among the Council of Ministers, the Commission and the European Parliament. The negotiations on the IIA are expected to commence shortly and expected to continue through the Luxembourg Presidency of the EU.



I welcomed the Commission's proposal and highlighted the importance of specifying regulatory burden reduction targets (in particular for SMEs), an independent assessment board, and the use of subsidiarity, proportionality, and national parliaments as the key vehicles to deliver democratic accountability to the EU.

### Self-inflicted Deaths in Custody

[HLWS67]

**Lord Faulks:** My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Michael Gove) has made the following Written Statement.

"We are today publishing the independent review report into self-inflicted deaths of young adults aged 18-24 in National Offender Management Service (NOMS) prison custody. The review, announced to this House on 6 February 2014 by the Coalition Government, was carried out by the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody under the leadership of Lord Harris of Haringey.

I wish to thank Lord Harris of Haringey and the Independent Advisory Panel for their work on this important review. Every death in custody is a tragedy. I thank the families of those who have taken their own lives, who gave evidence to this review in order to help avoid this happening to another family.

The independent report makes wide-ranging recommendations about the care and management of vulnerable young adults in custody to reduce the risk of future deaths. We will consider these carefully and respond to the report in the Autumn."

### Statutory Guidance on Review Provision Requirements and Statement on the Definition of Control by a Public Authority

[HLWS69]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise (Anna Soubry) has today made the following statement.

I am publishing today a guidance document and a statement to assist departments in implementing the provisions of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 (the Act).

The Guidance sets out the test to be applied in circumstances where departments think that it may not be appropriate to include a review provision in new secondary legislation. It must be taken into account by any Minister making such a determination.

The Statement clarifies how departments should determine whether regulated activities are carried out by public sector bodies. Regulatory impacts and regulations on public sector bodies are outside the scope of the business impact target, and the new duty relating to review provisions.

There have been no changes to either document from the drafts that were published in February this year in parallel with the passage of the Act.

The documents can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-business-enterprise-and-employment-act-statutory-review-requirements>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-business-enterprise-and-employment-bill-statement-control-by-a-public-authority>

Copies of the documents will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Victims' Commissioner's Annual Report

[HLWS68]

**Lord Faulks:** My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims (Mike Penning) has made the following Written Statement.

"I am pleased to announce that the Victims' Commissioner, Baroness Newlove of Warrington, has today published her annual report. I have placed a copy in the library of each House.

The role of the Victims' Commissioner, as set out in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, is to promote the interests of victims and witnesses, encourage good practice in their treatment and keep under review the operation of the statutory Victims' Code.

The report outlines the impressive work undertaken by the Victims' Commissioner during her second year of office and highlights her priorities for the coming year. The Victims' Commissioner will continue to ensure that the views of victims are represented to government and I welcome the insight and challenge that she provides."

# Written Statements

Thursday, 2 July 2015

## Armed Forces Pay Review Body

[HLWS72]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce that John Steele has accepted the Prime Minister's invitation to continue to serve as the Chairman of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body, for a further two year term of office commencing on 1 March 2016. This appointment has been conducted in accordance with the guidance of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

## Asylum

[HLWS75]

**Lord Bates:** My right honourable Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (James Brokenshire) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The United Kingdom has a long and proud tradition of providing safe haven to those who genuinely need our protection and this Government takes that commitment very seriously. But for an asylum system to offer help to those who genuinely need it, it must be capable of managing a high volume of applications by making quick decisions wherever possible.

The UK has operated a detained fast track policy for cases that can be decided quickly, including those that have very weak claims, since 2000. The decision to detain a person seeking asylum is never taken lightly, but the courts have been clear over the past decade in upholding the principle that an accelerated process for asylum seekers while detained, operated with certain safeguards, is entirely lawful.

Just over 30,000 asylum claims were made in the UK last year – close to the average for the last 10 years. The majority of applicants are provided with accommodation and support by the Home Office or find their own accommodation. Most decisions on asylum claims are made within 3-6 months. Many, including from countries such as Syria, are accepted as refugees and granted permission to stay.

But a fast track process, including for those that have very weak or spurious claims, with decisions normally made within a matter of weeks and subject to an accelerated appeals process, is an important part of our immigration system and ensuring that our help is rightly focused on those who truly need it.

It is vital that we deal robustly with unfounded or abusive claims in the asylum system. It is also vital, however, that we can identify vulnerable applicants, including victims of trafficking or torture, to ensure that they can receive a fair hearing.

The Government is committed to the underlying principles of the Detained Fast Track (DFT) and believes that for the most part it is operating well and is removing back to their own countries those whose asylum claims are clearly unfounded. But we must be satisfied that our safeguards for dealing with vulnerable applicants throughout the system are working well enough to minimise any risk of unfairness – as we have always striven to do.

Recently the system has come under significant legal challenge, including on the appeals stage of the process. Risks surrounding the safeguards within the system for particularly vulnerable applicants have also been identified to the extent that we cannot be certain of the level of risk of unfairness to certain vulnerable applicants who may enter DFT.

In light of these issues, I have decided to temporarily suspend the operation of the detained fast track policy. I hope this pause to be short in duration, perhaps only a matter of weeks, but I will only resume operation of this policy when I am sure the right structures are in place to minimise any risk of unfairness.

This decision does not mean that we will cease to detain people for immigration reasons. Immigration powers and policies relating to detention remain in place and we will continue to use them across the immigration system, including for removing illegal immigrants and protecting the public, wherever necessary.

We will continue to exercise the right to detain or keep in detention illegal migrants who have claimed asylum, where their specific circumstances warrant it.

In the meantime, every individual who was detained under the DFT policy and remains detained will have their detention urgently reviewed at senior level. Those who meet the general criteria for detention will not be directly affected by the decision to suspend DFT. Many are already detained under these powers, for example because they are at risk of absconding and face imminent removal. Only if detention can no longer be justified outside a DFT process will applicants be released to continue their asylum claim in the regular asylum system.

Asylum seekers who face removal to a safe third country or who come from a country designated as being generally safe; those who pose a risk to the public; who are foreign national offenders; or those who otherwise face the likely prospect of removal are still liable to be detained or remain detained. Their cases will be prioritised under existing general rules.

We will urgently review all the evidence we have about any possible unfairness in the DFT system and address any shortcomings identified. In the meantime, we will continue to consider all asylum cases very carefully, granting protection to those that need it and refusing and removing those that do not. Asylum must not be used as a means to avoid legitimate immigration control and we will continue to be robust in ensuring that it is not.

This decision is in keeping with the Government's wider work to ensure that we are doing everything we can

to safeguard the welfare of those whom we detain. In February this year, the Home Secretary asked Stephen Shaw, the former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, to conduct a review into the welfare of people detained for immigration purposes, including those detained under the DFT policy. When he reports we will take his findings seriously and use them to continue to improve whatever processes are in place.

It is vital that our asylum policy ensures that safe haven is provided to refugees and that our systems are fair and offer good value to the tax payer. It is also important that if a case can be determined quickly, it should be so determined, and that no immigration advantage can be obtained by making a spurious or opportunistic claim. That is why the Government remains committed to the principles of a detained fast track system and will re-introduce one as soon as we are satisfied the right structures are in place to ensure it operates as it is supposed to.

### Crossrail (Annual Update)

[HLWS73]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Claire Perry) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

On Thursday 4 June 2015, the Prime Minister joined the Mayor of London and Secretary of State for Transport at Farringdon to mark the end of Crossrail tunnelling. For almost three years, eight tunnel boring machines have been in operation seven days a week below the streets of London to construct the 42km of new rail tunnels.

Excavation of the Crossrail tunnels has also now been completed, and with it comes the creation of Wallasea Island, a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds nature reserve in Essex. 1528 shipments delivered 3 million tonnes of excavated material from the Crossrail tunnels to create the nature reserve.

In the past year we have made great progress in many different areas of the project. The project is now over 65% complete with work well underway on planning for and delivering an operational railway.

Major surface works being delivered by Network Rail on the existing rail network continue apace with a number of key milestones reached. The first section of the Stockley Flyover has been completed; a new signalling system between Reading and the Heathrow Junction has been implemented; in Southeast London the first mile of new Crossrail track has been installed and the existing station at Abbey Wood demolished; and improvement works are well underway at a number of surface stations.

In July 2014, Transport for London announced that it had awarded the contract to operate future Crossrail services to MTR Corporation (Crossrail) Limited (MTR). MTR is expected to employ around 1,100 staff with up to 850 new posts. This will include almost 400 drivers and over 50 apprenticeships for people from communities along the route. MTR have now taken over the operation

of services between Liverpool Street and Shenfield on behalf of TfL Rail in readiness for the introduction of the new Crossrail trains supplied by Bombardier from May 2017.

In November 2014, together with the Mayor of London, we announced that all 40 future Crossrail stations will be step free, dramatically improving accessibility provision along the route. All newly built Crossrail stations will have marked routes together with simple signage and information, and the Crossrail fleet will be built by Bombardier to the latest accessibility standards

In January of this year we marked the appointment of the 400<sup>th</sup> apprentice on the project, beating the original target of 400 apprentices over the lifetime of the project. Crossrail has now appointed 460 apprentices. Alongside this, 3,886 jobs have been created by contractors for local and/or previously unemployed people on the project. Crossrail's Tunnelling and Underground Construction Academy has had over 10,000 enrolments on courses since opening in 2012; and over 12,000 people are currently working across 45 Crossrail construction sites.

The Crossrail Board continues to forecast that the costs of constructing Crossrail will be within the agreed funding limits. We expect Crossrail to cost no more than £14.5 billion (excluding rolling stock costs).

During the passage of the Crossrail Bill through Parliament, a commitment was given that a statement would be published at least every 12 months until the completion of the construction of Crossrail, setting out information about the project's funding and finances.

In line with this commitment, this statement comes within 12 months of the last one which was published on 3 July 2014. The relevant information is attached.

The numbers above are drawn from Crossrail Limited's books of account and have been prepared on a consistent basis with the update provided last year. The figure for expenditure incurred includes monies already paid out in relevant periods, including committed land and property expenditure where this has not yet been paid. It does not include future expenditure on construction contracts that have been awarded.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Crossrail Table [Crossrail attachment.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-02/HLWS73/>

### Financial Conduct Authority/Payment Systems Regulator

[HLWS76]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Annual Reports and Accounts 2014/15 of the Financial Conduct Authority and Payment Systems Regulator have today been laid before Parliament.

These Reports form a key part of the accountability mechanism for the Financial Conduct Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and the Payment Systems Regulator under the Financial Services (Banking Reform) Act 2013. They assess the performance of the Financial Conduct Authority and Payment Systems Regulator over the past 12 months against their statutory objectives.

### **New Consulate-General (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)**

[HLWS71]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Hugo Swire), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

I am pleased to announce to the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office intends to open a new British Consulate-General in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, by the end of September 2015.

Belo Horizonte, the capital of the state of Minas Gerais, is the third largest city in Brazil. Both the city and the state are politically important. Furthermore, Minas Gerais has a GDP of more than £150 billion, 10% of Brazil's total, and boasts strong mining and agriculture sectors, a large automotive industry, and an expanding, high-tech industrial base.

Belo Horizonte will also serve as the location for Team GB and Paralympics GB's pre-Games training camps from July to September 2016, and will play host to multiple test camps, to check the training facilities, over the course of 2015 and 2016. The British Olympic Association and British Paralympics Association's decision to host the training camps in Belo Horizonte is likely to open up further opportunities within Minas Gerais for the UK.

Opening a Consulate-General in the city of Recife in north east Brazil in 2011 has shown us just how valuable having a presence in a State capital can be. Our Consulate-General in Recife has allowed us to provide direct support to British businesses in accessing commercial opportunities in the State, whilst also enabling us to build stronger political links at a local level, of particular importance in a country the size of Brazil, where a considerable amount of decision-making power lies with the States themselves. Given the scale of opportunities in Belo Horizonte, and the added dimension

of the British Olympic Association and British Paralympics Association's decision to host their training camps there, the Government believes that we should open a new British Consulate-General in Belo Horizonte for an initial period of two years. A resident Consul will be appointed, and our Consul-General to Rio de Janeiro will concurrently assume the title of Consul-General to Belo Horizonte.

The rising economic and global importance of Latin America and Brazil is clear; our overseas network in the region plays an important role in strengthening our political, economic and commercial ties. The Government launched its Canning Agenda in 2010; a long-term strategy aimed at revitalising relations with Latin America. Whilst we have made good progress, we need to look for innovative ways by which we can fully realise the potential of closer relationships in the region. The opening of a new Consulate-General in Belo Horizonte, within existing resource constraints, is an important part of that ongoing work.

### **Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments**

[HLWS74]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My Right Honourable friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Matthew Hancock) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I can confirm that the Review of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments will report later this year. The Review will consider the role of the Commissioner and the processes around public appointments. The terms of reference for the Review are as follows:

#### *Terms of reference*

The role of the Commissioner for Public Appointments was created by the Public Appointments Order in Council 1995 on 23 November 1995, following recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (under the chairmanship of Lord Nolan). We are now twenty years on, and this provides a suitable opportunity to review the role of the Commissioner and the processes around public appointments. In the light of the range and diversity of public appointments, it is important to ensure that the procedures are both effective and proportionate and to review whether procedures as practised fit within the intentions of the Nolan principles. The review will be led by Sir Gerry Grimstone and will report to the Minister for the Cabinet Office.



# Written Statements

Monday, 6 July 2015

## Renewable Heat Incentive

[HLWS77]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Today, I am pleased to announce the laying of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2015. These amendments will introduce improvements that are essential to the smooth-running of both Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) schemes. Further detail on the changes brought about by these regulations is provided below.

### *Updating industry standards*

The RHI regulations reference a number of industry standards for renewable heating technologies, specifically those of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). The use of MCS standards is a key part of the Domestic RHI scheme to provide assurance to the consumers that both the installer and the installation meet clear standards of competence. MCS is also used within the Non-Domestic RHI scheme for systems smaller than 45kW.

The amendment regulations introduce updated installer standards for heat pumps, solid biomass and solar thermal; the amendments to the latter standards are minor aimed at achieving consistency of language across all MCS standards. The heat pump installer standard has been updated to bring MCS standards in line with the European Energy-related Products (ErP) Directive; this Directive will come into force across Europe for all heat pumps manufactured or imported into Europe on 26th September 2015.

Both schemes' regulations will be updated to reference these new standards.

In addition to the new MCS standards, these regulations will introduce a new methodology for calculating heat pump efficiency; this is the Seasonal Coefficient of Performance (SCOP) calculator. This new calculator will be used by Certification Bodies to determine if a heat pump meets the requirements of the ErP Directive and to establish the Seasonal Performance Factor (SPF) required for the RHI scheme. Establishing the SPF using this calculator will be a requirement for the Domestic RHI and for any MCS certified ErP compliant heat pump.

### *Biomethane expenditure forecasting*

Deployment of biomethane injection to grid under the RHI has grown significantly over the last twelve months. There are currently 27 plants in the RHI system and more plants are expected to come forward and be operating by the end of 2015.

The RHI has a budget management mechanism set out in the regulations where tariffs are automatically reduced by pre-set amounts if forecast spend crosses defined thresholds. The assessment whether to reduce tariffs is made on a quarterly basis.

The current approach to estimating biomethane deployment can cause a temporary but significant underestimate of forecast expenditure for biomethane plants due to the ramp-up in production typically associated with establishing a new biogas plant. The current approach does not reflect this ramp-up period in which plants can take around 6 months to reach full production. This undermines the effectiveness of the RHI budget management policy. The amendments introduce a more accurate forecasting methodology to better reflect operational realities for biomethane plants.

### *Clarification on biomass sustainability reporting requirements*

The RHI regulations include requirements for the use of sustainable biomass by participants. These ensure the use of biomass incentivised by the scheme is sustainable in terms of greenhouse gas emissions savings and broader land-use impacts. These requirements were introduced through regulations in February 2015 and come into force on 5th October 2015. The proposed amendments clarify the reporting requirements for non-domestic participants so that Combined Heat and Power (CHP) installations participating in both the Renewables Obligation (RO) and the RHI do not have to demonstrate compliance with the sustainability requirements under the RHI scheme where they are meeting these requirements under the RO. We are also making two small amendments to correct the definition of sustainable biomethane and the land criteria for non-woody fuels.

### *Power for the scheme administrator to reject applications*

This applies only to the Non-Domestic scheme as the Domestic scheme already contains provisions where applications can be rejected. The amendment will provide Ofgem with an explicit power to reject applications to the Non-Domestic RHI scheme where the applicant fails to provide further information to support the application within the time period specified in a request by Ofgem. The changes will deliver cost savings by reducing the operational burden of managing these applications. They will also improve financial clarity given that once applications are rejected it is no longer necessary to accrue for possible spend in relation to them.

## Financial Services Compensation Scheme

[HLWS78]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The level of protection offered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) is changing. The statutory level of deposit protection is set by the European Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive (DGSD), which was updated last year. It requires that all European member states provide for a deposit protection limit of €100,000. The FSCS limit must be set at the prevailing exchange rate on 3 July 2015.



Given the strength of sterling in relation to the euro, this means that the current level of protection provided by the FSCS under the statutory scheme will reduce. The government has taken action to ensure that depositors are not exposed to a sudden reduction in the level of protection they receive from the FSCS.

HM Treasury has laid a statutory instrument to ensure that depositors who are currently entitled to up to £85,000 of protection from the FSCS will continue to be so until 31 December 2015. This is to ensure that depositors can have clarity and certainty about the protection they are entitled to, and time to react accordingly. These depositors will continue to be protected up to the maximum level of £85,000, by the FSCS until 31 December 2015, after which the new rate of £75,000 announced by the PRA will come into effect. The PRA must review the coverage level at least every five years.

Individuals and small businesses that are depositors of banks, building societies or credit unions authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) will qualify

for the protection. The protection is not dependent on the time when the deposit was made – eligible deposits made after 3 July 2015 will also be protected.

These actions ensure that depositors who are currently entitled to protection of up to £85,000 are not subjected to a sudden reduction in this protection. It will ensure that there is sufficient time available for depositors to be made aware of the changes, and to take such steps as they feel necessary to manage their financial affairs appropriately in light of this change.

Implementing the new DGSD has resulted in a number of changes to deposit protection in the UK including expanding the coverage provided by the FSCS to cover large corporates and small local authorities; and provision of a new “temporary high balance” cover of up to £1m for 6 months for certain deposits, such as the proceeds from the sale of your home. The extended coverage will not apply to deposits which only became entitled to protection under the new DGSD, which came into effect on 3 July 2015.

## Written Statements

Wednesday, 8 July 2015

### Charter for Budget Responsibility

[HLWS79]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (George Osborne) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I have published a draft updated Charter for Budget Responsibility, copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. It sets out a new fiscal framework to entrench a commitment to reach surplus and maintain it in normal times.

The draft Charter includes modified guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility and has been published in line with Section 6(4) of the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act. This requires that if the Treasury proposes to modify the guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility included in the Charter, a draft of the modified guidance must be published at least 28 days before the modified Charter is laid before Parliament. The updated Charter will be laid before Parliament, and a debate and vote scheduled, in the autumn of 2015.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Charter for Budget Responsibility - Summer Budget [Charter for Budget Responsibility - Summer Budget 2015.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-08/HLWS79/>

## Cremation Regulation

[HLWS80]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Women, Equalities and Family Justice (Caroline Dinenage) has made the following Written Statement.

"On 1 June 2015 David Jenkins published his report into the way infant cremations were carried out at Emstrey Crematorium in Shropshire between 1996 and 2012. The report established that during this time the crematorium failed to obtain ashes to return to families after the cremation of a baby or stillborn child.

In addition, in Scotland in 2014 Lord Bonomy's Infant Cremation Commission (ICC) reported that parents had in some cases been incorrectly told that there had been, or would be, no ashes from their infants' cremations.

Scotland has already done much work in response to the ICC's report. The Emstrey Report, however, made several recommendations for government. It also recommended that government consider the ICC's recommendations.

I am clear that bereaved parents should not have to experience the additional grief that those affected by the issues in Emstrey have faced. I am sadly aware of other bereaved families having had similar experiences elsewhere in England.

I am determined that the government should do what it can to make sure that following a cremation infant ashes are returned to bereaved families.

We are considering the Emstrey and ICC recommendations in depth and will consult on proposals for a number of changes to the relevant legislation, the Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008, later this year."

# Written Statements

Thursday, 9 July 2015

## Agriculture and Fisheries Council

[HLWS81]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Elizabeth Truss) has today made the following statement.

The next Agriculture and Fisheries Council will be on 13 July in Brussels. My hon. friend, Minister of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment (George Eustice), will represent the UK.

As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed.

There will be a state of play item on the proposals for a Regulation on the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, banana and milk in educational establishments, and a Regulation on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products. There will be a presentation from the Commission, followed by an exchange of views, on the proposal for Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory. The Commission will also provide an update on market developments, taking into account the extension of the Russian import ban on EU agricultural products.

There are currently four confirmed Any Other Business items:

- Situation on the dairy market (requested by Czech Republic and Poland).

- The future of the sugar sector in the EU (requested by Italy).

- Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on sustainable management and use of forests in policy and practice (requested by Slovenia)

- Plant breeders' rights and the European Patent Office's decision (requested by the Netherlands)

## Firearms and Taser Statistics

[HLWS83]

**Lord Bates:** My right hon Friend the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice and Victims (Mike Penning) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 23 March 2015, the Home Secretary announced the suspension of the Police Use of Taser and Police Use of Firearms statistical publications due to data quality concerns, which has previously resulted in incorrect data being published and reported to Parliament.

Following an internal review of the reporting process, officials, statisticians and the National Armed Policing Secretariat carried out a data validation exercise together

with forces to address these concerns. In addition, the Home Office Chief Statistician wrote to forces' commissioners / chief constables asking them to confirm figures for their force. The Home Office Chief Statistician is now satisfied that the figures provided by forces are of sufficient quality to publish.

I am today publishing official statistics on police use of firearms in England and Wales for 2013-14 (financial year) and on police use of Taser in England and Wales for 2014 (calendar year). This release also includes revisions to previously published figures and covers all 43 forces in England and Wales.

Police Use of Firearms Statistics 2013-14 (financial year)

The Police Use of Firearms release shows that:

- There were 14,864 police firearms' operations in 2013-14. This represents a decrease of 4% compared with the previous year.
- There were 12,061 police firearms' operations involving Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs) in 2013-14. This represents a decrease of 4% compared with the previous year.
- In 2013-14, 81% of police firearms' operations involved ARVs. The proportion has remained fairly stable in recent years.
- There were 5,875 police firearms' officers at the end of March 2014. This represents a decrease of 4% compared with the previous year.
- The police discharged firearms in 2 operations in 2013-14 (down from 3 operations in 2012-13).

Police Use of Taser Statistics, 2014 (calendar year)

The Police Use of Taser release shows that:

- The Police used Taser 10,062 times in 2014, representing a decrease of 3% (-318) compared with 2013.
- Non-discharges accounted for 80% of Taser use in 2014.
- Drive stun and angle-drive stun accounted for 3% of Taser use in 2014.
- Fired accounted for 17% of Taser use in 2014.

Copies of both statistical publications will be placed in the House library.

The full sets of commentary and data are published on Gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/use-of-taser-statistics>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-use-of-firearms-statistics>

Review of the publication of Taser data and other use of force

At the Black Mental Health and Home Office Summit on 23 October 2014, the Home Secretary asked Chief Constable David Shaw to lead a review of the publication of Taser data and other use of force by police officers.

In a recent update on progress, CC David Shaw informed the Home Secretary that he has established a project team to lead the review with oversight provided by a programme board comprising representatives from key policing and other interested organisations. Early work is focused on finalising the scope and approach to the review, mapping the existing arrangements for recording the police use of force and identifying best practice. The review will consider the requirements for data on the police use of a range of actions including physical restraint such as arm locks and pressure compliance, the use of batons and incapacitant sprays, the use of Tasers and lethal force. It will concentrate initially on higher end use of force and in particular where there may be issues around public confidence.

Chief Constable David Shaw will report his findings and recommendations to the Home Secretary towards the end of the year.

## Neighbourhood Planning

[HLWS82]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My hon. friend the Minister of State for Housing and Planning has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 10 July 2014, my hon. Friend the former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Nick Boles) amended for a period of 12 months the criteria for consideration of the recovery of planning appeals to include proposals for residential development over 10 units in areas where a qualifying body has submitted a neighbourhood plan proposal to the local planning authority or where a neighbourhood plan has been made ( *Official Report*, Col 24-25WS); and I am now extending that period for a further 6 months from today.

# Written Statements

Monday, 13 July 2015

## Avian Influenza

[HLWS84]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Elizabeth Truss) has today made the following statement.

The Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed a case of avian flu in a poultry farm in Lancashire. Test results have confirmed the presence of a high severity H7N7 strain of the disease. While this disease affects birds severely, the advice from Public Health England is that the risk to public health from this disease is considered very low, and the Food Standards Agency has said there is no food safety risk for consumers.

We have taken robust precautionary action, imposing a temporary control zone last Friday to limit the risk of disease spreading. Measures taken included the decision to humanely cull all birds at the premises and to apply restrictions on movements of poultry and other birds to all poultry farms within 10 kilometres around the affected premises. This decision was based on the clinical symptoms displayed by birds at the farm and laboratory findings at the time.

Now that the strain of disease has been established, we have confirmed the 10 kilometre restriction zone around the farm to control this outbreak and to prevent any potential spread of infection. Investigations are ongoing to discover the origin of the outbreak.

We have tried and tested procedures for dealing with such animal disease outbreaks and a strong track record of controlling and eliminating previous outbreaks of avian flu in the UK. We are working closely with operational partners, devolved administration colleagues and the industry to deal effectively with this outbreak.

I would urge bird keepers to be vigilant for any signs of disease, ensure they are maintaining good biosecurity on their premises, seek prompt advice from their vet and report suspect disease to their nearest APHA office.

## Immigration Rules

[HLWS87]

**Lord Bates:** My right hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (James Brokenshire) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

My right hon Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules.

These new rules make a number of changes to the Tier 4 route of the Points-Based System to reduce net migration and to tackle immigration abuse, whilst ensuring we maintain an excellent offer for students who wish to study at our world-class universities.

New students at publicly funded colleges will be prevented from being able to work in the UK, in order to bring their working rights in line with those of international students at private colleges. In the autumn, college students will be unable to switch to a work visa or extend their study visa whilst they are in the UK, whilst protecting students at embedded colleges who will progress onto study at a higher education institution.

The rules around academic progression are being tightened so that university students are only permitted to extend their studies at the same academic level if the course they wish to study is linked to their previous course, or the university confirms the course supports the student's career aspirations. To help ensure international students are progressing academically the time limit on further education study will be reduced from three years to two years in the autumn.

The maintenance requirement for Tier 4 students is increasing, along with the maximum amount paid for accommodation which can be offset against the maintenance requirement, to bring them in line with 2015 rates. A rule around established presence which allowed students applying to extend their leave within the UK to show only two months' maintenance is being removed.

The application of the rules on time limits is being clarified so that the time a student has already spent studying in the UK is calculated using the full length of the leave they have previously been granted.

Changes are being made to allow a Tier 4 visa to be issued in line with a student's intended date of travel. This change to the date from which entry clearance can commence will help ensure a smooth roll-out of Biometric Residence Permits for overseas Tier 4 applicants.

Tier 4 migrants' conditions of study are being changed, to prevent them from studying at academies or schools maintained by a local authority. Those who wish to study a foundation course to prepare for entry to higher education are also being prevented from doing so under the Tier 4 (Child) route.

Where responsibilities of sponsor organisations and terminology have recently changed, the rules are being updated.

The Government is reforming the student visa system to reduce net migration and tackle abuse. These changes will help achieve this, whilst ensuring the UK maintains a highly competitive offer and continues to attract the brightest and best international students.

I am also taking this opportunity to make a number of smaller changes to the Immigration Rules:

- enabling South African diplomatic passport holders to travel visa free to the UK for the purpose of 'visit in transit'

- amend the eligibility requirements for transit passengers, aligning the period within which non-visa nationals must intend and are able to leave the UK with that of visa nationals (other than those using the Transit Without Visa Scheme)



- changes to administrative review, which have been identified as necessary during the early stages of implementation

- minor changes and clarifications relating to family and private life, mainly reflecting feedback from caseworkers and legal practitioners on the operation of the rules

## Productivity Plan

[HLWS86]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Treasury has laid a command paper before Parliament titled *Fixing the foundations: creating a more prosperous nation CM 9098*, setting out a 15 point plan with concrete policy measures for productivity growth in the UK over the next decade.

My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Greg Hands) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The UK is set to be the fastest growing G7 economy in both 2014 and 2015. However, whilst rising employment has been a major source of recent growth in the UK, productivity is as essential an ingredient over the longer term. There has been a slowdown in productivity growth in the UK since the onset of the financial crisis, and there is a large and long-standing productivity gap between the UK and some other leading advanced economies. The government is committed to boosting productivity growth

and narrowing this gap in order to enhance living standards and quality of life in the UK.

Building on measures announced in last week's Budget that will boost productivity, this plan is built on two pillars: encouraging long-term investment in economic capital, and promoting a dynamic economy. It includes measures to reform the planning system and further education; sharpen incentives to provide excellent teaching in universities and open up higher education to new providers; build stronger trading links with emerging markets; cut red tape; support the adoption of digital technologies; and promote competition and consumer choice.

The measures in this plan address both the slowdown of productivity growth in the UK since the financial crisis and the longer-term productivity gap with other countries. The document is available on the GOV.UK website.

## Veterinary Products Committee

[HLWS85]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State (George Eustice) has today made the following statement.

I have received the annual report of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committee 2014, which has been published today.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

# Written Statements

Tuesday, 14 July 2015

## Civil Justice Council and Family Justice Council

[HLWS92]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Women, Equalities and Family Justice (Caroline Dinéage) has made the following Written Statement.

"On 4 November 2013 the Triennial Review of the Civil Justice Council (CJC) and Family Justice Council (FJC) was announced in Parliament. I am pleased to announce the conclusion of the Review and publication of the report today.

Stage one of the Review concluded that both the CJC and FJC should continue to exist as an NDPB and that there is a continuing need for the functions of both councils.

Stage two reviewed the control and governance arrangements of the CJC and FJC in order to consider whether both bodies are complying with recognised principles of good corporate governance. This Review has resulted in a small number of recommendations to drive greater transparency and encourage diversity in membership of the councils, particularly of the CJC.

The Review was publicised on my Department's website and stakeholders were invited to contribute through a Call for Evidence. A Critical Friends Group ensured a robust approach to the Review and provided comment and challenge on the conclusions. I am grateful to all who contributed to the Triennial Review. The final report has been placed in the libraries of both Houses."

## ECOFIN

[HLWS89]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (George Osborne) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 14 July 2015. Ministers are due to discuss the following items:

### *Current Legislative Proposals*

The Presidency will inform delegations about the state of play of current legislative proposals in the field of financial services.

### *Presentation of the work programme of the Luxembourg Presidency*

The Luxembourg Presidency will present its six-month work programme in the ECOFIN area and invite an exchange of views.

### *Five Presidents' Report: Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union*

The Commission and the Eurogroup President will present the Five Presidents' report on the plan for completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union.

## Financial Ombudsman Service

[HLWS94]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15 of the Financial Ombudsman Service has today been laid before Parliament.

The Report forms an important part of the accountability mechanisms for the Financial Ombudsman Service under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), and assesses the performance of the Financial Ombudsman Service over the past 12 months in discharging its functions.

## Gangmasters Licensing Authority

[HLWS88]

**Lord Bates:** My hon Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Karen Bradley) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The 2014-15 Annual Report and Accounts for the Gangmasters Licensing Authority are being laid before the House today and published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

## Lynx ZF540

[HLWS91]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans (Mr Mark Lancaster) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I wish to inform the House of the findings of the Service Inquiry into the accident involving an Army Lynx helicopter (Mark 9A variant) on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014, in which Captain Thomas Clarke, Flight Lieutenant Rakesh Chauhan, Warrant Officer Class 2 Spencer Faulkner, Corporal James Walters and Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas tragically died. On the day of the accident, the aircraft was conducting a training sortie when it crashed approximately 20 km south of Kandahar Airfield in the Chaghray Ghar Valley, Afghanistan.

A Service Inquiry was convened by the Director General of the Military Aviation Authority (now the Director General of the Defence Safety Authority as of 1 April 2015) to establish the cause and examine those factors which contributed to the accident, and in order to make recommendations to prevent a recurrence and enhance Air Safety. The Service Inquiry Panel has conducted an independent, thorough and objective Inquiry and their report is now complete. Copies have already been provided to the Next of Kin, HM Coroner for

Oxfordshire and relevant personnel and units in Defence to ensure the timely dissemination of the Air Safety lessons contained within it.

A copy of the Service Inquiry Report, redacted in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, is also being placed in the Library of the House today and on the gov.uk website. Our deepest sympathies remain with the families of those who lost their lives in this tragic accident.

### **Royal Military Police**

[HLWS90]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans (Mr Mark Lancaster) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I wish to inform the House that I am laying today, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Defence, the first report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Inspection of the Royal Military Police.

This is the first report as directed within the Armed Forces Act 2011, which requires Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary to inspect, and report to the Secretary of State, on the independence and effectiveness of investigation carried out by each service police force. The Royal Military Police were the first to be inspected in October 2014.

I consider this report to be very positive and provides assurance from an independent civilian authority that, on the whole, the leadership of the Royal Military Police is good. Ten recommendations have been made for improvement, in particular concerning crime recording and monitoring the effectiveness of investigations. The Army are implementing an action plan to address the recommendations.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

### **Security Industry Authority**

[HLWS93]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice and Victims (Mike Penning) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am today announcing the first triennial review of the Security Industry Authority, part of the Government's commitment to ensuring that public bodies continue to have regular independent challenge. The review will focus on examining whether the SIA is operating efficiently and whether its control and governance arrangements continue to meet the recognised principles of good corporate governance. I will inform the House of the outcome of the review when it is completed.

# Written Statements

Wednesday, 15 July 2015

## Military Inquests

[HLWS95]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Penny Mordaunt) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 13 July 2013, Army Reservists Corporal James Dunsby, Lance Corporal Craig Roberts and Lance Corporal Edward Maher were among 37 Reserve soldiers taking part in an individual navigation exercise on the Brecon Beacons. Tragically, Lance Corporal Maher and Lance Corporal Roberts died while taking part in the exercise and Corporal James Dunsby was evacuated and died in hospital on 30 July 2013. An inquest into the circumstances of these tragic deaths heard evidence from 1-26 June 2015, and HM Senior Coroner for the City of Birmingham and the Borough of Solihull yesterday returned a narrative conclusion. The coroner has identified failings in the running of the exercise and has indicated that she will make a number of recommendations to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in order to prevent future deaths.

I would like to apologise on behalf of the MOD and the Armed Forces for the deaths of Corporal Dunsby, Lance Corporal Roberts and Lance Corporal Maher. We would also like to offer our sincere condolences to their families and friends who have shown great dignity during what has been a very difficult period.

We accept the failings identified by the coroner and are truly sorry. In response to our own and the Health and Safety Executive's investigations we have made a number of changes to the way this exercise and similar exercises are conducted. These changes include improvements to the preparatory training that Reserves undertake and a thorough review of the risk assessment process to ensure that all those involved have been trained in the effective management of risks. A new tracker system has been implemented to improve monitoring of individual candidates and to enable two-way communications between directing staff and candidates. We are looking at how this can be further improved. We continually review our code of practice for the prevention and initial medical treatment of climatic injuries in the Armed Forces in order to minimise the risk of such tragic events. We will continue to work hard to ensure the code of practice is understood and followed.

Over the next few days the coroner will issue her Report to Prevent Future Deaths to the MOD. We will treat her recommendations with the utmost seriousness. We will ensure everything possible is being done to reduce the risk to personnel who undertake these types of exercise and to try to prevent a reoccurrence of these terrible events. The MOD will have 56 days to provide our formal response, a copy of which I will place in the Library of the House. As soon as civil investigations are

complete we will initiate our own Service Inquiry to see where further lessons can be identified and improvements made. The Royal Military Police will also consider whether any non-criminal service offences appear to have been committed.

The Reserves continue to form an important part of military capability, whether on operations or at home. We will continue to ensure that the Reserves have the necessary training, skills and fitness levels to do the tasks required of them.

It will always be necessary to train and test our military personnel to the highest possible level so that they can meet the challenges to national security that we face both in the UK and overseas. Achieving this end does involve individuals having to push themselves and take some risk. However, as an organisation we must ensure that this is balanced with the need to ensure these risks are effectively mitigated. In this case, we did not do this and we accept full responsibility for these tragic deaths. We are determined to learn the lessons. I am the Minister who will be responsible for taking any corrective action forward. I will be writing to the families personally and will make myself available to meet them if they wish, and to facilitate any requests they might have.

## Office for Nuclear Regulation

[HLWS97]

**Baroness Altmann:** My honourable Friend The Minister for Disabled People (Justin Tomlinson) has made the following Written Statement.

Later today I will lay copies of the Office for Nuclear Regulation's Annual Plan for 2015-16 and the Office for Nuclear Regulation's Strategy 2015-20 before this House, both are Un-Numbered Act Papers.

Having consulted the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who is accountable for civil nuclear security and the Office for Nuclear Regulation, I can confirm, in accordance with Schedule 7, Section 25(3) of the Energy Act 2013, that there have been no exclusions to either of the published documents on the grounds of national security.

## Submarine Dismantling Project

[HLWS96]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Defence Procurement (Mr Philip Dunne) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 16 October 2014 I announced that the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) public consultation process would take place between 14 November 2014 and end on 20 February 2015. Today I can announce, with the conclusion of that process, an initial report from the Public Consultation is being published online.

Five sites were shortlisted to house an Interim Store for Intermediate Level radioactive Waste (ILW) removed

from 27 nuclear submarines that have been, or will be, decommissioned. The interim store will have the capacity to hold all this ILW until it is transferred to a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) some time after 2040.

The Public Consultation sought views about the sites that had been shortlisted and how people felt about the site near them being chosen. The report draws together all the views and collates them under themes to provide a clear and accurate consensus of the opinions raised by site and subject.

This initial report contains only views from the public and no response from MOD as yet, this will come in a later report. It has been published today on the Government website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/submarine-dismantling-project-site-for-the-interim-storage-of-intermediate-level-radioactive-waste>

Moving forward, assessment continues, taking into account the Public Consultation findings and information that has been requested and gathered from the sites themselves. The five shortlisted sites are: AWE Aldermaston in Berkshire; AWE Burghfield in Berkshire; Capenhurst in Cheshire; Chapelcross in Dumfriesshire and Sellafield in Cumbria.

A final decision about which site will house the Interim Store will be made in 2016.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.



# Written Statements

Thursday, 16 July 2015

## Annual Report and Accounts

[HLWS111]

**Baroness Verma:** My right honourable friend, the Secretary of State for International Development (Justine Greening) has made the following statement:

I have today published and laid before Parliament, the Department for International Development's Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2014-15.

The report provides information on DFID's activities during 2014-15 in line with the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006 and includes a full set of accounts for 2014-15. The report will be placed in the Libraries of the House of Commons and House of Lords for the reference of Members and copies will be made available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. It is also available online at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

## British Nationals Abroad: Murder and Manslaughter

[HLWS109]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Philip Hammond), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to providing high quality, cost effective and compassionate support to British nationals abroad, focusing on vulnerable groups and those that most need our help.

In January 2015, my right Honourable Friend, the Minister for Europe (Mr Lidington), announced the completion of the FCO's review into the support we provide to families in the event of British nationals being murdered abroad, and the establishment of a new unit to provide a more coordinated and professional service during these often complex and long-running cases. ( [HC Deb, 22 January 2015, cols 10–11WS](#) )

The terrible events in Sousse, Tunisia, in June sadly demonstrate the requirement for such a unit. Since January, the unit has taken on 66 new cases of British nationals murdered abroad, including the victims of the terrorist attacks in Tunisia and the Germanwings airplane crash in March, as well as supporting the families of victims in over 150 ongoing cases. We have renamed the new unit the Murder & Manslaughter Team to make it clear the nature of the cases the unit deals with.

The team has also been developing new specialist training for consular officers on managing cases effectively and sensitively, updating information available to the public, strengthening our relationships with partnership organisations, improving the support we provide to families attending trials, and considering what

further support we can provide to families of those who have died under suspicious circumstances.

We will continue to monitor and evaluate our progress during 2015-16.

## Chief Coroner's Annual Report

[HLWS121]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Women, Equalities and Family Justice (Caroline Dinéage) has made the following Written Statement.

"I am pleased to lay and publish the Chief Coroner's second annual report to the Lord Chancellor, under section 36 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act').

The report covers the Chief Coroner's work in 2014 and the first half of 2015 and is his second annual summary of the operation of coroner services following the 2009 Act's reforms which went live on 25 July 2013.

In particular the Chief Coroner's report sets out:

- His work to promote consistency in the resourcing of and practices in coroner offices across England and Wales;
- The training and guidance he has facilitated for coroners and their officers, supported by stakeholder events for local authorities and bereavement support organisations;
- His plans for the coming year to improve services further.

His Honour Judge Thornton QC has continued to develop the excellent work set out in his first annual report as Chief Coroner, which was published a year ago.

I am very grateful to Judge Thornton for building on his first year's achievements so effectively. I am grateful too, to coroners and their officers and other staff, for having supported the Chief Coroner to improve services for bereaved people.

I look forward to working with the Chief Coroner in the coming year.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office and in the Printed Paper Office. The document will also be available online, at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chief-coroners-annual-report-2014-to-2015>."

## Counter-terrorist Asset Freezing

[HLWS129]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 ("TFAFA 2010"), the Treasury is required to report to Parliament, quarterly, on its operation of the UK's asset

freezing regime mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

This is the sixteenth report under the Act and it covers the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2015. This report also covers the UK implementation of the UN Al-Qaida asset freezing regime and the operation of the EU asset freezing regime in the UK under EU Regulation (EC) 2580/2001 which implements UNSCR 1373 against external terrorist threats to the EU. Under the UN Al-Qaida asset freezing regime, the UN has responsibility for designations and the Treasury has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under the Al-Qaida (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011. Under EU Regulation 2580/2001, the EU has responsibility for designations and the Treasury has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under Part 1 of TFAFA 2010.

Annexes A and B to this statement provide a breakdown, by name, of all those designated by the UK and the EU in pursuance of UN Security Council Resolution 1373. The two individuals subject to designations, which have been notified on a restricted and confidential basis, under Sections 3 and 10 of TFAFA 2010 are denoted by A and B.

The attached table sets out the key asset-freezing activity in the UK during the quarter ending 31 March 2015.

#### *Legal Proceedings*

i) The damages claim brought by Gulam MASTAFA against a number of government departments including the Treasury, remains stayed.

ii) The claim brought by Zana RAHIM continues to progress towards completion.

iii) Proceedings were filed on 29 May 2014 at the High Court appealing against the Treasury's decision to renew MF's designation under TFAFA 2010. The final hearing took place on 29 April 2015, after the period covered by this Report and will be covered in the next Quarterly Report to Parliament.

iv) An individual previously designated under TFAFA 2010 lodged an appeal on 3rd November 2014 against his designation, challenging the Treasury's decision to revoke rather than quash his designation. These proceedings were on-going during the reporting period.

v) There were no criminal proceedings in respect of breaches of asset freezes made under TFAFA 2010.

*Annex A: Designated persons under TFAFA 2010 by name [4]*

#### *INDIVIDUALS*

1. Hamed ABDOLLAHI
2. Bilal Talal ABDULLAH
3. Imad Khalil AL-ALAMI
4. Abdelkarim Hussein AL-NASSER
5. Ibrahim Salih AL-YACOUB
6. Ruhul AMIN

7. Manssor ARBABSAR
8. Usama HAMDAN
9. Nur Idiris HASSAN NUR
10. Nabeel HUSSAIN
11. Hasan IZZ-AL-DIN
12. Mohammed KHALED
13. Parviz KHAN
14. Reyaad KHAN
15. Musa Abu MARZOUK
16. Khalid MISHAAL
17. Khalid Shaikh MOHAMMED
18. Aseel MUTHANA
19. Nasser MUTHANA
20. Abdul Reza SHAHLAI
21. Ali Gholam SHAKURI
22. Qasem SOLEIMANI
23. A
24. B

#### *ENTITIES*

1. BASQUE FATHERLAND AND LIBERTY (ETA)
2. EJERCITO DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (ELN)
3. FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA (FARC)
4. HIZBALLAH MILITARY WING, INCLUDING EXTERNAL SECURITY ORGANISATION
5. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE - GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP-GC)
6. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)
7. SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL)

*Annex B: Persons designated by the EU under Council Regulation (EC)2580/2001[5]*

#### *PERSONS*

1. Hamed ABDOLLAHI\*
2. Abdelkarim Hussein AL-NASSER\*
3. Ibrahim Salih AL YACOUB\*
4. Manssor ARBABSAR\*
5. Mohammed BOUYERI
6. Hasan IZZ-AL-DIN\*
7. Khalid Shaikh MOHAMMED\*
8. Abdul Reza SHAHLAI\*
9. Ali Gholam SHAKURI\*
10. Qasem SOLEIMANI\*

#### **GROUPS AND ENTITIES**

1. ABU NIDAL ORGANISATION (ANO)
2. AL-AQSA E.V.
3. AL-AQSA MARTYRS' BRIGADE
4. BABBAR KHALSA

5. COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INCLUDING NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA), PHILIPPINES

6. DEVRIMCI HALK KURTULU PARTISI-CEPHEŞİ — DHKP/C (REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY/Front/Party)

7. EJÉRCITO DE LIBERACIÓN NACIONAL (NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY)\*

8. FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA (FARC)\*

9. GAMA'A AL-ISLAMIYYA (A.K.A. AL-GAMA'A AL-ISLAMIYYA) (ISLAMIC GROUP — IG)

10. HAMAS, INCLUDING HAMAS-IZZ AL-DIN AL-QASSEM

11. HIZBALLAH MILITARY WING, INCLUDING EXTERNAL SECURITY ORGANISATION

12. HIZBUL MUJAHIDEEN (HM)

13. HOFSTADGROEP

14. INTERNATIONAL SIKH YOUTH FEDERATION (ISYF)

15. İSLAMI BÜYÜK DOĞU AKINCILAR CEPHEŞİ (IBDA-C) (GREAT ISLAMIC EASTERN WARRIORS FRONT)

16. KHALISTAN ZINDABAD FORCE (KZF)

17. KURDISTAN WORKERS PARTY (PKK) (A.K.A. KONGRA-GEL)

18. LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE)

19. PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD (PIJ)

20. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE — GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP-GC)\*

21. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)\*

22. SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) (SHINING PATH)\*

23. TEYRBAZEN AZADIYA KURDISTAN (TAK)

[1] This does not duplicate funds frozen under Tafa.

[2] This figure reflects the most up-to-date account balances available and includes approximately \$64,000 of funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 31/03/2015. Additionally the figures reflect an updating of balances of accounts for certain individuals during the quarter, depleted through licensed activity.

[3] Based on information held by the Treasury, some of these individuals hold dual nationality.

[4] For full listing details please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-list-of-designated-persons-terrorism-and-terrorist-financing>

[5] For full listing details please refer to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

\* EU listing rests on UK designation under Tafa 2010

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Asset Freezing Activity Quarter 1 2015 [Asset freezing activity q1.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-16/HLWS129/>

## Data Protection

[HLWS114]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Human Rights (Dominic Raab) has made the following Written Statement.

"My Noble Friend the Minister of State for Civil Justice (Lords Minister), Lord Faulks QC, attended the Justice and Home Affairs Council on the 16 June, where a General Approach was agreed on the General Data Protection Regulation. Notwithstanding serious concerns, the UK voted in favour of the General Approach, with a view to mitigating the negative implications of the text during the subsequent trilogue discussion, and without prejudice to our decision on the final outcome of negotiations.

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department, Theresa May, provided a written ministerial statement on 23 June. This updated the House that the UK supported the general approach on the General Data Protection Regulation Council text as a basis for negotiations with the European Parliament. It is with regret that I am informing you of a scrutiny override on this dossier because the Commons Scrutiny Committee had not yet been formed when the Justice and Home Affairs Council took place."

## Development Capital

[HLWS99]

**Baroness Verma:** My right honourable friend, the Secretary of State for International Development (Justine Greening) has made the following statement:

I am pleased to announce that I have agreed with my Rt. Hon friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Greg Hands MP) to inject new capital into CDC Group plc – the UK's development finance institution – to create jobs, boost growth and in doing so help end aid dependency across the developing world.

A new investment of £735 million over the next three years represents the first capital injection the Government has made into CDC in 20 years.

It will place CDC's investment expertise at the vanguard of our efforts to eradicate global poverty by creating jobs, long term economic growth, better access to basic services and increased tax revenues in developing countries.

This is not only the right thing to do, it is firmly in Britain's own economic interest as it will help build future markets for British and other businesses to compete in.

Our new investment will allow CDC to support many more businesses throughout Africa and South Asia, building on its already considerable successes. CDC's latest Annual Review, published last month, showed that CDC-backed business have helped create nearly 1.3 million direct and indirect jobs in developing countries last year, while the companies in which CDC invests in

Africa and South Asia paid more than £1.5 billion in local taxes.

This investment comes at a crucial time. There remains a considerable shortfall of investment capital across the developing world, particularly in countries and sectors where there are higher levels of risk. This is stifling the potential of promising businesses and keeping countries locked into poverty. Estimates for total investment needs in developing countries range from £2.1 trillion to £2.8 trillion every year.

We know that CDC is ready to take on this challenge. The changes the Government made to CDC in the last Parliament have ensured CDC's support is now targeted to countries and investments where it is needed most and where it can have the greatest impact. CDC will target job-creating sectors in areas where the shortage of capital is particularly acute and the investment climate is challenging.

In time, this new capital will be redeployed as successful investments deliver financial returns back to CDC to be reinvested in further promising businesses, making every pound go even further in delivering development impact.

This investment is an important element of my Department's strategy to end aid dependency through job creation, economic growth and tax generation, and will form part of the £1.8 billion we will spend on economic development this financial year. There is clear evidence to show that economic development is the only way we can ultimately defeat poverty. Wherever long-term per capita growth is higher than three per cent, poverty falls significantly.

No single Government or donor can solve this problem. The finance needed to achieve the new Sustainable Development Goals is estimated by the UN at approximately £1.6 trillion every year, but current investment levels are less than half of that.

The Financing for Development Conference, which concludes today in Addis Ababa, has shown global recognition of the importance of public money leveraging private investment. CDC will play an important role in making this happen.

Britain is a nation that stands tall in the world. This new investment will ensure the best of British expertise in finance, development and investment can create a more prosperous world and make a real and lasting difference to people's lives. This is the right and the smart thing to do, as we help countries to end poverty while building markets that British businesses can benefit from in frontier and emerging markets.

## Diplomatic Immunity: Offences

[HLWS112]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Philip Hammond), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

In 2014, 14 serious and significant offences allegedly committed by people entitled to diplomatic immunity in the United Kingdom were drawn to the attention of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection of the Metropolitan Police, or other law enforcement agencies. Twelve of these were driving-related. We define serious offences as those which could, in certain circumstances, carry a penalty of 12 months' imprisonment or more. Also included are drink-driving and driving without insurance.

Some 22,000 people are entitled to diplomatic immunity in the United Kingdom and the majority of diplomats abide by UK law. The number of alleged serious crimes committed by members of the diplomatic community in the UK is proportionately low.

Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, those entitled to immunity are expected to obey the law. The FCO does not tolerate foreign diplomats breaking the law.

We take all allegations of illegal activity seriously. When instances of alleged criminal conduct are brought to our attention by the police, we ask the relevant foreign government to waive diplomatic immunity where appropriate. For the most serious offences, and when a relevant waiver has not been granted, we seek the immediate withdrawal of the diplomat.

Alleged serious and significant offences reported to the FCO in 2014 are listed below.

### 2014

#### *Driving without insurance*

Greece	1
Algeria	1
Equatorial Guinea	1
Mexico	1

#### *Driving without insurance, driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence, and without due care and attention*

South Africa	1
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#### *Driving without insurance, without an MOT, and with tyres significantly worn below the legal limit*

Saudi Arabia	1
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#### *Driving whilst under the influence of alcohol, without insurance, and without a valid licence*

Malawi	1
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#### *Driving under the influence of alcohol*

Thailand	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Guatemala	1
Equatorial Guinea	1

	COUNTRY	NUMBER OF FINES	TOTAL OUTSTANDING
<i>In charge of a vehicle under the influence of alcohol</i>			
China		1	
<i>Possession of a firearm</i>			
Saudi Arabia		1	
<i>Development of malware for the purpose of fraud</i>			
Saudi Arabia		1	
<p>We also wish to record a further four offences of conspiracy to cheat the revenue between 2009 and 2012, of which four former Gambian diplomats were convicted in 2014. These were not recorded in previous Written Ministerial Statements because the cases were either under investigation or were sub judice. Their previous inclusion may have hampered investigations or prejudiced the outcome of criminal proceedings.</p> <p>Figures for previous years are available in the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' written statement to the House on 15 July 2014, <i>Official Report</i>, column 50WS.</p>			
<p><b>Diplomats: London Congestion Charge</b></p> <p>[HLWS119]</p> <p><b>Baroness Anelay of St Johns:</b> My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Philip Hammond), has made the following written Ministerial statement:</p> <p>The value of unpaid Congestion Charge debt incurred by diplomatic missions and international organisations in London since its introduction in February 2003 until 31 December 2014 as advised by Transport for London was £87,440,287. The table below shows those diplomatic missions and international organisations with outstanding fines of £100,000 or more.</p>			
COUNTRY	NUMBER OF FINES	TOTAL OUTSTANDING	
Embassy of the United States of America	80,174	£ 9,441,370	Embassy of the People's Republic of China
Embassy of Japan	54,158	£ 6,374,505	Kenya High Commission
High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	45,511	£ 5,339,020	Embassy of France
Embassy of the Russian Federation	45,650	£ 5,323,900	Embassy of Spain
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany	34,976	£ 4,052,895	High Commission for the United Republic of Tanzania
Office of the High Commissioner for India	32,503	£ 3,908,465	High Commission for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Embassy of the Republic of Poland	26,365	£ 3,152,000	Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Office of the High Commissioner for Ghana	23,979	£ 2,861,855	Embassy of Romania
Embassy of the Republic of Sudan	22,297	£ 2,549,135	Embassy of Greece
Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan	18,831	£ 2,273,760	Embassy of Ukraine
			Embassy of the Republic of Cuba
			South African High Commission
			People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
			Sierra Leone High Commission
			Embassy of Hungary
			High Commission for the Republic of Cyprus
			Embassy of the Republic of Yemen
			High Commission for the Republic of Zambia
			Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria
			Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
			Embassy of the Slovak Republic
			High Commission for the Republic of Cameroon
			High Commission of the Republic of Malawi
			Botswana High Commission
			Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
			High Commission for the Republic of Namibia
			Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe
			Kingdom of Swaziland High Commission
			High Commission for the Republic of Mozambique



COUNTRY	NUMBER OF FINES	TOTAL OUTSTANDING	COUNTRY	NUMBER OF FINES	TOTAL OUTSTANDING
Embassy of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea	3,877	£ 446,685	Embassy of the Republic of Iraq	1,192	£ 149,180
Embassy of Austria	3,748	£ 443,920	Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan	1,126	£ 143,855
Embassy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	3,721	£ 431,350	Embassy of Estonia	1,164	£ 141,615
Mauritius High Commission	3,688	£ 425,875	Embassy of the Dominican Republic	1,081	£ 127,840
Malta High Commission	3,486	£ 412,810	Belize High Commission	990	£ 121,990
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania	3,266	£ 395,315	Embassy of the State of Eritrea	1,017	£ 118,320
High Commission of the Kingdom of Lesotho	3,415	£ 392,140	High Commission for Guyana	914	£ 105,620
Embassy of the Czech Republic	3,383	£ 390,080			
Uganda High Commission	3,278	£ 385,910			
Embassy of Belgium	3,200	£ 378,200			
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	2,955	£ 351,545			
Embassy of the Republic of Liberia	2,934	£ 350,235			
Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	2,953	£ 344,110			
Royal Danish Embassy	2,756	£ 327,040			
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey	2,466	£ 292,380			
Embassy of the Republic of Guinea	2,573	£ 291,140			
Jamaican High Commission	2,429	£ 284,320			
Embassy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	2,280	£ 279,110			
Embassy of the Republic of Latvia	1,995	£ 238,630			
Embassy of Portugal	1,950	£ 236,460			
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt	2,244	£ 235,575			
Embassy of Finland	1,921	£ 227,680			
Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1,979	£ 227,680			
Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia	1,731	£ 211,670			
Embassy of Luxembourg	1,731	£ 205,500			
Embassy of Tunisia	1,594	£ 193,710			
High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	1,560	£ 193,530			
Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco	1,477	£ 185,075			
High Commission for Antigua & Barbuda	1,573	£ 184,840			
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia	1,689	£ 183,310			

Figures for previous years are available in the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' written statement to the House on 15 July 2014, Official Report, column 53WS.

### Diplomats: Non-Domestic Rates

[HLWS117]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Philip Hammond), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

The majority of diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom pay the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) due from them. Diplomatic missions are obliged to pay only 6% of the total NNDR value of their offices. This represents payment for specific services received such as street cleaning and street lighting.

Representations by the Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to missions in 2015 led to the settlement of outstanding debts by a number of missions.

As at 14 July 2015, the total amount of outstanding NNDR payments, due before 31 December 2014, owed by foreign diplomatic missions as advised by the Valuation Office Agency is £743,858, an increase of 2.5% over the 2013 figure, as reported in the 2014 WMS (£726,076). However, £99,683 of this outstanding debt is owed by Iran – which is in the process of reopening its embassy in the UK, and Syria – which is not currently represented in the UK. We have therefore been unable to pursue these debts. Three missions are responsible for just under a third of the remainder. We shall continue to urge those with NNDR debt to pay their dues.

Missions listed below owed over £10,000 in respect of NNDR.

High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh	£98,963
Sierra Leone High Commission	£59,949
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan	£53,466
Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe	£35,599

Uganda High Commission	£29,549
Embassy of the Republic of Liberia	£24,892
Embassy of the Republic of Iraq	£17,755
Embassy of the State of Qatar	£18,883
Embassy of Ukraine	£18,720
Embassy of the Republic of Albania	£18,374
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines	£16,691
Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	£16,772
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt	£14,676
Ghana High Commission	£14,170
High Commission for the Republic of Cameroon	£13,483
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates	£13,447
High Commission for the Republic of Zambia	£12,797
Embassy of the Republic of Angola	£12,435
Kenya High Commission	£10,555

Figures for previous years are available in the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' written statement to the House on 15 July 2014, Official Report, column 55WS.

### Diplomats: Parking Fines

[HLWS116]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Philip Hammond), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

In 2014, 5,307 parking fines incurred by diplomatic missions and international organisations in the United Kingdom were brought to our attention by councils. These totalled £536,289.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has held meetings with a number of missions about outstanding parking fine debt. In addition, in April this year we wrote to diplomatic missions and international organisations concerned giving them the opportunity to either pay their outstanding fines or appeal against them if they considered that the fines had been issued incorrectly.

Subsequent payments (including amounts waived by councils) totalled £214,154. There remains a total of £322,135 in unpaid fines for 2014.

The table below details those Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations that have outstanding fines totalling £1,000 or more, as of 22 June 2015.

Diplomatic Mission/International Organisation	Amount of Outstanding Fines (excluding congestion charge) £
High Commission for the Federal Republic of Nigeria	49,235
High Commission for the Republic of Zambia	42,520

Diplomatic Mission/International Organisation	Amount of Outstanding Fines (excluding congestion charge) £
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia	25,990
Embassy of the United Arab Emirates	16,520
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt	9,650
Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan	9,390
Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	9,165
Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan	8,075
Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman	7,940
Embassy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	7,645
Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan	7,600
Embassy of the State of Qatar	5,260
Embassy of the Republic of Liberia	5,135
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	5,115
Embassy of France	4,985
High Commission for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	4,975
Embassy of the State of Libya	4,795
Embassy of the Republic of Iraq	4,590
Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo	3,860
Embassy of Georgia	3,815
Embassy of the Republic of Angola	3,670
Embassy of Tunisia	3,305
Embassy of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea	3,020
Sierra Leone High Commission	2,985
Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan	2,695
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania	2,680
Embassy of the Gabonese Republic	2,670
Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	2,625
Embassy of the Republic of Guinea	2,530
Kenya High Commission	2,505
Office of the High Commissioner for Ghana	2,485
Embassy of the Republic of Yemen	2,460
Malaysian High Commission	2,360
Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	2,080
Embassy of Greece	1,880
South African High Commission	1,825
High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania	1,815
Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria	1,635
Embassy of Brazil	1,600

Diplomatic Mission/International Organisation	Amount of Outstanding Fines (excluding congestion charge) £
Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan	1,530
Embassy of the People's Republic of China	1,410
Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco	1,330
Embassy of the Russian Federation	1,330
Brunei Darussalam High Commission	1,315
Embassy of Romania	1,310
Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	1,295
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany	1,270
Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	1,235
Embassy of the Republic of Serbia	1,085

Figures for previous years are available in the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' written statement to the House on 15 July 2014, Official Report, column 51WS.

## Disclosure and Barring

[HLWS104]

**Lord Bates:** My hon Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Karen Bradley) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

In April 2015 the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) informed the Home Office that information in a number of files they held on behalf of the relevant Northern Ireland departments had been destroyed between 2010 and 2013. The bulk of this action was undertaken as part of routine data management procedures by the Service's predecessor organisation, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), to ensure compliance with data protection legislation. The disposal of the information was, however, in contravention of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ISA and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland and the Department of Education, Northern Ireland. The MoU was developed in preparation for the ISA taking over responsibility for barring services for Northern Ireland from March 2009, and specified that the files were on loan to the ISA and that information was not to be destroyed.

While it is extremely regrettable that these files have been destroyed I can, however, assure the House that the disposal of this information does not present a safeguarding risk to the public. Nevertheless in the interests of transparency I wanted to inform the House of this matter.

The DBS has conducted a comprehensive internal review to establish the number of files affected. In addition, the Home Office's Permanent Secretary instructed the DBS Board to commission an independent

review to establish how many files had been destroyed, and their content where known. Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) were commissioned to undertake this work and a copy of their report on the first phase of the review, including the DBS's management response, will be placed in the Library of the House today and published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

PwC's report confirms that in total 826 case files were loaned. 404 files related to individuals who had been previously barred; and 422 files related to individuals where the decision had been not to bar. It concludes that 64 files were destroyed: 62 by the ISA; and a further 2 files by the DBS. It also confirmed that some information in a further 18 files had been destroyed and a further 2 files remained unaccounted for. In all cases where the file had been destroyed, the authorities in Northern Ireland had made a barring decision before the files were loaned. In 62 cases the individual had not been barred, and in two cases the individual had been barred. The ISA reviewed these two barred cases and decided that the two individuals should not be transferred onto the new barred lists in line with revised legislation. All cases are reviewed by the DBS if new information comes to light. In the additional 18 files where some information had been destroyed, the DBS confirmed that the information destroyed was not material to the case.

The DBS is taking further steps to identify whether they can locate the remaining two files that are unaccounted for. In both these cases the authorities in Northern Ireland had made a barring decision prior to the loan of the files and neither person was barred. In one case where the original file was unaccounted for, further information came to light and, following normal procedures, the ISA made a determination and the individual was then barred.

In her statement of 12 March 2015 the Home Secretary made clear that the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, chaired by Justice Goddard, would have the full co-operation of Government and access to all relevant information. The Home Office has informed the Inquiry secretariat about this matter and the relevant Northern Ireland departments have informed the Hart Inquiry.

On announcing the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, the Home Secretary requested a moratorium on the destruction of material. Following this announcement the DBS revised its Data Retention policy to stipulate that information in any barring cases that identify sexual abuse should not be destroyed. Any further changes to this guidance will be approved by the Home Office. On 23 June the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse issued further guidance on the detail of what may or may not be destroyed across government and by other agencies. The DBS has assured the Home Office that the DBS will fully comply with the Inquiry guidance.

The second phase of PwC's review will look at wider file management processes and provide a view on the relevant application of, and compliance with, data retention policies. I will make a further statement to the House when PwC's review is completed.

I also wish to announce that the 2014-15 Annual Report and Accounts for the Disclosure and Barring Service (HC 309) is being laid before the House today and published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

### Equitable Life Payment Scheme

[HLWS131]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) made the following Written Ministerial Statement yesterday.

The Equitable Life Payment Scheme has issued payments of over £1.06bn to 902,000 policyholders as of 31 May 2015. With final tracing efforts now concluding, the Scheme is reaching the limit of how many policyholders it will be able to trace and pay. As announced in the Budget on 8 July, the Scheme will close to new claims on 31 December 2015. Payments to With-Profits annuitants are unaffected and will continue as planned for the duration of their annuity.

Before it closes, however, the Scheme will continue attempts to trace and pay eligible policyholders, including tracing policyholders through the Department of Work and Pensions due £50 or more. I would urge colleagues to make constituents aware that if any of them are holders of an Equitable Life policy and have not yet claimed a payment under the Scheme, they should contact the Scheme on 0300 0200 150 as soon as possible, quoting their policy number.

Despite these efforts, the Scheme expects that some policyholders will remain unpaid as of 31 December 2015. The Scheme will use money that would have been distributed to the untraced policyholders to double the amount of the lump sum payments of 22.4% of relative losses to policyholders on Pension Credit. Around 40,000 people are expected to benefit by an average of over £1,000, although actual payments will depend on the amount of an individual's relative loss.

In order to benefit from this payment, policyholders must be in receipt of Pension Credit. Policyholders are therefore urged to check whether they can make a claim for Pension Credit by calling the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234 or contacting a local advice centre as appropriate.

### Foreign Affairs Council: 20 July

[HLWS127]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, Minister for Europe (David Lidington), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will attend the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 July. The Foreign Affairs Council will be chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini.

### Foreign Affairs Council

#### Iran

Ministers will have an exchange of views on Iran and will consider what the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action means for future EU-Iran relations including the EU wider geopolitical approach, beyond sanctions. The Foreign Affairs Council is likely to welcome the Iran deal through Conclusions.

#### Tunisia

After the Bardo Museum terrorist attack in March, the EU and Member States agreed to intensify cooperation with Tunisia. Following the further terrorist attack at Sousse on 26 June – which resulted in the deaths of 30 British nationals – Tunisia's need for support is greater and more urgent than ever. The evolving security situation has meant the FCO is advising against all but essential travel to Tunisia. We have not taken this decision lightly but our first priority will always be the safety of our citizens. We believe it is essential to offer support both to Tunisia's economy and its security. The terrorist attacks have affected Tunisia's tourist industry, causing further damage to its economy. At the same time, regional inequalities and high unemployment (particularly among the youth) are fuelling dissatisfaction and extremism.

We will urge the EU to take steps urgently to support regionalisation, micro-financing and job creation (particularly for the youth in regions outside the North/West coastal regions). On security and counter-terrorism, we will urge the EU to support a package of CT and security measures to deepen our understanding of the threat, increase our options to disrupt it, support capacity-building in Tunisia, and ensure our response is fully coordinated with international partners. Helping the Tunisians deliver better security is the key priority, and will allow us to review our travel advice.

#### Middle East Peace Process

Ministers are expected to discuss what more the EU can do to support prospects for the Middle East Peace Process, including the situation in Gaza.

#### EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy

Ministers will discuss the proposed new EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2015 to 2019, with a view to its adoption by the Council.

#### Climate Change & Post-2015 Development Agenda

The FAC will discuss the outcomes of the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development due to take place 13-16 July, and look forward to the summit on the post-2015 development agenda in New York in September, and the Paris climate conference in December. The UK places high importance on working with developing countries on both these issues.

On the post-2015 development agenda, we believe that there should be a set of clear communications messages in the final outcome and that we, together with EU partners, should communicate the final set of sustainable



development goals the world over, encouraging all countries to start focusing on implementing the agenda.

On climate change, we welcome the coordinated EU diplomatic effort to demonstrate our climate leadership in support of a global low carbon transition and to those most vulnerable to climate risks. We continue to press for a global deal in Paris in December, with an ambitious set of emissions reductions contributions from all parties and a framework for future review which keep us on track to limiting global temperature rises to below 2°C.

#### *Mediterranean Migration*

We believe that the EU must continue to address the root causes of refugees and economic migrants crossing the Mediterranean and identify comprehensive solutions in those countries from which migrants originate and transit that will reduce the push factors, build stability, create livelihoods, and tackle the criminal gangs and smuggling networks. The UK is leading the way through alleviating poverty and working to stabilise countries of origin and transit. We are disrupting smuggling networks. We are tackling the perception that getting on a boat will lead to automatic entry into the EU. And we continue to work closely with EU and African partners.

## GCSEs and A-levels

[HLWS120]

**Lord Nash:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Schools (Nick Gibb) has today made the following statement:

Today I am launching a public consultation on revised subject content for seven GCSEs and five A levels which will be taught from 2017.

This represents an important step in the third phase of GCSE and A level reform. Our aims for GCSE and A level reform are unchanged. We are reforming GCSEs and A levels to be rigorous and more knowledge-based and to match the qualifications used in the best education systems in the world. The reforms aim to ensure that GCSEs are more academically demanding and will be qualifications in which students, employers, and further and higher education institutions can have confidence. At A level, our reforms aim to ensure that they prepare students for undergraduate study. A priority in the development process has therefore been to secure the views of subject experts, particularly university academics in the relevant subjects.

The subject content documents being published today set new expectations which all awarding organisations' specifications must meet. Awarding organisations have drafted content, working with Department for Education and Ofqual. An additional consultation will be published in the autumn with content for the remaining subjects to be taught from September 2017.

This consultation is an opportunity for teachers, further and higher education colleges, parents and students, industry and all those with an interest in these subjects to

provide their views and allow us to take them into account when redrafting the content for final publication.

#### *Summary of changes to subjects*

Astronomy GCSE has been reformed to ensure it has the same level of demand as the newly reformed GCSE science content. Demand has been increased by introducing new areas of knowledge and placing greater emphasis on students' use of mathematical skills.

The business GCSE content increases breadth and depth of knowledge, and introduces more focus on the overall purpose of business, on how the different parts of a business work together, and on how business decisions are made.

The new economics GCSE content has been significantly strengthened and focuses clearly on economics as a social science, with additional depth added such as requiring students to understand movements along, and shifts in, supply and demand curves, and with more demanding mathematical requirements.

The engineering GCSE has an increased level of demand with a greater emphasis on systems-related content, a detailed section on testing and investigation, and new and more demanding mathematics.

Environmental science A level has been brought in line with other reformed science A levels, and requires greater scientific knowledge, understanding and skills.

The new geology GCSE content requires students to study a greater number of minerals, rock types and fossil groups, and there is new content on planetary geology.

History of art AS and A level content will ensure students study a wide range of art and artists from different movements and periods including pre- and post-1850.

Music technology AS and A level content is focused on the knowledge and skills which relate solely to music technology, with the content that overlapped with music A level removed. As a consequence the qualification now includes more technical, scientific and mathematical content.

Philosophy AS and A level content will enable students to gain a thorough grounding in key philosophical questions and concepts, including through critically engaging with ideas and reading and understanding the work of key philosophers and thinkers.

Psychology GCSE content will require all students to study in more breadth and depth the five core areas of psychology (social, cognitive, biological, developmental and individual differences), including key theories. All students will also be required to develop a strong understanding of research methods including quantitative analysis.

Sociology GCSE content has been updated to reflect the new, more demanding A level, with additional sections on the sociological approach and with students now required to know and understand the ideas of key sociological theorists.



As with the reform of the GCSE, the Department has developed subject content for design and technology A level. The A level retains a specialist focus with students able to study engineering, product design, or fashion design and development. All students will be required to study the core content of design processes that are at the core of contemporary design practice, and the technical principles needed to choose the right solution to address the design need.

## Government Wine Cellar

[HLWS126]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Tobias Ellwood), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

I have today placed a copy of the Annual Statement on the Government Wine Cellar for the Financial Year 2014-15 in the Libraries of both Houses.

Following the outcome of the review of the Government Hospitality Wine Cellar in 2011, this fourth Annual Statement continues our commitment to annual statements to Parliament on the use of the Wine Cellar, covering consumption, stock purchases, costs, and value for money. The wine cellar has been self-funding since 2011/12, through the sale of some high-value stock and payments made by other Government departments for events organised by Government Hospitality. The report notes that:

- Sales of stock amounted to £71,050 (cf. £56,000 in FY 13/14);
- Further funds from other government departments added £21,514 to the overall receipts (cf. £16,762 in 13/14);
- Purchases amounted to £70,432 (cf. £50,054 in 13/14);
- The highest consumption level by volume was of English and Welsh wine, at 44% of the total (cf. 48% in 13/14);
- Consumption rose in 2014/15 by around 15% due to the significant number of major international conferences and meetings (eg NATO Summit, Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict Summit).

## HM Courts and Tribunals Service

[HLWS108]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for the Courts and Legal Aid (Shailesh Vara) has made the following Written Statement.

"On 23 June 2015 the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice announced his intention to work with the judiciary to reform the courts and tribunals in England and Wales. Reform will bring quicker and fairer access to justice and create a justice system that reflects the way people use services today.

Progress towards a modernised service is already being made. Wi-Fi and digital screens have been introduced into many court buildings and a digital case management system for the administration of criminal cases is well underway.

This is encouraging progress, but more needs to be done. There is a broad consensus that the current system is unsustainable and that we have an opportunity to create a modern, more user-focused and efficient service.

Increased use of technology such as video, telephone and online conferencing will help drive these improvements. Straightforward, transactional matters, such as paying a fine and obtaining probate can be dealt with using digital technology to make the processes as straightforward as filing a tax return. Many straightforward cases do not need face to face hearings which should be reserved for the most sensitive or complex cases.

We can only provide better access to justice if we take difficult decisions to reduce the cost of our estate and reinvest the savings. As the Secretary of State told Parliament on 23 June, this means "a significant number of additional courts will have to close".

I am today announcing a consultation on the closure of 91 courts and tribunals in England and Wales. I am also announcing the integration of 31 courts and tribunals in England and Wales.

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service operates 460 courts and tribunal hearing centres across England and Wales. The estate costs taxpayers around half a billion pounds each year, and at present, it is underused. Last year over a third of all courts and tribunals were empty for more than fifty per cent of their available hearing time.

Today's consultation puts forward proposals that aim to reduce this surplus capacity. The buildings being consulted on represent 16% of hearing rooms across the estate which are, on average, used for only a third of their available time. That is equivalent to fewer than 2 out of 5 days in a week.

The majority of these courts are not used for at least two thirds of their available time, and one in three are not used three quarters of the time.

Attending court is rare for most people. It will still be the case that, after these changes, over 95% of citizens will be able to reach their required court within an hour by car. This represents a change of just 1 percentage point for Crown and magistrates' courts and 2 percentage points for County Courts. The proportion of citizens able to reach a tribunal within an hour by car will remain unchanged at 83%.

To ensure that access to justice is maintained, even in more rural locations, we are committed to providing alternative ways for users to access our services. That can mean using civic and other public buildings, such as town halls, for hearings instead of underused, poorly-maintained permanent courts.

We are reforming the courts and tribunal service so that it meets the needs of modern day users.

As we bring in digital technology for better and more efficient access to justice, fewer people will need to physically be in a court.

This means that we will need fewer buildings, and with many already underused and in poor quality, now is a good time to review the estate.

The consultation will begin on Thursday 16 July and run for 12 weeks. A response to consultation will be published following proper consideration of all views submitted.

A copy of the consultation will be placed in the Libraries of both houses."

## Independent Police Complaints Commission

[HLWS101]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice and Victims (Mike Penning) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am pleased to announce that today my hon Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury and I are publishing the annual report of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) (HC 286). Copies of the report have been laid before the House and will be available in the Vote Office.

This is the eleventh Annual Report from the IPCC, covering their work during 2014/15. In this period the IPCC have made significant progress as they expand towards taking on all serious and sensitive cases by 2017. They have taken on more staff, restructured their operational work and have more than doubled the number of independent investigations taken on. At the same time they have eliminated their appeals backlog and closed more investigations than in any previous year. Progress continues to be made on the Hillsborough investigations and the IPCC are working towards increasing public confidence having developed their oversight and confidence strategy and responded to the Government's consultation on police discipline and complaints.

As well as covering the police, the Annual Report also includes a section on the discharge of their responsibilities in respect of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

## Individual Electoral Registration

[HLWS113]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My Honourable friend the Minister for Constitutional Reform (John Penrose) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am today laying before Parliament the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (Transitional Provisions) Order 2015, which will end the transition to Individual Electoral Registration (IER) in December 2015.

The Electoral Commission has recommended that the transition to IER should end in December 2016. The Government is concerned that by retaining "carry forward" electors (those who have not yet registered under the new system of Individual Electoral Registration) beyond December this year, this will pose an unacceptable risk to the accuracy of the register. Since the registers published by 1 December 2015 will be used for the Parliamentary Boundary Review and then the elections in May 2016, retaining carry forward electors risks having an unknown number of redundant entries on the registers, which would distort the results of the Boundary Review, increase the risk of electoral fraud, and potentially compromise the integrity of those elections.

The Government does not agree that we should be making a choice between completeness and accuracy, given the importance of both elements in delivering a fair democratic system which commands the confidence and respect of voters. We need to be more ambitious. We can and should aim to achieve both, which is why the Government believes it is crucial that the registers used to conduct the Parliamentary boundary review and for next year's elections are as complete and as accurate as they can possibly be.

The remaining "carry-forward" group of electors is already only a third of its original size and by December they will have been contacted at least 9 times to encourage them to register individually. In addition to this, I am pleased to announce that up to £3 million of additional funding is being made available for all Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain to target their non IER registered carry forward electors.

This funding will be targeted primarily at those authorities which have more than five per cent of their register consisting of carry forward electors. All authorities however will be entitled to bid for funding, if they feel they need to take additional steps to target this group of electors.

## Information Commissioner

[HLWS132]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Human Rights (Dominic Raab) has made the following Written Statement.

"On Tuesday 25 November 2014 the Triennial Review of the Information Commissioner's Office was announced in Parliament. The Review was publicised on my Department's website and stakeholders were invited to contribute through a Call for Evidence. I am grateful to all who contributed to the Triennial Review. I wish to inform the House that it will not be ready for publication before recess but ministers will write to the Select Committee when it is published. It will also be available online and placed in the libraries of both Houses."

## International Justice

[HLWS110]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Philip Hammond), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

I am pleased to provide Parliament with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual statement of Government support for the principles and institutions of international justice in 2014/15 and our plans for the year ahead. Tomorrow marks International Justice Day, a good moment to take stock of the UK's contribution to this crucial area of work.

International justice is central to the UK's foreign policy. It is essential that perpetrators of atrocities are held to account for their actions, and that victims see justice done. International justice does not stop with punishing the perpetrators - it goes further by helping victims of atrocities and their communities to come to terms with the past, starting the healing process and deterring those who might otherwise commit such violations in the future.

In 2014 we showed our commitment to international justice by contributing £8.2m to the International Criminal Court, £3.2m to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, £1.5m to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and £2m to the Residual Mechanism which will take on the essential functions of the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda tribunals when they close. Furthermore, in financial year 2014-15 we made voluntary contributions of £1m to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and contributed to the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL). The UK also continues to provide support for the RSCSL through our enforcement of the sentence of Charles Taylor.

UK support for international justice is a key element of our ongoing work to end sexual violence in conflict through the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative. We will continue to promote stronger national and international accountability, including through advocacy and training to improve investigation of these crimes using the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict. We welcome the recently published policy by the ICC Prosecutor on Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes and will support the Prosecutor's office in implementing it fully.

The continued work of the International Criminal Court and the international tribunals to tackle impunity for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity helps to strengthen the rules based international system and makes a contribution towards building a safer more secure world. For example, in January 2015 Dominic Ongwen, a senior Commander in the Lord's Resistance Army, appeared before the International Criminal Court. This in itself was a major achievement for international efforts to end impunity for the actions of the Lord's Resistance

Army, and for the victims of the Lord's Resistance Army's crimes in Uganda. In March 2015, the International Criminal Court issued its judgment on reparations for the victims of Democratic Republic of the Congo warlord Thomas Lubanga. This was the first final judgment including provisions for compensation for the victims.

This coming year will see further progress in international justice. The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court is currently investigating nine situations. The Court has ongoing proceedings against 21 individuals and 12 fugitives who remain at large. The trial of the former Cote d'Ivoire President Laurent Gbagbo will start. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is expected to deliver a verdict in the Radovan Karadzic trial. The formal closure of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is due to happen in the autumn with all its remaining functions transferring to the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals. The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia is now in the second phase of a trial dealing with crimes of genocide, forced marriage, and rape, having delivered in 2014 a verdict in the first phase of the trial of the most senior surviving members of the Khmer Rouge. And the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone will continue to uphold the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The UK values these institutions and the way in which their activities strengthen international support for the principles of international justice, accountability for crimes, and an end to impunity. We will continue to support these institutions over the next 12 months. We will continue to encourage other States to support these courts and tribunals and to fulfil their legal obligations. We will continue to ensure they deliver value for money by scrutinising budgets and making sure they make the best use of available resources.

This is the third annual update to Parliament on the FCO's work to support international justice.

## Iraq and Syria

[HLWS118]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The House may welcome an update on the military campaign against ISIL in Iraq and Syria.

ISIL presents a direct threat to the UK and to UK interests and the Government has been playing a key role in the Global Counter-ISIL Coalition since its formation last year. The military effort is only one element of the wider Coalition campaign to halt, degrade and defeat ISIL and its violent ideology through political, diplomatic and military means. In military terms, we have always recognized that the campaign would be a long one. While ISIL has recently had some tactical successes in Iraq and Syria, it has also lost significant ground, most recently in northern Syria. Its progress has been broadly halted and it

is beginning to be rolled back. In Iraq, it has lost some 25% of the territory it held after its advance last summer.

The Coalition air campaign has been vital in providing support to those fighting ISIL on the ground and in degrading ISIL's military capabilities. As part of that campaign, RAF Tornado and Reaper aircraft have now flown over 1000 missions and UK Tornado, Reaper, Airseeker and Sentinel aircraft have contributed sophisticated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities to the Coalition to find and strike ISIL. The UK is currently, the only coalition nation conducting manned ISR over Syria and, with the increasing requirement for intelligence understanding across a broad geographic region in Iraq and Syria, we have also taken steps to increase the efficiency of the Coalition ISR effort through collaborative force management and sharing arrangements with the US for Reaper and Airseeker. As US systems, these two types are particularly suitable for such cooperation.

Since the outset of the air campaign, we have provided to Parliament a range of information on UK air activity, including on the number of strikes carried out by our aircraft based on UK methodology. As the campaign has progressed, we have had better visibility and understanding of the method used by the Coalition to calculate total strike numbers which differs from the method used by the UK. I have concluded that it would be preferable in future to use Coalition produced numbers for UK strikes. For transparency, the table below shows the number of strikes carried out to date by both methods. This will result in an apparent reduction in the total number of UK strikes but does not represent a material change in the substantial contribution that the UK has, and continues to make to the counter-ISIL Global Coalition air campaign. This includes some 30% of the total airborne intelligence effort, reflecting the crucial importance to the Coalition of the UK contribution in this field.

The wider Coalition military strategy also relies on working with local land forces to build their capability and capacity to help them combat ISIL more effectively on the ground. The Coalition has been training Iraqi security forces at four and now five locations. This is a long term effort but, as part of this work, the UK has now trained over 1600 personnel. The decision to expand our presence in Iraq by a further 125 UK personnel (which will bring total UK forces in Iraq to over 275) will enable us to bring this training to further Coalition training sites across Iraq, and will particularly help the Iraqi security forces to combat improvised explosive devices which form the most pernicious threat they face as they combat ISIL. The UK is also participating in a programme with US and regional partners to train the New Syrian Forces in regional training centres outside Syria. This nascent programme will take time to bear fruit but demonstrates our willingness to give direct support to members of the armed moderate opposition who show themselves capable and committed to fighting ISIL.

*OP Shader: UK Strike Numbers*

	<i>Monthly Strikes - UK Method</i>	<i>Cumulative Total - UK Method</i>	<i>Monthly Strikes - Coalition Method</i>	<i>Cumulative Total - Coalition Method</i>
September -2014	2	2	2	2
October -2014	15	17	8	10
November -2014	40	57	26	36
December -2014	33	90	26	62
January -2015	46	136	28	90
February -2015	24	160	19	109
March -2015	42	202	29	138
April -2015	34	236	26	164
May -2015	37	273	34	198
June -2015	30	308	28	226

### Judicial Conduct Investigations Office

[HLWS124]

**Lord Faulks:** My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Michael Gove) has made the following Written Statement.

"With the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice, I will today publish the second Annual Report of the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (JCIO). The JCIO provides support to the Lord Chief Justice and myself in our joint responsibility for the system of judicial complaints and discipline.

Over the past year the JCIO received 2432 complaints and 613 written enquiries, with 75 complaints resulting in disciplinary action. A first substantive response was provided within 15 working days in 98% of all cases and regular monthly updates given to all parties in 97% of cases.

Copies of the report are available in the libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies of the Report are also available on the Internet at

<http://judicialcomplaints.judiciary.gov.uk/publications.htm>."

### Justice and Home Affairs Council

[HLWS130]

**Lord Faulks:** My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has made the following written statement.



“An informal meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council took place on 9 and 10 July in Luxembourg. I attended on the Interior Day (9 July), and the UK was represented by senior officials on the Justice Day (10 July). The following items were discussed.

The Interior Day began with a discussion on counter terrorism, including a minute’s silence in memory of the victims of the recent attacks in Tunisia and France.

Member States highlighted the serious and diverse nature of the terrorist threat and the role of social media and technology. One Member State called for greater exchange of counter terrorist intelligence at EU rather than national level. Most, however, emphasised the national rather than EU nature of intelligence sharing in this area. A number of Member States also called on the European Parliament to make progress on the Passenger Name Records (PNR) Directive.

I spoke of the recent cowardly attack in Tunisia, the need for Member States to help that country and the importance of the EU providing funding to assist with that effort. I stressed that national security is a matter solely for Member States. I also called on Member States to engage with their MEPs ahead of the European Parliament vote on the PNR Directive.

The meeting then received a number of presentations on cyber security and terrorism. The Commission highlighted the role of Europol and the importance of public-private partnerships. It also stressed the work it was doing at EU level to protect critical national infrastructure.

The informal Council then moved on to migration issues. The Presidency announced that Member States (together with participants in the Schengen system who are not EU members) had agreed to resettle approximately 20,000 refugees from outside the EU, following the Commission’s recent recommendation.

I explained that the UK expects to resettle approximately 2,200 people in need of international protection over the next two years, and that this includes a modest expansion of our Syria Vulnerable Persons Scheme. I emphasised that the actual number would be needs-based rather than target-driven, and that we would decide for ourselves how many people to resettle. The UK will not participate in any European resettlement scheme or in any EU quota system for resettlement.

Discussions then took place on implementing the June European Council’s decision to relocate 40,000 migrants from Italy and Greece to other Member States on a voluntary basis. These discussions will resume at a special JHA Council meeting in Brussels on 20 July. The UK will not participate in this relocation scheme.

In the migration discussions, I highlighted the need for a holistic approach to the situation which avoided creating additional pull factors. I also emphasised the UK’s support for the Europol JOT-MARE Regional Task Force to tackle the migrant smugglers and traffickers.

Justice Day began with a discussion of the draft Directive on the Protection of the Union’s Financial

Interests under Criminal Law (“PIF Directive”). The Presidency sought Member States’ views on whether fraud affecting VAT should be included within the scope either of the Directive or of the proposed European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO). This issue has led to stalemate in negotiations between the Council and European Parliament.

The overwhelming majority of Member States opposed the inclusion of VAT in the scope of the PIF Directive, though some were willing to explore including it within the proposed EPPO. The UK opposed its inclusion in either measure, while making it clear that we will not participate in any EPPO.

Discussion then moved to the proposed EPPO itself. The Presidency sought Member States’ views on the authorisations that should be required from national Courts before the EPPO can commence cross-border investigations, and the competence of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) to rule on the EPPO’s procedural acts. The majority of participating Member States agreed that authorisation from the Courts in one Member State should be sufficient for cross-border investigations, and that the ECJ should have some limited jurisdiction over the proposed EPPO.

This was followed by discussion on the Brussels IIa Regulation on conflict of law issues in family law, where the Presidency invited Member States to comment on priorities for the Commission’s forthcoming proposals. The Presidency proposed that the revision should focus on the aspects of the Regulation relating to children, and should cover the free circulation of judgments, the procedure for an effective and swift return of abducted children, and cooperation between central authorities. The Commission, the European Parliament and the Fundamental Rights Agency highlighted the importance of this measure, particularly in the protection of vulnerable children.

While there was overwhelming support for the revision of the Regulation, including the proposed areas of focus, there was no consensus on the abolition of the process by which judgments or orders from one Member State are declared enforceable in another (the exequatur procedure). It was agreed by all that the best interests of the child must be paramount in decisions on return, and Member States supported better cooperation between central authorities. The UK highlighted the need to respect different legal systems, and the importance of safeguards in any revision. The UK also highlighted that improvements could be made in relation to divorce proceedings. The Presidency concluded that the discussion had shown the usefulness of Brussels IIa and that the revision should provide more legal certainty, with the interests of the child at the centre.

Under Any Other Business, the Commission set out its intentions on handling infringement proceedings in respect of EU legislation on judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The Commission noted that many instruments were still not fully transposed or the information submitted by Member States was incomplete.



It would therefore be proactive in taking further action in the autumn, including with pilot cases for non-notification and non-compliance.”

### Ministerial Correction

[HLWS102]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In the ‘Iran: Nuclear Deal’ statement of Wednesday 15 July (HL Deb, col 587) I mistakenly told the noble Lady, Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, that the ‘Road Map for the Clarification of Past and Present Outstanding Issues Regarding Iran’s Nuclear Program’ was not available publically. This is incorrect. The International Atomic Energy Agency published the document at <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-director-generals-statement-and-road-map-clarification-past-present-outstanding-issues-regarding-irans-nuclear-program>.

I am placing a copy in the Library of the House.

### NHS Leadership

[HLWS103]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My Rt hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Jeremy Hunt) has made the following written ministerial statement.

I have published today “Learning not blaming” (CM9113), which sets out the Government’s position on the Freedom to Speak Up Consultation, the Public Administration Select Committee report ‘Investigating Clinical Incidents in the NHS’, and Dr Bill Kirkup’s independent report on the Morecambe Bay Investigation; and, in a separate document, Lord Rose’s report on NHS leadership.

The three reports cover distinct areas, and the accompanying document addresses the points and recommendations raised in each report. The ‘Freedom to Speak Up’ review by Sir Robert Francis QC, focused on whistleblowing; the Public Administration Select Committee report ‘Investigating Clinical Incidents in the NHS’; and, the investigation into University Hospitals Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, conducted by Dr Bill Kirkup CBE. There are, however, some themes common to each report, including the importance of:

- openness, honesty and candour;
- listening to patients, families and staff;
- finding and facing the truth;
- learning from errors and failures in care;
- people and professionalism.

In considering points made in these reports, the Government have been guided by the need to build on the work we and the NHS have done in recent years to improve the way in which the NHS treats patients and families, by developing capabilities locally to respond to patients’ and families’ concerns and to exercise proper oversight of care quality.

In recognition of this, the NHS’s own Five Year Forward View emphasises the need for care to be both safe and sustainable over the long term. For each of the reports, we therefore propose specific actions to address the immediate issues they raise, and in doing so make clear that the NHS must develop an improved approach to patient safety and complaints. Our response therefore sets out a strong expectation that we want nothing less than a renewed culture that values learning, not blaming; compassion, not defensiveness; and putting patients and families before systems and institutions.

In summary, we will:

- put in place Freedom to Speak Up Guardians in each Trust to build up capability and capacity locally, at the frontline of service provision;
- ensure that every local NHS provider provides training in raising and listening to concerns;
- remove the Nursing and Midwifery Council’s current responsibility and accountability for statutory supervision of midwives in the United Kingdom. (The NMC will of course remain responsible for the regulation of midwifery, but the supervision of midwives will be brought into line with the arrangements for other clinical professions);
- review the Professional Codes of doctors, nurses and midwives and ensure that the right incentives are in place to encourage people to report openly, and to learn from mistakes;
- set up a new patient safety investigation function to be fully operational from 1 April 2016 – the Independent Patient Safety Investigation Service. An Expert Advisory Group will convene shortly in order to develop the structure, governance and operating model of this new service.

#### *Freedom to Speak Up*

The Government has consulted on a package of measures to implement the principles and actions set out in Sir Robert Francis QC’s report. In light of the consultation responses, I can now announce that the role of Independent National Officer will be hosted by the Care Quality Commission, who intend to have them in place by December 2015. I can also announce that Freedom to Speak Up Guardians will be appointed in all NHS Trusts, to build up capability and capacity locally, at the frontline of service provision, following guidance published by the Independent National Officer.

Robert’s report also called for training on raising and hearing concerns in every local NHS provider organisation. The relevant national bodies will now be working on a package that would include the following content:

- the inclusion of content on raising concerns in induction training for all staff;
- the inclusion of good practice regarding the raising of concerns for healthcare professionals as part of their professional codes, followed up through continuing professional development;

- the regular use of reflective practice, through for example team meetings or Schwartz rounds, to review particular examples when concerns have been raised or not raised and how this might be improved in future;
- the inclusion of content on raising concerns in other specific packages of training that NHS workers are expected to undertake or which NHS employers have included in annual training priorities; and
- the inclusion of content on raising concerns in initial education and training undertaken by those learning to become healthcare professionals. This is already being considered and developed by Health Education England.

#### *Morecambe Bay Investigation*

The Government have accepted all of the recommendations of this report.

The recommendation for an Independent Patient Safety Investigation Service is explained in more detail in our response to the Public Administration Select Committee report.

We will use secondary legislation to remove the Nursing and Midwifery Council's current responsibility and accountability for statutory supervision of midwives in the United Kingdom. The NMC will of course remain responsible for the regulation of midwifery, but the supervision of midwives will be brought into line with the arrangements for other clinical professions. This will improve the local oversight and accountability for midwifery. Existing arrangements will remain in place until alternative arrangements are introduced.

In addition, I have asked Professor Sir Bruce Keogh to review the Professional Codes for all regulated staff in the NHS and to ensure that the right incentives are in place to encourage reporting and learning from mistakes, and prevent covering up.

In response to recommendations 25 and 42 in the Report, I am proposing to review the regulations that set out statutory requirements for notifications to the Care Quality Commission and Monitor during 2015-16 with the intention of addressing Dr Kirkup's recommendation that Trust boards should openly report the findings of any reviews of care to relevant external bodies. We would also like to extend this to the commissioning of any such reviews. We will consult on any changes.

In response to recommendation 20, NHS England has established a national review of maternity services, independently chaired by Baroness Cumberlege. It is anticipated that the Review will publish proposals on safe and efficient models of maternity care at the end of the year. The review will pay particular attention to the challenges of achieving this objective in more geographically isolated areas.

#### *Public Administration Select Committee report*

We accept the recommendations of this report.

Our response sets out the Government's decision to set up a new Independent Patient Safety Investigation Service, to be operational from 1 April 2016. IPSIS will

operate independently and it will be brought under the single leadership of Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority.

We have also set up an Expert Advisory Group to advise on the scope, governance and operating model of this new service. The membership of this Group includes:

- Dr Mike Durkin, National Director for Patient Safety
- Keith Conradi, Chief Inspector of the Air Accidents Investigations Branch
- James Titcombe OBE, Morecambe Bay campaigner and currently working as a patient safety adviser to CQC
- Prof Jonathan Montgomery, Professor of Healthcare Law at University College London
- Julian Brookes, advisor on clinical governance for the Morecambe Bay Investigation, deputy chief operating officer Public Health England
- Carl Macrae, Independent Quality Improvement Expert
- Prof Martin Marshall CBE, Professor of Healthcare Improvement at University College London
- Dame Eileen Sills DBE, Chief Nurse and Director of Patient Experience, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust
- Dr Bill Kirkup CBE, Chairman of the Morecambe Bay Investigation
- Kate Lampard CBE, barrister and NHS strategic health authority chairman who provided oversight on the NHS's Savile investigations.

PASC also recommended that, "draft legislation should be published for scrutiny early in the next Parliament" as part of the establishment of this new function. We will ask the expert group to consider whether the work of the Independent Patient Safety Investigation Service would benefit from having any legal powers to fulfil its duties effectively.

I am confident that the new service will help to transform the state of patient safety.

#### *Rose*

I have today also published the report of Lord Rose's review of National Health Service (NHS) Leadership, "Better leadership for tomorrow". A copy is attached. This is an important report making recommendations for the creation of a single NHS vision, improving training, performance management, reducing bureaucracy and improving management support.

I asked Lord Rose early in 2014 to consider what might be done to attract and develop talent from inside and outside the health sector into leading positions in the NHS and to recommend how strong leadership in hospital Trusts might help transform the way things get done. Following the publication of the NHS's Five Year Forward View, I requested him to extend his remit to

consider how best to equip Clinical Commissioning Groups to deliver the vision outlined within that report.

I welcome Lord Rose's report and his nineteen recommendations, all of which I have accepted in principle.

I am announcing today that the Government accepts fully the recommendation to transfer responsibility for the NHS Leadership Academy from NHS England to Health Education England (HEE).

The Government also accepts the need to do more to manage talent in the NHS and I can announce today that talent management for our brightest and best will become a formal responsibility for the single leadership of Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority.

My Department will work with the Health and Care system to develop plans to implement each of the other recommendations to the extent possible, subject to an assessment of proportionality, cost-effectiveness and affordability.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Better Leadership for Tomorrow, Lord Rose [Better Leadership for Tomorrow Lord Rose NHS Report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-16/HLWS103/>

## NHS Remuneration: Doctors and Dentists

[HLWS128]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My Rt hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Jeremy Hunt) has made the following written ministerial statement.

I am responding on behalf of my Rt hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the Seven Day Services Reports of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) and the NHS Pay Review Body (NHSPRB). The reports have been laid before Parliament (CM9107 and CM9108). Copies of the reports are available to hon Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

This Government is committed to creating a seven day health service fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with patients receiving the hospital care they need seven days a week by 2020. Patients expect and should receive high quality, safe care every single day. It is simply wrong that mortality rates are higher for patients admitted to hospital at the weekend than during the week. 6,000 lives are lost needlessly, each year, as a result, making this manifesto commitment a clinical priority and a moral cause.

Last year, I asked the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (DDRB) and the NHS Pay Review Body (NHS PRB) for their observations on how contract reform for directly employed NHS staff in England might be required to support the delivery of seven day services.

The DDRB was asked to make observations on proposals for reforming the consultant contract to better facilitate the delivery of health care services seven days a week, taking account of proposals for pay progression to be linked to responsibility and patient care, and for reforming clinical excellence awards. It was also asked to make recommendations on a new contract for doctors and dentists in training, including a new system of pay progression.

Similarly, the NHS PRB was asked to make observations on the barriers and enablers of seven day services within national employment contracts for staff employed under the Agenda for Change pay framework (AfC which applies to non-medical staff), with particular reference to the impact of premium pay rates for working unsocial hours, incremental pay progression and any transitional arrangements.

I am grateful to the Chairs and members of the review bodies for producing these reports.

### *The case for seven day services*

I am pleased that all those who responded to the PRBs' calls for evidence accept the compelling case and support the vision for seven day services with its primary aim of putting patients first and reducing mortality rates at the weekends.

How seven day services are delivered on the ground must be informed by the clinical needs of local communities; one size cannot fit all. Some Trusts are already delivering services across seven days as the PRBs observed, but this is by no means universal. The DDRB said "We also investigated the position in healthcare systems elsewhere in the world and it is our understanding that outside of accident and emergency services most international public healthcare systems are not providing a comprehensive twenty-four hour, seven-day service. We therefore conclude that the proposed new NHS arrangements would be trailblazing within healthcare systems."

The NHS PRB concluded that the Agenda for Change pay system was not a barrier to the delivery of seven day services and that more work should be undertaken to understand in more detail how services might be delivered in the future, the workforce implications and transitional arrangements. They also observed that the right of consultants to opt out of non-emergency work in the evenings and at weekends is a contractual barrier to the delivery of seven day services and the DDRB also observed that "the role of consultant presence at weekends to make a difference to patient outcomes is accepted". It was noted that this is a contractual protection which is enjoyed by no other NHS professionals or by any other areas of the public sector workforce. DDRB said "In our view, the current 'opt-out' clause in the consultant contract is not an appropriate provision in an NHS which aspires to continue to improve patient care with genuinely seven-day services, and on

that basis, we endorse the case for its removal from the contract.”

*The PRBs' views on the proposals*

The independent DDRB concluded that the key principles proposed by the Government and NHS Employers are reasonable – to improve patient outcomes across the week and to reward greater responsibility and professional competence. They acknowledged the case for changing the contract for doctors and dentists in training (juniors) and concluded that the proposals made are fair, and that removal of the consultant opt-out clause is “an opportunity to smooth the transition between the junior doctor grade, which is routinely rostered for weekend working, and the consultant grade, which can choose whether to be rostered or not.” They found that the core principles for reforming the consultant contract look right; that the proposals should be viewed as a total package of reform across the two contracts; and that there is scope for progressing some elements of consultant reform at different speeds, including early removal of the consultant opt-out. The DDRB endorsed changes to the antiquated approach for time served mainly annual incremental progression in both contracts.

I am particularly pleased that the NHS PRB agreed that contract reform should work for staff *and* patients and that any reform of the system of premium pay for working unsocial hours should not be done in isolation, but part of a wider package of reform.

The NHS PRB observed that premium pay rates may not be out of line with comparator industries, but that there is a case for some adjustment to unsocial hours pay, for example, extending plain time working further into the evenings (from 7/8pm currently to 10pm) and noted the move, in some sectors, to plain time working on Saturdays. The DDRB suggested that the night window for juniors and consultants should start at 10pm.

The DDRB supported the proposed approach to the pay package for juniors; whilst it noted that the rates for unsocial hours and other elements were for the parties to agree, it also noted that total pay for juniors compares favourably with comparator groups and that, given the cost-neutral pre-condition for negotiations, that position will continue. It acknowledged the proposal to undertake further modelling on unsocial hours rates for consultants, whilst noting that some other professionals working across seven days do not receive any such payments but are expected to work any necessary additional hours as part of professional salary arrangements.

The DDRB recommended a common definition should be applied across all NHS groups, or a rationale for not doing so should be provided. The NHSPRB recommended that this be considered as part of a wider review of AfC, including reform of incremental pay progression so that there is a much stronger link between pay and performance.

We agree with the DDRB that contractual safeguards are necessary. These formed a core part of the proposals for consultants and juniors.

Supported by good staff engagement strategies, it is the overall employment offer, not just pay, that helps the NHS to attract and keep the staff it needs.

The DDRB also said “We support the continuation of national CEAs, and given the separation of local CEAs (to be reformed as performance pay, or payments for excellence), that the value of national CEAs will need further consideration”.

*Next steps*

Given the priority placed on seven day services by medical leaders and patient groups, I was hugely disappointed that the BMA union walked away from negotiations at such a late stage last October when proposals had been developed. The DDRB has stated that its recommendations and observations “provide a roadmap on what could and should be achievable in the interests of everyone with a true stake in the NHS”. We have lost a year in which we could have been moving towards changes that are in the interests of patients, doctors and the NHS. We cannot afford any more delays.

That is why I am now asking the British Medical Association (BMA) to engage with us rapidly over the summer and to tell me, by mid-September, whether they will work with us, without delay, to introduce modernised professional contracts for engagement and for training, focused on outcomes, on the basis of the recommendations and observations in DDRB’s report.

Whilst we remain prepared to discuss a staged approach to changes for consultants, as recommended by the DDRB, we would be seeking immediate removal of the consultant opt-out, early implementation of new terms for new consultants from April 2016 (moving existing consultants across by 2017) and the introduction of a new juniors’ contract from the August 2016 intake. We will also introduce a new performance pay scheme, replacing the outdated local clinical excellence awards so that we reward those doctors who are making the greatest contribution to patient care – the DDRB recommends that these be termed ‘awards for achieving excellence’. I will consult on removal of the current local scheme in the autumn, alongside proposals for a reformed National Clinical Excellence Award Scheme based on the recommendations previously made by the DDRB. We will be mindful of the importance of recognising those doctors who have national leadership roles in the NHS and the substantial contribution made by clinical academics.

The case for change, in the interests of all, is made. We would prefer to agree changes in partnership, as recommended by the DDRB and acknowledging its observation of the need to build mutual trust and confidence; but we will take forward change, in the absence of a negotiated agreement.

The NHSPRB said that the areas of agreement between the parties “should provide a positive basis for future discussions and progress on the expansion of seven-day services”. I welcomed the agreement of the NHS Trade Unions earlier in the year to enter into talks on contract

reform. The NHS Trade Unions have already agreed to a timetable seeing change beginning to be implemented from April 2016. I am now inviting the AfC trades unions to enter into formal negotiations with NHS Employers, to that timetable, to agree a balanced package of affordable proposals for reform.

These reforms need to enable trusts to recruit, retain and motivate the staff they need to deliver high quality safe care over seven days. All trusts must make the very best use of their pay bill, making every penny work for patients. I know most trusts prefer to use national pay frameworks provided they are affordable and fit for purpose. I recognise that, if national contracts cannot be reformed, it is likely that employers will feel that they need to use the employment freedoms they already have to take contract change forward.

In addition, my Rt hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has made clear in the budget that the government will continue to examine pay reforms and modernise the terms and conditions of public sector workers. This will include a renewed focus on reforming progression pay, and considering legislation where necessary to achieve the government's objectives.

I therefore want these negotiations to build on the 2013 agreement on AfC pay progression and remove virtually automatic annual incremental progression from the NHS pay system (as is also proposed for consultants and junior doctors). Pay progression must be related to performance rather than time in the job and those who make the greatest contribution should see that rewarded in the pay system.

## Police Remuneration

[HLWS106]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The first report of the Police Remuneration Review Body was published today. In line with my letter setting the Body's remit, it has made recommendations on pay and allowances for police officers up to and including the rank of Chief Superintendent in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition, the first Supplement to the 2015 Report of the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) making recommendations on the pay of chief police officers has also been published today. I have considered the recommendations of both reports insofar as they relate to police officers in England and Wales.

I have accepted in full the recommendations of the PRRB. I have also accepted the main recommendations of the SSRB. These will be implemented with effect from 1 September 2015 as follows:

- a one per cent increase to base pay for all ranks.
- a one per cent increase to the London Weighting payment.
- a one per cent increase to the Dog Handlers' Allowance.

The proposals are consistent with necessary pay restraint, targeting increases within a 1% average award, balanced with the need to recruit and retain the very best officers.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of both Review Bodies for their work on these reports. I am grateful for their observations about the longer term view of police pay and we will continue to work with both bodies and with other partners to ensure that the evidence base is as clear as possible.

The Police Remuneration Review Body report (Cm 9085) and the Supplement to the Senior Salaries Review Body report (Cm 9080) have both been laid before the House and copies are available in the Vote Office. The reports are also available to view on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).

## Prison Communications Inquiry

[HLWS107]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Prisons, Probation and Rehabilitation (Andrew Selous) has made the following Written Statement.

"On 11 November 2014, the previous Justice Secretary made a statement about the apparent recording and monitoring of confidential communications between a prisoner and their Member of Parliament (MP). It was thought that the communications between prisoners and 32 MPs had been monitored by prison staff. Nick Hardwick, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons was therefore asked to conduct an independent investigation into this issue.

Today, the final investigation report is published. The report concludes that there is no evidence of deliberate or widespread attempts to monitor confidential communications with MPs. The monitoring which is believed to have taken place was in the main conducted in error and in ignorance of the rules. Concerns highlighted by HMCIP about failure to follow correct procedures in specific cases are being investigated by NOMS.

I wish to apologise to the House on behalf of the Ministry of Justice for the monitoring which is believed to have taken place. Prisoners and Honourable Members should rightly expect these conversations to be confidential.

While I am content that the recording of these communications was done in error rather than by intent, it is unacceptable that this issue was not identified sooner. Since discovering this, we have taken urgent steps to ensure that prison officers have the correct training and processes in place to make sure this will not happen in future.

HMCIP makes 19 recommendations, which have all been accepted. These are aimed at improving levels of understanding amongst staff and prisoners, ensuring greater consistency in procedures across the whole prison estate, and better systems of governance so that problems are identified sooner.



Since the issue first came to light, NOMS has taken effective steps to ensure that there can be no recording of telephone calls from prisoners to their MP. This was an important first step to provide reassurance both to prisoners and MPs that their communications were confidential.

In response to this report, NOMS will now undertake further work to introduce revised policy and training for staff. NOMS will also revise the information provided to prisoners so that they better understand their responsibilities to identify phone numbers, including their MPs, which are confidential. Checks will be introduced to ensure that any human error is picked up sooner and dealt with promptly.

Recommendations to improve the prisoner telephone system are reflected in the plans for a new prisoner telephony contract, which is due to be let next year. In the meantime, NOMS will work with the current telephone provider to see if any further short term solutions can be introduced.

NOMS meets regularly with the Interception of Communications Commissioner's Office (IOCCO), who carry out an inspection process and work will be undertaken to see if more can be done to identify errors through the inspection process.

I want to assure Members that NOMS will learn from the criticism and past mistakes to ensure that there is absolute confidence in the future that confidential communications are guaranteed."

## School Funding

[HLWS122]

**Lord Nash:** My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare (Sam Gyimah) has today made the following statement:

World class schools are a vital part of the Government's long term economic plan, and are one of the key drivers of the productive economy of the future.

We are therefore committed to making school funding fairer, to maintaining the amount of money that follows children into schools and to confirming the extra £390m fairer funding uplift from 2015-16 in budgets for 2016-17 and beyond. This will help every child, everywhere, to have the best possible chance to reach their potential.

Today we are taking the first steps towards meeting these commitments by publishing the per pupil funding rates for each Local Authority's schools budget for 2016-17. This protects the per pupil funding in each authority from 2015-16, meeting the commitment to protect the national schools budget and to base-lining the £390m extra funding.

We are also publishing the Education Funding Agency's Operational Guide; to allow Local Authorities to start the process of consulting with their schools on how the funding should be distributed in their area.

The forthcoming Spending Review will set out the Government's plans for the delivery and funding of public services for this Parliament. It will set out further detail on key delivery priorities for schools and Local Authorities and confirm funding levels for other grants and programmes. In light of the Spending Review and any consequent changes to the School Finance Regulations (which would of course be consulted on), the Operational Guide may have to be updated and Local Authorities may have to review the planning and modelling they have undertaken.

Final funding allocations to each authority will be made in December, in line with the latest data on their pupil numbers.

Base-lining the 2015-16 Minimum Funding Levels in 2016-17 is an important step towards making funding fairer. However it remains the case that a school in one part of the country can receive over 50% more funding than an identical school in another part of the country.

I am therefore committed to making schools and early education funding fairer and will put forward proposals in due course.

We recognise the links between funding for early education, schools and pupils with high cost special educational needs. These are complex issues to consider, and we will consult extensively with the sector and the public on them.

## Service Complaints

[HLWS105]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans (Mr Mark Lancaster) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to release today the Ministry of Defence's formal response to the Service Complaints Commissioner's (SCC) annual report for 2014 on the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Service complaints system.

The SCC's report commented on the performance of the current Service complaints system and looked forward to the changes that will come from the new system under the Armed Forces (Service Complaints and Financial Assistance) Act 2015. The response sets out how the MOD is addressing each of the Commissioner's new recommendations which relate primarily to the preparation for and the implementation of the reforms.

The 2015 Act introduces significant reforms of the process and creates a powerful independent voice in the new Service Complaints Ombudsman. It is important that we have a system in which our personnel have confidence to raise matters of concern so they can be resolved.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Library of the House.

## Small Waste Oil Burners

[HLWS98]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Hon Friend the Parliamentary under Secretary of State (Rory Stewart) has today made the following statement.

As part of our commitment to cleaner air the Government will amend the current Environmental Permitting Guidance to state clearly that all Small Waste Oil Burners burning waste oils in England fall under the scope of the Industrial Emission Directive. This will reduce emissions of air pollutants and it will require all operators of Small Waste Oil Burners burning waste oils to meet the requirements of the Industrial Emission Directive or, alternatively, to choose to burn other fuels such as gas or fuel oils.

My Department will conclude a consultation on the amended guidance for England and measures available to help industry with the transition in October 2015. Following the consultation, new guidance will be published in December 2015 that will take effect in April 2016.

I have arranged for a copy of the document to be placed in the libraries of the House. A copy is also available on the Gov.UK website.

## Television Licences

[HLWS115]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has made the following Written Ministerial Statement. On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014 my predecessor, Sajid Javid MP, announced an independent review into TV Licence Fee Enforcement. The obligation to conduct a review of the sanctions regime for TV licence evasion is contained in section 77 of the Deregulation Act 2015.

I am pleased today to announce the publication of the Report for the TV Licence Fee Enforcement Review. This review has been independently led on behalf of the Government by David Perry QC, to whom I would like to record my thanks for his excellent work in considering this difficult issue.

The Review is now complete and will be published today. In accordance with section 77(3) of the Deregulation Act 2015, I will lay a report setting out my response to the review within 3 months.

A copy of the Report for the TV Licence Fee Enforcement Review has been deposited in the libraries of both Houses.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Copy of the report noted [166926 Perry Review FINAL.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-16/HLWS115/>

## Undercover Policing

[HLWS100]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 12 March 2015, I made a statement to the House announcing the establishment of the statutory inquiry into undercover policing and the appointment of Lord Justice Pitchford as its Chairman. The inquiry is to be undertaken by Lord Justice Pitchford alone as Chairman. I also said that my officials would consult Pitchford LJ and those with an interest in the inquiry over the coming months on setting the terms of reference, with a view to making a further statement as soon as possible after Parliament resumes.

This has now taken place and the terms of reference for the undercover policing inquiry are:

### *Purpose*

To inquire into and report on undercover police operations conducted by English and Welsh police forces in England and Wales since 1968 and, in particular, to:

- investigate the role and the contribution made by undercover policing towards the prevention and detection of crime;
- examine the motivation for, and the scope of, undercover police operations in practice and their effect upon individuals in particular and the public in general;
- ascertain the state of awareness of undercover police operations of Her Majesty's Government;
- identify and assess the adequacy of the:
  - i) justification, authorisation, operational governance and oversight of undercover policing;
  - ii) selection, training, management and care of undercover police officers;
- identify and assess the adequacy of the statutory, policy and judicial regulation of undercover policing.

### *Miscarriages of justice*

The inquiry's investigations will include a review of the extent of the duty to make, during a criminal prosecution, disclosure of an undercover police operation and the scope for miscarriage of justice in the absence of proper disclosure.

The inquiry will refer to a panel, consisting of senior members of the Crown Prosecution Service and the police, the facts of any case in respect of which it concludes that a miscarriage of justice may have occurred as a result of an undercover police operation or its non disclosure. The panel will consider whether further action is required, including but not limited to, referral of the case to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

### *Scope*

The inquiry's investigation will include, but not be limited to, whether and to what purpose, extent and effect undercover police operations have targeted political and social justice campaigners.

The inquiry's investigation will include, but not be limited to, the undercover operations of the Special Demonstration Squad and the National Public Order Intelligence Unit.

For the purpose of the inquiry, the term "undercover police operations" means the use by a police force of a police officer as a covert human intelligence source (CHIS) within the meaning of section 26(8) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, whether before or after the commencement of that Act. The terms "undercover police officer", "undercover policing", "undercover police activity" should be understood accordingly. It includes operations conducted through online media.

The inquiry will not examine undercover or covert operations conducted by any body other than an English or Welsh police force.

#### *Method*

The inquiry will examine and review all documents as the inquiry chairman shall judge appropriate.

The inquiry will receive such oral and written evidence as the inquiry chairman shall judge appropriate.

#### *Report*

The inquiry will report to the Home Secretary as soon as practicable. The report will make recommendations as to the future deployment of undercover police officers. It is anticipated that the inquiry report will be delivered up to three years after the publication of these terms of reference.

In addition, Mark Ellison QC has submitted his review "*Possible miscarriages of justice: impact of undisclosed undercover police activity on the safety of convictions*" (HC 291) to the Attorney General. I have today laid the report before the House and copies are available from the Vote Office and on gov.uk

## Victims' Code

[HLWS125]

**Lord Faulks:** My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Victims (Mike Penning) has made the following Written Statement.

"The previous government updated the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (the Victims' Code) in 2013 to give victims clear entitlements - including the right to ask to read their personal statement to the court - and to give greater flexibility to core criminal justice agencies to tailor services according to individual need. We are investing more than ever before in services and support for victims of crime but we can, and should, do more.

We have said that we will introduce measures to further increase the rights of victims of crime and we will publish draft clauses in due course.

Before we do so, I am pleased to announce that the Government is consulting on some additional changes we plan to make to the Victims' Code as part of our

commitment to implement the EU Victims' Directive by 16 November 2015.

It is crucial that the needs of victims of crime are put first and the proposed changes will entitle more victims to receive services from a bigger number of organisations.

The first main change we propose is to broaden our definition of a victim so that victims of all criminal offences are entitled to receive support and information under the Victims' Code. Currently, victims of offences such as careless driving and drink driving are not entitled to receive such support and we propose to close this gap.

The second main change is to extend the Victims' Code to apply to relevant agencies outside the core criminal justice system who provide services to victims of crime. Most crimes are dealt with by the police and Crown Prosecution Service but there are other organisations with powers to investigate and prosecute. I want to make sure that the victims of crime these agencies deal with are eligible to receive services under the Victims' Code.

The third main change will entitle victims who report a crime to the police or other competent authority to receive a written acknowledgement which states the basic elements of the criminal offence concerned.

We are also proposing to make a number of smaller amendments to the Code, mostly to clarify it in places or to reflect more accurately what happens in practice.

The consultation documents have been published today and can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revising-the-victims-code>.

A copy of the consultation document and draft Victims' Code have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses."

## Whiplash

[HLWS123]

**Lord Faulks:** In response to widespread concerns about the high number of whiplash claims and the impact they have on the price of motor insurance premiums, the Government has recently implemented a whiplash reform programme. A key component of these reforms was the introduction of an independent IT Portal for the sourcing of medical reports. All initial medical reports used in support of whiplash claims must be obtained through the new portal which is operated by MedCo Registration Solutions (MedCo) an independent industry led not for profit company. The new system makes sure that solicitors are no longer able to obtain a report from an organisation with whom they have a financial link, whilst maintaining competition between MROs in the market.

The Government committed to undertake a review once 6 months worth of useable data were available. However, since the Portal went live on 6 April 2015, issues relating to a number of new business practices within this sector have emerged which have the potential to undermine the Government's policy objectives and public confidence in the MedCo Portal.

Today, therefore, I would like to confirm that the Government is bringing its planned review forward and I invite all stakeholders in the personal injury sector to participate in the public call for evidence which will form a key part of the review process. The review will specifically seek evidence on whether the MedCo IT Portal meets the Government's objectives, and the evidence provided will be analysed to identify whether changes need to be made to the portal or to the framework of rules underpinning it in order to achieve those objectives.

The Government seeks views from stakeholders across the medico-legal reporting services sector in respect of whiplash claims, including representatives from the claimant lawyer, medical and insurance sectors. A report with recommendations for action - if required - will be published in the autumn.

Copies of the Call for Evidence have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The document is also available online at: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/>.

# Written Statements

Friday, 17 July 2015

## Cap on Care Costs

[HLWS135]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In 2010 the previous Government asked Sir Andrew Dilnot to lead the Commission on Funding of Care and Support to make recommendations on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable funding system for care and support for all adults in England. The Commission recommended the creation of a cap system to protect people from the risk of very high care costs. This recommendation was accepted and plans put in place to implement from April 2016.

This Government still accepts that recommendation and remains firmly committed to delivering this historic change. However, the proposals to cap care costs and create a supporting private insurance market were expected to add £6 billion to public sector spending over the next 5 years. A time of consolidation is not the right moment to be implementing expensive new commitments such as this, especially when there are no indications the private insurance market will develop as expected. Therefore in light of genuine concerns raised by stakeholders, we have taken the difficult decision to delay the introduction of the cap on care costs system until April 2020.

This is not a decision that has been taken lightly. A letter from the Local Government Association, dated 1 July, was clear that we need to think carefully about all the options, including postponing new initiatives. I am attaching a copy of this letter and a response from the Minister of State for Care Services. This is therefore what we will do and further announcements will follow in due course. Furthermore, we will continue with other efforts to support social care, in particular through the Better Care Fund, which will drive the integration of social care and the NHS going forward.

We have an ageing population, which is something to be celebrated, but it inevitably means there are more people who will need care and support and we must ensure that the system can respond. This is an issue that had been ignored by successive Governments for far too long and I remain proud that we are taking on this thorny issue and setting out clear plans to address it.

Vital steps have already been taken to improve the care and support landscape. The first phase of the care and support reforms enshrined in the Care Act came into force in April this year, introducing the biggest reforms to care and support in over 65 years. For the first time ever, we have a single, modern legal framework for care and support that places the person and their health and wellbeing at its heart. There are now national eligibility criteria for care and support across England. Carers now have the right to support to meet their needs. And deferred payment agreements are available across

England ensuring that people should not be forced to sell their home in order to pay for their care in their lifetime.

The introduction of the cap on care costs system will be the biggest reform to how care is paid for since 1948 and we must ensure that the new system works from day one. Local authorities and partners have consistently warned us of the risks of implementing this too quickly. We will therefore not be complacent, but work hard to use this additional time to ensure that everyone is ready to introduce the new system and that people can understand what it will mean for them. This includes taking the time to take stock on some of the other elements of the care and support reforms that are intended to support the cap system.

I am able to confirm that we will delay the full introduction of the duty under Section 18(3) of the Care Act on local authorities to meet the eligible needs of self-funders in care homes to April 2020 to allow more time to be taken to consider the potential impact on the market and the interaction with the cap on care costs system. I can also confirm that the proposed appeals system for care and support will now be considered as part of the wider Spending Review. Further announcements will follow in due course.

We will also look at what more we can do to support people with the costs of care. The new pension flexibilities introduced in April create a real opportunity for us to continue to work with the financial sector to look at what other products may be created to help people meet the costs of care, creating even more choice and enabling people to better plan and prepare for later life. To this end I will be holding an urgent meeting with representatives from the insurance industry along with HM Treasury and other Government Ministers to work through what this announcement means for them and how Government can help them to bring forward new products. These discussions will continue over the summer.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Letter to Izzie Seccombe [Letter to Izzi Seccombe.pdf]

Letter to Secretary of State for Health [Letter to Secretary of State for Health - Phase 2 Care Act Reforms.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-17/HLWS135/>

## Freedom of Information

[HLWS134]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We are committed to being the most transparent Government in the world.

To deliver that goal we are opening up government to citizens by making it easier to access information and increase the volume available, with a record 20,000 datasets now on [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk), while protecting a private space for frank advice. We are strengthening accountability and making public services work better for people. The World Wide Web Foundation's Open Data



Barometer and Open Knowledge's Global Open Data Index ranked the UK as the world's leading country on open government.

We are proud of these achievements and are committed to going further. Our next Open Government National Action Plan will develop an offer on transparency that further strengthens this Government's commitment to open government.

Our aim is to be as open as possible on the substance, consistent with ensuring that a private space is protected for frank advice. To that end as a government we must maintain the best environment for policy-makers to think freely and offer frank advice to decision-makers. The most effective system is when policy makers can freely give advice, whilst citizens can shine a light into government.

We fully support the Freedom of Information Act but after more than a decade in operation it is time that the process is reviewed, to make sure it's working effectively. The Government has therefore today established an independent, cross-party Commission on Freedom of Information. The Commission's terms of reference are as follows:

"The Commission will review the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') to consider whether there is an appropriate public interest balance between transparency, accountability and the need for sensitive information to have robust protection, and whether the operation of the Act adequately recognises the need for a "safe space" for policy development and implementation and frank advice. The Commission may also consider the balance between the need to maintain public access to information, and the burden of the Act on public authorities, and whether change is needed to moderate that while maintaining public access to information."

The Commission will be chaired by Lord Burns, and will comprise the Rt Hon Jack Straw, Lord Howard of Lympne, Lord Carlile of Berriew and Dame Patricia Hodgson.

The Commission will report to the Minister for the Cabinet Office and will publish its findings by the end of November.

The Prime Minister has also confirmed that policy responsibility for Freedom of Information policy will transfer from the Ministry of Justice to the Cabinet Office. This change will be effective from 17 July 2015.

## Infected Blood

[HLWS136]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Before 1991, thousands of patients contracted HIV, hepatitis C, or both viruses, from treatment with NHS-supplied blood or blood products. This is aptly described by many as one of the great tragedies of modern health care and on the 25 March 2015 the Prime Minister apologised on behalf of the government to all those that were infected. I would like to start by repeating this sentiment and state, on behalf of

this Government, how sorry we are for what happened and for the distress caused to those affected and their families.

In March, Lord Penrose published the report of his public inquiry into infections acquired in Scotland. As infection occurred before devolution, this is of relevance for the Westminster Government. Lord Penrose scrutinised events over a period of nearly 18 years between 1974 and 1991. The Report, together with over 5,000 documents from the period 1970-85 which have already been published by Government provides a comprehensive picture of events and decisions made. We have also committed to releasing all additional documents from 1986-1995 late this summer.

Lord Penrose made one recommendation: to take all reasonable steps to offer a hepatitis C test to everyone [in Scotland] who had a blood transfusion before September 1991 and who has not been tested for hepatitis C. In England, guidance to GPs has been issued over the years by the Department of Health, the NHS, and other health organisations which recommend that a hepatitis C test should be offered to patients who received a blood transfusion in the UK before 1991 or were treated with blood products before 1986. This can currently be found on the NHS Choices website. In light of Lord Penrose's recommendation, the Department will be acting to ensure that GPs are reminded of this duty.

The terms of reference of the Penrose Inquiry did not include financial support for those affected. However for some time we have been listening to the many concerns about the existing arrangements and have been considering how we might improve that support. Concerns have been raised by individuals that have been affected, MPs, and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood, and include: the complex nature of the organisations, and the criteria for, and charitable nature of, some payments. I would therefore like to briefly acknowledge the work of all the MPs who have raised the profile of this tragedy. Most significantly, however, I would like to recognise the work of affected individuals, and their representatives, who have tirelessly campaigned for many years.

On the 25 March the Prime Minister also announced that £25 million would be allocated to ease transition to a reformed system of support for affected individuals. While no decisions have yet been made on how this money will be spent, I must emphasise that the money will not be used for administrative costs, but will be used appropriately to support any transitional arrangements once we have consulted on how a new scheme might be structured.

Transition to a reformed scheme remains a priority for this Government. Decisions on the overall DH budget from 2016-17 onwards will be determined as part of the forthcoming Spending Review.

While I understand that beneficiaries to the current schemes may be frustrated by this wait, this is an extremely complex and sensitive area and any reform

plans must be carefully considered before a consultation can be launched.

### **Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Bill**

[HLWS133]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** I have made a statement under Section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998 that, in my view, the provisions of the Supply and Appropriation

(Main Estimate) Bill are compatible with the convention rights. A copy of the statement has been placed in the Library of the House.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

ECHR certificate [Compatibility Statement Supply and Appropriation Bill.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-17/HLWS133/>

# Written Statements

Monday, 20 July 2015

## Audit and Auditor Regulation

[HLWS137]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government will require all public interest entities i.e. listed companies, banks, building societies and relevant insurers to put their audit out to tender at least every 10 years and change their auditor at least every 20 years. The Government also intends that public interest entities that retendered audit engagements should benefit from transitional recognition of that re-tender where possible.

The Government intends that the Financial Reporting Council (the "FRC") should be the UK competent authority for the regulation of auditors, but that legislation will require it to delegate regulatory tasks so far as is possible to recognised supervisory bodies that meet criteria set out in the legislation. Overall this would mean the FRC would only have to conduct audit inspections, investigations and disciplinary cases in relation to public interest entities, and would oversee the work of the recognised supervisory bodies for other audits.

It would still be open to a recognised supervisory body to ask the FRC to agree to undertake work that would otherwise have been delegated to the recognised supervisory bodies. As now the FRC would also have the ability to take over any particular inspection or investigation if it deemed it to be in the public interest.

To minimise the compliance cost for business the FRC and the recognised supervisory bodies will be obliged to cooperate with each other, and the legislation will provide they should all be able to rely on each other's work.

The Government does not intend to make statutory provision for the regulation of accountants. This would be a matter for the professional bodies.

The Government will publish a more detailed consultation in the coming months building on its further consideration of the responses to the Discussion Document that my Department published last December.

The Government also welcomes the agreement of the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority to update the existing rules on Audit Committees.

## Counter-Terrorist Asset Freezing

[HLWS143]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 ("TAFAs 2010"), the Treasury is required to report to Parliament, quarterly, on its operation of the UK's asset

freezing regime mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

This is the seventeenth report under the Act and it covers the period from 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015. This report also covers the UK implementation of the UN Al-Qaida asset freezing regime and the operation of the EU asset freezing regime in the UK under EU Regulation (EC) 2580/2001 which implements UNSCR 1373 against external terrorist threats to the EU. Under the UN Al-Qaida asset freezing regime, the UN has responsibility for designations and the Treasury has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under the Al-Qaida (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011. Under EU Regulation 2580/2001, the EU has responsibility for designations and the Treasury has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under Part 1 of TAFAs 2010.

Annexes A and B to this statement provide a breakdown, by name, of all those designated by the UK and the EU in pursuance of UN Security Council Resolution 1373. The two individuals subject to designations, which have been notified on a restricted and confidential basis, under Sections 3 and 10 of TAFAs 2010 are denoted by A and B.

The attached table sets out the key asset-freezing activity in the UK during the quarter ending 30 June 2015

### *Legal Proceedings*

1. The appeal brought by Gulam MASTAFA against a number of government departments including the Treasury, remains stayed.
2. The appeal brought by Zana RAHIM continues to progress towards completion.
3. Proceedings were filed on 29 May 2014 at the High Court appealing against the Treasury's decision to renew MF's designation under TAFAs 2010. The final hearing took place on 29 April 2015, where MF's appeal was dismissed.
4. Moazzem BEGG, who was previously designated under TAFAs 2010, lodged an appeal on 3rd November 2014, challenging the Treasury's decision to revoke rather than quash his designation. These proceedings were ongoing during the reporting period.
5. Two individuals designated under TAFAs 2010 lodged appeals against their designations on 27 May 2015.
6. There were no criminal proceedings in respect of breaches of asset freezes made under TAFAs 2010.

*Annex A: Designated persons under TAFAs 2010 by name [1]*

### *INDIVIDUALS*

1. Hamed ABDOLLAHI
2. Bilal Talal ABDULLAH
3. Imad Khalil AL-ALAMI
4. Abdelkarim Hussein AL-NASSER
5. Ibrahim Salih AL-YACOUB

6. Ruhul AMIN
7. Manssor ARBABSIAR
8. Usama HAMDAN
9. Nur Idiris HASSAN NUR
10. Nabeel HUSSAIN
11. Hasan IZZ-AL-DIN
12. Mohammed KHALED
13. Parviz KHAN
14. Reyaad KHAN
15. Musa Abu MARZOUK
16. Khalid MISHAAL
17. Khalid Shaikh MOHAMMED
18. Aseel MUTHANA
19. Nasser MUTHANA
20. Abdul Reza SHAHLAI
21. Ali Gholam SHAKURI
22. Qasem SOLEIMANI
23. A (restricted designation)

#### ENTITIES

1. BASQUE FATHERLAND AND LIBERTY (ETA)
2. EJERCITO DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (ELN)
3. FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA (FARC)
4. HIZBALLAH MILITARY WING, INCLUDING EXTERNAL SECURITY ORGANISATION
5. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE - GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP-GC)
6. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)
7. SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL)

*Annex B: Persons designated by the EU under Council Regulation (EC)2580/2001[2]*

#### PERSONS

1. Hamed ABDOLLAHI\*
2. Abdelkarim Hussein AL-NASSER\*
3. Ibrahim Salih AL YACOUB\*
4. Manssor ARBABSIAR\*
5. Mohammed BOUYERI
6. Hasan IZZ-AL-DIN\*
7. Khalid Shaikh MOHAMMED\*
8. Abdul Reza SHAHLAI\*
9. Ali Gholam SHAKURI\*
10. Qasem SOLEIMANI\*

#### GROUPS AND ENTITIES

1. ABU NIDAL ORGANISATION (ANO)
2. AL-AQSA E.V.
3. AL-AQSA MARTYRS' BRIGADE
4. BABBAR KHALSA

5. COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INCLUDING NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA), PHILIPPINES

6. DEVRIMCI HALK KURTULU PARTISI-CEPHESI — DHKP/C (REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY/Front/PARTY)

7. EJÉRCITO DE LIBERACIÓN NACIONAL (NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY)\*

8. FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA (FARC)\*

9. GAMA'A AL-ISLAMIYYA (A.K.A. AL-GAMA'A AL-ISLAMIYYA) (ISLAMIC GROUP — IG)

10. HAMAS, INCLUDING HAMAS-IZZ AL-DIN AL-QASSEM

11. HIZBALLAH MILITARY WING, INCLUDING EXTERNAL SECURITY ORGANISATION

12. HIZBUL MUJAHIDEEN (HM)

13. HOFSTADGROEP

14. INTERNATIONAL SIKH YOUTH FEDERATION (ISYF)

15. İSLAMI BÜYÜK DOĞU AKINCILAR CEPHESI (IBDA-C) (GREAT ISLAMIC EASTERN WARRIORS FRONT)

16. KHALISTAN ZINDABAD FORCE (KZF)

17. KURDISTAN WORKERS PARTY (PKK) (A.K.A. KONGRA-GEL)

18. LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE)

19. PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD (PIJ)

20. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE — GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP-GC)\*

21. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)\*

22. SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) (SHINING PATH)\*

23. TEYRBAZEN AZADIYA KURDISTAN (TAK)

[1] For full listing details please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-list-of-designated-persons-terrorism-and-terrorist-financing>

[2] For full listing details please refer to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

\* EU listing rests on UK designation under Tafa 2010

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Terrorist Asset Freezing Quarter 2 [TAF Q2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-20/HLWS143/>

**ECOFIN: 14 July 2015**

[HLWS145]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (George Osborne) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 14 July 2015. Ministers discussed the following items:

#### *Current Legislative Proposals*

The Presidency informed delegations about the state of play of current legislative proposals in the field of financial services.

#### *Presentation of the work programme of the Luxembourg Presidency*

The Luxembourg Presidency presented its six-month work programme in the ECOFIN area.

#### *Five Presidents' Report: Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union*

The Commission presented the Five Presidents' report on the plan for completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union. There was an exchange of views on short term measures.

## Further Education

[HLWS142]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My hon Friend the Minister of State for Skills (Nick Boles) has today made the following statement.

The Government's Productivity Plan: Fixing Foundations sets out the government's ambition for a professional and technical education system that provides individuals with clear, high-quality routes to employment, and that supports the government's overall fiscal and economic objectives.

These objectives can only be delivered by strong institutions, which have the high status and specialism required to deliver credible routes to employment and progression in the labour market. Providers also need to be more efficient to ensure institutional stability, and to make best use of scarce public resources.

As joint Minister for skills for BIS and DfE, I am today publishing a policy statement setting out how we will facilitate a restructuring of the post-16 education and training sector, through a series of area based reviews of provision.

The reviews, which will focus on FE and Sixth Form Colleges, will be led by steering groups consisting of chairs of governors, LEPs and local authorities, FE and Sixth Form College Commissioners and Regional Schools Commissioners. Under their oversight, the reviews will undertake analysis, consider options and propose solutions. Colleges remain independent institutions, and I expect governing bodies to use the process to make informed decisions on structures to support the best outcomes for learners and employers, and long term stability.

We will actively encourage local authorities and LEPs to drive these pieces of work in partnership with the Commissioners. Where combined authorities with devolution arrangements are in place we would expect them to take lead.

This approach will enable a transition towards fewer, larger, more resilient and efficient providers, and more effective collaboration across institution types. A critical aspect will be to create greater specialisation, with the establishment of institutions that are genuine centres of expertise, able to support sustained progression in professional and technical disciplines, alongside excellence in other fundamental areas – such as English and maths. This will ensure that we have the right capacity to provide good education and training for our young people across England, and will include the creation of a new network of prestigious Institutes of Technology, and National Colleges to deliver high standard provision at levels 3, 4 and 5.

We have already piloted the area based approach in Norfolk and Suffolk and in Nottingham. I am announcing today that the first full area based review will take place in Birmingham. The Birmingham review will have an initial focus on FE Colleges in Birmingham City and Solihull, but will have scope to consider a broader geography and range of provision where relevant. We will take forward the review in partnership with individual institutions, the local authorities and the LEP.

I welcome views on this policy statement, and will issue fuller guidance on the process for reviews in the coming weeks.

The report is available online at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Reviewing post 16 education and training [Reviewing post 16 education and training institutions - July 2015.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-20/HLWS142/>

## House of Lords: Tabling Questions for Written Answer

[HLWS146]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** It has been agreed through the usual channels that the date for tabling Questions for Written Answer during the Summer Recess this year will be Monday 5 October.

## Implementing Geological Disposal: Annual Report

[HLWS138]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change (Andrea Leadsom) has today made the following statement.

I am pleased to announce today the publication of the fifth annual report of the Government's Implementing Geological Disposal Programme. The programme is focused on implementing the geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste.

The UK Government remains firmly committed to geological disposal as the right policy for the long-term safe and secure management of higher-activity radioactive



waste, and continues to favour a voluntarist approach based on working with communities that are willing to participate in the siting process.

The publication of the Implementing Geological Disposal White Paper in July 2014 set out the policy framework for the future implementation of geological disposal in the UK. Government has been progressing the 'Initial Actions' set out in the White Paper, and formal discussions between interested communities and the developer will not begin until the 'Initial Actions' have been completed.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual report can be found at <http://www.gov.uk/decc>. I have also written to the Chairs of the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee and the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, and I have made available copies in the Libraries of the House.

### **Infrastructure (Financial Assistance) Act 2012: Annual Report**

[HLWS144]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Annual Report to Parliament under the Infrastructure (Financial Assistance) Act 2012 for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 has today been laid before Parliament.

The report is prepared in line with the requirements set out in the Infrastructure (Financial Assistance) Act 2012 that the government reports annually to Parliament on the financial assistance given under the act.

Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

### **National Crime Agency Remuneration Review Body**

[HLWS141]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The second report of the National Crime Agency (NCA) Remuneration Review Body was published today. In line with my letter setting the Body's remit, it has made recommendations on pay and allowances for NCA officers designated with operational powers. I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Review Body for their careful consideration of the evidence.

Following an independent review of the evidence supplied by the NCA, the Home Office, Her Majesty's Treasury and the relevant trade unions, the NCA Remuneration Review Body has recommended various pay increases with an average annual award increase of approximately one per cent. This is in line with the

Government's policy that public sector annual awards should average up to one per cent for 2015/16. I accept these recommendations in full.

Copies of the NCA Remuneration Review Body's second report are available in the Vote Office and on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).

### **UK Embedded Forces**

[HLWS139]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

UK Armed Forces regularly have embeds in the forces of our close partners. Embedded UK personnel operate as if they were the host nation's personnel, under that nation's chain of command, but remain subject to UK domestic, international and Host Nation law. Our partners likewise have personnel operating under UK command.

Embeds allow the UK military personnel to gain direct experience of key capabilities and equipment; make a positive contribution to our defence relationship with our closest allies; and can directly contribute to enhancing the UK's military capability. Embeds aboard the US Carriers have ranged from aircraft handlers to pilots; they have been crucial to developing our own Queen Elizabeth class carriers, and the handling of F35B aircraft.

UK personnel have embedded with other nations' air forces since the 1950s. In recent years, UK personnel embedded with US air forces have participated in operations in Afghanistan, Libya and Iraq, and with the French and Dutch in Mali. The UK currently has over 250 exchange personnel in the armed forces of allies including the US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, Italy, France and Germany.

Ministerial approval is required for UK embeds deployed with allied forces on operations. Since the international Coalition commenced military operations against ISIL last year, up to 80 UK personnel have been embedded with US, Canadian and French forces. They have undertaken a range of roles including planning, training and flying and supporting combat and surveillance missions. A small number of embedded UK pilots have carried out airstrikes in Syria against ISIL targets: none are currently involved in airstrikes.

The convention that before troops are committed to military operations the House of Commons should have an opportunity to debate the matter, except in the event of an emergency, applies to the deployment of UK forces. UK personnel embedded within other nations' armed forces operate as members of that military.

### **Visa Requirements for Tier 1**

[HLWS140]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (James Brokenshire) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am announcing today that from 1 September 2015, individuals who are applying for entry clearance as an Entrepreneur or an Investor under the Tier 1 category will be required to provide a criminal record certificate from any country in which they have lived for 12 months or more in the previous ten years.

Under the previous Government we changed the Immigration Rules to introduce a requirement to provide an overseas criminal record certificate where that is required. We will introduce this requirement in a controlled way and learn the lessons from implementation as we roll out the requirement to other categories of migrant.

## Written Statements

Tuesday, 21 July 2015

### Arm's Length Bodies

[HLWS161]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Department of Health (George Freeman) has made the following written ministerial statement.

The Department of Health has completed its Triennial Reviews of the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA), the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), and the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA), and is today publishing the associated review reports.

The four reviews, which commenced on 15 January 2015 (ACCEA), 30 October 2014 (MHRA and NICE) and 16 October 2014 (NHSLA), consulted with a wide range of stakeholders. Their key conclusions are that all the organisations perform necessary functions. However, all the review reports make a number of recommendations – primarily around communications and engagement, efficiency and governance – that aim to improve performance further.

Copies of all four reports and associated annexes are attached.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

ACCEA Triennial Review Report [ACCEA Triennial Review Report.pdf]

MHRA Triennial Review Report [MHRA Triennial Review Report.pdf]

NHSLA Triennial Review Report [NHS LA Triennial Review Report.pdf]

NHSLA Triennial Review Report - annexes [NHS LA Annexes to main TR report.pdf]

NICE Triennial Review Report [NICE Triennial Review Report.pdf]

NICE Triennial Review Report - annexes [NICE Annexes to main TR report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-21/HLWS161/>

### Cabinet Committees

[HLWS162]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My Right Honourable friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Oliver Letwin) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today I am publishing an updated Cabinet Committees list. It includes the new Economic Affairs (Airports) sub-Committee created by the Prime Minister. I have placed a copy of the new list in Libraries of both Houses.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Updated Committees List [1500720 final Committee list for WMS (Airports).docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-21/HLWS162/>

### EU Referendum

[HLWS157]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, Minister for Europe (David Lidington), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

At Committee Stage in this House I committed to share electoral administration rules (conduct rules) with Hon Members. Today I have published them in draft form, and deposited copies in the Libraries of both Houses. We intend to consult the Electoral Commission on the draft rules over the summer and would welcome views from Hon Members during this period.

The draft rules are modelled on the rules used for the administration of the Parliamentary Voting System referendum in May 2011 and those used for elections more generally, in particular UK Parliamentary elections, adapted as necessary for the referendum.

They include the range of provisions that are necessary for the administration of the referendum, including the manner of voting (which covers voting in polling stations, voting by post or by proxy), the form of the ballot paper and other forms used by voters, the appointment of polling and counting agents, the arrangements for the counting of votes and declaration of results, and the disposal of ballot papers and other referendum documents after the poll.

The draft rules take into account recent changes to electoral law and are designed to support the effective administration of the poll. This includes changes to enable ballot papers to be sent to overseas voters further in advance of polling day. Alongside practical steps we are taking elsewhere, this will address some of the issues faced by electors abroad at the 2015 General Election.

The rules largely cover the administration of the referendum in the United Kingdom though in some areas the provisions apply to Gibraltar.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Draft Electoral Administration Rules [150721 EU Referendum Draft Electoral Administration Rules.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-21/HLWS157/>

## EU REFIT Regulation

[HLWS154]

**Lord Bates:** My right hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (James Brokenshire) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The UK has opted in to the Regulation (COM (2014) 715 final) repealing certain acts in the field of police co-operation and judicial co-operation in criminal matters to the extent that it applies to the European Evidence Warrant (EEW).

This Regulation originally repealed several acts in which the UK does not participate. However, the proposal was revised to include the EEW, a measure in which the UK also does not participate, but which remains partially in force between some Member States. The Government therefore decided to opt-in to the part of the Regulation that repeals the EEW under Protocol 21 to the EU Treaties.

This gives greater legal certainty around the UK's non-participation in the EEW given the revised terms of the proposal.

## Future Reserves 2020

[HLWS156]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I have today placed in the Library of the House a copy of a report into the condition of the Reserves and delivery of the FR20 programme compiled by the Future Reserves 2020 External Scrutiny Team. This is the first report to be published under the statutory obligation imposed by the Defence Reform Act 2014 and follows the voluntary publication of reports that were commissioned by the Ministry of Defence in 2013 and 2014.

I am most grateful for the work of the Team. I will take some short time to consider the report's findings and recommendations and will provide a full response in due course.

## Higher Education Student Support

[HLWS150]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My hon Friend the Minister of State for Universities and Science (Jo Johnson) has today made the following statement.

I am today confirming the student support package for higher education students undertaking a course of study in the 2016/17 academic year beginning in August 2016.

*Tuition fees and fee loans.*

For all new full-time students and eligible continuing full-time students who started their courses on or after 1 September 2012, maximum tuition fees and maximum fee loans will be maintained in 2016/17 at the £6,000 and £9,000 levels which apply in 2015/16.

For continuing full-time students who started their courses before September 2012, maximum tuition fees and maximum fee loans will be maintained in 2016/17 at the £3,465 level which applies in 2015/16.

For all new part-time students and eligible continuing part-time students who started their courses on or after 1 September 2012, maximum tuition fees and maximum fee loans will be maintained at the £4,500 and £6,750 levels which apply in 2015/16.

*Maintenance support for new full-time students in 2016/17*

In the Budget earlier this month the Chancellor announced that, for new full-time students starting to attend their courses on or after 1 August 2016, all maintenance grants will be replaced by maintenance loans. Eligible students on low incomes will qualify for a maximum maintenance loan that is 10.3% higher than the maximum maintenance grant and loan support available in 2015/16.

For new students living away from home and studying outside London, the maximum maintenance loan available for 2016/17 will be £8,200, a £766 increase compared to the maximum maintenance support in 2015/16. I can confirm that the equivalent loan rates for students living away from home and studying in London will be £10,702; for those living in the parental home during their studies, £6,904; and for those studying overseas as part of their UK course, £9,391.

*Maintenance support for new full-time students entitled to certain benefits in 2016/17*

For eligible new full-time students starting to attend their courses in 2016/17, who qualify for certain benefits, all special support grants will be replaced by maintenance loans. The maximum maintenance support package for eligible students on low incomes who qualify for certain benefits will be increased by forecast inflation (2.41%) in 2016/17 when compared with the maximum special support grant and maintenance loan support available in 2015/16. Students who qualify for benefits will continue to receive more maintenance support than other students.

For new students who qualify for benefits who are living away from home and studying outside London, the maximum maintenance loan available for 2016/17 will be £9,347, a £220 increase compared to the maximum maintenance support in 2015/16. I can confirm that the equivalent loan rates for students who qualify for benefits who are living away from home and studying in London will be £11,671; for those living in the parental home during their studies, £8,144; and for those studying overseas as part of their UK course, £10,453.

*Maintenance support for new full-time students aged 60 or over at the start of their course in 2016/17*

For new full-time students aged 60 or over who are starting to attend their courses in 2016/17, special support grants will be replaced by maintenance loans. The maximum maintenance loan for eligible students on low incomes who are aged 60 or over at the start of their course will be increased by forecast inflation (2.41%) in

2016/17 to £3,469 when compared with the maximum special support grant available in 2015/16.

*Maintenance support for full-time students continuing their courses in 2016/17*

*Maintenance grant/special support grant*

For continuing full-time students who started attending their course on or after 1 September 2012 but before 1 August 2016, the maximum maintenance grant and special support grant will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17, £3,387.

For continuing full-time students who started their courses before 1 September 2012, the maximum maintenance grant and special support grant in 2016/17 will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17, £3,110.

*Maintenance loans*

Maximum maintenance loans for eligible students who started attending their courses on or after 1 September 2012, but before 1 August 2016, will be increased by forecast inflation (2.41%). For students who are living away from home and studying outside London, the maximum loan for living costs will be £5,878. I can confirm that the equivalent loan rates for students living away from home and studying in London will be £8,202; for those living in the parental home during their studies, £4,675; and for those studying overseas as part of their UK course, £6,984.

Maximum maintenance loans for eligible students who started attending their courses before 1 September 2012 will be increased by forecast inflation (2.41%). For eligible full-time students who started attending their courses before 1 September 2012 and are living away from home while studying outside London, the maximum loan for living costs will be £5,292. I can confirm that the equivalent loan rates for students living away from home and studying in London will be £7,404; for those living in the parental home during their studies, £4,102; and for those studying overseas as part of their UK course, £6,299.

*Long Courses Loans*

The maximum long courses (maintenance) loans for new and continuing students who are attending full-time courses that are longer than 30 weeks and 3 days during the academic year will be increased by forecast inflation (2.41%).

*Dependants' grants*

Maximum amounts for dependants' grants (adult dependants' grant, childcare grant and parents' learning allowance) will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17 for all new and continuing full-time students.

The maximum adult dependants' grant will be £2,757 in 2016/17.

The maximum childcare grant payable in 2016/17, which covers 85% of actual childcare costs, will be £155.24 per week for one child only and £266.15 per week for two or more children.

The maximum parents' learning allowance payable in 2016/17 will be £1,573.

*Part-time grants and loans*

For those students who started part-time and full-time distance learning courses before 1 September 2012 and who are continuing their courses in 2016/17, maximum fee and course grants will be maintained at the levels that apply for 2015/16. Maximum fee grants will be maintained at £1,285, depending on the intensity of study of the course. Maximum course grants will be maintained at £280.

*Income thresholds*

Household income thresholds for grants for fees, maintenance and dependants and those for maintenance loans, will be maintained at 2015/16 levels for 2016/17.

*Disabled Students' Allowance*

Lastly today, I can confirm that maximum grants for full-time, part-time and postgraduate students with disabilities will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

*Regulations*

I expect to lay regulations implementing changes to student support for 2016/17 later this year. More details of the 2016/17 student support package will be published by my Department in due course.

## Hong Kong

[HLWS149]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Philip Hammond), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

The latest six-monthly report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today, and is attached. It covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015. The report has been placed in the Library of the House, as has the previous six-monthly report covering the period 1 July to 31 December 2014. A copy is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website ([www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office)). I commend the report to the House.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

The six-monthly report on Hong Kong: Jan-June 2015 [150721  
Hong Kong Jan-June 2015.pdf]

The six-monthly report on Hong Kong: July-December [150721  
Hong Kong July-Dec 2014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-21/HLWS149/>



## Independent Verification Body

[HLWS148]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Sajid Javid) has today made the following statement.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) as the independent verification body that will carry out the statutory obligations in relation to the business impact target set out in the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 (the Act). The appointment will be for this Parliamentary Session.

The Act requires an independent body to be appointed to verify the assessments of economic impact in respect of all qualifying regulatory provisions within the business impact target (the target), and to verify the regulatory provisions that qualify and do not qualify for the target.

The RPC is advisory non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. It provides the Government with external, independent scrutiny of the quality of evidence and analysis supporting new regulatory and deregulatory proposals. The RPC has experience and expertise in assessing the likely economic impact of regulation on

business activities that is necessary to meet the statutory requirements of the verification body as set out in the Act.

## Insolvency Service

[HLWS147]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Small Business and Enterprise, (Anna Soubry) has today made the following statement.

I have set performance targets for the Insolvency Service for the financial year 2015-16.

The targets reflect a rise in stakeholder confidence in the agency's enforcement action and in its timeliness in reporting to creditors, but also the challenges that it continues to face.

The Insolvency Service has reduced its costs significantly to reflect a continuing reduction in demand for its official receiver services, which handled fewer than 23,000 cases in 2014-15 compared to 27,000 in 2013-14. The number of redundancy claims has also fallen, with 62,000 claims in 2014-15 compared to 75,000 in 2013-14. The numbers of official receiver cases and redundancy claims are expected to fall still further in 2015-16.

The Insolvency Service Annual Plan 2015-16 will be available from 15 July at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency/About-us>. The Plan continues the agency's focus on deficit reduction and actions that will support long term resilience.

<i>Insolvency Service published targets</i>		<i>2014-15 Target</i>	<i>2014-15 Actual</i>	<i>2015-16 Target</i>
Value for Public Money	Deliver against agreed budget, with sound financial management & robust governance.	Achieve	Achieved	Achieve
Customer / Stakeholder Satisfaction	Customer satisfaction sustained in upper quartile of comparable public bodies (survey).	90%	95%	90%
	Confidence in enforcement activity (survey).	69%	73%	73%
	Per cent of reports issued to creditors within eight weeks (bankruptcy/company cases).	92%/85%	98%/95%	95%
Operational Effectiveness	Per cent of disqualification cases in which proceedings are instigated under 23 months.	95%	98%	97%
	Per cent of bankruptcy restrictions authorised within 11 months of insolvency.	80%	86%	80%
	Action redundancy payment claims within three weeks.	80%	87%	80%
	Action redundancy payment claims within six weeks.	92%	97%	92%

The Statement includes the following attached material:

The Insolvency Service Annual Plan 2015-16 [Insolvency Service Plan 2015-16.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-21/HLWS147/>

## Local Plans

[HLWS163]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My hon Friend the Minister of State for Housing and Planning (Brandon

Lewis) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

We are committed to a planning system that provides communities with certainty on where new homes are to be built. Local Plans produced in consultation with the community are therefore the cornerstone of our planning reforms.

During the previous Parliament, the Government enabled this locally-controlled, plan-led approach by abolishing the top-down regional strategies and by replacing over 1,300 pages of central government guidance with the 52-page National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

These changes have already achieved significant results. Local Plans adopted since the NPPF was published allocate substantially more housing than those adopted before the NPPF, and 261,000 homes were granted planning permission in the year to March – the highest annual total since before the 2008 economic crash.

Since the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, local authorities have had more than a decade to produce a Local Plan. Most have done so – 82 per cent of authorities have published a Local Plan. Action is required to ensure that all local authorities meet the standards already achieved by the best.

As stated in the Productivity Plan we will publish league tables setting out local authorities' progress on their Local Plans. In cases where no Local Plan has been produced by early 2017 – five years after the publication of the NPPF – we will intervene to arrange for the Plan to be written, in consultation with local people, to accelerate production of a Local Plan.

Local Plans that are brought forward should meet local needs by being produced in good time and being kept up to date. They should be sufficiently clear and concise to be accessible to everyone with a local interest.

Local authorities cannot plan in isolation. They must work together to provide the land for the housing needed across housing market areas. The NPPF is clear that where local authorities cannot meet their housing needs in full, they should co-operate with other local authorities to do so. We will strengthen planning guidance to improve the operation of the duty to co-operate on key housing and planning issues, to ensure that housing and infrastructure needs are identified and planned for. It is particularly important that this co-operation happens where our housing needs are greatest.

We will continue to support local planning authorities in plan-making, through the Planning Advisory Service, with support from officials of my Department and the Planning Inspectorate.

We recognise that those councils who produce a Local Plan have committed considerable resources, as have others contributing to its development. They should be able to rely on Planning Inspectors to support them in the examination process. I have made it clear to the Planning Inspectorate that this support must be provided. In particular, Inspectors should be highlighting significant issues at an early enough a stage to give councils a full opportunity to respond.

As we have made clear in planning guidance a commitment to an early review of a Local Plan may be appropriate as a way of ensuring that a Local Plan is not unnecessarily delayed by seeking to resolve matters which are not critical to the plan's soundness or legal competence as a whole. The Planning Advisory Service has published a note on where Local Plans have been found sound, subject to early review, which local authorities should consider.

The Secretary of State has today written to the Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate, and a copy of the letter placed in the Library of the House. The Planning Inspectorate will also be reviewing its procedural guidance to ensure that all Local Plan examinations take full account of the overarching approach we have set out.

The package of measures set out in this statement will help to accelerate house building over the next five years, provide certainty for local residents and enterprises, and contribute to the Government's long-term economic plan. I will update Parliament as appropriate on the work the Government is undertaking in support of plan-making progress, and how we will take these measures forward.

## Ministerial Responsibilities

[HLWS158]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My Right Honourable friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Matthew Hancock) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The new List of Ministerial Responsibilities has been published today. Copies have been placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of the House. Copies will also be sent to each Hon. Member's office in this House.

The list can also be accessed on Gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-ministers-and-responsibilities>

The Statement includes the following attached material:

List of Ministerial Responsibilities [FINAL LMR.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-07-21/HLWS158/>

## NHS England

[HLWS159]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My Rt hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Jeremy Hunt) has made the following written ministerial statement.

Today, I am laying before Parliament my annual assessment of the NHS Commissioning Board (known as NHS England) for 2014-15. The NHS Commissioning Board Annual Report & Accounts 2014-15 were also laid (**HC109**). Together these documents show an improving picture of performance, both in terms of delivering the Government's mandate and more widely as an organisation. Copies of both documents will be available to honourable Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

NHS England's annual report sets out the progress that has been made in the last year in delivering the Government's mandate as well as acting to reduce health inequalities, improve quality and encourage greater public and patient involvement in the health service. I am encouraged by its focus on improving efficiency and delivery across the health service and its plans to tackle those areas where improvement is required.

My annual assessment recognises the progress that NHS England has made, I have been impressed by the way in which NHS England has worked with organisations across the health system to develop the NHS Five Year Forward View. We are committed to this vision for a better NHS, which has generated consensus across the health system about how care needs to change to meet patients' needs.

The assessment also sets out my expectations of NHS England for the year ahead. In particular we want to see the NHS make further progress on achieving parity of esteem for mental health and to address winter pressures including restoring and sustaining performance all year round against access standards. We also want to see NHS England strengthen commissioning assurance as well as working with the health system to deliver the productivity and efficiency savings identified within the NHS Five Year Forward View.

Overall NHS England has made good progress during 2014-15. We will continue to work closely with NHS England to address the significant challenges ahead that will require NHS England to work with organisations across the health system to deliver the new care models, along with the productivity and efficiency savings articulated in the NHS Five Year Forward View.

## NHS Modernisation

[HLWS151]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My Rt hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Jeremy Hunt) has made the following written ministerial statement.

The health and care reforms came into operation on 1st April 2013. They reshaped the NHS to give patients a stronger voice and give doctors, nurses and elected councillors more power to decide how best to use local resources to significantly improve services and patients' health.

The National Audit Office subsequently reported that the transition to the reformed health system was successfully implemented and the savings in administration costs would far outweigh the implementation costs.

The Department of Health originally forecast the total cost of transition to be £1.5 billion. On publication of the Department's Annual Report and Accounts for 2014-15, I can today announce that the actual costs to 31 March 2015 are £1.38 billion, and total costs are forecast to be under £1.43 billion. The costs to 31 March 2015 comprises:

- £473 million on staff redundancies;
- £75 million on IT for the new organisations;
- £88 million on estates costs of closing bodies and setting up new organisations;
- £29 million on internal Departmental costs (e.g. programme management);
- £323 million on setting up Clinical Commissioning Groups (excluding items above); and

- £395 million on other costs of closing bodies (e.g. PCTs) and setting up new organisations.

The Department of Health also originally forecast that between 2010-11 and 2014-15 the reforms would save the NHS £4.5 billion in lower administration costs, as well as a further £1.5 billion a year thereafter. I can today also announce that actual savings were far greater, in cash terms at £6.9 billion over this period, including £2 billion in 2014-15 (and in 2010-11 prices comparable to the impact assessment £6.5 billion, including £1.8 billion in 2014-15.) This means the government has successfully achieved its aim to reduce NHS bureaucracy costs by a third.

By removing excessive layers of bureaucracy, the NHS has significantly reduced the number of managers it employs. For example, the reduction of central administrative staff by 18,000 since 2010 has helped the NHS to increase the number of professionally qualified clinical staff by over 23,500, including over 8,500 more nurses and over 9,000 more doctors. These extra clinicians are treating record numbers of patients. For example, compared to 2012-2013, in 2014-2015 the NHS admitted 600,000 more patients to hospital, saw 3.4 million more outpatients, and did 2.2 million more diagnostic tests.

## Office of Tax Simplification

[HLWS155]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (David Gauke) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Office of Tax Simplification (OTS) has been established today on a permanent basis as an independent Office of the Treasury.

The OTS was established as a temporary Office of the Treasury in 2010 to advise the Chancellor on options for addressing existing complexity in the tax system. It will be established on a statutory basis in Finance Bill 2016, as announced at Summer Budget 2015.

A new Framework Document setting out the structure within which the OTS will operate has been published on the OTS website today, alongside terms of reference for two upcoming reviews

## Police Funding: England and Wales

[HLWS153]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice and Victims (Mike Penning) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today I have launched a consultation on reform of the current arrangements for allocating central Government funding to the 43 police force areas in England and Wales.

Police reform is working. Over the last five years, frontline services have been protected, public confidence in the police has gone up and crime has fallen by more

than a quarter since 2010, according to the independent Crime Survey for England and Wales.

However, if we want policing in this country to be the best it can be, then we must reform further, and that includes putting police funding on a long-term, sustainable footing.

The current model for allocating police funding, the Police Allocation Formula (PAF), is complex, opaque and out of date. Following a comprehensive review of the PAF by the Home Office, the Government believes that the formula should be replaced by a simplified model as soon as it is appropriate to do so. This consultation seeks views on the principles underpinning this model, including around transitional arrangements with a view to implementation for the 2016/17 financial year.

A copy of this consultation will be placed in the House Library. It will also be available on the Home Office website: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

## Relief Deeds

[HLWS152]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Damian Hinds) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

At Budget 2013, the government announced it would begin signing decommissioning relief deeds. These deeds represent a new contractual approach to provide oil and gas companies with certainty on the level of tax relief they will receive on future decommissioning costs.

Since October 2013, the government has entered into 72 decommissioning relief deeds. Oil & Gas UK estimates that these deeds have so far unlocked more than £3.5bn of capital, which can now be invested elsewhere.

The government committed to report to Parliament every year on progress with the deeds. The report for financial year 2014-15 is provided below.

1. The number of decommissioning relief agreements entered into: the government entered into 16 decommissioning relief agreements in 2014-15.

2. The total number of decommissioning relief agreements in force at the end of that year: 66 decommissioning relief agreements were in force at the end of the year.

3. The number of payments made under any decommissioning relief agreements during that year, and the amount of each payment: no payments were made under any decommissioning relief agreements in 2014-15.

4. The total number of payments that have been made under any decommissioning relief agreements as at the end of that year, and the total amount of those payments: no payments had been made under any decommissioning relief agreement as at the end of the 2014-15 financial year.

5. An estimate of the maximum amount liable to be paid under any decommissioning relief agreements: the government has not made any changes to the tax regime

that would generate a liability to be paid under any decommissioning relief agreements. The government will recognise a provision of £230m in respect of decommissioning expenditure incurred as a result of a company defaulting on their decommissioning obligations. The date of recognition is dependent on the date of default, however our current planning assumptions assume the amount will be included in HM Treasury's 2015-16 accounts.

## Wanless and Whittam

[HLWS160]

**Lord Bates:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The House will recall that the Cabinet Office released a file containing information about Sir Peter Hayman to The National Archives in January this year. That file should have been submitted to Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC in their review of "An independent Review Of Two Home Office Commissioned Independent Reviews Looking At Information Held In Connection With Child Abuse from 1979-1999" which was published on 11 November 2014. As a result of the discovery of the Sir Peter Hayman file, the Cabinet Office undertook further searches of the Cabinet Secretary's private papers collection. Officials identified four additional relevant files. The then Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude, informed Members about these papers in a written ministerial statement to the House on 4 February.

Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC have now reviewed this additional material and produced a supplementary report. They have found nothing in these additional files and papers which leads them to alter the conclusions drawn in their original report, which was published in November 2014. They found "nothing to support a concern that files had been deliberately or systematically removed or destroyed to cover up organised child abuse" and saw "no evidence to suggest PIE was ever funded by the Home Office because of sympathy for its aims". Nor do they alter their previous recommendations made in their report published in November. The Home Office accepted all three of these recommendations last year and continues to ensure they are being implemented across the department.

The supplementary report refers to a letter from the Home Office's Director of Safeguarding informing Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC that, following a separate enquiry, the Home Office had also uncovered some unregistered papers. Wanless and Whittam chose not to examine this additional material because although these papers contained search terms relevant to their original review they were unregistered. As a result they did not appear on the Department's record management system and were therefore outside the scope of the search process agreed at the time.

The supplementary report concludes that the discovery of these papers shows the need for all departments to be able to search material both on and off record managements systems. This is particularly important given that the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse will be asking for departments to produce relevant documents in the near future. I have been clear that it is

vital that the whole of Government fully co-operates with the Inquiry on its important work and ensures that departments have the systems and processes in place in order to do so.

I will arrange for a copy of the supplementary report to be placed in the House Libraries and on the Gov.uk website.



# Written Statements

Wednesday, 22 July 2015

## Courts and Tribunals Service

[HLWS166]

**Lord Faulks:** I am today announcing the Government's Response to the consultation on proposals for increases to court fees, which was published on 16 January 2015, and also launching a new consultation on further proposals.

The courts fulfil a vital role in an effective and functioning democracy. They provide access to justice for those who need it, upholding the principle of the rule of law. That is why we need to make sure that the courts and tribunals are properly funded.

The Secretary of State and the Courts Minister have set out separately plans for reform to the courts and tribunals where we will be investing in reforms that will deliver a modernised, leaner, and more efficient system.

To deliver this vision, we need a strong, secure and effective economy. This Government was elected to continue our work to fix the economy, by reducing public spending, eliminating the deficit and reducing the national debt. The courts and tribunals must continue to play their part in this national effort as much as any other public service.

There is, however, only so much that can be delivered through efficiency measures alone. If we are to secure sustainable funding of the courts and tribunals, we must also look to those who use the system to contribute more where they can afford to do so.

That is why we have to look again at court fees. Despite the fees already introduced, HMCTS still costs £1 billion a year more to run than it receives in income. In considering the changes outlined below, we have been determined to:

- deliver faster and fairer justice for all;
- protect the weak and vulnerable;
- promote equality of all before the law.

Following a consultation launched by the Coalition Government in January 2015, today's Government Response confirms that we will:

- Increase the fees for issuing a possession claim in the county court by £75, from £280 to £355. Our analysis of the available evidence suggests that this increase will not deter anyone who would otherwise have taken their claim to court.

- Increase the fees for general applications in civil proceedings by £50, from £50 to £100, for an application by consent and by £100, from £155 to £255, for a contested application. In order to ensure the most vulnerable are not affected, we are excluding from this fee rise applications such as those to vary or extend an injunction for protection from harassment or violence.

In December 2013, the Coalition Government also consulted on increasing the fee payable to issue divorce

proceedings from £410 to £750. Today we are announcing that we will:

- Increase the fees for issuing divorce proceedings to £550. We have carefully considered the concerns raised during the consultation and decided not to increase fees by 80% as originally proposed. Instead we will press ahead with a more affordable increase of about a third. We are also protecting the most vulnerable by ensuring that fee remission is available for those who need it, such as women in low wage households.

These three measures are estimated to deliver over £60million in additional income each year but the drive to reduce costs is ongoing. We are therefore also announcing today a consultation on further proposals:

- An increase in the maximum fee for money claims from £10,000 to at least £20,000. Fees are currently payable on 5% of the value of a claim up to a maximum fee of £10,000. This change will only affect the highest value claims, worth £200,000 or more. There are 1.2 million money claims each year, of which 5,000 will be affected. That is just 0.4% of the total, or 1 in every 240 money claims. Many of the claims brought for higher values will involve large multi-national organisations or wealthy individuals, and we believe it is right to ask them to contribute more. In order to protect the most vulnerable, personal injury and clinical negligence claims will be excluded from this higher cap and fee remissions for those of limited means will continue to apply.

- Introducing or increasing fees for certain tribunals. We are proposing to double fees in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber, while applying exemptions to protect the most vulnerable. We will not be applying any fees to the Social Entitlement Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal, where most applicants do not have the means to pay, or to the Mental Health Tribunal, which deals with especially vulnerable individuals. We will, however, introduce fees to the property, tax and general regulatory chambers. In the property tribunal, we are proposing fees at low levels for the majority of applications, while setting higher fees for leasehold enfranchisement cases where there are often large sums of money at stake. In each of the tribunals being consulted on, we aim to recover 25% of the total cost of the service through fees with taxpayers footing the rest of the bill.

- A general uplift of 10% to a wide range of fees in civil proceedings. These are small increases and only apply to fees which are not already above full cost.

These further proposals are estimated to generate around £48million a year in additional income.

We are committed to protecting access to justice for all and so we will:

- Make the remissions scheme more generous. We will increase the amount of disposable capital those who need to pay a larger court fee are allowed to have in order to qualify for remission. We are also considering whether other forms of payment or benefit should be excluded from the disposable capital test. The HMCTS remission scheme will apply across all the courts and tribunals on

which we are consulting, with the exception of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber where separate arrangements are in place.

Full details are set out in the consultation paper which is available on the MoJ website. The consultation will close on 15 September.

We recognise that fee increases are not popular but they are necessary if we are to deliver our promises to fix the economy and bring the nation into surplus. At every stage we have sought to protect the most vulnerable by ensuring they will not have to pay new and higher fees and by making the remissions scheme more generous. We have also sought to ensure that those who can afford to – such as wealthy individuals or large corporations making very high money claims – will make a bigger contribution. Every pound we collect from these fee increases will be spent on providing an efficient and effective system of courts and tribunals.

### Higher Education: Alternative Providers

[HLWS165]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My hon Friend the Minister of State for Universities and Science (Jo Johnson) is publishing today the Government's response to our consultation on improving quality and value for money at alternative providers of higher education.

The Government has considered the responses to the consultation and will now implement the policies that were consulted on. These measures will strengthen the English language requirements at alternative providers, give better information to prospective students and link student number controls to the performance of the provider.

From the 2016/17 academic year alternative providers of higher education will:

1. Have to ensure their students have a proficiency of English Language skills assessed at minimum international level B2 (equivalent to 5.5-6.5 on the IELTS scale) or equivalent upon starting the course
2. Be required to provide prospective students with better information through the Key Information Set
3. Have their student number controls linked to their performance, with the best performers eligible for higher allocations

These changes will help build confidence, transparency and accountability in the alternative provider sector. They will incentivise high quality provision and allow the best providers to grow while further tackling poor provision and poor practice.

The response document will be made available on the [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) website. Copies of the response have been made available in the libraries of both Houses.

### Levy Control Framework

[HLWS164]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate

Change is today announcing a package of reforms to take control of the costs of renewable electricity subsidies under the Levy Control Framework (LCF). This is part of the Government's commitment to control energy bills for hard-working British families and businesses as we continue to move to a low carbon economy and make progress toward our carbon reduction and renewable energy targets.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change's latest forecasts under the Levy Control Framework to 2020/21, confirmed in the Office of Budgetary Responsibility's (OBR) report 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook – July 2015'<sup>[1]</sup>, have shown that forecast spend on renewable energy subsidy schemes is set to be higher than expected when the schemes under the LCF were established. The Government has set a limit of £7.6bn in 2020-2021 (in 2011/12 prices), so the current forecast is £1.5bn above that limit. This is due to accelerated developments in technological efficiency, higher than expected uptake of demand-led schemes and changes in wholesale prices. This means that the forecast of future spend under the LCF is now estimated at around £11.4bn (in nominal prices) or £9.1bn (in 2011/12 prices) in 2020/21. The Government is determined to bring these costs under control to protect consumers and provide a basis for investment in clean electricity in future.

It is important therefore to control spending under the demand-led schemes in order to deliver renewable electricity at competitive prices. As part of this the Government has recently announced its intention to end new subsidies for onshore wind and to close the Renewables Obligation to new onshore wind in Great Britain from 1 April 2016. Today the Government is announcing further measures to control costs under the demand-led schemes managed under the LCF.

These measures indicate our move away from demand-led schemes while providing appropriate protection for existing investments.

*Changes to grandfathering provisions for biomass co-firing and conversion plant under the Renewables Obligation (RO)*

Following consultation and a careful review of the evidence and opinions, the Government's assessment is that unless grandfathering is withdrawn as proposed in the consultation there is strong likelihood that additional biomass conversion units not previously accounted for in RO budgets would convert under the RO. This could result in a potential additional cost of around £500m per annum in 2020/21 (2011/12 prices). The Government is therefore taking action to ensure that the support rate under the RO for future biomass co-firing and conversion projects in England and Wales will no longer be covered by grandfathering<sup>[2]</sup>. Exceptions will be provided to protect those who have already made significant financial commitments.

Further detail can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-grandfathering-policy-with-respect-to-future-biomass->

### co-firing-and-conversion-projects-in-the-renewables-obligation

*Consulting on controlling spending on support for solar PV electricity generating stations of 5MW and below within the RO*

DECC's latest analysis indicates that solar PV deployment under the RO is likely to be significantly greater than previously anticipated. Evidence has also grown that the costs to developers associated with the deployment of solar PV have dropped significantly in the last few years. This suggests that some solar projects are receiving more support under the RO than is necessary for them to deploy. As part of wider action to control costs, the Government is therefore proposing to take action to further constrain the costs of solar PV under the RO.

The RO scheme will be closing to all technologies at the end of March 2017. However, in view of the evidence above the Government proposes to close the RO early to new solar projects of 5MW and below from 1 April 2016, providing grace periods to protect developers that have preliminary accreditation, those who have made a significant financial investment<sup>[3]</sup> as of the date of the publication of the consultation and those affected by grid delays outside of their control.

In addition, to avoid potential overcompensation of further solar deployment before the early closure, the Government proposes to remove grandfathering for solar PV projects that are not accredited under the RO as of the date of this consultation, with an exception for developers that have made a significant financial investment as of the date of the publication of the consultation. Subject to the proposed consultation, the Government also intends to publish proposed bandings for new solar PV projects of 5MW and below for consultation.

Further detail can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/Changes-to-financial-support-for-solar-PV>.

*Consulting on changes to the preliminary accreditation rules under the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) scheme, followed by a wider review of the scheme to drive significant further savings*

The FIT scheme was introduced in April 2010 to support sub-5MW solar, onshore wind, anaerobic digestion and hydro projects. Pre-accreditation was introduced in order to allow installations above 50kw to lock in their tariff level. Now that the sector has demonstrated its ability to deploy at scale, the Government believes that it is appropriate to look to transfer that risk back to industry. This could reduce future LCF spending pressure and reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of increases in deployment triggered by any future tariff depressions.

Further detail can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/Changes-to-Feed-in-Tariff-accreditation>.

The Government will also consult on further cost control measures as part of the wider FITs Review later in the summer.

### LCF budget post-2020

The Government remains committed to renewal of our ageing energy infrastructure, maintaining a secure energy supply, and meeting our environmental commitments as cost-effectively as possible.

The announcements that the Government is making today provide the basis for a more sustainable approach to future low-carbon electricity investment.

The Government will therefore set out totals for the Levy Control Framework beyond 2020, providing a basis for electricity investment into the next decade, and in the autumn the Government will set out its plans in respect of the next CFD allocation round.

[1] Table 4.5 Current Receipts on page 98 sets out the cost of Environmental Levies and can be found at <http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/July-2015-EFO-234224.pdf>.

Table 2.7 Environmental Levies providing the breakdown of spend on the RO, FIT and CFD can be found at [http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/fiscal\\_supplementary\\_tables\\_2015](http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/fiscal_supplementary_tables_2015) Figures are nominal.

[2] Grandfathering is a policy that once a generating station is accredited and receiving RO support at a certain level, the level would not change for the lifetime of its support under that scheme

[3] To demonstrate a significant financial investment it is proposed that developers will have to provide evidence of a planning application, a grid connection agreement and land rights

## National Planning Policy Framework: Technical Adjustment

[HLWS167]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Following a recent High Court judgement (*Wenman v Secretary of State*), we are today making a technical adjustment to paragraphs 49 and 159 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

### Paragraph 49

From today, those persons who fall within the definition of 'traveller' under the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, cannot rely on the lack of a five year supply of deliverable housing sites under the National Planning Policy Framework to show that relevant policies for the supply of housing are not up to date. Such persons should have the lack of a five year supply of deliverable traveller sites considered in accordance with Planning Policy for Traveller Sites.

### Paragraph 159

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how 'travellers' (as defined in Annex A of that document) accommodation needs should also be assessed. Those who do not fall under that definition should have their accommodation needs addressed under the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

This does not form part of the changes to planning policy for travellers, on which the Government consulted in 2014, and to which this Government intends to respond shortly.

## Written Statements

*Monday, 7 September 2015*

### Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition

[HLWS168]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Andrew Turner), has made the following Ministerial Statement:

The Department for Transport launched the £25m Advanced Biofuels Demonstration Competition to support the development of a domestic advanced biofuel industry in December 2014. Following a strong competition, I am pleased to announce that three projects have been selected for investment totalling £25 million over three years.

Grants are to be awarded to three winning projects:

Celtic Renewables Limited £10,925,000

Advanced Plasma Power Limited £10,958,194

Nova Pangaea Limited £ 3,000,000

The projects will use the capital grants awarded, supported by significant private sector investment, to construct three demonstration-scale advanced biofuel plants in Swindon, Tees Valley and Grangemouth.

Relative to first-generation biofuels (those made from traditional crops, starch, sugars or vegetable oil), advanced fuels have the potential to deliver greater carbon savings without the same concerns around food security and land use change. The advanced fuel technologies the winning projects will demonstrate could reduce our reliance on imported energy, by turning unwanted waste products into valuable transport fuel, adding value to the UK economy and creating jobs. According to an independent feasibility study, gains from the domestic supply as a result of converting low value waste to high value transport fuel could be worth up to £130 million Gross Value Added (GVA) to the UK by 2030, and potentially up to £500m per year including exports.

This is a major step forward for the UK and supports the work the Department for Transport is doing to set the UK's long term strategy for biofuels in order to meet EU targets, which includes considering a sub target for advanced biofuels.

### Royal Navy Operations

[HLWS170]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Penny Mordaunt) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 15 April 2015, while in the Irish Sea, the Fishing Vessel KAREN sustained damage to her nets and deck equipment and, following repairs, resumed fishing shortly after.

On the information available at the time, the Royal Navy (RN) was confident that no UK submarine was involved in the incident, and I also informed the House in response to questions from the hon. Member for South Down (Mrs Ritchie) on 10 June 2015 (question 1312) and during Defence oral questions on 13 July 2015 (Official Report, column 579).

I now wish to inform the House that, on the basis of new information that has become available, the RN has now confirmed that a UK submarine was, in fact, responsible for snagging the KAREN's nets. The incident, the delay in identifying and addressing the events on that day, and their consequences, are deeply regretted.

It is standing Ministry of Defence (MOD) policy not to comment in detail on submarine operations but, exceptionally, I can say that this incident occurred because the submarine did not correctly identify the KAREN as a fishing vessel with nets in the water, and thus did not give her the berth she would otherwise have had. Moreover, had the submarine been aware of the incident at the time, which it was not, then the protocols in place under the "Code of Practice for submarine operations in the vicinity of fishing vessels" would have required the submarine to surface and remain on scene while the matter was investigated.

Notwithstanding the enduring requirement to operate RN submarines in busy coastal waters to guarantee our national security, this is the first incident between an RN submarine and a fishing vessel since the Code was introduced in 1993. Having identified the specific circumstances, the RN has already taken steps to further reduce the risk of such circumstances happening again: the instructions issued to submarine Commanding Officers (COs) have been updated to reflect the lessons learned, which will also inform the training given to future COs. The RN's reporting procedures have been reviewed to enable it to confirm more quickly whether or not a UK submarine was involved. These new arrangements will enable the Ministry of Defence's established claims procedures to be invoked with minimal delay and the matter fully investigated.

MOD officials have contacted the KAREN's owners and insurers to discuss appropriate compensation.

I can assure the House that we take the safety of fishing vessels, and of life at sea, very seriously. The RN is co-operating with the Marine Accident Investigation Board's independent inquiry, and will continue to engage with the UK's fishing communities to explain our position and how we are responding. We will continue to work closely with the Fishing Industry Safety Group and Trade Associations to ensure the continuing safety of fishing vessels and our ships and submarines.

### Thames Tideway Tunnel

[HLWS169]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Hon Friend the Parliamentary under Secretary of State (Rory Stewart) has today made the following statement.



I wish to update the house on progress on the Thames Tideway Tunnel since the Written Ministerial Statement—5 June 2014, *Official Report*, column 11WS—made by my rt. hon. Friend the member for North Shropshire (Owen Paterson).

The Thames Tideway Tunnel is an example of world leading British engineering at its best. It will boost economic growth across the capital, generate thousands of jobs and bring significant benefits to the natural environment by protecting the Thames from sewage. In the 21st century, the most dynamic city in the world should not have a river that is polluted by sewage every time there is heavy rainfall.

In the previous statement the Government confirmed it had required Thames Water to put the project out to tender by running a competitive procurement for an Infrastructure Provider that would be separate from Thames Water and would be responsible for delivering the project, including its financing.

The procurement was carried out under the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006. The Government and Ofwat were consulted throughout this process. On 14 July 2015 Thames Water announced that the consortium forming Bazalgette Tunnel Limited was its preferred bidder for the project's Infrastructure Provider. The shareholders are a consortium of pension funds and long-term investors represented by Allianz, Amber Infrastructure (representing International Public Partnerships and Swiss Life), Dalmore Capital and DIF.

On 12 August the European Commission announced that it was content that the State Aid contained in the Government Support Package was compatible with the European Union's internal market. The adopted decision is expected to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union in due course.

On 14 August Ofwat announced that it had designated Bazalgette Tunnel Limited as the Infrastructure Provider under the Water Industry (Specified Infrastructure Projects) (English Undertakers) Regulations 2013.

On 24 August Ofwat awarded Bazalgette Tunnel Limited a Project Licence and commercial close was reached on the project. The Project Licence award followed two public consultations carried out by Ofwat in October 2014 and August 2015. Bazalgette Tunnel Limited also signed the project documentation and the three main construction contracts with three consortia who will construct the tunnel.

In addition, Bazalgette Tunnel Limited and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with other project parties, have entered into contracts constituting the Government's contingent financial support for the project (the "Government Support Package") and other associated documents. The

Government Support Package has enabled the project to attract private sector finance at an acceptable cost for customers and will only be called upon if certain low-probability but high-impact risks arise during construction. If they do not materialise there will be no exposure for the taxpayer.

The Secretary of State, Bazalgette Tunnel Limited and Thames Water also signed the Liaison Agreement. This enables Government to monitor progress on the project and will assist with managing any likely calls on the Government Support Package.

I am placing the core contracts today in the library of both Houses, subject to some commercial redactions. I understand that other contracts relating to the project will be made available in due course by the parties involved.

The competitions for both the Infrastructure Provider and the construction contracts were highly competitive. The winning bid for the Infrastructure Provider offered a Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC) of 2.497%, which is fixed, subject to the terms of the Project Licence, until the first Price Review following construction. The construction procurements delivered a target build cost which is unchanged from that estimated in 2011. As a result, Thames Water now estimates the project will lead to an average household customer bill impact which will peak at £20 to £25 by the mid-2020s (in 2015 prices), of which £7 is already included within customer bills. They also expect that their current average household bill for water and wastewater services will remain at the same level, before inflation, until at least 2020. This impact is considerably lower than the maximum estimate of £70 to £80 given in the written ministerial statement—3 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 41WS—made by my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon). This is a significant and welcome reduction in the estimated bill impacts of the project.

From the first periodic Price Review following construction of the tunnel prices will be regulated by Ofwat as they are for the remainder of the industry.

Construction on the main drive sites is anticipated to start in late summer 2016 with physical completion scheduled for 2023.

Many parties have invested a great deal of time and effort to reach this significant milestone. Government looks forward to continuing to work closely with Bazalgette Tunnel Limited, Thames Water and Ofwat so that it can manage the taxpayer risks that arise from the Government Support Package during the construction period and help ensure a successful outcome for customers, taxpayers and the environment.



# Written Statements

Tuesday, 8 September 2015

## Counter IED Equipment: Pakistan

[HLWS172]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I have today laid before the House a Departmental Minute describing a package of spare parts for Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) equipment which the UK intends to gift to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at their request to support previously gifted C-IED equipment. The value of the package is £948,439.00, plus around £40,000 for packaging and shipping.

Pakistan continues to face a severe threat from IED attacks perpetrated by terrorists based in its country. It has sought the UK's assistance in developing the capabilities of its security forces to tackle this threat. In May, the UK finished providing a three-year counter-IED (C-IED) programme to help Pakistan develop a multi-agency capability for tackling IEDs. As part of this programme, the UK has gifted in total £12.915 million of C-IED equipment to Pakistan. A new, enhanced programme will be launched later this year.

Pakistan now has a rapidly expanding C-IED capability, with over 5,000 of its security forces trained. More of these IEDs are being defeated across the provinces and lives are being saved. Pakistani battalions, who have benefited from UK support, have been operating for more than a year as part of the military's counter terrorism operations in North Waziristan Agency.

Developing Pakistan's counter-terrorism capability is firmly in support of our Counter Terrorism Strategy, targets the problem at source and reduces the risk of a terrorist attack, potentially against UK interests.

Subject to completion of the Departmental Minute process, gifting is expected to be undertaken in the fourth quarter of 2015.

## Prison Education

[HLWS171]

**Lord Faulks:** My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Michael Gove) has made the following Written Statement.

"We have more than 80,000 adults in our custody. One of the most important things we can do once they are inside the prison walls is to make sure that they get the literacy and numeracy skills they need to make them employable and positive contributors to society once released. For those serving longer sentences, education and training is a key part of their rehabilitation.

We must have the right incentives for prisoners to learn and for prison staff to make sure that education is

properly prioritised. I want to see prisoners motivated to engage in their own learning and Governors with the right tools to be more demanding and creative about the education provided in the prisons they run.

I have seen some excellent examples of innovation and visionary organisations providing prisoners with education opportunities and qualifications they actually need to help secure a job on release. But I want to see more.

That is why I have asked Dame Sally Coates to lead a review of the provision of education in prisons.

Dame Sally has a wealth of experience in working with pupils in inner-city schools and in taking decisive action to improve schools' performance. She took charge of Burlington Danes Academy when it became an ARK school, leading it from special measures to outstanding in all areas. In her current role as Director of Academies South for United Learning she oversees the provision of education in 16 academies and 7 independent schools. She recently carried out a review of teaching standards for the Department for Education and I know she will inject fresh thinking into the neglected area of prison education so that many more offenders' lives can be turned around.

Dame Sally will be supported by a panel of people who have delivered outstanding secondary education, experts in further and higher education, employers, representatives from Ofsted, senior officials from the Ministry of Justice, the National Offender Management Service and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills as well as experienced frontline prison staff. Together they will work with Dame Sally to explore how we can significantly improve education for all prisoners.

They will also investigate how the quality and methods of prison teaching can be improved including in classrooms and workshops, how prisoners can be encouraged to positively engage with learning and the potential for employers to advise on the curriculum to ensure that prisons offer the right courses and qualifications to enable prisoners to secure jobs on release.

I want this review to happen at pace so I have asked Dame Sally to make recommendations by spring next year.

A copy of the terms of reference for the review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses."

## UK Asset Resolution: Consumer Credit Act

[HLWS173]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I can today update the House following previous statements on 11th December 2012 and 11th December 2014 on the Consumer Credit Act (CCA) litigation case undertaken by NRAM plc (formerly Northern Rock (Asset Management) plc). I can now confirm that

following the High Court judgement in December 2014 and the subsequent decision taken by the Boards of UK Asset Resolution (UKAR), the NRAM holding company, and UK Financial Investments (UKFI), to pursue an appeal, the Court of Appeal overturned the High Court judgement in July 2015 and found in favour of NRAM. The Court of Appeal confirmed that customers who took out unsecured loans of more than £25,000 under agreements that incorrectly stated these loans were regulated under the CCA are not entitled to the same rights and remedies as those customers who took out

loans that were regulated under the CCA. The UKAR statement is available at:

<http://www.ukar.co.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2015/23-07-2015?page=1>

UKAR had estimated the cost if it had to remediate affected customers to be £279 million plus any future interest accruing on these accounts before remediation is made. A provision for this amount was included in the Treasury Group accounts and following the Court of Appeal judgement this provision has been removed.

# Written Statements

Wednesday, 9 September 2015

## Defence Technical Training Change Programme

[HLWS175]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Defence College of Technical Training (DCTT) delivers training and education to engineers and technicians from all three Services, at Schools located at Ministry of Defence (MOD) Lyneham, Blandford Garrison, RAF Cosford, HMS Sultan at Gosport and MOD St Athan. The Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME) schools are due to move shortly from Bordon and Arborfield to MOD Lyneham, under Tranche 1 of the Defence Technical Training Change Programme (DTTCP).

The DTTCP was established to take forward one of the key outcomes from the Defence Training Review, the need to transform the way technical training is delivered to the Armed Forces. It is also seeking ways to rationalise the training estate in line with Defence objectives; reduce the military manpower involved in the delivery of training; reduce the time taken for personnel to be trained, and maintain training to the standards required by all three Services.

Due to the enormity of the task we planned to implement training transformation in a phased manner, split into a series of tranches, the first being the relocation of the REME Schools from Bordon and Arborfield to MOD Lyneham. For the subsequent tranches of the programme, the original intent was to consolidate additional elements of the DCTT at MOD Lyneham. However, a recently completed re-evaluation of the programme has determined that the consolidation onto a single site at MOD Lyneham is not the best solution.

The revised DTTCP will result in the Defence School of Marine Engineering and the Royal Naval Air Engineering & Survival Equipment School remaining at HMS Sultan. It will also see No. 1 School of Technical Training, the Aeronautical Engineering & Management Training School and the No. 1 Radio School remaining at RAF Cosford and subject to further work, these schools will be joined at RAF Cosford by No. 4 School of Technical Training from MOD St Athan.

The future location of the Royal School of Signals, currently based at Blandford Garrison, is being assessed as part of the Footprint Strategy work to establish a more effective use of the Defence estate in support of Military capability. This will report during 2016.

The school Commandants at each site have informed their service personnel, civil servants and contractors of these plans. The Trade Unions have been briefed.

The resetting of the DTTCP will not affect the rebasing of the REME schools to MOD Lyneham.

## Police Reform

[HLWS174]

**Lord Bates:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The historic office of constable is at the very heart of the policing of England and Wales. Police officers across the country carry out a wide range of duties, keeping the public safe and ensuring justice for the most vulnerable members of society. We value the essential role they play, but they cannot do this on their own. Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and other designated police staff have played a key role in policing our communities in recent years and we believe that they should play a greater role in the future.

Volunteers also play a vital role in community safety. Since 1831, Special Constables have taken many of the same risks as full-time police officers, for no reward other than the satisfaction of playing their part in keeping their communities safe from crime. In recent years, Police Support Volunteers have also played an important part of policing in such roles as manning police enquiry desks or giving crime prevention advice. But there is an anomaly. Volunteers can either have all of the powers of the constable, as a Special; or have none of the powers, as a police support volunteer. They cannot take on roles such as Community Support Officers. Enabling volunteers to be designated with powers in the same way as staff would enable them to work more closely with their policing colleagues to support forces in keeping their communities safe.

There is more that both police staff and volunteers can do, bringing new skills and expertise to police forces, freeing up police officers to concentrate on the core policing task that most requires their particular powers and experience. This Government wants to encourage those with skills in particular demand, such as those with specialist IT or accountancy skills, to get involved and help the police to investigate cyber or financial crime and, as their experience grows, to enable them to play a greater part in investigations. We want to help the police to make further progress on the use of cyber-specials.

I am today publishing a consultation paper setting out a set of reforms to address these challenges. We will, for the first time, underline the office of constable at the centre of policing in England and Wales by setting out in a single piece of legislation the core list of powers that will only be available to police officers. Beyond these core powers, we will also give police forces a more flexible workforce, enabling police officers to focus on the most important roles; roles that only they can carry out. We will therefore, subject to key safeguards, enable chief officers to designate other police powers to staff. And we will allow volunteers to take on the same range of powers as designated staff.

These reforms will help this Government to finish the job of police reform, taking further the process started in the Police Reform Act 2002, which first introduced the PCSO role and the concept that police staff, as well as police officers, could have enforcement powers. The proposals included in this consultation are summarised below; further details are set out in the consultation document:

- enabling chief officers to designate a wider range of powers on police staff and volunteers;

- creating a list of ‘core’ police powers that would remain exclusive to police officers;
- taking an order-making power to enable Parliament to add to the list of those ‘core’ powers;
- enabling volunteers to be designated with powers in the same way as staff; and
- abolishing the office of traffic warden under the Road Traffic Acts.

The consultation document is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/hocons>; the closing date for responses is 31 October 2015.

## Written Statements

Thursday, 10 September 2015

### Foods Standards Agency (Triennial Reviews)

[HLWS176]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (Jane Ellison) has made the following written ministerial statement.

I am today announcing the start of the Triennial Review by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) of the six Scientific Advisory Committees for which the FSA is the sole or lead sponsor. The six Committees are:

- The Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs;
- The Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food;
- The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes;
- The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment;
- The General Advisory Committee on Science; and
- The Social Science Research Committee.

The Triennial Review programme ensures that all Government departments review their non-departmental public bodies on a regular basis.

Reviews are conducted in two stages. The first stage will examine the continuing need for the functions provided by each Committee, and whether the organisation's form, including operating at arm's length from government, remains appropriate. If the outcome of this stage is that delivery should continue, the second stage of the review will assess whether the bodies are operating efficiently and in line with the recognised principles of good corporate governance.

The FSA is reviewing all six bodies as a cluster, which will provide for a more efficient review process, and allow the review to consider any gaps or overlaps in the Committees' functions and opportunities for efficiencies in their operation,

The FSA will consult widely with relevant stakeholders, including: the Select Committees on Science and Technology for both the House of Commons and House of Lords, on Health, and on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Government departments and their agencies; the Devolved Administrations; and others with an interest in the work of the Committees. The FSA will also launch an open call for evidence so that all those with an interest can contribute.

I will inform the House of the outcome of the review when it is completed and the findings of the review will be published.

### GCSE and A-level Subject Consultation

[HLWS179]

**Lord Nash:** My honourable Friend the Minister of State for Schools (Nick Gibb MP) today made the following announcement:

Today 10 September 2015 I am launching a public consultation on revised subject content for 6 GCSEs and 9 A levels which will be taught from 2017.

We are reforming GCSEs and A levels to be rigorous and more knowledge-based and to match the qualifications used in the best education systems in the world. Our objective is to ensure that young people leave our education system equipped to compete with the best performers across the globe.

The reforms aim to ensure that GCSEs are more academically demanding and will be qualifications in which students, employers, and further education colleges and universities can have confidence. At A level, our reforms aim to ensure that they prepare students for undergraduate study.

A priority in the development of the new qualifications has been to ensure that subject experts, particularly university academics in the relevant subjects, are involved in determining the subject content.

The subject content documents being published today set new expectations which all awarding organisations' specifications must meet. Awarding organisations have drafted the content, working with subject experts, the Department for Education and Ofqual. An additional consultation will be published in the autumn with content for Government and Politics and Geology A levels.

This consultation is an opportunity for all those with an interest in these subjects to provide their views which will be considered when redrafting the content for final publication.

#### *Summary of changes to subjects*

Accounting A level retains the current requirement for students to acquire a solid knowledge of, and the ability to apply, double entry accounting methods. There is also an increased emphasis on the use of accounting concepts and techniques in the analysis and evaluation of financial information.

Ancient History GCSE requires the study of the history of at least two ancient societies drawn from 3000 BC to 500 AD. Each ancient society must constitute 20% or more of the qualification, and at least one of them must be Roman or Greek. Students will have to undertake: one period study covering at least 50 years; one longer period study covering at least 200 years; and two in-depth studies focusing on substantial and coherent shorter time spans.

Ancient history A level requires the study of ancient history drawn from 3000 BC to 500 AD. A level students must study both Roman and Greek history, with each constituting 20% or more of the qualification. At AS level, students must study at least one of either Roman or Greek history, which must constitute 50% or more of the



qualification. Students will have to undertake: two period studies covering at least 75 years; and (at A level only) two in depth studies focusing on substantial and coherent shorter time spans. Students will have to study ancient historical topics from a span of at least 400 years.

Classical Civilisation GCSE provides much greater detail on the requirements to be studied for literature and visual/material culture, which consists of architecture and/or artefacts and artworks. Literature must form at least 40% and visual/material culture must form 20% or more of the total qualification. There is also a comparative, thematic study, which must form 20% or more of the total qualification. Both Roman and Greek civilisations must be studied, forming at least 20% each of the total qualification.

Classical Civilisation A level provides much greater detail on the requirements to be studied for literature, visual/material culture and philosophy and thought. All three of these areas must be studied at A level. At AS level literature plus one of the other two options must be studied. Literature must form at least 40% of the total qualification at both AS and A level.

Electronics GCSE sets out the detailed knowledge and understanding required by students. The content increases the demand of the subject by increasing the breadth and depth of content required, including demanding mathematical requirements.

In the Electronics A level, the depth and breadth of the content has been reviewed. A number of new topics has been added and depth has been increased by including additional content in current topic areas. The content also strengthens the mathematical requirements. New mathematical requirements have been added and the formulae to be recalled and used are clearly identified in the subject content, adding to the overall level of demand.

In the Film Studies GCSE, Students have to study at least 6 films, of which three must have been produced in the US (an independent film, a film produced between 1930 and 1960, and a genre film), one must be British, one must be an English language film produced outside the US and one must not be in the English language. All films studied have to be specified by the awarding organisation and must be critically recognised and culturally and historically significant.

At A level, film students must study an historical range of films, compare two films and must, study at least two major movements or stylistic developments. For AS, students have to study at least six films and for A level at least 12 films. All films studied must be specified by the awarding organisation and must be critically recognised and culturally and historically significant.

Law A level content will ensure students study a greater number of areas of substantive law. At AS level there is a requirement to study two areas of law (one public and one private area) and at A level there is a requirement to study three areas of law (at least one public and one private area). There is also a requirement to study the English legal system and nature of law

Through Media Studies GCSE students will gain an understanding of academic theories and will be required to apply specialist subject specific terminology and theory. The subject content is based on four central areas of knowledge: media language; representation; media industries; and audiences. Students will learn about media regulation and the different funding models for media institutions and how they operate on a global scale. .

Media Studies A level places greater emphasis on academic knowledge and understanding. The study of a wide range of specified theories is now required at both AS and A level. Students will apply their theoretical knowledge and use specialist subject specific terminology to analyse and compare media products and the contexts in which they are produced and consumed. Students will critically debate key questions relating to the social, cultural, technological and economic dimensions of media through sustained discursive writing.

GCSE Statistics has new subject content which outlines the key stages of the statistical enquiry cycle. Students are required to have knowledge of key statistical calculations, e.g. calculating of moving averages to identify trends and, at the higher tier, Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient Formula. There is some overlap with reformed GCSE mathematics content, but the majority of content is unique to statistics. Because of the emphasis on the statistical enquiry cycle in GCSE statistics, much of this knowledge will be applied in different ways from mathematics GCSE.

A level Statistics builds upon the statistics and probability components of GCSE mathematics and helps students make sense of data trends and to solve statistical problems in a variety of contexts, supporting progression to HEI in subjects such as psychology, biology, geography, business and the social sciences. The qualification includes study of the statistical enquiry cycle with students required to perform key statistical calculations. The content has been drafted to articulate the mathematics content, while, at the same time, care was taken to avoid too much overlap with the mathematics and further mathematics A level.

## General Affairs Council

[HLWS180]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I will attend the EU General Affairs Council (GAC) on 14 September. The Council will be held in Brussels and be chaired by the Luxembourg Presidency.

The GAC is expected to focus on: the Luxembourg Presidency Work Programme; preparation of the agenda for the European Council on 15 and 16 October 2015; and the 2016 Commission Work Programme.

### *Luxembourg Presidency Work Programme*

The GAC will discuss the Luxembourg Presidency work programme. Luxembourg has set out seven 'pillars' for their Presidency: stimulating investment to boost growth and employment; deepening the European Union's social dimension; managing migration,

combining freedom, justice and security; revitalising the single market by focusing on its digital dimension; placing European Competitiveness in a global and transparent framework; promoting sustainable development; and strengthening the European Union's presence on the global stage.

The UK shares many of the priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency, particularly those based around supporting growth and European competitiveness.

#### *Preparation of the October European Council*

The GAC will prepare the agenda for the 15 and 16 October European Council, which the Prime Minister will attend. The draft October European Council agenda covers: Migration; Economic and Monetary Union; and an update on the UK's EU renegotiation, including the state of play of technical talks and intentions for the process ahead. The European Council may also consider external relations issues.

#### *2016 Commission Work programme*

GAC Ministers will hold an exchange of views on the Commission's letter of intent for their 2016 Work Programme.

## **Inquests into Deaths of Service Personnel Overseas**

[HLWS177]

**Lord Faulks:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Minister for Women, Equalities and Family Justice (Caroline Dinenage) has made the following Written Statement.

"My Honourable friend, the Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans, and I now present the latest of our joint statements on the progress of coroner investigations into the deaths of UK service personnel on active service overseas. We wish to express the Government's and the nation's continued deep sense of gratitude to the brave members of the Armed Forces who have served on our behalf. We particularly acknowledge the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in this service and the loved ones they have left behind.

This statement provides details on the progress of investigations conducted by the Senior Coroners for Oxfordshire, for Wiltshire and Swindon and for other coroner areas in England and Wales as at 26 August 2015.

There is also additional information to supplement this statement in tables which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and which give details of all cases, including whether there has been or will be a Service Inquiry (formerly known as a Board of Inquiry).

The Defence Inquests Unit of the Ministry of Defence continues to work with coroners (including the specially trained cadre of coroners), to make sure that investigations are thorough and that inquests are timely and effective. Section 12 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 now allows investigations to be held in Scotland, where appropriate.

We offer our sincere thanks to those who support and assist bereaved families; to coroners and their staff who conduct thorough investigations with such families at their heart; and to the Chief Coroner who provides leadership and oversight of the coroner service.

Our two departments have provided funding for the additional resources required by the coroners in Oxfordshire and Wiltshire and Swindon since 2007 as service personnel who have lost their lives overseas have been repatriated to RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire and RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. This has enabled the coroners to conduct investigations into these deaths while still dealing with their local caseload.

#### *Current status of inquests*

No further inquests have been concluded into deaths of service personnel on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan since our last statement on 4 June. Therefore the total number of inquests into the deaths of service personnel who have died on active service in Iraq or Afghanistan, or who have died in the UK of injuries sustained on active service remains at 624. Three deaths of injured service personnel did not lead to a formal inquest although two of these were taken into consideration at inquests into other deaths which occurred in the same incidents. The third death was of a serviceman in Scotland who made a partial recovery but later died from his injuries, and a Fatal Accident Inquiry was not held.

#### *Coroners' investigations which remain open*

As at 26 August, there remain seven open coroner investigations into the deaths of service personnel in Afghanistan. Five of these relate to the Lynx helicopter crash on 26 April 2014 and have been retained by the Senior Oxfordshire Coroner. A pre-inquest hearing for this case is scheduled for 24 November 2015 with an inquest scheduled for 7-18 March 2016. The other two outstanding investigations, into the death of Lance Corporal James Brynin on 13 October 2013 and Sapper Adam Moralee on 5 March 2014 are being conducted by the Senior Coroners for West Sussex and for Gateshead and South Tyneside whose courts are closer to the next of kin. A pre-inquest hearing date of 2 October 2015 has been confirmed for Lance Corporal Brynin. Hearing dates have not yet been listed for Sapper Moralee.

An investigation is also open into the death of Private Jamie Sawyer who died while serving on the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus. This investigation is being conducted by HM Senior Coroner for Birmingham and an inquest has been scheduled for 1-2 December 2015.

We will continue to inform the House of progress."

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table detailing inquests into service deaths  
[WMS\_tables\_June\_2015\_.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-09-10/HLWS177/>

## Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

[HLWS178]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice and Victims (Mike Penning) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department is today laying before Parliament the 2014-15 annual report of the Appointed Person under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, copies of which are available in the Vote Office. The Appointed Person is an independent person who scrutinises the use of the search power to support the measures in the Act to seize and forfeit cash used for criminal purposes.

The report gives the Appointed Person's opinion as to the circumstances and manner in which the search powers

conferred by the Act are being exercised. I am pleased that the Appointed Person, Mr. Douglas Bain, has expressed satisfaction with the operation of the search power and has found that there is nothing to suggest that the procedures are not being followed in accordance with the Act. He has made no recommendations in his report this year.

From 1 April 2014 to the end of March 2015 over £75 million in cash was seized by law enforcement agencies in England and Wales under powers in the Act. The seizures are subject to further investigation, and the cash is subject to further judicially approved detention, before forfeiture in the magistrates' court. These powers are a valuable tool in the fight against crime and the report shows that the way they are used has been, and will continue to be, monitored closely.

# Written Statements

Friday, 11 September 2015

## Emergency Services

[HLWS183]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The police, fire and rescue and NHS ambulance services play a vital role in serving and protecting our communities. The Government is committed to ensuring that they continue to deliver for the public and believes greater collaboration between the services is fundamental to this ambition.

We know that where the emergency services already collaborate, they can deliver efficiencies and service improvements. The Government has already invested over £70 million in local blue light collaboration projects. However, despite some good local examples, the overall picture on emergency services collaboration is patchy and we must do more to improve the position.

I am clear, as are the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and the Secretary of State for Health, that the emergency services should be accountable to the communities they serve. In keeping with the Government's broader approach to the devolution of powers to local people, we want to ensure that the public has a real say in the way that emergency services are delivered in their area. Directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners can provide this, with their clear local accountability and strong incentive to pursue ambitious reform to improve local services and deliver value for money in the interests of the people they serve.

We have today published a joint Home Office, Department for Communities and Local Government and Department for Health consultation paper to seek views on proposals to improve joint working between the emergency services and provide local accountability. The consultation paper proposes:

- introducing a high level duty to collaborate on the three emergency services to improve efficiency and effectiveness;
- enabling Police and Crime Commissioners to take over governance of their local fire and rescue authority, where a local case is made;
- where a Police and Crime Commissioner takes on the responsibilities of a fire and rescue authority, enabling him or her to create a single employer for police and fire staff, facilitating the sharing of back office functions and streamlining management;
- enabling Police and Crime Commissioners to be represented on fire and rescue authorities, in areas where such authorities remain in place;
- bringing fire and rescue services in London under the direct responsibility of the Mayor of London by

abolishing the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority; and

- encouraging local ambulance foundation trusts to consider their engagement with their local Police Crime and Commissioners and whether to have Police and Crime Commissioner representation on their council of governors.

The consultation ends on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015. A copy of the consultation paper has been placed in the House Library.

Our public services need to continue to adapt and innovate to carry on delivering the world-class services that communities deserve. We strongly believe that greater collaboration and closer working is the best way for the emergency services to achieve this.

## Justice and Home Affairs Pre-Council Statement

[HLWS182]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

An extraordinary meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council will be held on 14 September in Brussels. The Presidency has convened this meeting in a response to a joint request I made with the French and German Interior Ministers when we met in Paris on 29 August. I will attend on behalf of the United Kingdom.

The meeting has been convened by the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union in response to the growing migration crisis currently facing the European Union. The meeting will cover the whole migration agenda and aims to assess the situation on the ground, the political actions underway and to discuss the next steps in order to strengthen the European response.

The meeting will also hold an initial discussion on the European Commission's most recent proposals to address the EU migration issue, including its proposals on the relocation of asylum seekers, set out by President Jean-Claude Juncker in his State of the Union speech on 9 September.

## Regional Growth Fund

[HLWS181]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Small Business and Enterprise, (Anna Soubry) has today made the following statement.

Today I am announcing the publication of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) 2014-15 Annual Monitoring Report.

The progress made by the Regional Growth Fund in 2014-15 is set out in the publication of the Annual Monitoring Report. This is the third RGF Annual Monitoring Report. It covers Rounds 1-5, including projects funded under the Exceptional RGF, up to 31 March 2015. The report focuses on the delivery of RGF

investment, jobs created and safeguarded by the RGF, and private sector investment leveraged.

£924 million of RGF support reached companies in 2014-15. This brings the total funding paid by RGF to £1.53 billion, which has leveraged £4.63 billion in private sector investment. As of 31 March 2015, RGF beneficiaries had delivered 141,000 monitored jobs.

As well as reporting on the outcomes achieved against those operational projects and programmes, we are also publishing a list of 16 projects and programmes that have withdrawn since the last Annual Monitoring Report.

Bidders may withdraw a project or programme for a number of reasons. Commonly these include global market conditions; realisation through the due diligence process that the project could not be supported (including on state aid grounds); and changes in senior management or parent company strategy.

A list of bids that withdrew during the 14-15 reporting year is below.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Round</i>	<i>Name of beneficiary</i>
1	eRGF	North Sails
2	2	Bentley Motors Ltd (R&D)
3	2	DI UK
4	2	Surgical Innovations Ltd
5	3	Sea Change Sussex
6	4	Avanti Communications Group plc
7	4	JDR Enterprises Limited
8	4	Marine Current Turbines Ltd
9	4	Sidcot Investments Limited
10	5	Absynth Biologics Ltd
11	5	Farnborough International Ltd
12	5	Gestamp Tallent Ltd
13	5	GT Energy UK Ltd
14	6	ARLINGTON WHEELS LIMITED
15	6	Conder Structures
16	6	S Cartwright & Sons (Coachbuilders) Limited

I will be placing the report in the Libraries of the House. It will also be published online at [www.bis.gov.uk/rgf](http://www.bis.gov.uk/rgf)

## Youth Justice

[HLWS184]

**Lord Faulks:** My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Michael Gove) has made the following Written Statement.

"In recent years we have seen a significant and welcome reduction in the number of young people entering the youth justice system. However, little progress has been made in reducing reoffending, with 67 per cent of young people leaving custody reoffending within a year.

The time is right to examine our approach to tackling youth offending. We need to consider whether the current system, which was created in 2000, remains able to meet the challenges we face in 2015.

It is vital that we seize the opportunity to rehabilitate young people who have offended, to steer them away from a life of crime, and to set them on a more positive course which will benefit both them and society.

For this reason Charlie Taylor will lead a departmental review of the youth justice system. Charlie is the former Chief Executive of the National College of Teaching and Leadership, the former head teacher of an outstanding school for children with complex behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, and an expert in managing young people's behaviour. His experience and expertise in working with children with severe behavioural difficulties gives him a real understanding of the wider challenges in preventing youth offending, and I am confident he will bring a fresh perspective and energy to the task.

As part of the review Charlie will look at the evidence and current practice in preventing youth crime and rehabilitating young offenders; he will explore how the youth justice system can most effectively interact with wider services for children and young people; and he will consider whether the current arrangements are fit for purpose.

The review will report in the summer of next year.

The terms of reference for the review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses."



# Written Statements

Monday, 14 September 2015

## Charter for Budget Responsibility (Autumn Update)

[HLWS187]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (George Osborne) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I have published a draft updated Charter for Budget Responsibility, a copy of which has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. Alongside the new fiscal framework (announced at Summer Budget 2015), the draft includes the updates to the Charter recommended by the HM Treasury review of the Office for Budget Responsibility, led by Sir Dave Ramsden and clarifications on the operation of the welfare cap.

The draft Charter includes modified guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility and has been published in line with Section 6(4) of the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act. This requires that if the Treasury proposes to modify the guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility included in the Charter, a draft of the modified guidance must be published at least 28 days before the modified Charter is laid before Parliament. The updated Charter will be laid before Parliament, and a debate and vote scheduled, later in the autumn of 2015.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Charter for Budget Responsibility: Autumn update [PU1849 OBR charter\_autumn\_update\_final\_web (3).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-09-14/HLWS187/>

## Cold Weather Payments Scheme 2015-16

[HLWS185]

**Baroness Altmann:** I am pleased to announce that the Department for Work and Pensions intends to lay amendments to the Cold Weather Payment scheme regulations by the end of September 2015. The changes detailed in these regulations will come into force on 1 November this year, in time for the beginning of the winter period.

This year the Met Office has recommended the replacement of two primary weather stations.

Firstly, Tibenham Airfield is proposed as a replacement for Norwich Airport which is likely to have reduced availability. Tibenham Airfield is a similarly representative station for the region and therefore a suitable replacement for Norwich Airport both geographically and climatologically. As a direct weather station replacement all postcodes currently linked to Norwich Airport will be moved to Tibenham.

Secondly, Llysdinam is proposed as a more suitable station for those areas currently covered by Sennybridge. Llysdinam is geographically and climatologically closer to the main populated areas of the region in and around Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells. As a direct weather station replacement all the current postcode links will be transferred to this new station.

The regulations also make other minor changes to the alternative weather stations. This will ensure that the weather stations to postcode links are as representative as possible.

I will be writing to each Member whose constituency will be affected by the changes in the scheme, to make them aware of the advice from the Met Office.

Cold Weather Payments are separate from, and in addition to, Winter Fuel Payments.

The amendments resulted from the Department's annual review of the Cold Weather Payments scheme. The review drew on expert advice from the Met Office and took account of representations from benefit claimants and Members of Parliament.

For winter 2015/16 the Cold Weather Payment rate will continue to be £25 for each seven day period of very cold weather.

## Draft Plans to Improve Air Quality (Consultation)

[HLWS186]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Elizabeth Truss) has today made the following statement.

A cleaner, healthier environment benefits people and the economy. Clean air is vital for people's health and the environment, essential for making sure our cities are welcoming places for people to live and work now and in the future, and to our prosperity. Our ambition is to make the UK a country with some of the very best air quality in the world.

Over recent decades, air quality has improved significantly thanks to a concerted action at all levels, including investing some £2 billion since 2011 to increase the uptake of ultra low emission vehicles and cleaner transport, and supporting local authority action. Our environment has never been cleaner. Even in our busiest cities we have seen falls in harmful emissions, for example a 15% reduction in average roadside concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) since 2010, but there is more we can do.

Tackling air pollution is a priority for Government. We will achieve this by exploiting new, clean technologies, such as electric and ultra low emission vehicles, to cut emissions and help our great cities function more smartly and efficiently to spur further innovation, we have opened up our data so that the whole country – people, businesses and the public sector – can use it to take better decisions and action. We will also work with our great cities to help them make the changes they need to become greater still.

This could include putting in place Clean Air Zones, improving their bus and taxi fleets, investing in cycling infrastructure and upgrading roads so they run more smoothly.

A key step is addressing reducing nitrogen dioxide in the air we breathe which will also enable us to meet the limit values laid out in the Air Quality Directive <sup>[1]</sup>. By 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 we will submit a plan to the European Commission detailing the UK approach. The proposed plan sets out national and locally led measures to bring forward compliance with the limit values in all areas of the UK. On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September we published the 'Draft plans to improve air quality' for consultation. I have placed this in the library of both Houses.

Alternative proposals to those set out in the consultation, that achieve the same objectives, will be considered during the consultation and we encourage local authorities and the public to put forward their ideas.

<sup>[1]</sup> European Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. This sets maximum concentrations of key pollutants in ambient air, ie the air that we all breathe.

## Work of the Department during the Summer Recess

[HLWS188]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I would like to update Hon. Members on the main items of business undertaken by my Department since the House rose on 21 July 2015.

### *Starter home boost to first-time buyers*

On 10 August my Department launched a new £26 million fund to bring forward land for housebuilders to demonstrate a range of high quality homes for first-time buyers.

In a further move to support aspiring homeowners my Department has also made available up to £10 million for local authorities to prepare more brownfield land for development of starter homes.

### *Careers in construction*

The housebuilding industry was devastated by the 2008 economic crash, resulting in the loss of quarter of a million construction jobs. Today the sector is making progress thanks to Government efforts to get the country building.

The Government is committed to driving up the number of apprentices across the construction industry. Last year, saw the start of more than 15,500 new construction apprenticeships – a 14% increase on the previous year.

### *Rogue landlords*

The Government is determined to crack down on the small number of rogue or criminal landlords who knowingly rent out unsafe and substandard accommodation.

On 3 August my Department announced a range of new proposed measures, including a blacklist of rogue landlords and letting agents, the introduction of banning orders for serious or repeat offenders, a tougher fit and proper person test, extending Rent Repayment Orders and introducing civil penalties.

### *Fairness in the planning system*

On 31 August new policy came into force from my Department that strengthens the hand of councils to tackle unauthorised development and ensure all communities are treated equally. The new planning policy will make intentional unauthorised development a material consideration that would be weighed in the determination of planning applications and appeals.

The Government is particularly concerned about harm that is caused by intentional unauthorised development in the Green Belt. For this reason the Planning Inspectorate will monitor all appeal decisions involving unauthorised development in the Green Belt to enable direct Government oversight.

After six months we will review the situation to see whether it is delivering our objective of protecting land from intentional unauthorised development.

### *Coastal Communities Fund*

On 22 August new figures released by my Department showed that thousands of new jobs, apprenticeships and training places have been delivered thanks to community-led regeneration efforts supported by the Government's Coastal Communities Fund.

The latest figures show there have been almost 3,000 jobs created, 860 sustained and 6,800 new training places and apprenticeships across the UK.

Over the past 3 years, the Government has invested some £120 million in projects across the UK to help seaside communities achieve their economic potential.

On 3 September, a £2 million grant from our Coastal Communities Fund helped light up Blackpool's Illuminations. This funding will drive investment in the north and help seaside communities thrive.

### *Helping small businesses reach their full potential*

In August my Department announced that local organisations working with small firms would be able to apply for a share of €3.6billion (currently about £2.6 billion) funding from the latest round of the European Regional Development Fund.

European Regional Development Funds are for the first time being targeted at Local Enterprise Partnership areas in a shift towards more localised spending decisions. The funding will support innovation, boost businesses and create jobs across local economies.

### *Enterprise Zones have attracted thousands of new jobs*

New figures released by my Department on 27 August show that Enterprise Zones are playing a vital role in growing the local and national economy and have attracted 19,000 jobs to sites across the country.

The 24 Zones report that they have now attracted £2.2 billion of private investment and more than 500 new businesses across a range of key industries including the automotive, aerospace, pharmaceutical and renewable energy sectors.

*Funding for Child sexual exploitation outreach service*

On 3 August my Department in conjunction with the Department for Education, the KPMG Foundation and Rotherham Borough Council announced £3.1 million of new funding to help children and young people in South Yorkshire who have been or who are at risk of being sexually exploited receive more support.

Victims of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham have been appallingly let down in the past. Through this funding, the children's charity Barnardo's - which has been working in Rotherham since September 2013 - will employ a team of 15 specialist workers to help those who have been sexually exploited to rebuild their lives.

These new services will support victims as they seek justice through the courts against the perpetrators. We will also work with schools, families and communities to ensure that they are aware of and vigilant to possible signs of sexual exploitation.

*New domestic abuse fund now open*

Domestic violence and abuse is a devastating crime that shatters the lives of victims and families and this Government is committed to ensuring that we have a strong safety net for anyone who finds themselves in a situation where they are forced to leave their home.

On 24 August we opened bids for a £3.2 million fund announced in the Budget to provide specialist accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse.

The July Budget also announced a review of the full range of services currently available to victims of domestic abuse. Its findings will feed into the Spending Review and an updated violence against women and girls strategy to ensure that victims of domestic violence and their families have access to the support and services they need to keep safe.

*Commemorating First World War heroes*

On 21 August we marked the first year of the Victoria Cross paving stone ceremonies, in which communities honour local First World War heroes. The commemorative stones - laid in the servicemen's place of birth or where they lived following the war - provide a lasting legacy to their 'most conspicuous bravery'.

Over a 4 year period, 469 stones will be laid in communities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. They enable residents of all ages and backgrounds to gain a greater understanding of the sacrifices made by local people during the First World War.

*Community Rights*

On 24 July my Department announced that a further 250 communities across England are using the Community Rights programme to have a greater say on local issues like job creation, health priorities and new development.

Following the launch of the new support programme in February, Government funding is now helping people to apply their skills and local knowledge to making their communities better places to live and work.

Copies of the press notices and associated documents are being placed in the Library of the House.

## Written Statements

Wednesday, 16 September 2015

### BBC Charter Review

[HLWS193]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** When I presented the BBC Charter Review Consultation to the House on 16 July 2015, I was clear that it was the first step in the Government's Charter Review process.

I am pleased to announce today one of the next steps of that process: an independent review into the governance and regulation of the BBC. The review will run over the autumn and will conclude in early 2016. The review will be led on behalf of the Government by Sir David Clementi.

A copy of the terms of reference has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

BBC Independent Review Terms of Reference [Terms of Reference for independent review on BBC governance and regulation.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-09-16/HLWS193/>

### EU Environment Council

[HLWS190]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Amber Rudd) has today made the following statement.

I will attend the EU Environment Council in Brussels on 18 September.

Following the adoption of the agenda the list of "A" items will be approved.

The one non-legislative item on the agenda is adoption of the Council Conclusions concerning preparations for the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 11) that will take place in Paris, from 30 November - 11 December 2015.

Ministers will also discuss further aspects of the international climate change negotiations in relation to COP 21 as well as the recent informal ministerial consultations that took place in Paris on September 6th to 7th, 2015

The following Any Other Business item will be discussed:

- i) The "Declaration of Luxembourg on Cycling as a Transport Mode"

### FCO Services

[HLWS192]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr James Duddridge), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

FCO Services operates as a trading fund of the FCO. I have set the following performance targets for 2015-2016

- i) An in-year surplus before interest, tax and dividend producing a net margin of between 1 and 5%
- ii) A return on capital employed of at least 3.5% (weighted average)
- iii) Cost of corporate functions as a % of revenue of no more than 6%
- iv) A utilisation rate for revenue earning staff of at least 75%
- v) A customer satisfaction result of at least 80%
- vi) Employee engagement in FCO Services using civil service survey of at least 59%

FCO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets through its Annual Report for 2015-2016.

### Planning and Onshore Oil and Gas

[HLWS194]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My rt. hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

My rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Amber Rudd) has today laid before Parliament a Written Statement setting out the Government's view that there is a need to explore and develop our shale gas and oil resources in a safe, sustainable and timely way. The Statement sets out a number of measures to enable planning applications and appeals to be dealt with as quickly as possible. I am today also setting out further details of two of the planning measures on identifying underperformance in respect of oil and gas applications and a revision to the recovery criteria for appeals for planning permission for shale gas.

*Identifying underperformance in respect of oil and gas applications*

We are announcing today details of the scheme to identify local planning authority underperformance specifically in respect of their determination of planning applications for onshore oil and gas, including for exploring and developing shale gas. It is separate to the statutory regime provided by section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the designation of underperforming local planning authorities. This new non-statutory scheme will operate in the following way:

- A table setting out local planning authority performance on speed of decision making specifically on onshore oil and gas applications will be added to DCLG's



quarterly planning application statistical release from the next scheduled release on 22 September 2015 onwards. Data in the table will be subject to the same adjustments as detailed in 'Improving planning performance Criteria for designation', as amended from time to time (the criteria document<sup>[1]</sup>) for the tables on speed of decision making for major development.

- The measure of speed of decision making and the assessment period will be the same as those set out for major development in the criteria document. The same threshold will also apply for the identification of local planning authority underperformance in respect of its oil and gas applications as for the designation of underperformance in respect of major development, currently 50% or fewer applications being made within the statutory determination period or such extended period as has been agreed in writing by the applicant. The same limited exemption will be applied, namely, that local planning authorities will not be liable to identification as underperforming in respect of oil and gas applications if they decided no more than two during the assessment period.

- We will identify any underperforming local planning authorities in respect of oil and gas applications annually, in the final quarter of each calendar year. Prior to the decision to identify a local planning authority as underperforming, it will be given an opportunity to set out any exceptional circumstances, with supporting evidence, which it considers make its identification unreasonable. These circumstances will be judged against the tests set out in the criteria document. We will undertake the first identifications of any underperforming local planning authorities in the final quarter of 2016.

- Where a local planning authority is identified as underperforming in respect of planning applications for oil and gas, it will remain as such for a period of one year. For this one year period, for any such application validated by the relevant authority, I will actively consider exercising the power under section 77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to call-in the application for my determination. In considering whether to call-in any such application, I will have regard to my current policy for the use of my call-in powers<sup>[2]</sup>.

- We will review the scheme in the final quarter of 2019, after an initial period of three years following the first identification of any underperforming local planning authorities.

#### *Recovery criteria for appeals*

As indicated in today's Statement by my rt. hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, I may want to give particular scrutiny to planning appeals for exploring and developing shale gas. I am therefore revising the criteria for consideration of the recovery of planning appeals to include the additional criterion: proposals for exploring and developing shale gas. The new criterion is added to the recovery policy of 30 June 2008, *Official Report, column 43WS*, and will be applied for a period of two years from today (16 September

2015), after which it will be reviewed. I am also making a consequential change to planning guidance to reflect this.

<sup>[1]</sup> The current version of the Criteria document is available to view at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/446762/Improving\\_Planning\\_Performance\\_-\\_Criteria\\_for\\_Designation\\_revised\\_2015\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/446762/Improving_Planning_Performance_-_Criteria_for_Designation_revised_2015_.pdf)

<sup>[2]</sup> Set out in a written answer of 16 July 1999 ( [http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199899/cmhansrd/vo990616/text/90616w02.htm#90616w02.htm\\_sbd5](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199899/cmhansrd/vo990616/text/90616w02.htm#90616w02.htm_sbd5) ) and a Written Ministerial Statement of 26 October 2012 ( <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121026/wmstext/121026m0001.htm#12102628000003> )

## **Rail Franchising: East Midlands**

[HLWS189]

**Lord Ahmad:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Claire Perry) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

I am pleased to inform the House that my Department has reached agreement with Stagecoach to continue to operate train services on the East Midlands franchise. This new agreement means that passengers from London St Pancras International to Northamptonshire, the East Midlands, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and South Yorkshire will continue to be served by East Midlands Trains for a period of 2 years and 5 Months from 18 October 2015, with an optional extension period of 13 railway periods callable at my sole discretion

East Midlands Trains have had a good track record of punctuality and passenger satisfaction since they began operating the franchise in 2007 and I expect this service to be the minimum provided throughout the period of this Direct Award.

In addition to retaining at least the same train services as today, this new agreement will see East Midlands Trains provide 22 additional trains between Newark and Nottingham, which will ensure that there is a half hourly service on Saturdays as well as week days. There are also further improvements to the Nottingham to Lincoln timetable that will provide for reduced journey times and more services on Saturdays. My Department is continuing to work with East Midlands Trains to examine further improvements to the weekend timetables for many passengers.

The agreement will also see a number of significant enhancements for passengers as a result of £13m investment in the franchise. This will provide for improved passenger information; more ticket machines; a new mobile app, that will provide up to the minute information as well as allowing tickets to be purchased; cleaner trains; and an extended catering service. Passengers to and from London will also benefit from improved wifi up to 4G standard.

This Agreement not only provides benefits for passengers today but also ensures that this franchise is in the best position for the full franchise competition in 2018. By laying the groundwork for this now and in conjunction with the significant upgrade works already



delivered, such as the transport hub in Nottingham, and those planned and underway for the railway in the area, such as the track doubling between Kettering and Corby, I am confident that we will see the East Midlands franchise continue to provide excellent service for passengers at good value for the taxpayer for many years to come.

## Shale Gas/Oil Policy

[HLWS195]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Amber Rudd) has today made the following statement.

My Rt Hon Friend Greg Clark (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) and I wish to set out the Government's view that there is a national need to explore and develop our shale gas and oil resources in a safe, and sustainable and timely way, and the steps it is taking to support this. In laying this statement before Parliament, it formally replaces the Shale Gas and Oil Policy Statement issued by DECC and DCLG on 13 August 2015. This statement to Parliament should be taken into account in planning decisions and plan-making.

*The national need to explore our shale gas and oil resources*

Exploring and developing our shale gas and oil resources could potentially bring substantial benefits and help meet our objectives for secure energy supplies, economic growth and lower carbon emissions.

Having access to clean, safe and secure supplies of natural gas for years to come is a key requirement if the UK is to successfully transition in the longer term to a low-carbon economy. The Government remains fully committed to the development and deployment of renewable technologies for heat and electricity generation and to driving up energy efficiency, but we need gas - the cleanest of all fossil fuels - to support our climate change target by providing flexibility while we do that and help us to reduce the use of high-carbon coal.

Natural gas is absolutely vital to the economy. It provides around one third of our energy supply.

- About one third of gas supply is used for industry and services, not just for power or heating but also as feedstock, e.g. for chemicals;

- one quarter is used for electricity generation; and
- the remainder is used in domestic households for heating and cooking<sup>[1]</sup>.

Since 2004, the UK has been a net importer of gas due to the rapid decline of production from the UK Continental Shelf.

- Last year around 45% of UK gas supply was made up of net imports <sup>[2]</sup>. Our projections suggest that domestic production will continue to decline and, without any contribution from shale gas, net imports could increase to 75% of the gas we consume by 2030<sup>[3]</sup>.

- Domestic oil production has also declined since reaching a peak in 1999. Currently net imports comprise

around 40% of the oil we use and DECC projections suggest net imports could increase to 73% by 2030<sup>[4]</sup>.

Meanwhile events around the world show us how dangerous it can be to assume that we will always be able to rely on existing sources of supply. Developing home-grown shale resources could reduce our (and wider European) dependency on imports and improve our energy resilience.

There are also potential economic benefits in building a new industry for the country and for communities.

- Nationally, we will benefit from development of a new industrial sector, building on the experience and skills developed here in 50 years of on- and offshore oil and gas development.

- Developing shale resources would deliver investment in key domestic energy infrastructure, boosting the UK's capital stock and leading to increased productivity and growth.

- Reducing imports would improve the balance of trade.

- Consultants EY estimated in 2014<sup>[5]</sup> that a thriving shale industry could mean cumulative investment of £33 billion and support 64,500 jobs in the gas, oil, construction, engineering and chemical sectors at peak. Locally that might mean new facilities and jobs for local companies.

We do not yet know the full scale of the UK's shale resources nor how much can be extracted technically or economically.

- The British Geological Survey estimates the shale gas resource in the Bowland-Hodder basin under Northern England could be 1300 trillion cubic feet (tcf)<sup>[6]</sup>, compared to current UK annual gas consumption of around 2.5 tcf<sup>[7]</sup>. The industry need to test how much of this gas in place can be extracted technically and economically.

- National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios (2015) report<sup>[8]</sup> presents a wide range for potential shale gas production in the UK up to a peak of 32 bcm/year in 2030. This would be around 40% of all the gas we are projected to consume and result in our import dependency falling to 34%, compared to current projections that net imports could reach 75% in 2030.

Shale gas can create a bridge while we develop renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and build new nuclear generating capacity. Studies have shown that the carbon footprint of electricity from UK shale gas would be likely to be significantly less than unabated coal and also lower than imported Liquefied Natural Gas<sup>[9]</sup>.

The Government therefore considers that there is a clear need to seize the opportunity now to explore and test our shale potential.

*Safety and environmental protection will be ensured through responsible development and robust regulation*

This must and can be done whilst maintaining the very highest safety and environmental standards, which we have established with a world-leading framework for extracting oil and gas for over 50 years.

Reports by the Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering, Public Health England and others have considered a wide range of evidence on hydraulic fracturing in the UK context, and concluded that risks can be managed effectively if the industry follows best practice, enforced through regulation<sup>[10], [11]</sup>.

The Government is confident we have the right protections in place now to explore shale safely (see Annex). Planning authorities can also have confidence that the regulators will enforce safety, environmental and seismic regulation effectively. But we are not complacent. We will continuously look to strengthen and improve regulation where necessary as the industry develops.

#### *Transparency and information for the public*

It is also important that the public has objective information about shale and that communities where shale development is proposed are effectively engaged, with the opportunity to hear from the expert regulators at the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency.

The Government allocated £5m for 2015-16 in the last Autumn Statement for this purpose (see Annex).

#### *Planning*

The Government is committed to ensuring that local communities are fully involved in planning decisions that affect them. We are also making the planning system faster and fairer for all those affected by new development. No one benefits from the uncertainty caused by delay. This is why we expect every planning application or appeal, large or small, to be dealt with as quickly as possible.

There is a clear expectation that local planning authorities should ensure that decisions on planning applications are made within statutory timeframes: 16 weeks where an application is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment. This should be supported through an upfront timeline agreed with the applicant including the anticipated decision date.

To avoid unnecessary work causing delay, when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should carefully consider which issues can be left to other regulatory regimes, taking full account of the Government's planning guidance on this issue.

We also expect local planning authorities to make full use of the funding available for 2015/16 through the £1.2m shale support programme. This will ensure there are adequate resources locally to enable the timely determination locally of planning applications for shale gas. Local planning authorities should also agree to Planning Performance Agreements where this is appropriate.

But we cannot be complacent. Therefore:

- Appeals against any refusals of planning permission for exploring and developing shale gas, or against non-determination, will be treated as a priority for urgent resolution. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government may also want to give particular

scrutiny to these appeals. To this end he will revise the recovery criteria and will consider for recovery appeals for exploring and developing shale gas. This new criterion will be added to the recovery policy issued on 30 June 2008 and will be applied for a period of two years after which it will be reviewed.

- The Secretary of State will also actively consider calling in shale applications. Each case will be considered on its individual merits in line with his policy. Priority will be given to any called-in planning applications.

- The Government commits to identifying underperforming local planning authorities that repeatedly fail to determine oil and gas applications within statutory timeframes. When such applications are made to underperforming local planning authorities, the Secretary of State will consider whether he should determine the application instead.

- The Government has published its response to consultation and will take forward amending permitted development rights to allow the drilling of boreholes for groundwater monitoring. The Government is also inviting views on proposals for further rights to enable, as permitted development, the drilling of boreholes for seismic investigation and to locate and appraise shallow mine workings. These proposals will speed up the delivery of essential monitoring information for safety and environmental protection and free local resources for where the express attention of the local planning authority is required.

My Rt Hon Friend Greg Clark (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) will be laying before Parliament a written ministerial statement setting out more detail.

#### *Sharing shale income with communities*

We also strongly believe that communities hosting shale gas developments should share in the financial returns they generate. The Government welcomes the shale gas companies' commitment to make set payments to these communities, which could be worth £5-10m for a typical 10-well site, and we want to go further. As announced by the Chancellor in the 2014 Autumn Statement, and set out in our manifesto, we are determined to ensure that local communities share more of the proceeds and feel more of the benefits, using a proportion of the tax revenues that are recouped from shale gas production. We will present our proposals later this year for how we intend to design the sovereign wealth fund.

#### *Annex*

This Annex contains supporting material for the main statement.

#### *Safety and environmental protection*

- Our regulatory system is robust and we are proven world leaders, with a 50 year track record, in well-regulated, safe and environmentally sound oil and gas developments. We have strict requirements through environmental permitting and DECC licencing for on-site

safety, to prevent water contamination, air pollution and mitigate seismic activity.

- The Health and Safety Executive and the environmental regulators (the Environment Agency in England) are independent and highly specialised regulators. They will enable the development of shale gas in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

- The Environment Agency assesses the potential use of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing fluids on a case-by-case basis. The use of hazardous chemicals will not be permitted where there is a risk that they may enter groundwater and cause pollution.

- The Health and Safety Executive scrutinise well design and require week by week written updates on drilling progress.

- DECC has implemented a thorough system of rigorous checks before any drilling or fracking and a live traffic light system during the actual operations, to ensure earth tremors will not occur.

To reinforce the existing regulatory regime further, the Infrastructure Act 2015 brought forward a range of additional requirements and safeguards if an operator is to carry out hydraulic fracturing.

- These include taking account of the environmental impact of development, baseline monitoring of methane in groundwater in the 12 months preceding hydraulic fracturing operations, disclosure of all chemicals, community benefits and the exclusion of protected areas.

- Draft regulations, laid on 16 July, defining the protected areas in which fracking will be prohibited as specified areas of groundwater, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Broads and World Heritage Sites. Fracking can only take place at depths below 1200 metres in these areas.

- Ministers also set out their clear commitment to ensure that hydraulic fracturing cannot be conducted from wells that are drilled at the surface of National Parks and other protected areas. This is not intended to impact on conventional drilling operations.

#### *Transparency and information for the public*

Following the Autumn Statement announcement of £5m for 2015-16 to “provide independent evidence directly to the public about the robustness of the existing [shale gas] regulatory regime”, DECC received £1.7m to establish independent environmental monitoring and is working with a research consortium led by the British Geological Survey to expand an existing Lancashire-based programme for gathering baseline environmental data to North Yorkshire, where a planning application for a shale gas project is being submitted. The data produced would be made available to the public.

In addition, DCLG announced in March a £1.2m fund to support Mineral Planning Authorities dealing with shale planning applications. The Health & Safety Executive has received £0.5m to increase the availability of inspectors for onshore oil and gas operations and to double its local engagement capacity. The Environment

Agency received £1.5m to undertake pro-active local engagement by deploying dedicated local officers. The Government is also publishing factual material on shale, including web documents and videos.

[1] DECC, Digest Of UK Energy Statistics, July 2015

[2] DECC, Digest of UK Energy Statistics, July 2015

[3] DECC, UK Oil and Gas Production Projections, March 2015  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/414172/Production\\_prjections.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414172/Production_prjections.pdf)

[4]Ibid

[5] EY, Getting Ready for UK Shale Gas, April 2014  
[http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Getting\\_ready\\_for\\_UK\\_shale\\_gas/\\$FILE/EY-Getting-ready-for-UK-shale-gas-April-2014.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Getting_ready_for_UK_shale_gas/$FILE/EY-Getting-ready-for-UK-shale-gas-April-2014.pdf)

[6] BGS/DECC, Bowland Shale Gas Study, June 2013  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bowland-shale-gas-study>

[7] Based on DECC, Digest of UK Energy Statistics, July 2015

[8] National Grid, Future Energy Scenarios, 2015

[9] Mackay-Stone report (requested by DECC), Potential Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Shale Gas Extraction and Use, Sept 2013

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/237330/MacKay\\_Stone\\_shale\\_study\\_report\\_09092013.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/237330/MacKay_Stone_shale_study_report_09092013.pdf)

[10] The Royal Society and The Royal Academy of Engineers, Shale gas extraction in the UK: a review of hydraulic fracturing, 2012  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/256359/Publication\\_RoyalSociety\\_2012-06-28-Shale-gas.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/256359/Publication_RoyalSociety_2012-06-28-Shale-gas.pdf)

[11] Public Health England, Review of the Potential Public Health Impacts of Exposures to Chemical and Radioactive Pollutants as a Result of the Shale Gas Extraction Process  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shale-gas-extraction-review-of-the-potential-public-health-impacts-of-exposures-to-chemical-and-radioactive-pollutants>

## UK Sport and Sport England: Triennial Review

[HLWS191]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has made the following Written Ministerial Statement. I am today publishing the report of the triennial review of UK Sport and Sport England announced on 21 November 2014 by my hon Friend the then Minister for Sport and Tourism.

The review has concluded that the functions of UK Sport and Sport England remained necessary and should continue to be exercised by their current organisation and that both bodies should remain as NDPBs.

The review also has made a number of recommendations for improving the effectiveness of UK Sport and Sport England, primarily through working more closely together in the areas of talent, participation and the governance of sports’ national governing bodies (NGBs) and action to raise participation and strengthen diversity. The report recommends improving efficiency primarily through sharing more services and exploiting the scope for significant efficiencies in the NGBs they fund through co-location and shared services.

The triennial review has been carried out independently within Government and with the full participation of UK Sport and Sport England, as well as a range of stakeholders from across Government and the sport sector. I am grateful to all those who contributed to the

review. The final review report is being deposited in the House Libraries and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-sport-and-sport-england-triennial-review-report>

The report will be an important contribution to our forthcoming sport strategy.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Triennial Review of UK Sport and Sport England [Report of triennial review of UK Sport and Sport England.pdf]

Triennial Review- annexes [Annexes to triennial review of UK Sport and Sport England.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-09-16/HLWS191/>

# Written Statements

Thursday, 17 September 2015

## Banking Act 2009

[HLWS203]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Treasury has laid before the House of Commons a report required under section 231 of the Banking Act 2009 covering the period from 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015. Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

## Extraordinary Agriculture and Fisheries Council

[HLWS197]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Elizabeth Truss) has today made the following statement.

My Noble Friend Lord Gardiner, Defra spokesman in the House of Lords, represented the UK at the extraordinary Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 7 September in Brussels. Michelle O'Neill MLA, Rebecca Evans AM and Richard Lochhead MSP also attended.

The extraordinary Council was called to discuss market developments in the livestock and dairy sector. There were also two Any Other Business items on the agenda.

European Union Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen unveiled a €500 million aid package for farmers in all Member States, recognising the deteriorating market situation. The package will focus on:

- addressing cash-flow difficulties farmers are facing;
- stabilising markets through a new private storage scheme;
- addressing the functioning of the supply chain by establishing a high level group to focus on credit for farmers and futures markets.

Vice President Katainen also highlighted that the European Fund for Strategic Investments was available to support investment in the farming sector. The Commission's programme will also help to stabilise prices of products through the distribution of dairy products to vulnerable groups. Renewed efforts will be made to reach an early conclusion to the ongoing negotiations for revised school schemes for fruit and milk.

Lord Gardiner thanked the Commission for their approach to this crisis over the last couple of weeks, but urged rapid action and implementation of the package. For example he asked the Commission to relax a number of specific Common Agricultural Policy controls for 2015 so that the majority of farmers can be paid promptly. This

will help with serious cash flow problems which are concerning farmers at the moment.

Lord Gardiner also urged that we fast-track the use of European Investment Bank financial instruments within our Rural Development Programmes.

Looking forward, Lord Gardiner asked for greater transparency and fairness in the supply chain. The UK Groceries Code Adjudicator offers a robust approach, which could be a basis for wider EU action. He also called for further action from the Commission on Country of Origin Labelling. Better labelling and branding, with regional flexibility, would provide shoppers with greater certainty on where their products come from.

During the table-round, Member States broadly welcomed the package announced by Vice President Katainen and like the UK called for rapid action and asked for more details to be able to help farmers as quickly as possible. Despite the Commission's rejection to increase the intervention prices several Member States including France, Spain, Belgium, Poland, Czech Republic, Ireland and Portugal still called for them to be raised. The UK along with the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden argued against an increase.

The main AOB on the agenda consisted of the Baltic States and Poland requesting more clarity on the rules governing regionalisation following an outbreak of African Swine Fever. Commissioner Andriukaitis agreed to review the rules but stressed that the European Union's disease regionalisation policy could not be jeopardised. Helpfully, the Commissioner reiterated that Member States should not start bilateral discussions with Russia on re-opening trade. He argued that Russia 'played games' to 'seriously harm our common EU interests'. The other AOB on drought in Poland and Romania was included as part of the wider market discussion.

Since the Extraordinary Council took place, the Commission has announced that the UK will receive €36.07 million in targeted aid.

## Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation: Annual Report

[HLWS199]

**Lord Bates:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

David Anderson QC, Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, has completed his fifth annual report, on the operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 in 2014. This report will be laid before the House today.

I am grateful to David Anderson, once again, for his considered report, which continues to provide important independent scrutiny that UK counter-terrorism legislation is fair, effective and proportionate. I will, following consultation with other relevant departments and agencies, publish the Government's response as a



Command Paper in due course. At that time the response will be made available in the Vote Office.

I can also inform the House that Mr Anderson has agreed to undertake a review of the operation of a deprivation of citizenship power, as required by section 66 of the Immigration Act 2014. He will produce a report covering the initial year that this power has been in force, which ended on 28 July 2015. This report will then be laid before the House.

### **Informal ECOFIN**

[HLWS204]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My right honourable friend The Chancellor of the Exchequer (George Osborne) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

An informal meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 11-12 September 2015. Ministers discussed the following items:

#### *Implementation of the investment plan for Europe*

Ministers discussed the implementation of the Investment Plan for Europe, following a presentation by the Commission and the President of the European Investment Bank.

#### *Climate finance*

Ministers held an exchange of views on Climate Finance on the basis of a Presidency note and presentations from Bruegel and the European Investment Bank.

#### *Minimum effective level of taxation*

On the basis of a Presidency note, Ministers discussed key issues on tackling tax avoidance, including in relation to a minimum effective level of taxation in the EU and to third countries.

#### *Five Presidents report: Deepening of Economic and Monetary Union*

The Presidency introduced their note on deepening of Economic and Monetary Union, which formed the basis of discussion amongst Ministers on the way forward. Statements were made by representatives of Eurogroup, the European Central Bank, the European Commission, European Parliament and Economic and Financial Committee.

#### *SRF Bridge Financing*

In the final session, Ministers discussed possible ways forward with regard to SRF bridge financing.

### **Inquest into the deaths of Corporal James Dunsby, Lance Corporal Craig Roberts and Lance Corporal Edward Maher**

[HLWS201]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Penny Mordaunt) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 15 July 2015 I made a written statement (HCWS107) regarding the inquest into the deaths of

Corporal James Dunsby, Lance Corporal Craig Roberts and Lance Corporal Edward Maher, who died as a result of training activity on the Brecon Beacons in Wales. Following the inquest, HM Senior Coroner for Birmingham and Solihull highlighted a number of failings which contributed to the deaths of the three soldiers and made a number of recommendations to prevent future deaths. I responded to the Coroner on 14 September 2015 and will place a copy of my response in the Library of the House in a month's time. The delay in releasing this is at the request of the Coroner. We have a Service Inquiry under way to look at the wider safety aspects of such training and I will keep the House informed. My thoughts remain with the families of Corporal Dunsby, Lance Corporal Roberts and Lance Corporal Maher and we are committed to doing all we can to ensure such a tragic event cannot happen again.

### **Life Sciences: Investment**

[HLWS200]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (Jane Ellison) has made the following written ministerial statement.

My Rt Hon Friend, Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, has today announced the Government's plans to invest £350 million in a world class laboratory facility in Harlow, Essex by Public Health England (PHE).

This important investment will help to secure the United Kingdom's place as world leader in life sciences, as well as ensuring state of the art facilities to keep our country safe from infectious diseases. The Public Health England facility will be established in the London-Cambridge life sciences corridor, allowing researchers from our world leading universities to be better connected to these vital facilities.

This investment will enable the relocation of a number of PHE's functions currently at Porton Down to the new facility. The facilities at Porton are more than 60 years old and this investment will replace them with much needed modern facilities. However, PHE remains committed to the Porton site, and the publically owned pharmaceutical company Porton Biopharma, well as a regional PHE laboratory, will remain at Porton.

The Government will consider future plans for PHE's other facilities as part of the Spending Review.

### **Machinery of Government Changes**

[HLWS205]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

This written ministerial statement confirms that policy responsibility for data protection policy, sponsorship of the Information Commissioner's Office, and sponsorship of The National Archives will transfer from the Ministry of Justice to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport,

and that responsibility for government records management policy will transfer from the Ministry of Justice to the Cabinet Office. These changes will be effective from 17 September. The Lord Chancellor's responsibilities under the Public Records Act 1958 and associated legislation will therefore be transferred as necessary to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

### **Rail Franchising: East Anglia**

[HLWS202]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Claire Perry) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

Today I have published the Invitation to Tender (ITT) documents setting out the specification for the next East Anglia rail franchise. This asks bidders to set out detailed proposals on what improvements for passengers they will deliver and how they will build on the East Anglia line should they win the franchise.

Alongside the ITT I have published a stakeholder briefing document which describes what the specification will mean for passengers and how the responses to the public consultation held between December 2014 and March 2015 have been taken into account when my officials developed the ITT.

We know that customers are not satisfied with the current arrangements on this route. The rolling stock is too old and unreliable and there is demand for more, faster services. That is why this ITT has the condition and quality of trains at its very heart. I believe that the minimum standards we have set out today will provide bidders with the opportunity to address these fundamental issues. We expect to see new trains servicing this route but have not specified this because we want to incentivise the bidders to price their options competitively while ensuring that the taxpayer gets maximum value for their investment. We have reformed franchising to place quality of service and passenger experience at the centre of the process. These changes have already led to a step-change in performance elsewhere in the country and I expect East Anglia to fully benefit as well.

The region served by the East Anglia franchise is vital to the long term economic growth of the country. It was clear from the more than 1,300 responses my officials received to the consultation exercise that we need to make sure that the railway does more to support it in the next franchise. The specification I have published today sets out how we will do just that.

A key part of the ITT is that bidders will be required to plan for how they will introduce at least four services (two in each direction) between Norwich and London that have a journey time of 90 minutes or less each weekday; and at least two services between Ipswich and London (one in each direction) that have a journey time of less than 60 minutes. These headline journey times were a key

recommendation of the Great Eastern Mainline Taskforce and were highlighted in responses to the consultation. I am therefore delighted that the next franchise will see these services become a reality.

There are a number of other requirements that will mean passengers will see a step change in the franchise. Approximately 180 additional services are specified each week across the franchise, significantly enhancing journey opportunities for passengers. The franchise's rolling stock too will be significantly improved as a result of this ITT and while we have not been specific about what class of train bidders must use, we have been clear that they should be of a high quality and fit for the railway of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That means that all of the trains should include provision for wifi and controlled emission toilets, so that waste is not dropped onto the tracks. The specification also acknowledges the calls to reduce crowding on the franchise by establishing challenging targets for bidders to meet in their plans.

Throughout the ITT my officials have taken an output based approach to specification. This means that the private sector bidders for the franchise have the space to innovate and use their experience to develop the best possible solutions for passengers on the franchise.

The three bidders for the franchise (Abellio East Anglia Limited (a joint venture between Abellio and Stagecoach); First East Anglia Limited; and National Express East Anglia Trains Limited) will now have until 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to provide their bids to the Department. These will then be evaluated and I expect to announce my intention to award the contract to the preferred bidder in June 2016, with the new 9 year East Anglia franchise expected to start in October that year.

For too long, East Anglia has not had the high quality rail services that it deserves. The specification that I have published today will reverse this situation. I now look forward to the bidders stepping up to this challenge and providing plans that will provide a transformation on the East Anglia franchise for passengers and taxpayers.

### **Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures**

[HLWS198]

**Lord Bates:** My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Section 19(1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 (the Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of her TPIM powers under the Act during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

TPIM notices in force (as of 31 August 2015)	3
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 31 August 2015)	2
TPIM notices extended (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revoked (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revived (during the reporting period)	0
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices (during the reporting period)	10
Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused (during the reporting period)	0
The number of subjects relocated under TPIM legislation	2

The TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. The TRG met on 2 June and 14 September 2015. The next TRG meeting will take place in December 2015.

The case of *DD v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2014] EWHC 3820 (Admin) was heard again at the High Court between 21 and 24 April 2015. In a judgment handed down on 19 June 2015 Mr Justice Collins upheld the Secretary of State's decision to revive the TPIM notice against DD on 23 August 2013, 6 May 2014 and 3 July 2014. Mr Justice Collins also upheld the Secretary of State's decision to extend the TPIM notice against DD for a second and final year. In the same judgment Mr Justice Collins quashed the monitoring measure contained in DD's TPIM notice as he concluded that in DD's specific circumstances it breached DD's rights under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Mr Justice Collins also directed a variation to the electronic communications device measure contained in DD's TPIM notice. This judgement can be found at [www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2015/1681.html](http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2015/1681.html)

### **UK Atomic Energy Authority: Triennial Review**

[HLWS196]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My hon Friend the Minister of State for Universities and Science (Jo Johnson) has today made the following statement.

The commencement of the Triennial Review of the UK Atomic Energy Authority was announced in Parliament on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 through a Written Ministerial Statement. I am now pleased to announce the completion of the Review.

The UK Atomic Energy Authority has as its principal mission 'to position the UK as a leader in a future, sustainable energy economy by advancing fusion science and technology and related technologies to the point of commercialisation'. In addition to its main mission, the Authority manages a campus development portfolio at the Culham and Harwell sites and a number of other responsibilities that arise from historical civil nuclear programmes.

The Review concludes that the functions performed by the UK Atomic Energy Authority are still required and that it should be retained as an Executive Non Departmental Public Body. However, the review recognises that there are potential benefits for the Authority to merge with another relevant science body. It therefore recommends that the Authority should commence work to assess the viability of such a merger, with a view to implementation from 2018.

The Review also examined the Governance arrangements for the UK Atomic Energy Authority in line with guidance on good corporate governance set out by the Cabinet Office. The Review concluded that the Authority governance largely complies with Cabinet Office's principles of good corporate governance, but has also identified several opportunities to improve its functions.

The full report of the review of the UK Atomic Energy Authority can be found on the Gov.UK website and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Triennial Review of the UK Atomic Energy Authority [bis-15-432-triennial-review-of-the-uk-atomic-energy-authority-September-2015.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-09-17/HLWS196/>

# Written Statements

*Monday, 12 October 2015*

## Business Rates Reform

[HLWS213]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Last week, my Rt Hon Friend the Chancellor announced the Government's intention to make significant reforms to the way in which local government is funded while taking a major step forward in our plans to place more power in the hands of local communities.

Since 2013, local councils have retained 50 per cent of the proceeds of business rates, to ensure that when local areas take steps to boost business growth in their area, they see the benefit. The Government now intends to go further, with plans to move to 100 per cent retention of business rates by the end of the Parliament.

All income from local taxes will fund local services, giving local people more control over how their money is spent and providing incentives for growth. Specifically, by 2020:

- Local government will retain 100 per cent of local taxes – including all £26 billion of revenue from business rates – to spend on local government services. This means the Government will no longer take business rates income into Whitehall for redistribution as grant.
- Local authorities will have the power to cut business rates to boost enterprise and economic activity in their areas. This will complement existing powers to grant reliefs to individual businesses and will allow authorities more discretion to reflect local circumstances in their local tax regimes;
- Directly elected metro mayors will be able to add a premium to business rates to pay for new infrastructure. They will need to have support of local business leaders through the Local Enterprise Partnership and the power will be limited by a cap; and
- As well as phasing out the local government grant from Whitehall, these new powers will come with new responsibilities to ensure the reforms are fiscally neutral. The Government will set out further details in the Spending Review.

Redistribution between councils will remain important, to reflect the different need of different authorities. In developing the reforms we will consider the responsiveness of the system to future changes in relative needs and resources, whilst maintaining a strong incentive for authorities to grow their local economies. We will also consider how risk and business rates volatility can be better managed and how to protect authorities against significant falls in income.

Over the coming months the Government will work with local government, businesses and other interested parties on the detailed design of these reforms.

## Charter for Budget Responsibility: Autumn 2015 Update

[HLWS218]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My rt hon Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (George Osborne) has today made the following Written Statement.

Today I have laid before Parliament an updated Charter for Budget Responsibility. It sets out a fiscal framework to entrench a commitment to reach surplus and maintain it in normal times. It also includes the updates to the Charter recommended by the HM Treasury review of the Office for Budget Responsibility, led by Sir Dave Ramsden and clarifications on the operation of the welfare cap.

The updated Charter laid today was published in draft on 14 September 2015. The Charter was first published in draft as it includes modified guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility. Under Section 6(4) of the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act, if the Treasury proposes to modify the guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility included in the Charter, a draft of the modified guidance must be published at least 28 days before the modified Charter is laid before Parliament.

A debate and vote in the House of Commons on the updated Charter has been scheduled for 14 October.

## Deaths of Corporal James Dunsby, Lance Corporal Craig Roberts and Lance Corporal Edward Maher: Inquest

[HLWS217]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Penny Mordaunt) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 15 July 2015 I made a statement regarding the inquest into the deaths of three Army reservists, Corporal James Dunsby, Lance Corporal Craig Roberts and Lance Corporal Edward Maher who died as a result of training activity on the Brecon Beacons in Wales. I confirmed that following the conclusion of her inquest into the incident, HM Senior Coroner for Birmingham and Solihull highlighted a number of failings which contributed to the deaths of the three soldiers and made a number of recommendations to prevent future deaths. I responded to the coroner on 14 September 2015 and, after allowing a short period for the Coroner and families to consider my response, I have today placed a copy of my response in the Library of the House. In addition to the improvements outlined in my letter we have a Service Inquiry under way to look at the wider safety aspects of such training and I will keep the House informed. My thoughts remain with the families of Corporal Dunsby, Lance Corporal Roberts and Lance Corporal Maher and we are committed to doing all we can to ensure such a tragic event cannot happen again.



## Future Unmanned Air Systems Capability

[HLWS212]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The UK's Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities and equipping our Special Forces are two high priority issues for the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

We have reached some early decisions in these two key areas. We will more than double the number of Remotely Piloted Air Systems in the RAF's fleet, as we start to replace the 10 current Reapers with over 20 of the very latest air vehicles. We will also provide our special forces with new specialist weapons and clothing, as part of a programme to ensure that they remain at the cutting edge of technology.

The first RAF Reapers were deployed to Afghanistan in 2007, and are now flying vital missions over Iraq and Syria. We want to expand our capability as this area of technology rapidly develops, so we will start to introduce the new Protector aircraft. With its greater range and endurance, it will significantly increase our ability to identify, track, deter, and ultimately counter potential threats. Previously known as the Scavenger programme, Protector will substantially enhance the UK's global Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance capability.

The new Special Forces equipment package will ensure we maintain clear operational advantage over adversaries, and enhance their ability to work with our key Allies.

This investment will enable us to address sophisticated dangers both at home and abroad, and is only possible because this Government has committed to increase Defence spending, meeting the NATO investment pledge and spending 2% of GDP on defence for the rest of this decade.

## Informal Meeting of EU Foreign Ministers (Gymnich)

[HLWS215]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, Minister for Europe (David Lidington), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

I attended the informal Foreign Ministers meeting on 4–5 September in Luxembourg.

The informal format of the Gymnich allows EU Foreign Ministers to engage in a free-ranging discussion on a number of issues. In contrast to the formal Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), Ministers do not agree written Conclusions. The next FAC is due to be held on 12 October. The Gymnich was chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. Discussion centred on the Middle East Peace Process, Russia/Eastern

Partnership and the migration crisis. As the discussion on migration overran significantly, Ms. Mogherini decided to postpone the final discussion on Iran.

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations also attended. Fernando Gentilini, EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, took part in the discussion on the Middle East Peace Process. Elmar Brok MEP, Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs attended the discussion on Russia/Eastern Partnership. Foreign Ministers from EU Candidate Countries joined EU Ministers for a session on migration.

### *Gymnich discussion*

#### *Middle East Peace Process*

Ms. Mogherini used her opening remarks at the Gymnich to announce a meeting of the Quartet with key Arab countries in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. Her statement can be found at:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150904\\_01\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150904_01_en.htm)

Ms. Mogherini provided a sobering analysis of the situation on the ground including the fact that the humanitarian situation in Gaza remained dire.

I agreed with Ms. Mogherini's priorities for Gaza (access and port) and added power supply as a third priority. I also echoed other speakers in calling for the implementation of existing EU legislation applicable to settlement products.

### *Russia / Eastern Partners*

There was general agreement that Ukraine needed continued EU support as the winter approached both in terms of security and continued reform. There was universal condemnation of Russia's role in eastern Ukraine. There was however recognition of the constructive role Russia can play in international security issues, as it did in the Iran nuclear talks.

Ms. Mogherini recalled that the Eastern Partnership was not just about Ukraine and highlighted the differentiated engagement needed with Moldova, Georgia, Belarus, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

### *Migration*

The external aspects of the migration crisis were discussed in detail. The common view among Member States was that this was the single biggest challenge facing the Union. There was recognition of the heavy burden currently being carried by some of the candidate countries, in particular Turkey. It was agreed that more work was needed on readmissions and returns. There was broad support for setting up 'hotspots', both inside and outside EU territory, to bring together EU institutions involved to deliver an integrated service in managing migrants.

A number of Ministers pointed to the need to address the factors prompting migrants to leave their homes, and increase the incentives for them to stay close to their source countries. We also needed to address the people-



smuggling networks. Otherwise, there was a risk that the flow of migrants and refugees into the EU would increase to unmanageable levels. The Valletta Conference in November would provide an opportunity to develop such a strategy with African partners. There was discussion of a second possible international conference focusing on the Eastern Mediterranean/Western Balkans route.

Ms. Mogherini concluded that all aspects of a comprehensive migration strategy needed to be pursued.

### **Jordanian Armed Forces: Gifting of Equipment**

[HLWS216]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I have today laid before the House a Departmental Minute describing a package of equipment, with a total value of £2,407,450 which the UK intends to gift to the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Conventional Jordanian forces lack the agility, as well as the training, equipment and command structures, to allow them to counter emergent threats on their Syrian and Iraqi borders. The new Quick Reaction Force (QRF), a British-led multinational initiative is designed to address this by being able to deploy approximately 500 personnel at speed, to counter the ISIL and extremist threat at Jordan's borders.

This gift will greatly enhance the QRF's capacity and comprises a range of non-lethal command and control, manoeuvre and protective equipment.

Gifting is expected to begin soon after the completion of the Departmental Minute process.

### **Low Pay Commission: National Minimum Wage**

[HLWS206]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My honourable Friend the Minister of State for Skills (Nick Boles) has today made the following statement.

I am pleased to announce that the Government has published policy evidence to support the Low Pay Commission's research towards recommendations due in 2016. I have written to the LPC to set out what we would like the Commission to consider on the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage. This document contains policy information relating to the National Minimum Wage legislation and wider Government policy which may impact upon the Low Pay Commission's recommendations.

Economic evidence will be published before the end of the year when the latest information on earnings and economic forecasts is available.

A copy of the evidence will be placed in the Libraries of the House and will be available from the BIS website at [www.bis.gov.uk](http://www.bis.gov.uk).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

National Minimum Wage [151012 NMW Interim Evidence 2015.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2015-10-12/HLWS206/>

### **Rail Investment**

[HLWS207]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Patrick McLoughlin), has made the following Ministerial Statement:

On 30 September, I was pleased to confirm that work to electrify Transpennine and Midland Mainline railways would resume under plans announced as part of Sir Peter Hendy's work to reset Network Rail's upgrade programme.

Sir Peter Hendy, the Chair of Network Rail, outlined to me how work could continue. I replied to him asking Network Rail to un-pause this work.

Network Rail will work with the Department for Transport (DFT) and Rail North to develop a new plan for electrification of the Transpennine line between Stalybridge and Leeds and on to York and Selby to focus on delivering key passenger benefits as quickly as possible. This is an improvement on the previous plan which only changed the power supply of the trains.

The new plan will deliver faster journey times and significantly more capacity between Manchester, Leeds and York. The upgrade is expected to provide capacity for six fast or semi-fast trains per hour, take up to 15 minutes off today's journey time between Manchester and York and be complete by 2022. When the work is finished, the whole route from Liverpool to Newcastle (via Manchester, Leeds and York) will be fully electrified and journey times will be significantly reduced compared to today's railway.

Network Rail will also recommence work to electrify the Midland Mainline, the vital long-distance corridor which serves the UK's industrial heartland. Sir Peter Hendy proposed that line speed and capacity improvement works already in hand are added to, with electrification of the line north of Bedford to Kettering and Corby by 2019 and the line North of Kettering to Leicester, Derby/Nottingham and Sheffield by 2023.

New Northern and TransPennine rail franchise awards will be announced before the end of the year. The new franchises will deliver new train carriages and remove out-dated Pacer trains; introduce free WiFi on trains; and offer a one-third increase in capacity with 200 additional services on weekdays and Saturdays and 300 more train services on Sundays.

Connecting up the great cities of the North is at the heart of our plan to build a Northern Powerhouse. The total programme of rail electrification and upgrades will completely transform the railways for passengers in the

North and Midlands and help ensure that every part of Britain benefits from a growing economy.

### **Reserve Forces Call-Out Order: ISIL**

[HLWS208]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Penny Mordaunt) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

With the expiry of the call-out order made on 1 October 2014, on 21 September 2015 a new order was made under section 56(1B) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable Reservists to be called into permanent service in support of United Kingdom operations to counter the threat of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Under the call-out order made on 1 October 2014, 85 Reservists have been called out for operations. We anticipate a continued requirement for Reservists, with the right skills and experience, over the period the new order will be in force. This is fully in line with our policy of having more capable, usable, integrated and relevant Reserve Forces.

The order takes effect from 30 September 2015 and ceases to have effect on 29 September 2016.

### **Reserve Forces Call-Out Orders: Defence Objectives**

[HLWS210]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Penny Mordaunt) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Changes made by the Defence Reform Act 2014 allow for Reservists to be called out under section 56(1B) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 if it appears to the Secretary of State that it is necessary or desirable to use members of a reserve force for any purpose for which members of the regular services may be used. Reservists called out under this power may be required to serve for a period of up to 12 months.

With the expiry of the orders made on 1 October 2014, on 21 September 2015 I made four new call-out orders under section 56(1B) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to continue to allow Reservists to be called into permanent service to support Defence Engagement activities (for example the provision of short term training teams and military capacity building overseas); Global Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Piracy; the operation of our Permanent Joint Operating Bases (PJOBS) in the South Atlantic Islands, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cyprus and Gibraltar; and Maritime Security objectives.

Under the orders made on 1 October 2014, 280 Reservists have been called out (193 for Defence Engagement, 66 for Global Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Piracy, 10 for Maritime Security Operations and 11 for the operation of PJOBS). We anticipate a continued requirement for Reservists, with the right skills and experience, over the period the new orders will be in force.

For operations that fall outside the scope of these orders, for example Military Aid to the Civil Authorities, or warfighting, or for operations which are likely to involve a large number of Reservists, I would expect to make separate call-out orders.

These orders take effect from 30 September 2015 and cease to have effect on 29 September 2016.

### **Right to Buy: Agreement with Housing Associations**

[HLWS214]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Government is pleased to announce that it has reached an agreement with the National Housing Federation, which will extend Right to Buy discounts to at least 1.3 million more families across the country.

We want more people to be able to own a home of their own. The Right to Buy is a key part of this, and has already helped two million families to realise their dream of home ownership.

Until now, Right to Buy discounts have only been available to tenants in local authority properties and some former council properties. Extending these discounts to housing association tenants in England will end this unfairness, and will deliver our manifesto commitment to extend the Right to Buy to housing association tenants.

Under the agreement, all homes sold to tenants will be replaced on a one for one basis, delivering an overall increase in housing supply. Housing associations have a strong track record in the delivery of new homes, playing a major role in exceeding the Government's 2011-15 affordable homes target by delivering nearly 186,000 homes.

The agreement will mean that the first housing association tenants will be able to start to buy their homes from next year.

In summary, the deal will enable the following:

- 1.3 million families will be given the opportunity to purchase a home at right to buy level discounts, subject to the overall availability of funding for the scheme and the eligibility requirements. The presumption is that housing associations will sell the tenant the property in which they live.
- The Government will compensate the housing association for the discount offered to the tenant, and housing associations will retain the sales receipt to enable them to reinvest in the delivery of new homes.
- Housing associations will use the sales proceeds to deliver new supply and will have the flexibility, but not the obligation, to replace rented homes with other tenures such as shared ownership.
- Government will continue to work with the National Housing Federation and its members to develop new

and innovative products, so that every tenant can buy a stake in their home.

As part of the agreement, the Government will also implement deregulatory measures which will support housing associations in their objectives to help support tenants into home ownership and deliver additional supply of new homes.

We will now be working closely with the sector on the implementation of the deal, and I will update hon. Members in due course on the next stage of the implementation.

### **Sahaviriya Steel Industries UK Limited**

[HLWS211]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Sajid Javid) has today made the following statement.

I want to update the House on matters relating to SSI in Redcar, which entered Liquidation on Friday 2 October 2015.

Both the Minister of State for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise and I were in Redcar during recess. SSI's work reviving steel making in Redcar has faced increasing challenges and this announcement came as deeply disappointing news, undoubtedly making for a tough time for the workforce and Teesside more broadly.

The Government cannot intervene in the liquidation process, which is now in the hands of the Official Receiver, however we are absolutely committed to helping the workforce and local economy.

The Government has announced a package worth up to £80m to support people who have lost their jobs as a result of SSI's liquidation, and mitigate the impacts on the local economy. The funding will include support for workers to retrain and help for local firms to grow and create jobs.

In addition, we have asked Amanda Skelton, Chief Executive of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, to chair a local taskforce which is examining what steps need to be taken to support the local economy and workforce.

Full details of the package are being worked through and discussed with local stakeholders, however I wanted to set out in more detail two of the elements of the support package that are already available to SSI's employees.

Firstly, both employees and contractors made redundant as a result of SSI's Liquidation will be able to access Jobcentre Plus' Rapid Response Service, which helps people to move quickly into alternative employment. This service is delivered locally with partners, is tailored to an individual's needs, and can include some or all of the following elements:

- Help with job searches including CV writing and, interview skills
- Help to identify transferable skills and skills gaps (linked to the local labour market)

- Training to update skills, learn new ones and gain industry recognised certification that will improve employability

- Help to overcome barriers to attending training or securing a job or self-employment such as child care costs, tools, work clothes, travel costs etc.

This service has been mobilised and delivering support to SSI employees following the first announcements of redundancies and Jobcentre Plus will continue to play a full part in the taskforce we have established.

Secondly, there are special arrangements in place to ensure employees who are dismissed on the insolvency of their employer receive a basic minimum of the debts they are owed from the National Insurance Fund. This includes payments for statutory redundancy, holiday and notice pay, and arrears of wages, subject to statutory limits.

The Redundancy Payments Service (RPS) has issued SSI staff affected with a letter, explaining their rights and how to make an online claim for redundancy pay. If any SSI employees have not received this letter, they should contact the Redundancy Payments Enquiry Line on 0330 331 0020. The RPS has established a dedicated team to process these applications and make sure SSI employees receive their payments as quickly as possible.

Unpaid pension contributions are also payable, within specified legal limits, from the National Insurance Fund. If there are unpaid pension contributions, the pension fund trustee will lodge a claim with the RPS, so employees do not need to submit an application for this. If employees have concerns about their pension, they should contact their scheme administrator.

Turning to the steel industry more broadly, it is clear that the industry is facing extremely challenging economic conditions. We are working closely with the sector to help where we can, and as such, will be holding a Steel Summit on 16 October to understand the challenges the sector faces and explore what more can be done to support the industry. I am pleased that not only the industry and the unions, but a number of MPs representing constituencies with close links to the steel industry have accepted the invitation.

Finally, I wish to place on record that on Friday 2 October 2015 an indemnity was provided to Ken Beasley, the Official Receiver, in his capacity as liquidator of Sahaviriya Steel Industries UK Limited.

It was urgent and necessary to provide the Official Receiver with this indemnity, so that he felt able to accept the appointment as liquidator of the Company and ensure that the Company's site could be secured and health and safety concerns associated with the site addressed from that point.

The indemnity is uncapped. However it is limited to liabilities arising as a consequence of the Official Receiver:

- carrying out the proper performance of his duties as liquidator of the Company, and

- maintaining, securing and funding the ongoing operation of the Company's undertaking, and distributing the assets of the Company in the ordinary course of his duties as liquidator of the Company.

The Government can terminate the indemnity by giving at least 14 days' notice to the Official Receiver.

In accordance with the guidance contained in 'Managing Public Money', on 8 October, I wrote to the Chairs of the Public Accounts Committee and the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee outlining the indemnity committed to on behalf of Government and the reasons for the urgency in this case.

As a matter of record I have placed a departmental minute in the Libraries of both Houses explaining the procedure followed and containing a description of the liabilities undertaken.

### Ukraine: Operation Orbital

[HLWS209]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Further to my statement to the House on 25 February (Official Report, column 321) and my written statement of 6 March this year (Official Report, column 83), I wish to update the House on our support for the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

The February ceasefire agreement, which came into effect at the beginning of September, has seen a reduction in violence in much of the conflict zone. We very much hope that this will bring an end to the fighting and generate substantial progress with the other measures agreed at Minsk.

This Government is committed to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. As a result of their prolonged engagement in this crisis, the Ukrainian Armed Forces have faced a serious shortage of training and basic equipment and have requested help. The Ukrainians value highly the UK's support to training their personnel through Operation ORBITAL, welcoming our flexibility and responsiveness to their requests for assistance, and highlighting that our training has made a tangible difference on the ground to their capability.

So far this year the Armed Forces have deployed 19 teams to train nearly 1,600 members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Over 2,000 troops will have been trained by April 2016. Given the continued importance of our support in developing the resilience of Ukraine's Armed Forces I have agreed that the UK should extend our training into the next financial year, with the continued deployment of short term training teams to deliver training to meet the Ukrainian Armed Forces' requirements.

For the financial year 2016-17 this will see an increase from the current 75 personnel, announced last February, to around 100 deployed to Ukraine at any one time. This uplift will ensure we have sufficient flexibility to meet

evolving Ukrainian requests without unnecessarily constraining activity. The UK coordinates our training support with Allies: from November there will be a UK liaison officer in the new US-led Joint Multinational Training Group based in western Ukraine. In addition to Operation ORBITAL activity, the UK will continue with its wider support to institutional capacity building and defence reform in Ukraine.

### Vehicle Emissions

[HLWS219]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Patrick McLoughlin), has made the following Ministerial Statement:

I wish to inform the House of the latest developments on vehicle emissions testing, following the revelations of Friday 18 September that Volkswagen Group had been fitting so-called defeat devices to some of its vehicles.

Volkswagen Group has admitted that defeat devices are present on almost 1.2 million vehicles in the UK. These are diesel-powered vehicles tested and approved under the Euro 5 standard. Other vehicle manufacturers have confirmed that defeat devices do not exist on their vehicles. We, of course, will be testing this for ourselves.

I have taken a series of actions to defend the interests of UK consumers, both in the immediate and longer terms. The actions of the Government will continue to be guided by the over-riding principle of protecting consumers.

First, I have applied considerable pressure on the company in the UK and on EU ministers to resolve the immediate situation with speed and efficiency. This means clear information for affected drivers and acting quickly to put right the affected vehicles. I have been clear I expect VW to take every step necessary to protect its UK customers but it is right that the government carries out its own thorough and independent investigation.

Therefore, second, I have announced a UK programme to retest vehicles. The Vehicle Certification Agency, the UK regulator, is running laboratory tests starting with those VW Group vehicles for which VCA has provided approvals. These tests will compare real world driving emissions against laboratory performance. We are taking steps to ensure independence; neither the cars nor the testing facilities will be provided by the vehicle industry themselves.

Third, I have called for swift action by the European Commission to coordinate a pan-European approach. This is vital for ensuring that test results are available to consumers on a timely basis and to avoid duplication across different European countries.

Fourth, a key element of regaining consumers' long-term trust in vehicle emissions testing is to have tests that mean what they say. The UK was in the minority amongst member states earlier in 2015 in calling for "real driving emissions" to be speedily introduced. These tests will provide useful information that consumers can trust.

I met with my fellow EU transport ministers in Luxembourg on 8 October and tabled the issue of vehicle emissions testing. I pushed for both a coordinated approach to retesting of vehicles across Europe and for real driving emissions to be introduced as quickly as practicably possible. I will continue working with my European colleagues to achieve the UK's objectives.



## Written Answers

Tuesday, 2 June 2015

### European Rail Traffic Management System

Asked by **Lord Bradshaw**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the European Rail Traffic Management System on the development of the Digital Railway. [HL49]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Digital Railway initiative is still under development by Network Rail and the industry. The full impact on the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) is being assessed as part of the development.

### Gaza

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for lifting the blockade of Gaza; and what plans, if any, they have to achieve this. [HL10]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Israeli restrictions damage the economy and living standards of ordinary people in Gaza. There remains an urgent need for all the parties to reach an agreement that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict in Gaza. This should ensure that Hamas and other militant groups permanently end rocket fire and other attacks against Israel and that Israel lifts its restrictions to allow the Gazan economy to grow. We welcome the recent positive steps that Israel has taken to ease some restrictions. However, we want to see Israel go much further, and we are continuing to call on Israel to do so.

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Egypt regarding free passage of goods and people via the Rafah crossing. [HL11]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned about the closure of the Rafah Pedestrian Crossing and the impact that has, particularly on urgent medical and other priority cases in Gaza. The crossing has been mostly closed since the start of the year while the Egyptian government construct a buffer zone, though we understand the crossing has been opened in recent days for entry into Gaza.

We have encouraged the Egyptian authorities to ease the movement of bona fide travellers through Rafah, and in the longer term to consider expanding Rafah to passenger transit and humanitarian goods transit, which will help to ease humanitarian pressures. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge

(Mr Hammond), raised the importance of reopening the Rafah crossing when he spoke with the Egyptian Foreign Minister on 14 January. We continue to raise this issue in our contacts with the Egyptian government.

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with European partners regarding stationing a UN force within Gaza, including NATO coast patrols. [HL12]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not had any discussions with European partners regarding stationing a UN force within Gaza, including North Atlantic Treaty Organisation coast patrols.

### Israel

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding that country's co-operation with the International Criminal Court concerning charges of war crimes. [HL8]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Israel is not a party to the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Nonetheless we have encouraged the Israelis, as we do all countries, to cooperate with the preliminary examination currently being conducted by the Office of the Prosecutor of the Court.

### Israel: Palestinians

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the statement by Prime Minister Netanyahu that "circumstances have to change" for a two-state solution with Palestine to be achievable, what assessment they have made of the possibility of peace negotiations resuming. [HL13]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Making progress towards the two state solution remains a foreign policy priority for the UK. We note Prime Minister's Netanyahu's statements after the election that Israel is committed to the Middle East Peace Process and achieving a two state solution. We continue to urge all parties, including Israel, to show through policies and actions that this commitment is genuine.

### Libya: Politics and Government

Asked by **Lord Empey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whom they now recognise as the legitimate government of Libya. [HL62]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Libyan people exercised their democratic right and elected the interim House of Representatives in the June 2014 Libyan

parliamentary elections. The UK is deeply concerned by the subsequent violence and political polarisation in Libya, and its impact on the Libyan people and the stability of the wider region. We support a fully inclusive national dialogue and reconciliation to complete the next stage of Libya's political transition. We call on all Libyan parties to engage in the UN-led dialogue process to agree an inclusive Government of National Accord which meets the Libyan people's needs for security, and promotes stability and prosperity for all Libyans.

## Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recently announced reduction in the number of employees working on the decommissioning of nuclear power stations and the possible safety implications for those locations. [HL73]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** This is a commercial matter for Cavendish Fluor Partnership who were last year appointed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) as the Magnox Parent Body Organisation to deliver greater effectiveness and efficiency in the decommissioning of the 12 Magnox sites. The Magnox programme is a closure programme and, inevitably, this means that workforce numbers will reduce as the sites are decommissioned.

The Government sympathises with those directly affected and is assured by the NDA, which has been fully involved in discussions with Magnox on its new organisational structure, that the company will implement its plans in line with industry best practice in order to mitigate the impact of job losses, and with fairness and respect for its staff.

Nothing will be done to compromise safety and security. The independent regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) is also content with the programme.

## Planning Permission

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Planning Inspectorate invited comments from the applicant and interested parties regarding the Swansea Bay Lagoon Application (EN010049), including the consideration of alternatives to the proposed lagoon project, but did not do so in respect of the Thames Tideway Tunnel. [HL36]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Each application is examined in the context of relevant designated National Policy Statements. For the Thames Tideway Tunnel application the relevant national policy is contained in the Waste Water National Policy Statement (paragraph 2.6.34), which states:

"The examining authority and the decision maker should undertake any assessment of an application for the development of the Thames Tunnel on the basis that the national need for this infrastructure has been demonstrated".

"It would be for Thames Water to justify in its application the specific design and route of the project that it is proposing, including any other options it has considered and ruled out."

The Examining Authority (Panel) appointed to examine the Thames Tideway Tunnel did ask written questions and hold hearings about alternatives to the applicant's above ground site selection process and tunnel drive / construction strategy, but as directed by the National Policy Statements, the Panel did not consider alternatives to a tunnel.

In the case of the Swansea Tidal Lagoon application the Secretary of State is due to issue his decision on 10 June 2015. It would not be appropriate to comment in any detail on the examination of this application in advance of the Secretary of State's decision. However, suffice to say that there are no designated National Policy Statements for tidal range power generating schemes.

## Social Security

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to consult publicly on the proposed scale of reductions in social security budgets and the form in which those reductions may be delivered. [HL52]

**Lord Freud:** The Government's commitment to save £12bn from welfare spending was set out in its election manifesto. Further details will be given in due course.

## Terrorism: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many United Kingdom nationals who have returned from fighting for Islamic State in either Iraq, Syria, or both, or are currently believed to be fighting for Islamic State in those countries, were or are in receipt of state benefits whilst abroad. [HL19]

**Lord Freud:** The information is not available. In order to be eligible to receive state benefits, eligibility conditions usually require a claimant to be resident in the United Kingdom. We have strict rules that are designed to prevent people taking inappropriate advantage of our benefit system to protect the taxpayer and the benefit system from possible abuse.

Claimants are required to tell DWP if they leave the country to travel abroad. If they move overseas without informing the Department then we investigate and can stop benefit payments.

## Yemen

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Saudi Arabia concerning the present situation in Yemen. [HL110]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of

State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), are both in regular contact with the Government of Saudi Arabia about the situation in Yemen, particularly to emphasise the importance of ensuring sustained humanitarian access and moving to a durable political solution. We work closely with Saudi Arabia across a range of shared foreign policy priorities and interests and Yemen is clearly a top priority for both countries. We continue to work with all parties to bring an end to the conflict.

# Written Answers

Wednesday, 3 June 2015

## Fracking: Wales

Asked by *Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether onshore fracking for gas in Wales will become the responsibility of the National Assembly for Wales. [HL70]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Welsh Government already has substantial control of onshore oil and gas activities through planning controls and environmental regulation as these are devolved. Through the relevant planning authorities in Wales, the Welsh Government has the power to take decisions on individual shale projects.

The Government will implement the St David's Day Agreement in full which includes devolving licensing functions for onshore oil and gas exploration to Welsh Ministers.

## NHS England: Correspondence

Asked by *Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that NHS England produces prompt and comprehensive replies to correspondence from MPs and Members of the House of Lords. [HL59]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England is an independent arm's length body of the Department. NHS

England has signed up to a Public and Parliamentary Accountability protocol where it is committed to answering all correspondence in 18 working days, in line with the Whitehall standard.

Adherence to the protocol is verified by the Department, and where standards are not met the Department will raise these at regular accountability meetings with NHS England and agree improvement actions required.

## Secondary Education

Asked by *Lord Northbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to publish a statement of their objectives for education in secondary schools in the maintained sector, in particular their objectives regarding academic achievement and preparing pupils for wellbeing in adult life and for their prospective roles in the workplace and as parents. [HL85]

**Lord Nash:** The government wants all young people to leave school prepared for life in modern Britain. This means ensuring that young people achieve academically, have the knowledge and skills to make safe and informed decisions, and develop personal and emotional wellbeing.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education supports the teaching of all subjects across the school curriculum. In the introduction to the national curriculum we made it clear that all schools should make provision for PSHE, drawing on examples of good practice.

## Written Answers

Thursday, 4 June 2015

### Adoption

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons for the fall in the number of children being offered for adoption; and whether, in the light of this decrease, they plan to conduct a review of adoption legislation. [HL17]

**Lord Nash:** Data and intelligence collected by the national Adoption Leadership Board suggests the falls in the number of adoption decisions are a response to particular court judgments, known as *Re Band* and *Re B-S*.

In November 2014, the national Adoption Leadership Board published guidance on what *Re B* and *Re B-S* say and do not say, to ensure that the judgments are not being misunderstood by local authorities.

In December 2014, a new court judgment, *Re R*, was published. In this the President of the Family Division is absolutely clear that the law on adoption has not changed, and that where adoption is in a child's best interests, it must be pursued.

We are continuing to monitor trends in adoption decisions very closely. The department will consider whether and what further action is necessary once local decision makers have had the chance to digest the new guidance and most recent judgments.

### Army: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they regard the army's activities in Northern Ireland as overseas deployment; and if so, why. [HL114]

**Earl Howe:** Armed Forces personnel based in Northern Ireland are not considered to be on an overseas deployment. However they do receive some additional measures of support which reflect the circumstances of a posting in Northern Ireland.

### Ascension Island

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered declaring a Marine Protection Zone around Ascension Island and, if so, what factors they took into account. [HL14]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Consideration is currently being given to all options for marine management around Ascension Island. Any decision will be based on scientific justification, financial viability, effective enforcement and monitoring.

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government between 2010 and 2013, what criteria were used for granting fishing licences for the waters surrounding Ascension Island; and how licensing restrictions were enforced. [HL15]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Between 2010 and 2013, all licensed vessels had to be flagged to an International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) registered state. The vessels were checked against the ICCAT Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities (IUU) blacklist. Vessel safety, scientific and location data collection and compliance with domestic fisheries legislation were the further criteria used for granting fishing licences. Enforcement of the fishing licences was limited to a fishery patrol in 2010.

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent shark finning in the waters surrounding Ascension Island. [HL16]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Shark finning is prohibited around Ascension Island waters. To enforce this, all passing ships are requested to report any sighting of fishing vessels to Ascension Island government. The British Government funded a pilot satellite surveillance project around Ascension Island in early 2015. This data is being used to inform future management and enforcement of Ascension Island's waters.

### Asylum: Employment

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce the time asylum seekers wait to take up employment. [HL68]

**Lord Bates:** We have no plans to reduce the time asylum seekers have to wait to take up employment.

### Asylum: Finance

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 19 March 2015 (HL5545), why those listed as receiving support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 cannot be returned to their countries of origin. [HL63]

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that shops and outlets that are part of the Azure card scheme do not refuse to serve customers using the card. [HL65]



*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage more outlets, including local shops, to sign up to the Azure card scheme. [HL66]

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Azure card users can apply for travel assistance (1) for medical appointments, (2) for legal appointments, and (3) to reach the closest outlet that will accept the Azure card; and, if so, how such information is provided to users. [HL67]

**Lord Bates:** Failed asylum seekers are provided with support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if they are destitute and can show that there is a temporary legal or practical obstacle that prevents them from leaving the United Kingdom voluntarily. The precise reasons why they are temporarily unable to leave vary from case to case, but examples include where they are too sick to travel and because they have been granted permission to apply for a judicial review of a decision relating to their asylum claim.

All retail outlets that accept the Azure card receive information about the rules relating to card purchases. The Home Office is aware that there are some instances where card purchases are refused, but in the great majority of cases this is simply because the person had insufficient credit on the card to purchase the items they were seeking to obtain. Reports of where the card purchase has been refused for other reasons are investigated and the matter taken up with the particular retail outlet.

Card users can apply for travel tickets to attend essential medical appointments. The cost of travel to essential appointments with legal advisers is covered through legal aid. Accommodation is provided within walking distance of shops and other services.

Information and guidance about how to apply for travel assistance is published on the GOV.UK website and it is also provided by the voluntary sector organisations that assist Azure card users, including Migrant Help, which is funded by the Home Office to provide an advice service.

Any retail outlet that provides food and other essential living items and accepts visa transactions can apply to join the Azure card scheme and talks periodically take place with new outlets that have expressed an interest in joining the scheme.

However, the card is currently accepted by Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Morrison's, the Co-operative, Iceland, Boots, Mothercare, The British Red Cross, The Salvation Army and a few small independent retailers. The Home Office is therefore satisfied that the card is an effective way of ensuring that the persons are able to purchase food and other necessary items to cover their essential living needs.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have received support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 for more than (1) one year, (2) 5 years, and (3) 10 years. [HL64]

**Lord Bates:** As of 28 May the number of people who have been in receipt of asylum support can be found in the table below:

Years in receipt of Support - Number of people

Between 1 and 5 years - 3,330

Between 5 and 10 years - 295

More than 10 Years - 0

## **Aviation: Security**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what checks they have carried out on the full-body scanners, built by L3 Communications Holdings, which are used at United Kingdom airports; when these checks were carried out, and by whom; what was the outcome of the checks with respect to safety; and whether that outcome was shared with the airport authorities. [HL30]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** All security scanners (also known as body scanners) deployed in the UK use millimetre wave technology. The technology must meet the safety requirements set out in Commission Regulation (EU) No 1141/2011 and Council Recommendation 1999/519/EU for the protection of the health of workers and the general public. Manufacturers must ensure their Security Scanner equipment conform to these standards and that they also comply with requirements for electromagnetic compatibility to ensure they do not interfere with other electronic devices. This is conducted by independent third parties. To be used in UK airports Security Scanner must additionally comply with security performance standards as defined in UK regulations. Compliance with the security requirements is conducted by the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) before being approved by the Department for Transport for operational use. UK Airports are informed of the results through an approved equipment list on the GOV.UK website.

## **Burma: Ethnic Groups**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the circumstances faced by Rohingya refugees; what action they have taken to encourage the international community to support these refugees; and, in particular, what discussions they have had with the Burmese authorities about the challenges facing the Rohingya people. [HL45]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain deeply concerned by the situation of the Rohingya, including those in Rakhine State, and the thousands of people, including Rohingya, reported to be adrift in the Andaman Sea and Malacca Straits in desperate circumstances.

It is vital that Burma addresses the longer-term issues which lie at the root of the problem - namely the desperate conditions in which Rohingya communities are living in Rakhine state. On 18 May the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), called the Burmese Ambassador in London to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to express our concern at the situation, and press Burma to take urgent steps to deal with the humanitarian implications of the crisis, as well as the underlying causes in Rakhine State. Furthermore, on 18 May, our Ambassador in Rangoon joined EU and US Ambassadors in delivering a collective demarche to the Burmese government. We have had many similar conversations in the region and more widely, urging all those involved to work together towards a regional solution.

The UK is playing its part to resolve the dire situation in Rakhine. Since 2012, the UK has been one of the largest bilateral humanitarian donors in Rakhine State. We have invested over £18m in humanitarian support there, which helps to provide shelter; water sanitation and hygiene; nutrition and protection activities; and non-food items for over 122,000 people. We also strongly support the UN's coordination of the international humanitarian response.

But it is also clear that this is an issue that requires a comprehensive regional response, and as such we welcomed the Thai authorities' decision to call a regional summit on 29 May to tackle the broader issues. Our Ambassador in Bangkok attended this summit as an observer. We also very much welcome the 20 May decision from the Foreign Ministers of Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, to provide humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants.

### Coastal Areas: Access

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to continue the programme for the completion of coastal access in England. [HL96]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The coastal access programme has so far opened up 101 miles of our beautiful coastline for everyone to enjoy, boosting local tourism and growing the rural economy.

The Government is working closely with Natural England to build on the progress already made. We have approved Natural England's coastal access proposals for a further 94 miles and by the end of this financial year we expect Natural England to have submitted proposals for another 431 miles.

### Financial Services

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to introduce financial inclusion support into programmes to reduce unemployment and benefit dependency. [HL51]

**Lord Freud:** The Work Programme allows providers the freedom to use a range of tools to support people into work, including providing financial inclusion support if they believe this would be beneficial. The Department is currently developing the next phase of the Work Programme. Evaluation of the existing programme will inform how the next programme best meets the needs of participants.

### Gaza

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Palestinian Authority in the light of the recent Amnesty International report on the conduct of Hamas in Gaza; and what response they have received, if any. [HL112]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised this issue with the Palestinian Authority (PA), we do raise issues related to Hamas conduct in Gaza with the PA on an ongoing basis. Since the formation of the interim technocratic government, we have supported Prime Minister Hamdallah's efforts to return the PA to effective control of the Gaza Strip, which would allow the PA to take action to address such reports.

### Islamic State

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they currently pass to United States military targeting teams operating in Iraq and Syria all intelligence information on locations where United Kingdom nationals are working with Islamic State; and if not, whether they plan to do so. [HL102]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In accordance with long standing policy the Government does not make public information regarding the campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Iraq and Syria which could compromise UK or coalition military operations.

### Manchester-Burnley Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have regarding overcrowding on the new rail service between Manchester, Burnley and Accrington via the Todmorden curve, and what discussions they have had with Northern Rail and Lancashire County Council about relieving overcrowding. [HL142]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Following investment of £10m, the new rail services between Blackburn, Burnley Manchester Road and Manchester Victoria via the Todmorden curve commenced operation on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Northern has not provided any information on passenger loadings to the Department at this early stage and would not be expected to do so.

This project has been sponsored by Lancashire County Council and Burnley Borough Council to deliver economic benefits by reducing journey times for people travelling between Manchester and East Lancashire.

### **Mature Students: Loans**

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what resource accounting and budgeting charge they are currently using to estimate the long-term cost of the 24+ Advanced Learning Loans programme. [HL27]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Department models the proportion of loans which we expect not to be repaid - the resource accounting and budgeting charge (RAB charge). The RAB charge is estimated to be 50% of the total loan amount. BIS is collecting data on learners as it emerges. On the basis of this data we regularly review and update the RAB charge estimates.

We publish the RAB charge once a year in the Department's accounts.

### **North Korea: Food Supply**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the United Nations World Food Programme's estimate that \$69 million is required to ensure food security in North Korea, in the light of the level of spending by the government of North Korea on defence and luxury facilities; and what discussions they have had with the government of North Korea about their spending priorities and their requests for international aid. [HL127]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not made an independent assessment on the food security situation within the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We remain concerned about the DPRK government's continued prioritization of military spending over spending to feed its people. The UK does not have a bilateral aid programme in the DPRK nor have we held recent discussions with the DPRK government regarding spending priorities or requests for international aid.

### **North Korea: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of recent reports of the execution of senior

officials, and others, in North Korea; when they last raised human rights violations with the North Korean regime; what was discussed and what response was received. [HL48]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have seen recent media reporting speculating on the purge and execution of the Defence Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), General Hyon Yong Chol, together with other officials. There has been no announcement from the DPRK on the fate of General Hyon and, due to the opaque nature of the DPRK system, it is difficult to verify the accuracy of such reports.

We continue to be deeply concerned by the DPRK human rights situation and use our diplomatic relations to press these concerns wherever possible. In January, representatives of EU embassies in Pyongyang, including the UK, met the DPRK Foreign Minister to discuss a range of issues including human rights. In February, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials met with DPRK Embassy officials and discussed freedom of expression, the March UN Human Rights Council session and EU plans for a resolution on human rights in the DPRK. More recently, at a meeting in March with the DPRK Ambassador to the UK, we underlined the strength of British Government and public interest in this issue. We used these meetings to raise our concerns and to encourage concrete change in the DPRK and positive interaction with the international community. The DPRK expressed disappointment over the UK and EU's work to raise our concerns in international fora and challenged international assessments of its domestic human rights situation.

### **Patagonia**

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representation they will have in the official celebrations in Liverpool on 30 May to mark the 150th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mimosa* carrying the first settlers to establish the Welsh community in Patagonia. [HL72]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The First Minister of Wales, the right Hon. Carwyn Jones AM, attended the official celebration in Liverpool on 30 May to mark the 150th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mimosa* ship from Liverpool to Patagonia.

### **Peers: Correspondence**

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will respond to the letter sent by Lord Wigley to the Home Secretary on 29 April concerning Lisa Hughes, an Argentine citizen of Welsh descent and the case for her to be allowed to remain in the United Kingdom until 9 August to participate in celebrations of the establishment of the Welsh settlement in Patagonia in 1865. [HL71]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office target for replying to Lords correspondence is 20 working days. The Immigration Minister responded on 2 June.

### **Pensions and Social Security Benefits**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Freud on 19 January (HL4116), which public sector pensions and social security benefits will be exempt from reduction in September 2015 if price deflation continues until then; by how much such pensions and benefits will rise; and whether they will reduce pensions and benefits not so protected in line with the consumer price index. [HL33]

**Lord Freud:** The existing legislation does not provide for a reduction in the level of social security benefits and public service pension payments.

Rates for 2016/17 will follow the publication of September's price inflation later in the year.

### **Polish Language: GCE A-level**

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that Polish remains available as an A-level subject. [HL94]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education is currently considering what further support and encouragement can be provided to awarding organisations to enable as wide a range of languages as possible to be maintained at GCSE and A level, including Polish.

The government has been clear that it wants to see all pupils provided with the opportunity to take a core set of academic subjects, including modern foreign languages. The number of pupils entering for a modern language GCSE has increased by 20% since 2010 due to the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. There are considerable benefits to learning a second language and the government is keen to see the range of languages at GCSE and A level preserved. To this end, the Secretary of State wrote to exam boards during the pre-election period in April to express her concern about their decision to stop awarding qualifications in some community languages. She asked awarding organisations to work with Ofqual on the future of these qualifications and committed, if there is no further action, to launching a consultation on how best to secure the future of these qualifications.

### **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the report by David Anderson QC, the independent reviewer of anti-terrorism legislation, on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [HL103]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has received and is considering David Anderson QC's Investigatory Powers review. It will be published shortly.

### **Stormont House Agreement**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which strand talk sessions representatives of the government of the Republic of Ireland attended during the Stormont House talks; on what dates those sessions occurred; on whose invitation those representatives were invited; and, if such information is not available, why not. [HL34]

**Lord Dunlop:** Irish Government representatives were present on a number of occasions in the talks leading up to the Stormont House Agreement. As the Noble Lord is aware, the involvement of the Irish Government was in accordance with the established three-stranded approach to Northern Ireland affairs and the 1998 Belfast Agreement. As the Conservative Party's Northern Ireland Manifesto for the General Election states:

"This provides that Northern Ireland's internal arrangements are for the parties here and the United Kingdom Government alone to decide. A Conservative Government will always stand by that principle."

### **Syria: World Heritage Sites**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent the destruction by ISIS of the ancient city of Palmyra. [HL108]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government condemns the wanton destruction of cultural heritage in both Syria and Iraq. The UK is part of a Global Coalition (GC) of over 60 countries – including Iraq, Arab nations, European partners and the US, united to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and is supporting the Coalition's military and non-military efforts to that end, as well as the humanitarian effort to alleviate the crisis caused by the conflict. The protection of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq was discussed during the meeting of the Global Counter-ISIL Coalition Ministers in Paris on 2 June. The Government also welcomes the UN General Assembly's adoption on 28 May of a resolution on 'Saving the Cultural Heritage of Iraq'.

The UK will continue to prioritise our efforts to end the conflict in Syria – including by strengthening the moderate opposition – so that peace and stability can be restored, and cultural and religious sites protected. Ultimately, a negotiated political transition in Syria is the only way to end the conflict and defeat the threat from ISIL.



## Terrorism: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many United Kingdom nationals returning from fighting for Islamic State have been (1) charged with an offence, and (2) not charged with an offence; what charges the former have faced; and why charges have not been laid against the latter. [HL18]

**Lord Bates:** Anyone who participates in conflicts abroad maybe committing offences and could be prosecuted when they return to the UK. Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006 criminalises the preparation of terrorist acts, both in the UK and abroad. Whether an individual has committed an offence or not, will depend on the circumstances and nature of that individual's activity. A decision on whether to prosecute an individual will be made by the Crown Prosecution Service and police, based on the evidence available and whether it is in the public interest to pursue. The number of individuals currently under investigation for criminal acts is a matter for the police and as such, the Government cannot comment on current investigations. The number of individuals suspected of involvement in acts of terrorism or criminal matters, arrested and then formally charged with terrorism-related offences or other criminal offences is recorded and collated by the Home Office Quarterly Statistical Bulletin (last published 26 March 2015).

## UK Membership of EU

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are currently discussing with the European Commission and other European Union member states, with regards to renegotiation: (1) a United Kingdom opt-out from "ever closer union"; (2) reducing the impact of red tape and "excessive interference" from Brussels on businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups, and the City of London; (3) the balance of competences regarding social and employment law, in particular access of EU migrants to in-work and out-of-work benefits; (4) ensuring that eurozone member states cannot impose changes to the single market without the agreement on non-eurozone members; (5) the ability for individual member states to negotiate trade deals with third countries; (7) reducing the EU budget; (8) introducing EU-wide transparency laws similar to those in the United Kingdom; (9) allowing member states greater control over migration; (10) giving national parliaments greater powers to block EU legislation; (11) permitting businesses to sell goods in imperial as well as metric units; (12) obliging food producers to apply country-of-origin labelling; and (13) returning control of agriculture and fisheries policies to member states; and what assessment they have made of the relative importance of these policy areas within an overall renegotiation package. [HL122]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), has started to discuss his plans for EU reform and renegotiation with other EU leaders. He has been clear that the plans involve reforming welfare and immigration rules, increasing economic competitiveness and cutting red tape to create jobs and growth for hard working families, and protecting Britain's interests outside the euro. It also means halting the constant flow of powers to Brussels including by ensuring a stronger role for national Parliaments.

## United Nations: South Korea

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proposed United Nations field office in South Korea will monitor human rights violations in North Korea; and what is their assessment of the state of progress in establishing that office. [HL126]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UN Human Rights Council mandated the UN field office in Seoul to monitor and document the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in resolution A/HRC/RES/25/25. This resolution also mandates the field office to enhance the engagement and capacity-building of various stakeholders and to maintain the visibility of the human rights situation in the DPRK. The UK supported this resolution and looks forward to the opening of the field office. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva have advised us that the field office should become operational this month.

## Vocational Training

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how much training away from the workplace has been provided by employers over the last 20 years. [HL25]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The government does not undertake formal assessments of training in the workplace. The Office of National Statistics publishes the quarterly Labour Force Survey and the UK Commission for Employment and Skills also publishes relevant information on this area.

## Voting Rights: Gibraltar

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the electors in Gibraltar can vote in (1) elections to the House of Commons, and (2) elections to the European Parliament; and, for the forthcoming European Union referendum, whether these electors will be registered for the first time for a United Kingdom national election. [HL117]



**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Residence in Gibraltar does not entitle a person to vote in elections to the UK House of Commons. However, a British citizen resident overseas, including in Gibraltar, is entitled to vote in UK Parliamentary elections if they were previously resident and registered to vote in the UK within the last 15 years.

EU citizens resident in Gibraltar, and qualifying Commonwealth citizens resident in Gibraltar, are entitled

to vote in European Parliamentary elections as part of the combined South West England and Gibraltar region.

The EU Referendum Bill introduced to Parliament on 28 May 2015 makes provision for Commonwealth (including British) citizens to be entitled to vote in the forthcoming EU referendum if they are entitled to vote in Gibraltar at a European Parliamentary election. This replicates the franchise for referendums under the European Union Act 2011.

## Written Answers

Monday, 8 June 2015

### A1: Nottinghamshire

Asked by *Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost of the current road works incorporating a new bridge on the A1 road close to Gamston Airfield near Retford; what was the original time estimated to complete the works; how long the work has already taken; and what penalties the contractors have incurred, if any. [HL105]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The current estimated cost of the A1 roadworks close to Gamston Airfield is forecast to be £13.6m, which is £6.2m higher than the original £7.4m target cost. The project is also expected to finish around October 2015, a slip of three months. This reflects significant problems that were encountered during the course of the works. The contract was constructed on a 'pain or gain' basis, so the contractor will have to absorb a significant share of the cost increase. This, and any other penalties, will be calculated on completion of the works, when all costs are known.

### Airbus SAS

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether any of the alleged industrial espionage in relation to Airbus by the United States and German intelligence services took place in the United Kingdom. [HL205]

**Lord Bates:** It is the long-standing policy of successive Governments not to comment on intelligence matters.

### Armed Forces Covenant

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, since it began, how much armed forces covenant funding has been allocated to projects in (1) England, (2) Scotland, (3) Wales, and (4) Northern Ireland. [HL115]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans (Mark Lancaster), in the House of Commons on 2 June 2015 to Question number 428 from the hon. Member for St. Helens North (Conor McGinn).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

LIBOR FUND (Excel Spreadsheet) [20150601-35M LIBOR Fund(2).xls HL 115.xls]

Veterans Accommodation Fund [20150601-40M Veterans Accommodation Fund[1].doc HL 115.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-05-28/HL115>

## Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2015

Asked by *Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to re-lay the Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2015, which have been revoked. [HL161]

**Lord Bates:** The matter is under consideration.

### BBC: Royal Charters

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the review of the BBC Royal Charter will consider (1) the number of radio stations, (2) the number of television channels, (3) restrictions on BBC online and digital local services, (4) the scope of the BBC's public service obligation, (5) replacing the licence fee with a subscription or other system, (6) decriminalising failure to pay licence fees, (7) the role of the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee in scrutinising the BBC, and (8) freedom of information obligations. [HL101]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is currently considering a range of options for reviewing the BBC's Royal Charter and will make an announcement in due course.

### Borders: Personal Records

Asked by *Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each port, airport and Channel Tunnel service, and for each mode of transport where passengers leave the United Kingdom, what proportion of passengers have their travel documents checked, and when 100 per cent exit checks are expected to come into operation. [HL35]

**Lord Bates:** The Government introduced exit checks on all scheduled international commercial air, sea, and rail routes from the United Kingdom on 8 April 2015.

An exit check has two elements: the capture of an individual's basic identity data, either from Advance Passenger Information they supply before their journey or by scanning their passport or other identity document at the point of departure; and verification on departure – a visual check that the travel document is not obviously forged, and matches the individual presenting it.

Limited transitional arrangements with some carriers concluded on 3 June. Journeys within the Common Travel Area, and General Aviation/General Maritime traffic, are not within the scope of exit checks. Organised coach parties of school groups where students are aged 16 or under are also excluded.

Given the immigration control and border security objectives of the policy, it would not be appropriate to comment on the detailed operation of exit checks at an individual port level.

## Channel Four Television

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the impact that the sale of Channel 4 might have on the reduction of the United Kingdom deficit. [HL100]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** There are currently no estimates of what impact the sale of Channel 4 might have on the deficit, or any plans for a sale. Any decision about a sale of Channel 4 would need to balance the broadcaster's public service obligations against its potential commercial value.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to bring forward legislation to remove the public-service conditions imposed on Channel 4 or to privatise it; and if so, when. [HL99]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** There are no plans currently to remove the public-service conditions imposed on Channel 4 or to privatise it. The Government is awaiting the outcome of Ofcom's third review of Public Service Broadcasting before considering whether any changes are needed to the public service broadcasting system as a whole.

## Clothing: Fire Hazards

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to regulate the sale of flammable fancy dress clothing. [HL3]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Fancy dress clothing for Children is already specifically regulated for flammability under the Toys Safety Directive, as a part of standard BSEN71-2. Department for Business officials will meet with a range of interested parties to discuss their concerns. We will also work with Trading Standards to investigate compliance with current fancy dress safety regulation.

## Community Relations: Waltham Forest

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the appropriateness of the Waltham Forest Council pilot scheme asking children under the age of nine questions about whether they would hurt another student who was mocking their religion. [HL250]

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of Waltham Forest Council's programme Building Resilience through Integration and Trust, and in particular the use of questionnaires on issues such as trust toward the police, and inter-faith marriages, which

were reportedly aimed at children at schools with large Muslim intakes. [HL251]

**Lord Nash:** The Building Resilience Through Integration and Trust Project has been developed and implemented locally by the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Her Majesty's Government has not been involved in the design or the delivery of the project. Local authorities and schools are free to develop and implement their own education-related projects. The department has no overview of local projects involving schools, though we do expect all schools to actively promote fundamental British values, which include mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We would expect that any discussion with pupils involving complex issues should be age appropriate and handled with sensitivity.

Waltham Forest council's website provides general information on the project: <https://thehub.walthamforest.gov.uk/services-and-support/pupil-support/brit-project>

## Criminal Proceedings: Legal Representation

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current estimate of the proportion of defendants in criminal cases appearing without legal representation; whether that proportion has increased since 2013–14; and if so, by how much. [HL5]

**Lord Faulks:** Data are not held centrally to determine how many criminal cases in the Magistrates' Court involved a party for whom there was no legal representation.

A methodology is being developed to identify defendants who are not represented by a solicitor or an advocate in the Crown Court. We will look to publish the data in due course.

## Education: Standards

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce inequality between those who are educated privately and those who are state-educated. [HL176]

**Lord Nash:** We are determined to ensure that every child, regardless of background is given an education which allows them to realise their potential. That is why our reforms place high expectations at the heart of our school system, with a rigorous new curriculum, world class exams and a new accountability system which rewards those schools that encourage every child to achieve their best. In addition, with the new Education and Adoption Bill, we will speed up the process for tackling failing schools and extend our powers into coasting schools. With these measures, we want all schools to be good or outstanding, certainly as good as the best in the independent sector.

## Employment

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they define "full employment", as used in the Gracious Speech. [HL95]

**Lord Freud:** The Prime Minister set out his bold aim of achieving full employment in the Conservative Manifesto.

We are preparing the Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill for Introduction. That Bill creates a duty to report on progress towards achieving full employment and the Government will set out the definition when the first report on progress is published.

## Human Rights Act 1998

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Government of Wales concerning the implications for the National Assembly for Wales of any changes to the Human Rights Act 1998. [HL74]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government was elected with a mandate to reform and modernise the UK human rights framework.

The Government has committed to consult fully on its proposals.

We will consider the impact of a Bill of Rights on the devolution settlements as we develop our proposals and will fully engage with the devolved administrations.

## Immigration

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the report by the British Election Study, Financial Literacy and Attitudes Towards Immigration, that found that few people understand immigrants' role in the economic recovery of the United Kingdom. [HL175]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has made no such assessment.

## Judiciary

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many lay magistrates there were, and how many criminal cases lay magistrates presided over, in England and Wales in 2009; what are their current estimates of how many criminal cases lay magistrates will preside over in 2015, and how many lay magistrates and district judges are required to meet this volume of cases; and what are their plans for recruiting lay magistrates and district judges over the next three years. [HL6]

**Lord Faulks:** As of 1st April 2009 there were 28,619 serving magistrates in England and Wales. The number of court cases dealt with in 2009 are recorded for the year from April 2009 to March 2010, during which time the magistrates' courts dealt with 1,857,461 criminal cases. This figure includes the number of cases presided over by both magistrates and district judges (magistrates' courts).

It is not possible to split case volumes between magistrates and district judges because a district judge might deal with certain aspects of a case, whilst magistrates might hear other aspects.

Workload forecasts are not prepared on a calendar year basis, and are not broken down between magistrates and district judges (magistrates' courts). The MoJ is currently planning that the magistrates and district judges (magistrates' courts) sitting in the magistrates' courts will preside over around 1,560,000 criminal cases in 2015/16.

The need to recruit magistrates and district judges (magistrates' courts) is reviewed annually as a whole. One of the key aims is to ensure optimal use of both magistrates and district judges, each being essential to the administration of justice.

## Mature Students: Loans

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total amount of funding paid out under the 24+ Advanced Learning Loans programme in (1) 2013–14, and (2) the first six months of 2014–15. [HL26]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The most recent Student Loans Company report published on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 regarding payments made to Further Education providers on behalf of loans-funded learners shows that during the 2013/14 academic year £115.8m was paid out, and in the first six months of the 2014/15 academic year £65m has been paid.

The full report is available through the following link:

<http://www.slc.co.uk/official-statistics/financial-support-awarded/england-further-education.aspx>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Advanced Learning Loans [Advanced Learning Loans.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-05-27/HL26>

## Offences against Children

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure cross-government policy coherence regarding child exploitation and neglect. [HL81]

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the Minister for Preventing Abuse and Exploitation's responsibilities include in relation to preventing child neglect. [HL82]

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Minister for Preventing Abuse and Exploitation and the Department for Education will work together to tackle child neglect. [HL83]

**Lord Bates:** Tackling all forms of abuse and exploitation of children is a priority for this Government. We will continue the urgent work of overhauling how our police, social care and other agencies work together to protect vulnerable children, including from the kind of organised grooming and sexual exploitation that has come to light in Rotherham, Rochdale and other towns and cities across the UK.

On 3 March, the previous Government published a report into the response to the failures in Rotherham, which were identified by Professor Alexis Jay and Louise Casey in their reviews. The report includes tough new measures to tackle child sexual exploitation and sets out a comprehensive, targeted set of actions, bringing together healthcare, social care, education, law enforcement, criminal justice agencies, and local and national government.

The Home Office's Minister for Preventing Abuse and Exploitation leads and coordinates work to tackle child sexual exploitation, as well as missing children and adults, child sexual abuse online, violence against women and girls, and modern slavery including child trafficking. The Department for Education is responsible for Child Protection issues including child neglect.

The Home Office and the Department for Education work closely on these issues with other Government departments, to ensure cross-Government policy coherence for children in England. Ministers and officials meet regularly to oversee the important work on child sexual abuse and have established a cross-Government programme board to oversee the development and implementation of this work. Government Departments represented at this board include the Home Office, Department for Education, Department for Communities and Local Government, Department of Health, Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office.

### **Police: Horses**

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the role played by horses in the policing of England and Wales. [HL172]

**Lord Bates:** Police horses make a valuable contribution in the prevention of crime and in maintaining public safety both locally and nationally. Mounted units have a long and proud tradition in law enforcement in the UK with operational decisions on their use and deployment the responsibility of Chief Constables.

### **Refugees: North Korea**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister of State for Immigration, James Brokenshire, on 26 March (HC228701), and in the light of the ongoing practice of the United Kingdom of deporting North Korean asylum seekers to South Korea, what assessment they have made of the statement by the government of South Korea in a letter to the Secretary of State in 2010, cited in the judgment of the Upper Tribunal in *GP and others (South Korean Citizenship) North Korean CG* [2014] UKUT 391(IAC) that North Korean refugees must "desire to live in the Republic of Korea" before they can be considered South Korean nationals or be offered protection and settlement support. [HL179]

**Lord Bates:** The July 2010 letter written by the South Korean Embassy in London to the Home Office was fully considered by the Upper Tribunal in the case of *GP and others*.

In paragraph 104 of its determination the Upper Tribunal noted firstly that the subsequent United Kingdom-South Korea Readmission Agreement entered into between the two countries on 10 December 2011 provides a mechanism for the issue of travel documents which is not dependent on the genuineness of the individual's wish to live in South Korea; and secondly, the question of refugee status is an objective test which requires the person to demonstrate that they have cooperated by seeking to establish whether they can avail themselves of protection from another State of which they may be a citizen.

### **Social Rented Housing**

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many social housing units there are in (1) England and (2) the Borough of Pendle; in each case, how many of these units were occupied by tenants who were subject to loss of spare room subsidy when that measure was introduced; and of these affected tenants, how many (1) have since relocated to other accommodation, and (2) still live in the same accommodation. [HL37]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** 4.011 million dwellings are used for social and affordable housing in England: 1.669 million rented from local authorities and 2.342 million rented from a housing association (Private Registered Provider).

4,630 dwellings in Pendle are used for social and affordable housing: 4,520 from Housing Associations and 110 from Local Authorities.

Across the social rented sector 434,500 housing benefit claimants in England had a spare room subsidy reduction when the measure was introduced – 533 of these were in Pendle. In February 2015 the number of claimants with a



spare room subsidy reduction had fallen to 360,000 in England and 399 in Pendle.

### Stem Cells

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Drayson on 19 May 2009 (WA 290), Baroness Wilcox on 3 October 2011 (WA 114–5), Baroness Garden of Frognal on 5 November 2012 (WA 168) and Lord Marland on 4 December 2012 (WA 131), whether the journal article "detailing further findings on the therapeutic potential and efficiency" of somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) still remains unpublished following the end of Professor Mary Herbert's research study; if so, what are the reasons for the apparent lack of progress; if not, when they advised that the article had been published; how the derivation of embryonic stem cells (ESC) following nuclear transfer as described in the article has improved on the efficiency of ESC derivation from clones as previously described by others in 2013 in the journal *Cell* (Volume 153, Issue 6, pages 1228–38) and the journal *Cell Stem Cell* (Volume 14, Issue 6, pages 777–80); and what were the novel "technological advances" described by Professor Herbert "to improve the efficiency of SCNT in human oocytes" and thus "develop a reproducible method of generating human embryonic stem cells". [HL43]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The journal article referred to in Lord Marland's response of 4th December 2012 has been published in the *Nature* journal Scientific Reports. The relevant paper (*Therapeutic potential of somatic cell nuclear transfer for degenerative disease caused by mitochondrial DNA mutations*, Greggains Gareth D (2014), *Scientific Reports* 4, Article number: 3844 doi:10.1038/srep03844) can be viewed at: <http://www.nature.com/srep/2014/140124/srep03844/full/srep03844.html>

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Drayson on 19 May 2009 (WA 290), to what extent the stated aim to "develop a reproducible method of generating human embryonic stem cells following the transfer of the nucleus of an adult somatic cell into an oocyte" was achieved following the end of Professor Mary Herbert's research study; and when a sample of the stem cell lines derived following nuclear transfer was deposited in the United Kingdom Stem Cell Bank. [HL44]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The findings of the Medical Research Council (MRC) funded grant to the University of Newcastle, Improving the Efficiency of Human Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT), are described in the research publications listed on the RCUK Gateway to Research. It can be found at <http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/project/AB211BD5-0A06-4819-ABD3-A29097543302>

The work was also presented at a workshop on SCNT convened in San Francisco by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the MRC in June 2010. The workshop report was published on the MRC website and discussions are described in the paper Finding the niche for human somatic cell nuclear transfer: Grieshammer et al 2011, *Nat. Biotech*: 29.

The project included an undertaking that any embryonic stem cell lines that were derived during the project would be deposited in the UK Stem Cell Bank in accordance with the investigators HFEA license. However, derivation of ESC lines was not a primary aim of the project. No lines were derived and therefore none have been deposited.

### Sue Berelowitz

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Office of the Children's Commissioner about the case for cancelling the contract with Sue Berelowitz to lead an inquiry into child abuse in the family. [HL120]

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the value for money obtained by paying the former Deputy Commissioner for Children a redundancy payment of £134,000 and then employing her for nine days per month at £960 per day. [HL121]

**Lord Nash:** The Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) is independent of the Department for Education. The department advised the OCC that the estimated value and duration of the consultancy contract meant that it was subject to Cabinet Office efficiency controls. The OCC did not seek Cabinet Office approval, and the contract was therefore cancelled.

The redundancy payment for the Deputy Children's Commissioner was subject to a value for money assessment and appropriate clearance, including by HM Treasury. The consultancy contract did not receive the correct clearance and the OCC subsequently cancelled the contract.

### Veterans

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, as a percentage of the total population in each area, how many former United Kingdom soldiers live in (1) England, (2) Scotland, (3) Wales, and (4) Northern Ireland. [HL113]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence does not collect or hold information on all veterans, the majority of whom are the World War II and National Service generations. The latest estimate, taken from The Royal British Legion UK Household Survey of the Ex-Service Community 2014 published on 17 November 2014, is that there are some 2.83 million UK veterans.

The survey does not provide estimates of the number of veterans in England and the Devolved Administrations - there are estimates of numbers of the Armed Forces Community, but these include spouses, dependants and children.

### **Welfare State**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish details of the proposal in the Conservative

party's manifesto to reduce the welfare budget by £12 billion by the 2017–18 financial year, and in particular their assessment of how it will affect pensions. [HL246]

**Lord Freud:** The Government's commitment to save £12bn from welfare spending was set out in its election manifesto. Further details will be given in due course.

## Written Answers

Tuesday, 9 June 2015

### Health Services: Children

Asked by *Baroness Hollins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent on emergency and urgent care for children and young people as a proportion of the total 2013–14 budget for emergency and urgent care. [HL20]

Asked by *Baroness Hollins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent on acute care in hospitals for children and young people as a proportion of the total 2013–14 budget for acute care in hospitals. [HL21]

Asked by *Baroness Hollins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent on general practitioner and community services for children and young people as a proportion of the total 2013–14 budget for general practitioner and community services. [HL22]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not held centrally. NHS England and the Department do not monitor the proportion of expenditure on emergency and urgent care, acute care in hospitals and general practitioner and community services for children and young people, as a proportion of the overall National Health Service expenditure on these services.

### Health Services: Staffordshire

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure the viability of comprehensive patient services in the Staffordshire local health economy. [HL88]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conclusion drawn in the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG that there is a lack of collaborative working across the six Clinical Commissioning Groups in Staffordshire to maximise leadership capabilities. [HL90]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG, what assessment they have made of whether NHS England has appropriately held the six Clinical Commissioning Groups in Staffordshire to account for their performance. [HL91]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there is alignment between all commissioner and provider plans in the Staffordshire local health economy. [HL92]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is an agreed single strategic plan across the Staffordshire local health economy. [HL93]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has identified the Staffordshire clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) as high risk, and as such is monitoring their performance on a monthly basis with a full quarterly review of finance and performance. NHS England increases the intensity of performance reviews where there are significant shortfalls. This includes weekly meetings with CCGs where appropriate.

Collaborative working relationships are a critical factor in securing sustainable services in any local health economy. The Commissioning Congress has been set up in Staffordshire to bring together both CCGs and local authority commissioners. The Congress will lead the Transformation Strategy which will drive the service redesign of the Staffordshire Health and Social Care economy to secure financial and clinically sustainable services in the long term. The Congress will engage with local providers in developing these plans to ensure that there is a single five-year plan for the local health economy. This work will lead to a full public consultation on those services during the autumn of 2015.

The Congress brings together the combined skills, knowledge and expertise of commissioners to work the provider sector on defining the range, scale and scope of services changes to ensure Staffordshire is both clinically and financially sustainable in the long term.

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the two Health and Wellbeing Boards in Staffordshire have created a single executive group to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG and hold the organisations in the Staffordshire Local Health Economy to account. [HL162]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the recommendations of the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG have been subject to public consultation and scrutiny. [HL163]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the recommendations of the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG have been discussed in open session meetings of the six Clinical Commissioning Groups in Staffordshire. [HL164]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of NHS England's stewardship and oversight of the Staffordshire local health economy; and what criteria they have used to make this assessment. [HL167]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** One of the key functions of the Health and Wellbeing Boards is to promote greater integration and partnership, including joint commissioning, so it is for them to decide how they collaborate to achieve the best outcomes for their population.

The Commissioning Congress has been set up in Staffordshire to bring together both clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and local authority commissioners. The six CCGs have a line of accountability to Health and Wellbeing Boards to deliver the health and wellbeing strategies as part of the transformation programme. The Congress will lead the Transformation Strategy which will drive the service redesign of the Staffordshire Health and Social Care economy to secure financially and clinically sustainable services in the long term. The Congress will engage with local providers in developing these plans to ensure that there is a single five-year plan for the local health economy.

In order to produce a single plan there are a number of steps have to be taken, following on from the work to date by KPMG. These include the consideration of strategic plans, consultations on possible reforms and the implementation of recommendations flowing from this. To release information ahead of these steps could possibly prejudice the outcome. There will be a full public consultation on the resulting plans during the autumn of 2015.

NHS England has identified the Staffordshire CCGs as high risk, and as such is monitoring their performance on a monthly basis with a full quarterly review of finance and performance. NHS England increases the intensity of performance reviews where there are significant shortfalls, and this includes weekly meetings with CCGs where appropriate.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG, what is their assessment of the ability of the Clinical Commissioning Groups to manage the risks posed by outsourcing to the cancer and end-of-life programme in Staffordshire for a 10-year period. [HL186]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups stipulated that private-sector providers should be part of the successful consortium in order to manage the risk posed by outsourcing to the cancer and end-of-life

programme in Staffordshire for a 10-year period; and if so, why. [HL187]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England advises that the Transforming Cancer and End of Life Programme in Staffordshire is a partnership between four clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), two local authorities, NHS England and Macmillan Cancer Support. Resources and expertise have been provided over and above current CCG resource by Macmillan Cancer Support to mitigate any risks to delivery from capacity and capability gaps.

Staffordshire CCGs did not stipulate that private sector providers should be part of the successful consortium.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG into the long-term affordability of the Staffordshire local health economy. [HL75]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which public bodies commissioned the report by KPMG into the long-term affordability of the Staffordshire local health economy. [HL76]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the cost to public funds of the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG. [HL77]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the report commissioned on the Staffordshire local health economy by KPMG has not been published. [HL78]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In 2014, NHS England, Monitor and the Trust Development Authority (TDA) commissioned research from four consultancies including KPMG to support 11 challenged local health economies, including Staffordshire, with the development and strengthening of their strategic plans. An overarching summary, *Making Local Health Economies Work Better For Patients*, was published by NHS England, Monitor and TDA in December 2014.

We are advised that consultancy firms (including the case of KPMG in Staffordshire), were not commissioned to produce a report as described in the question, but to support the local health economies (LHEs) with the development and strengthening of their strategic plans.

Work based on this support is ongoing, and a number of steps have to be taken in each of the LHEs. These include the consideration of strategic plans, consultations on possible reforms and the implementation of recommendations flowing from this. To release information ahead of these steps could prejudice the outcome.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they agree with the assessment of the Staffordshire

Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG into the Staffordshire local health economy that the annual financial deficit across the NHS providers and commissioners in Staffordshire could reach £216.8m by 2018–19. [HL79]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the financial viability of the Staffordshire local health economy. [HL80]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There are significant financial issues within Staffordshire which present a challenge for the local leaders.

The financial challenge is being addressed by the Transformation Strategy which will drive the service redesign of the Staffordshire health and social care economy to secure financial and clinically sustainable services in the long term. This work is being led by the Clinical Commissioning Congress - a joint body of clinical commissioning Groups and local authority commissioners.

### **Africa: Refugees**

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the European Union has taken to ensure that its strategic partners in Africa (1) warn their citizens of the dangers of making trans-Saharan and Mediterranean voyages for the purposes of irregular migration, (2) deter those seeking to embark on such a journey, and (3) strengthen law enforcement against human trafficking in such migrants' countries of origin; and what position they have taken in discussions with other European Union member states regarding such steps. [HL213]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We believe it is essential to have a comprehensive approach to deal with irregular migration. This should involve work in source and transit countries to ensure migrants are protected, smuggling networks are closed down, that border management is improved, and to ensure that there is increased awareness of the risks of attempting a perilous journey to reach Europe. We are working with EU partners to ensure these elements are included in the EU's response to tackling the problems in the Mediterranean. For example, we are members of the Core Group of the Khartoum Process, an EU- African Union initiative to tackle trafficking and smuggling of migrants between the Horn of Africa and Europe.

### **Armed Conflict: Interpreters**

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to table a Resolution at the United Nations Security Council on the protection of interpreters and translators working in conflict zones, similar to the Resolution on the protection of journalists. [HL131]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** All civilians are entitled to protection during armed conflict under international humanitarian law (IHL). The British Government works through the UN Security Council (UNSC) to increase the protection of civilians in conflict situations. The unanimous adoption of UNSC Resolution 2222 in May on the protection of journalists provided welcome recognition, not only of the contribution journalists make through the unique role they play in building open and democratic societies, but also the increased dangers they face as a consequence.

The UK has no current plans to table a UNSC resolution on the protection of interpreters and translators. The Government acknowledges that interpreters and translators it employs in conflict zones may face additional threats. We take the security and safety of all members of our staff very seriously and have put in place measures to reduce the risks they face.

### **Block Grant**

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their latest estimates of the block grant amounts transferred to (1) Wales, (2) Scotland, and (3) Northern Ireland in each of the three most recent financial years. [HL116]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The combined Resource and Capital Departmental Expenditure Limits for each of the Devolved Administrations for the years in question is as follows:

<i>£ million</i>	<i>2013-14</i>	<i>2014-15</i>	<i>2015-16</i>
Scottish Government	29,008	30,220	30,090
Welsh Government	15,791	15,896	15,935
Northern Ireland Executive	11,105	11,365	11,193

These data do not include the changes made for 2015-16 as part of the Main Estimates round or the estimated outturn for 2014-15.

Updated information will be published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses later this summer.

### **Borrowing**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the respective borrowing limits for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly. [HL61]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Northern Ireland Executive has a statutory borrowing limit of £3 billion for capital purposes as set out in the Northern Ireland (loans) Act 1975 and as amended by the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006.



The Scotland Act 2012 permits the Scottish Government to borrow up to £2.2 billion for capital purposes and £500 million to cover shortfalls in cash receipts.

The Welsh Government may borrow up to £500 million to cover shortfalls in the Welsh Consolidated Fund as set out in the Government of Wales Act 2006. The Wales Act 2014 confers capital borrowing powers of up to £500 million on the Welsh Government which take effect from 2018-19.

The annual amounts that each Devolved Administration may borrow are agreed between the Treasury and the respective Devolved Administration.

### Church Schools

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Freud on 3 June (HL Deb, col 508), what form the engagement with the church will take, and whether it will take place before the Education and Adoption Bill is introduced. [HL265]

**Lord Nash:** Department for Education officials meet with representatives of the Church of England and Catholic Church on a regular basis to discuss the impact of Government policy on their schools. They will continue such engagement during the passage of the Education and Adoption Bill.

### Community Hospitals: Staffordshire

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendation made by KPMG in the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report that beds in community hospitals in Tamworth, Longton and Cheadle be reduced. [HL89]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Both North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups have been working to develop community models of care, so that their populations, particularly frail older people who use community hospitals, are receiving rehabilitation care through effective step down services and that where a patient has an exacerbation they can have access to a community bed.

### Debts

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to address United Kingdom household debt and to make domestic finances more sustainable. [HL50]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The personal financial position of households is improving. Household debt as a proportion of income has fallen from a peak of 169 per cent in 2008 Q1 to 146 per cent in 2014 Q4, as households have reduced borrowing and repaid debt. The

government has introduced a number of measures to support domestic finances including the New ISA, abolishing the starting rate of tax on savings income, NS&I pensioner bonds and now the Help to Buy ISA.

### Emergencies

*Asked by Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current equivalent of the Cabinet Office's Central Government War Book of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, if any. [HL55]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** With the end of the cold war, separate arrangements for civil defence and emergency planning were combined and underpinned by the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA). The traditional Government War Books were archived.

Details of specific plans and arrangements are not held together in one compendium. The National Security Secretariat retains an overview to ensure that relevant material can be accessed quickly if needed.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review will, among other things, consider the changing risk picture and whether changes are needed to our current posture and arrangements.

### Faith Schools: Admissions

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the 50 per cent cap on faith-based admissions to free schools. [HL266]

**Lord Nash:** The government has no plans to review the 50 per cent limit of faith based admissions to free schools and new provision academies.

### Football: Qatar

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Qatar and FIFA about the health and safety of construction workers building stadiums for the World Cup; and what responses they have received. [HL137]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government takes seriously the issue of health and safety of construction workers building all infrastructure projects in the Gulf, including Qatar. We expect FIFA to do the same with regard to specific World Cup related projects. British officials promote the importance of local construction projects meeting international safety standards with their Qatari counterparts. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised our concerns about the wider treatment of foreign workers with the Qatari government during bilateral exchanges in Doha on 26 February. The Government

welcomes the Qatari government's announcement of a series of measures to improve regulations governing the treatment of workers. We stand ready to support these efforts where we can.

### Gaza

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the government of Israel concerning the recent economic monitoring report by the World Bank regarding the economy of Gaza; and what steps they are taking to address the high level of youth unemployment in Gaza. [HL151]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not discussed this specific report by the World Bank with the Government of Israel, we continue to stress to the Israeli authorities the damage that their restrictions are doing to the living standards of ordinary Palestinians in Gaza and that supporting legal trade for Gazans is firmly in Israel's long-term interests.

The Department for International Development's current work on Gaza addresses the key access constraints, promotes economic growth and provides support to the poorest and most vulnerable parts of society.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of President Carter's failed attempt to enter Gaza, what support they will give to United Kingdom Ministers who wish to assess the humanitarian situation in Gaza first-hand. [HL9]

**Baroness Verma:** The safety of British Nationals is of paramount importance and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's travel advice for British nationals is clear; we advise against all travel to Gaza. Decisions on approval for official and ministerial visits to Gaza are taken on a case by case basis in light of the security and political situation at the time.

### General Election 2015: Absent Voting

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, prior to the general election, what were the total and percentage figures for (1) the number of postal voters registered in (a) the United Kingdom, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales, and (e) Northern Ireland; and (2) the number of postal votes cast in (a) the United Kingdom, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales, and (e) Northern Ireland. [HL31]

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which 20 constituencies had the highest number of postal votes in the United Kingdom during the general election; which five constituencies in (1) England, (2) Scotland, (3)

Wales and (4) Northern Ireland had the highest number of postal votes; and what percentage of the total number of postal voters these figures represent in each case. [HL32]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [ONS Reply HL31 and HL 32 Lord Laird.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-05-27/HL31>

### Giant Cell Arteritis and Polymyalgia Rheumatica

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to monitor the adoption across England of the pilot fast-track clinical pathway for polymyalgia rheumatica and giant-cell arteritis being developed in Southend University Hospital. [HL58]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are responsible for the provision of services for people with polymyalgia rheumatica and giant cell arteritis (GCA). Whilst it would not be appropriate for NHS England to direct CCGs to adopt a particular clinical pathway, it continues to ensure that the innovative approach developed in Southend University Hospital is shared and made available to clinicians. The Specialised Rheumatology Clinical Reference Group at NHS England has been developing proposals to establish local rheumatology networks.

The aim of these would be to share good and innovative practice across the country and an indication has been proposed for GCA. In addition, NHS England's innovation team has invited Professor Dasgupta, who developed the GCA pathway, to contribute to the NHS Innovation Exchange Portal to ensure that this knowledge is shared.

### Health Professions and Social Workers: Regulation

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to bring forward the draft Law Commission bill on medical regulation for parliamentary consideration. [HL54]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This Government is grateful for the work of the Law Commissions of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in reviewing the regulation of health and (in England) social care professionals. The Law Commissions made 125 recommendations to reform the existing complex and burdensome regulatory system. The joint four United

Kingdom country response to the Law Commission was published on 29 January 2015 which accepted wholly or in part the vast majority of its recommendations.

The recommendations focussed on modernising and simplifying the legislation to enable the regulators to respond more quickly to emerging risks to patient safety and deal with poor professional practice swiftly and proportionately. This Government remains committed to bringing forward legislation as soon as Parliamentary time allows. This will be a substantial Bill and it is important that Parliament has sufficient time to give it the consideration it requires.

### Housing Benefit

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make a statement on the adequacy of existing levels of Discretionary Housing Payments, and if so, when. [HL53]

**Lord Freud:** There are no plans for Her Majesty's Government to make any statement on Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) at this time as the financial and monitoring returns analysis for 2014/15 will be published on the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015, on the GOV.UK website.

The Department is committed to monitoring the allocation and use of DHPs and has published mid-year and annual reports using data provided by Local Authorities (LAs) which highlight over and under-spending LAs.

The release of this analysis into the public domain demonstrates the Department's continuing commitment to supporting LAs efforts to use existing housing stock more effectively as, since 2013, the Department has made available £470 million in Discretionary Housing Payment funding, of which a significant sum is returned by LAs each year.

### Housing: Construction

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much brownfield land they have identified as being suitable for house building, and in particular for building social housing; and what proportion of the total is situated in areas with a current housing shortage. [HL216]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We estimate that capacity exists for around 200,000 homes on brownfield sites that are suitable and viable for housing, in areas where sufficient demand exists, and irrespective of tenure. To improve the availability and transparency of data on brownfield land, we have announced our intention to require local authorities to maintain a register of brownfield land suitable for housing.

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry

*Asked by Lord Dykes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Chairman of the Chilcot Inquiry regarding the early publication of the final report. [HL86]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** I refer the Noble Lord to the exchange of letters between the Prime Minister and Sir John Chilcot from January 2015 regarding the progress of the Inquiry. I have attached a copy for reference.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Letter from Prime Minister to Sir John Chilcot [2015-01-20\_Cameron\_to\_Chilcot.pdf]

Letter from Sir John Chilcot to Prime Minister [2015-01-20\_Chilcot\_to\_Cameron.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-05-27/HL86>

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken in the light of their "serious concern" at the imminent destruction of the village of Susiya. [HL149]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have raised these issues with the Head of Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories' (COGAT) Civil Administration division.

We continue to urge the Government of Israel to develop improved mechanisms for zoning, planning and permitting in Area C for the benefit of the Palestinian population, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes. We are providing £1.1 million of technical assistance to support Palestinian villages currently threatened with demolition action to meet the requirements of the Israeli planning system. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised the issue with National Security Advisor Yossi Cohen on 3 June.

In addition we continue to support Bedouin communities and Palestinians in Area C facing demolition or eviction through support to the Norwegian Refugee Council legal aid programme which helps individuals to challenge these decisions in the Israeli legal system.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the 74 Palestinians injured during the week ending 25 May, in particular an eight-year-old shot in the eye with a rubber bullet outside Shu'fat refugee camp. [HL152]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While our officials in Tel Aviv have not raised these specific cases with the Israeli authorities, we do, however, raise our concerns with them about the manner in which the Israel Defence Forces police non-violent protests, including the use of lethal and non-lethal ammunition.

### Mesothelioma: Research

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the United Kingdom's capacity to conduct research into mesothelioma and associated diseases. [HL69]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has invited researchers to apply for mesothelioma research funding, in particular to address the research questions identified through the Mesothelioma Priority Setting Partnership and published in December 2014. Eight NIHR programmes are participating in this themed call, including the NIHR fellowships programme which supports outstanding individuals to become the health research leaders of the future.

The NIHR funds infrastructure capacity for experimental medicine to translate scientific developments into benefits for patients. Such infrastructure supporting studies in mesothelioma includes biomedical research centres and units, clinical research facilities, and experimental cancer medicine centres. The NIHR funds infrastructure capacity for later phase trials and studies through the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN). The CRN is currently recruiting to seven studies in mesothelioma.

### Middle East and North Africa: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are actively discussing with international partners the creation of safe havens in North Africa and in the Middle East to provide refugees with humanitarian support and assessment for resettlement or return to their home. [HL46]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have provided £800m of humanitarian support for Syrian refugees, as well as significant support for refugees in Africa. We participate in the EU's Middle East Regional Development and Protection Programme, which aims to create a sustainable framework for protection in countries neighbouring Syria, and are considering how we might participate in similar programmes in North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many migrants from the Middle East or North Africa are thought to have died in the past 12 months; how many

are being held within the European Union; what progress is being made in deterring human traffickers from exploiting and endangering such migrants; and what are their short- and long-term policies regarding such migrants. [HL47]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that 3,500 people died attempting to cross the Mediterranean in 2014. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) estimates that by the end of April, over 1,700 migrants had died crossing the Mediterranean this year. The numbers of illegal migrants detected entering the EU sea border in 2014 was 220,000, of which about 170,000 crossed the Central Mediterranean.

At the Extraordinary European Council in April, EU Member States agreed to establish a military Common Security and Defence Policy operation to disrupt trafficking and smuggling networks. We are working with EU partners to address long-term flows through initiatives in source and transit countries to address the underlying causes. We are increasing our work in and with transit countries to ensure migrants are protected, smuggling networks are closed down, that border management is improved, and to ensure that there is increased awareness of the risks of attempting a perilous journey to reach Europe.

### National Income

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the latest figures for gross value added per capita for (1) England, (2) Northern Ireland, (3) Scotland and (4) Wales. [HL193]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [HL193 Lord Wigley ONS Reply.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-02/HL193>

### Nepal: Earthquakes

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they have given to the government of Nepal following the earthquake there on 25 April. [HL111]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK is providing more than £33 million to the earthquake response in Nepal – making us the largest donor to the relief operation. Assistance from the UK Government has provided thousands of needy people and affected communities with water purification jerrycans and essential shelter, and has transported a huge volume of boxes of food rations and lanterns. A new health programme, announced by the Secretary of State



during her visit in May, will ensure that children can continue to be immunised, women can deliver babies safely and work can commence on rebuilding up to 1,000 damaged health facilities. Our pre-positioned water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies have also reached thousands of people.

### **NHS: Greater London**

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each NHS Trust in London, how much of the deficit from 2014–15 was carried forward into 2015–16. [HL156]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** National Health Service trusts do not carry forward deficits from one year to the next. A surplus or deficit is simply the difference between income received and expenditure incurred during that year.

### **Northern Ireland Executive: Finance**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the failure by the Northern Ireland Assembly to pass the Welfare Reform Bill, whether they will continue to make additional finance available to the Northern Ireland Executive as set out in the Stormont House agreement. [HL60]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Stormont House Agreement, if fully implemented, would pave the way for a more stable and prosperous Northern Ireland. Welfare reform is a central component, and failure to deliver it calls into question the availability of the significant financial package put forward by the Government in support of the wider Agreement.

As the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has been clear, it is vital that the Northern Ireland parties get on with the job of honouring their commitments.

### **Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust: Dermatology**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the independent investigation into the loss of dermatology specialist services at the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. [HL188]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to hold Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group to account for the failures in the commissioning of dermatology specialist services at the Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust, described in a report of the independent investigation as an "unmitigated disaster". [HL189]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The independent service review of dermatology services in Nottingham was initiated by Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), as the co-ordinating commissioner for Circle Nottingham services on behalf of the four Nottinghamshire CCGs.

The review reported on 4 June 2015, finding that no one person or organisation is to blame for the current problems faced by dermatology services in Nottingham. The review panel made recommendations for joint action by Rushcliffe CCG, Circle and Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust to address the immediate local situation. It also made a national recommendation for consideration by Health Education England.

### **Nuclear Power**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any reasons why marine nuclear propulsion engines such as the A1B could not be used on land to generate nuclear power if connected in series; and if so, what those reasons are. [HL260]

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for using PWR3 nuclear reactors, mounted on floating barges, as a potential power source for electricity generation in the United Kingdom. [HL261]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** There are a number of factors that are considered to make marine nuclear propulsion reactors unattractive for landside electricity generation, when compared to a conventional reactor that has been designed specifically for this purpose. All of these are likely to add to the levelised cost of electricity generation from a propulsion reactor used for electricity generation purposes for the national grid, compared to a dedicated land-based reactor. These include the following:

- 1) Propulsion reactors are designed for more rapid power cycling than is currently demanded from landside reactors.
- 2) The power density of a propulsion reactor is much higher than one would need for a landside power reactor.
- 3) The serviceable lifetime for a propulsion reactor is shorter than for a power reactor.
- 4) Propulsion reactors are smaller than most reactor designs, varying between a few tens of MW to about 150 MW, resulting in relatively little capacity per unit.
- 5) Propulsion reactors' design would result in the regulatory compliance costs of their landside use for electricity generation being greater than those for a dedicated landside reactor.

The first two issues add to capital costs of design and construction, the second two to operational costs and the final to regulatory costs.



## Pakistan: Christianity

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan following the attacks on 24 May on a church and the homes of Christians in the Sandya district of Lahore; and what representations they have made concerning the declaration by doctors that Humayun Masih is unfit to plead. [HL135]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain deeply concerned by the violent persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in Pakistan and by misuse of the blasphemy law. We continue to urge the Government of Pakistan to protect the human rights of all its citizens as laid down in the Pakistan Constitution and take concrete action to deliver on commitments to protect minorities.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), discussed Pakistan's misuse of the blasphemy laws with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in November 2014. In December the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), also stressed our concerns about Pakistan's blasphemy law with Prime Minister Sharif.

## Palestinians: Refugees

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government steps they are taking to support Palestinian refugees from Syria living in Lebanon following the suspension of cash assistance from the UN Relief and Works Agency for housing owing to lack of funds. [HL154]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has been supporting the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to ensure that the needs of highly vulnerable Palestinians are addressed inside Syria and in neighbouring countries, including Lebanon. To date, the UK has allocated £38.75 million to provide cash assistance, food parcels, relief items, hygiene packs and education for Palestinian refugees affected by the violence in Syria and the region.

The UK's expected contribution to UNRWA's 2015 Syria emergency appeal is £8 million, which includes £2 million towards support for Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon. This is in addition to the UK's contribution of £30 million towards UNRWA's General Fund, which supports services provided to Palestinian refugees in the region.

The UK remains deeply concerned about the wellbeing of Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon, and recognises the funding shortfalls across UNRWA's funds and appeals. The UK continues to play a leading role in encouraging the international community to make generous pledges in response to the humanitarian crisis. The UK also welcomes UNRWA's efforts to take forward important reforms to achieve greater cost efficiencies, whilst prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable.

## Palliative Care

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to enable the highest possible proportion of terminally ill patients to die at home, or in a hospice. [HL133]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** *What's important to me: A Review of Choice in End of Life Care*, published in February 2015, provided advice to Government on how end of life care services could be supported to enable people's choices to be delivered.

The Government is considering the report and its recommendations and will respond in full later this year.

## Syria

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the circumstances of the more than 230 Assyrian Christian hostages taken by Da'esh in the north of Syria in February; (2) the capture by Da'esh of around 35 predominantly Assyrian villages along the Khabur river in the Hassake Governorate; and (3) how many people remain unaccounted for following those captures. [HL180]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We understand that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) are still holding more than 200 Assyrian Christians who were abducted in February from villages along the Khabour river in Hassakeh Province of North-East Syria. We believe that, in another act of appalling barbarity, ISIL executed at least 15 of the hostages, and that 23 Assyrian Christians have since been released following the payment of ransom money by the families, and another two freed when the area was liberated at the end of May. We remain concerned for the remaining hostages, most of whom are women, children and elderly people. We support the UN Security Council Statement condemning the abductions and demanding the Christians immediate release.

The UK is committed to defeating ISIL, an organisation that has no place in today's world. We will continue to work with the Global Coalition of more than sixty countries to ensure that ISIL no longer poses a threat to the people of the region, to international stability or to our own national security.

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the successful removal of Da'esh from the 35 villages along the Khabur river that had previously been captured, what steps they are taking to assist the clearing of mines and unexploded ordnance, to consolidate stability, and to create safe havens to enable the return of residents. [HL181]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While the UK is not carrying out any mine clearance operations in Syria, we

fully recognise the widespread and severe civilian suffering caused by the conflict. The UK has given over £800m to the humanitarian response, more than we have given to any previous humanitarian crisis. Some of this has been targeted to provide humanitarian support to the Hasakah Governorate as and where security constraints have allowed.

Although safe havens can be effective in some situations, they are not currently feasible in Syria. Without all parties agreeing on their establishment there would need to be sufficient military capability to guarantee the safety of individuals. That is not currently present in Syria.

### **Trident Submarines**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the planned build time for the first and second replacement Trident submarines. [HL147]

**Earl Howe:** Planned build times have been withheld as they relate to the formation of government policy. While the department will consider a number of planning assumptions for build times when conducting Concept and Assessment studies on projects, build times are not confirmed until projects achieve or reach their Main Gate approval.

### **United Arab Emirates: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the United Arab

Emirates regarding that country's refusal to allow entry to James Lynch, a British citizen, and other professionals working for human rights organisations. [HL136]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised the Amnesty International case with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to the UK on 4 June. The UAE Ambassador has agreed to take forward this case with the UAE authorities.

### **Universities**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Higher Education Academy recommending that United Kingdom universities should adopt the grade point average system. [HL236]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Higher Education Academy (HEA) report 'Grade Point Average: Report of the GPA pilot project 2013-14', published on 28 May 2015, was a result of a review undertaken by HEA's national Grade Point Average Advisory Group. The Department has noted the report. However, higher education institutions with degree awarding powers are responsible for their own academic awards. It is a matter for institutions to consider the recommendation as independent and autonomous bodies.

# Written Answers

Wednesday, 10 June 2015

## Agriculture: Subsidies

Asked by **Lord Willoughby de Broke**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Basic Payment Scheme was not rolled out online as originally announced: what was the additional cost to the taxpayer of returning to paper-based British Payment Scheme applications; what assessment they have made of the reasons for the failure of the online roll-out; and in the light of the date for final submissions of completed Basic Payment Scheme forms being extended from 15 May to 15 June, whether there will be any delay in making payments to farmers by the end of 2015. [HL84]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** While the core of the new online Rural Payments system is working well, there have been performance problems around the interface between the customer portal and the back end of the system. That one area was not consistently stable and it was having a negative effect on the rest of the service.

As a result, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) switched the approach to delivery of the Basic Payment Scheme in 2015 to one where farmers and their agents use existing forms to complete their claims by the extended deadline.

Over the longer term we will continue to work on a user-friendly web interface - but for this claim year the priority is making sure farm businesses get the help and support they need to get their claims in on time.

We are currently assessing the additional costs from the revised approach.

The RPA will be making full payments as early as possible in the payments window, which opens in December.

## Asylum: Finance

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, with regard to the number of days elapsing between the end of financial support from the UK Border Agency for asylum seekers, and the first receipt of other forms of state financial support from the Department for Work and Pensions, across all cases between 1 January and 31 December 2014, how many cases there were in which the number of days was greater than zero; and what were the figures for (1) the minimum and maximum, (2) the mean and median, (3) the first and third, and (4) the fifth and 95th percentiles. [HL1]

**Lord Bates:** We do not hold information or record data on asylum claimants who have ceased to receive support from the Home Office and gone on to other housing support. The UK Border Agency was abolished in March 2013 and the agency was split into two new organisations:

UK Visas and Immigration and Immigration Enforcement.

## Asylum: Housing

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, with regard to the number of days elapsing between the end of housing support from the UK Border Agency, or their contractors, for asylum seekers, and the first receipt of other forms of state housing support from the Department for Work and Pensions, across all cases between 1 January and 31 December 2014, how many cases there were in which the number of days was greater than zero; and what were the figures for (1) the minimum and maximum, (2) the mean and median, (3) the first and third, and (4) the fifth and 95th percentiles. [HL2]

**Lord Bates:** We are unable to provide the information requested by the Rt Honourable Lady as we do not hold information or record data on asylum claimants who have ceased to receive support from the Home Office and gone on to other housing support. The UK Border Agency was abolished in March 2013 and the agency was split into two new organisations: UK Visas and Immigration and Immigration Enforcement.

## Belize: HIV Infection

Asked by **Lord Black of Brentwood**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possible link between the spread of HIV/AIDS in Belize and the criminalisation of homosexuality in that country. [HL199]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our focus in Belize has been on working to uphold the rights and freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in all circumstances. More generally, we believe that access to treatment for human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) should be without discrimination, and that discriminatory laws that impede access to treatment should be addressed. This is true in Belize as elsewhere.

## Belize: Homosexuality

Asked by **Lord Black of Brentwood**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Belize about the treatment of homosexual men and women in that country. [HL198]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly raise the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people with the Government of Belize. On 4 February 2015, our High Commissioner in Belmopan met with the Belizean Foreign Minister, the Honourable Wilfred Elrington, to discuss human rights and the treatment of homosexual men and women. The

UK also raised LGBTI rights at Belize's last Universal Periodic Review at the UN in 2013.

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when a government minister last visited Belize, and whether they discussed the treatment of homosexuals with representatives of the government of Belize during that visit. [HL200]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), visited Belize in November 2012; and the former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for International Security Strategy at the Ministry of Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison), visited Belize in March 2013. Our High Commissioner in Belmopan regularly raises human rights and the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people with representatives of the Belizean government.

### Burma: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to encourage the reversal of rations cuts for refugees from Burma in camps on the border between Thailand and Burma; and what is their current estimate of the number of men, women and children in those camps. [HL125]

**Baroness Verma:** The Department for International Development engages regularly with other OECD donors on assistance to the refugees from Burma in camps on the border between Thailand and Burma, and convened a donor conference with The Border Consortium (TBC) in April 2015, partly with the aim of encouraging other donors to maintain appropriate support to TBC. DFID approved a renewed project for conflict affected people from October 2012 to November 2015, totalling over £27million. This project includes our support to the refugees for food, shelter and other relief items. In March 2015 DFID agreed a £6.67m additional cost extension for the project to January 2017.

### Children's Centres

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent any further closures of Sure Start Children's Centres. [HL275]

**Lord Nash:** It is up to local authorities to decide how to organise and commission services from children's centres in their areas. They are best placed to understand local needs and the different ways they can be supported locally. Local authorities must demonstrate that they have devised ways to ensure that services continue; what

matters is the quality and impact of services, and how local needs are being supported.

We are clear in statutory guidance that there is a presumption against closure, and local authorities have a duty to consult where changes are planned to local children's centre provision.

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role Sure Start Children's Centres will play in the implementation of their policy to double free childcare for working parents of three and four year-olds. [HL276]

**Lord Nash:** We expect to consult on the extended entitlement for three- and four-year-old children of working parents; and we will consider the role that Sure Start Children's Centres might play. Further details will be announced in due course.

### Climate Change

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the exports and overseas licensing of technology designed to reduce the impact of climate change. [HL134]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** The Government actively supports British companies to export products and services that reduce the impact of climate change. For example, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) helps UK companies to win export business in the offshore wind, other renewables and nuclear sectors. This approach is consistent with the Government's overall climate change policy.

### Criminal Proceedings: Fees and Charges

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why fees in criminal proceedings are, on average, higher when a defendant pleads not guilty. [HL24]

**Lord Faulks:** Section 54 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 specifies the level of criminal courts charges and requires that they do not exceed the costs reasonably attributable to a case of its class. In determining charge levels, the Coalition Government considered the time and resource spent on particular types of proceedings, as well as fixed overhead costs. The charge levels for not-guilty plea proceedings have been set below cost.

The Government keeps charge levels under review.

### Criminal Proceedings: Legal Costs

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of defendants in criminal cases who were required to pay some or all of their own legal costs and who have been



acquitted, or whose charges have been withdrawn, have in the last twelve months (1) had their full legal costs reimbursed, or (2) have been reimbursed their costs at the equivalent of legal aid rates. [HL4]

**Lord Faulks:** Defendants who have been granted legal aid, but had to make a contribution to their legal aid costs, and are then acquitted or whose charges have been withdrawn, are likely to have all contributions reimbursed, though the trial court does have discretion to decide otherwise in appropriate circumstances.

Defendants in the Magistrates' Court who have not been granted legal aid, and defendants in the Crown Court who have applied and had their application refused on financial grounds, who are then acquitted or whose charges have been withdrawn, can obtain a defendants costs order and have their costs determined under sections 16 and 16A of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 and Part III of the Costs in Criminal Cases (General) Regulations 1986.

As was the case under the previous administration, the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) does not record the number of people whose legal costs are reimbursed.

### Defence: Expenditure

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether spending on current operations is included in the calculation of the percentage of gross domestic product spent on defence; and if so, when it was first included in that calculation. [HL212]

**Earl Howe:** Spending on operations is included in the calculation of the percentage of gross domestic product spent on defence and has been included in our Defence Spending submissions to NATO since at least 2009.

### Derelict Land

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to provide the necessary funding to ensure that brownfield land released by government departments for housing purposes can be developed in locations where its development would not otherwise be viable. [HL277]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Government intends to create a £1 billion fund to unlock homes on brownfield land for additional housing, and ensure that brownfield land is used as much as possible for new development.

We are clear that brownfield land that is suitable for housing has a vital role to play in meeting the need for new homes, and ensuring that the Green Belt is protected. The Government is committed to releasing surplus public sector land with capacity for up to 150,000 homes by 2020.

### Detainees: Death

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the families of individuals who have died in custody or detention have access to justice. [HL139]

**Lord Faulks:** There must be a coroners' inquest into any death in state detention, including deaths from natural causes. The inquest must be held with a jury where the death is not from natural causes. The inquest must ascertain how, when and where the person died.

In addition, all deaths in custody are subject to a police investigation and an investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. Once the inquest has been concluded, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's office publishes a detailed 'Fatal Incident Report' on the death which includes recommendations to prevent further deaths.

### Development Plans

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Neighbourhood Development Plans have been subject to community referendums, and of these, how many were approved, what locations they cover, and which were instigated by (1) parish councils and (2) neighbourhood forums. [HL38]

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many full draft Neighbourhood Development Plans have reached the consultation stage, and what locations those plans cover. [HL39]

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many communities have taken the first formal steps towards the creation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan but have not yet reached the consultation stage, and what locations those plans cover. [HL40]

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Neighbourhood Development Orders have been approved, what locations those plans cover, and what are the purposes of each. [HL41]

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether parish councils can make a Neighbourhood Development Plan jointly for all or part of their areas, and if so, under what provision. [HL42]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Whilst information is not collected centrally, our informal monitoring tells us that as of the end of May 2015:



- referendums have been held on the making of 67 neighbourhood plans. In each case the majority of those who voted were in favour of the neighbourhood plan being made (on average 89% of those voting voted in favour). 62 of the neighbourhood plans were instigated by a parish council and five by designated neighbourhood forums.
- in total, 274 communities have carried out, or are currently carrying out, pre-submission consultation and publicity on a neighbourhood plan proposal.
- 1,221 communities across England have applied for a neighbourhood area to be designated (the first formal step in the process) but have not yet undertaken pre-submission consultation and publicity on a neighbourhood plan proposal.
- one Neighbourhood Development Order (Cockermouth) and three Community Right to Build Orders (Ferring) have been made (brought into force). A Neighbourhood Development Order grants planning permission for specific development or a class of development in a specified neighbourhood area (a community right to build order is a type of neighbourhood development order).

A local planning authority must publish a map setting out the areas that are for the time being designated as neighbourhood areas. Details of the locations of neighbourhood planning across England, by local authority, can be found in the attached list. An interactive map with details of the referendums can be found at:

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/647092767838699520>

A single parish council (as a relevant body) can apply for a multi-parished neighbourhood area to be designated as long as that multi-parished area includes all or part of that parish council's administrative area. When the parish council begins to develop a neighbourhood plan or an Order (as a qualifying body) it needs to secure the consent of the other parish councils to undertake neighbourhood planning activities. The relevant provision is set out in section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38C of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

150610 Neighbourhood planing locations in England [150610 Lord Greaves HL39 -HL42 1081662-1081666 -locations of NP.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-05-27/HL38>

## Elections: Wales

Asked by **Lord Wigley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the leaders of the political parties in Wales regarding the implications of holding the referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of

the European Union on the same day as the elections to the National Assembly for Wales. [HL195]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Wales has regular discussions with the First Minister and leaders of the other main parties in Wales on a wide range of issues relating to Wales. The Prime Minister has been clear that we will hold an in-out referendum by the end of 2017 and the EU Referendum Bill is consistent with this.

## Employment Tribunals Service: Fees and Charges

Asked by **Lord Lester of Herne Hill**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of the increase in employment tribunal fees on the number of claims brought. [HL23]

**Lord Faulks:** Following a public consultation, fees were introduced in Employment Tribunals to reduce the burden on the taxpayer of paying for Employment Tribunals and to encourage parties to seek alternative ways of resolving their disputes.

The Government is anxious to divert people away from potentially acrimonious hearings where possible through a new early conciliation scheme which has already been used by over 60,000 people in its first nine months. There are fee waivers available for those who can not afford to pay

The Government is currently considering the options for a review of Employment Tribunal fees. A further announcement will be made soon.

## Forced Marriage

Asked by **Baroness Cox**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that girls are not taken abroad for the purposes of forced marriage. [HL169]

Asked by **Baroness Cox**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure that girls at risk of being taken abroad for the purpose of forced marriage are identified and assessed by professionals. [HL170]

**Lord Bates:** The UK is a world leader in tackling forced marriage, and the Government is committed to ensuring that girls are not taken abroad for the purposes of forced marriage. That is why, during the previous Parliament, the Home Secretary made forced marriage a criminal offence, which included taking extra-territorial jurisdiction for forced marriage offences.

We recognise that strengthening the law is only part of the solution. The Government's Forced Marriage Unit is leading efforts to combat this unacceptable activity both at home and abroad. Measures include providing support and advice to professionals and victims through a public

helpline, with the Unit assisting in 1,267 cases in 2014. We are providing further direct support to professionals, including schools and the Crown Prosecution Service, through an extensive outreach and training programme and the publication of statutory multi-agency guidance in July 2014.

### **Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence: Education**

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage schools to raise awareness of the risk of forced marriage and honour-based abuse, and of the availability of preventive measures. [HL168]

**Lord Nash:** The government is committed to tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG). We are helping to end violence at home and abroad by allowing women to check their partner's criminal history, introducing domestic violence protection orders, criminalising forced marriage and introducing a new offence of domestic abuse. We will strengthen victims' rights further, with a new Victims' Law that will enshrine key rights for victims. The previous government ring-fenced £40 million to VAWG services - £10 million per year, specifically for refugees. The government has committed to continuing that funding up to April 2016.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory guidance, issued by the Department for Education, outlines to schools and colleges their roles and responsibilities with regard to safeguarding their pupils. The department makes it clear that schools and colleges play a significant role in early identification of abuse and preventing concerns from escalating.

KCSIE signposts school staff to specific forced marriage information and guidelines produced by the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU). This information provides an overview of forced marriage, together with FMU contact details for further information and advice.

KCSIE also signposts schools to further information on faith abuse: the 'National action plan to tackle child abuse linked to faith or belief'. This action plan serves to help raise awareness of the issue of child abuse linked to faith or belief, including honour based violence and forced marriage. The action plan encourages practical steps to be taken to prevent such abuse.

KCSIE recognises that forced marriage and honour based violence are safeguarding concerns. The guidance makes clear that any concerns identified by staff should be raised and discussed with the school's designated safeguarding lead and escalated to children's social care as appropriate.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, and Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) are curriculum subjects that may be used to raise pupil awareness of forced marriage and honour-based abuse. To support teaching in these areas, the PSHE Association has produced guidance for teaching about consent, covering

the importance of building healthy relationships, as well as giving young people the confidence and knowledge about staying safe and respecting others. It also supports the government's 'This is Abuse' campaign, which helps educate young people about damaging behaviours within relationships.

### **G4S: Government Contracts**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the February 2015 Ofsted Report on Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre and the dismissal of six of its staff for misconduct, what steps they are taking to review the performance of G4S in providing custodial services, and whether G4S will be allowed to tender for new or renewed contracts. [HL7]

**Lord Faulks:** The safety and welfare of young people in custody is vital and the Ministry of Justice takes the issues raised in the recent Rainsbrook inspection report extremely seriously. We have taken immediate action to make sure these are being addressed by the operator. The leadership at Rainsbrook has been replaced and the Youth Justice Board are closely monitoring the implementation of an action plan

A further unannounced inspection will take place in the Autumn. If G4S fail to resolve the issues raised, further contractual remedies are available, including contract termination

Contracts for the Medway and Rainsbrook Secure Training Centres are currently being retendered. It would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

### **Government Departments: Muslims**

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether employment in government departments has been given to Muslims with links to Islamic extremist groups. [HL57]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** All Civil Servants are subject to recruitment checks (including of unspent criminal records) and the provisions of the *Civil Service Code*. Line managers report concerns about staff, including for example, expressions of support for extremist views, actions or incidents.

Civil Servants in sensitive roles are subject to national security vetting. Information is checked against records held by the Security Service and the police.

### **Graduates: Visas**

*Asked by The Earl of Kinnoull*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Graduate Entrepreneur visas were granted in each of the last two years; and what are those results broken down by the higher education institutions sponsoring the visas. [HL155]

**Lord Bates:** The information in the table below relates to all Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visas granted.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Entry Clearance Applications</i>	<i>In Country Applications</i>
2013	13	215
2014	175	385
2015	44	160

To obtain the breakdown of the Higher Education Institutions sponsoring the visas would incur disproportionate cost.

### **Immigrants: Children**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to reimburse local authorities for the costs falling to them in caring for children from families with no recourse to public funds as they attempt to regulate their immigration status, in the light of the report by the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society Safeguarding Children From Destitution ; and if not, why not. [HL237]

**Lord Bates:** We work closely with local authorities to ensure that immigration decisions in cases receiving local authority support are made as quickly as possible. The No Recourse to Public Funds Connect database provides an expedited route into the Home Office for local authorities on individual cases, so that these can be dealt with as quickly as possible. Where migrants granted leave to remain on family grounds show that they are destitute or that there are exceptional circumstances, they are given recourse to public funds.

### **Kuwait: Nationality**

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have yet received confirmation that the amendment submitted to the Kuwait National Assembly allowing Kuwaiti women to sponsor their husbands and children to acquire Kuwaiti nationality provided they have been married for 10 years has been ratified. [HL129]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have had no confirmation that the Kuwaiti Parliament has approved any change to the Nationality Law which would confer upon women the right to pass nationality to their children. Our Ambassador and other senior officials frequently raise the issue of nationality and equal rights with the relevant Kuwaiti authorities, and the UK noted concerns about gender equality during Kuwait's Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council in January.

### **Loans: Republic of Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much is outstanding of the loans provided to the government of

the Republic of Ireland following the financial crisis of 2007 to 2008; and what are the arrangements and dates for repayment. [HL29]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** I refer the noble Lord to the most recent statutory report which the Treasury provided to Parliament as required by Section 2 of the Loans to Ireland Act 2010. The last report was published on the 13 October 2014 and is available online along with all previous reports submitted <sup>[1]</sup>.

This report shows the outstanding loan principle is £3,226,960,000, with repayments due in tranches from 15 April 2019, until the 26 March 2021.

Ireland continues to make interest payments. Since the publication of this report, the UK has received a further interest payment from Ireland, on the 15 December 2014, of £41,998,674.42.

The next report, covering the reporting period which finished on the 31 March 2015, will be provided as soon as reasonably possible.

<sup>[1]</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bilateral-loan-to-ireland>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Report on Ireland Loans  
[loans\_to\_ireland\_report\_to\_30\_september\_2014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-05-27/HL29>

### **Muslims**

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the percentages of the Muslim populations in (1) Birmingham, (2) Blackburn, (3) Bradford, (4) Leicester, (5) Luton, (6) Manchester, (7) Slough and (8) the London Boroughs of (a) Newham and (b) Tower Hamlets; what was the percentage growth of those Muslim populations between 2004 and 2014; what percentages are under the age of 15; how these compare with the non-Muslim populations; and what were the comparative birthrates between the Muslim and non-Muslim populations in those areas. [HL56]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Tables of Population Figures [HL56 Lord Pearson Population Tables.xlsx]

UK Statistics Reply [ONS Reply HL56 Lord Pearson.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-05-27/HL56>

## North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Six Party Talks on North Korea will resume, and of the likelihood of progress on the issue of nuclear weapons controls in the light of the five previous United Nations Security Council Resolutions and two Agreed Frameworks. [HL128]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), discussed this with the Assistant Secretary in Washington on 2 June. An immediate resumption of Six Party Talks appears unlikely. While the US remain open to the prospect of resuming dialogue, they have also called for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to demonstrate good faith before returning to talks. Thus far, the DPRK has rejected all proposals for talks on these terms.

We remain extremely concerned by the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and continue to urge the DPRK to: comply with its obligations under relevant UN Security Council Resolutions; refrain from any further provocations; abide by its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; and permit full access by the International Atomic Energy Agency. We urge the rigorous implementation of sanctions by the international community to limit the DPRK's ability to advance its programmes.

## Passports: Children

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the written answer by Lord Bates on 2 March (HL5145), why draft revised guidance on obtaining passports for donor-conceived children has not yet been circulated; and when it will be. [HL209]

**Lord Bates:** Drafting of the guidance will be completed shortly and consultation with interested parties will commence at the end of June 2015.

## Philip Blackwood

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing Philip Blackwood, who is imprisoned in Burma. [HL124]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The New Zealand Embassy in Burma is leading on providing consular assistance to Mr Blackwood as he travelled to Burma on his New Zealand passport. They have been in contact with his family who are resident in New Zealand.

Our Embassy in Rangoon has provided advice and support to the New Zealand Embassy on Mr Blackwood's

case and we will continue to discuss with them what further assistance we can provide. We have raised the case with the Burmese authorities and made them aware of our interest in Mr Blackwood's welfare.

## Refugees: Syria

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of how many Syrian refugees are displaced from their homes, both internally and abroad; and how many have been resettled in the United Kingdom since the establishment of the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme for Syrian nationals. [HL109]

**Lord Bates:** As of 30 March 2015, 187 people were relocated to the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme for Syrian nationals. This is the latest publicly available figure as numbers are released as part of the Home Office statistics each quarter.

The Department for International Development hold information on estimates on the number of Syrians displaced internally and abroad.

## Regional Planning and Development: North of England

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they define "Northern powerhouse", as used in the Gracious Speech. [HL97]

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they define the North of England, as referred to in the term "Northern powerhouse" used in the Gracious Speech. [HL98]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Northern Powerhouse is a long term plan to enable the north to reach its potential as a driving force in the UK economy, closing the gap between north and south. It will reinforce the links between our northern cities to make them collectively stronger, providing them with modern transport connections, supporting science, innovation, universities and creative clusters and by giving them the local power and control needed to support growth. The Government will also empower the towns and counties of the north to build on the economic strengths outside cities.

## Right to Buy Scheme

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations they have had with the voluntary sector about extending the right-to-buy to housing association tenants; and what steps they plan to take to respond to any consultation before bringing forward a new housing bill. [HL245]



**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Ministers and senior officials are engaging with key stakeholders, as they do on a continuous basis, in relation to key policy issues.

### Social Security Benefits

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Personal Independence Payments and Employment Support Allowance will be exempted from the proposed new benefit cap. [HL269]

**Lord Freud:** Details of the policy will be announced in due course.

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to introduce flexibility into the benefit cap regime to take account of family size and regional housing costs. [HL270]

**Lord Freud:** Details of the policy will be announced in due course.

### UK Border Force

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assets Border Force uses at present to maintain surveillance of United Kingdom territorial seas and adjacent waters; and what plans they have, if any, to change this in the

light of the deployment of two Border Force cutters in the Mediterranean. [HL244]

**Lord Bates:** We do not comment on specific operational matters for reasons of national security. A variety of assets ensure the integrity of UK waters, and we continue to ensure that Border Force is able to make use of cutting-edge technology and good intelligence in its important work.

### War Pensions

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether war pensions are part of the welfare budget; and if not, in which departmental budget they lie. [HL210]

**Earl Howe:** War Pensions sat within the Ministry of Defence's Annual Managed Expenditure budget since June 2001, when the War Pensions Agency transferred to the Ministry of Defence. As announced in the 2014 Budget, the Government will move War Pensions out of Annual Managed Expenditure for future years.

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether war pensions were included in the calculation of spending on defence in the years 2011–14. [HL211]

**Earl Howe:** War Pensions were not included in our Defence Spending submissions to NATO between 2011 and 2014.



## Written Answers

Thursday, 11 June 2015

### Alcoholic Drinks: Excise Duties

Asked by **Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect the freeze and reduction in alcohol excise duties will have on the targets to reduce alcohol consumption set in the Responsibility Deal. [HL104]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The previous Government's alcohol strategy in 2012, set an ambition to reduce the number of adults drinking above the National Health Service guidelines. The percentage of adults self-reporting drinking above the guidelines fell from 21% in 2010 to 19% in 2013 (Health Survey for England).

Under the previous Government, industry committed through the Responsibility Deal Alcohol Network voluntarily to remove 1 billion units of alcohol from people's drinks by reducing the average strength of drinks. Reducing the strength of alcohol in people's drinks is expected to contribute to reducing alcohol consumption and harm.

The effect of alcohol duty changes on alcohol consumption is referred to in the policy costing note on alcohol duties published at Budget 2015.

The policy costing note outlines HM Treasury's calculations for changes in consumption following this year's Budget changes to duty rates, including a behavioural adjustment costing, as a result in changes in consumption of alcohol in response to a price reduction.

More details on the policy costing note on alcohol duties are attached and available on the gov.uk website at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/413895/Policy\\_Costings\\_18\\_00.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/413895/Policy_Costings_18_00.pdf)

The health impact assessment of the effect cutting of alcohol duty changes on alcohol consumption is referred to in the Overview of Tax Legislation and rates document.

More detail on the impacts of the changes to alcohol duty is attached and available in the Overview of Tax Legislation and rates document:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/418689/OOTLAR\\_v8.1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418689/OOTLAR_v8.1.pdf)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Overview of Tax Legislation and Rates [HL104 -Overview of Tax Legislation and Rates document.pdf]

Policy Costings [HL104 - Policy Costings.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-05-28/HL104>

### Art Works: Islam

Asked by **Lord Pearson of Rannoch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to support a contest in the United Kingdom between artists depicting the prophet Mohammed, and if so, whether they will provide security protection for such an event. [HL87]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is not aware of any plans. The safety and security of an event is an issue for the event organisers in consultation with the police.

### Carers

Asked by **Lord Ouseley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they provide to individuals who stop working to care for elderly and infirm family members. [HL141]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Under the Care Act 2014, local authorities have legal duties to support carers and this will include many carers who stop working to care for family members. This includes a duty on local authorities to provide information and advice and universal preventative services for carers, as well as individual rights to carers to get an assessment on the appearance of needs for support, plus a right to support to meet any needs assessed as eligible against the national minimum eligibility threshold. The Department has provided £104 million of funding to local authorities for these rights in 2015-16.

Also, the Department has provided funding of £400 million to the National Health Service between 2011 and 2015 to enable carers to take breaks from their caring responsibilities, including £130 million in 2015-16 that is included in the Better Care Fund.

People who care for a disabled person over 35 hours a week who are not in full-time employment or education can be entitled to Carer's Allowance, as well as income support benefits.

### EU Reform

Asked by **Lord Stoddart of Swindon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will press for negotiations for the reform of the European Union to include the repatriation of agriculture and fisheries powers to member states. [HL206]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Prime Minister has started to discuss his plans for EU reform and renegotiation with other EU leaders. He has been clear that the plans involve reforming welfare and immigration rules, increasing economic competitiveness and cutting red tape to create jobs and growth for hard working families, and protecting the UK's interests outside the euro. It also means halting the constant flow of powers to

Brussels including by ensuring a stronger role for national Parliaments.

## European Rail Traffic Management System

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the written answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 2 June (HL49), when Network Rail will complete the impact assessment of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS). [HL248]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Network Rail have commenced their evaluation, and it is due to be concluded towards the final quarter of 2015.

## Gaza

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the destruction of the Al-Wafa hospital in Gaza, what assessment they have made of where those with neurological injuries from Operation Protective Edge are receiving treatment; and what level of rehabilitation and specialist breathing equipment is currently available to amputees and those with spinal cord injuries. [HL153]

**Baroness Verma:** DFID has supported UK – Med teams to deliver training and workshops to partners' teams on spinal cord injury rehabilitation, neurological assessment, plastics and burns, and brain injuries rehabilitation as identified by trainers and trainees in the UK-MED / UK International Emergency Trauma Response (UKIETR) project. The training benefitted a number of outreach team members of Handicap International partners, while 42 beneficiaries benefitted from assessment and follow up technical support during UK-Med teams on the job trainings. UK-MED teams indicated that over the course of the project, major improvements have been noted in clinical assessment and in the treatment of complex trauma cases. Post-tests following workshops have consistently revealed significant changes in team confidence in managing trauma.

## Health Services: Staffordshire

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conclusion of the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG that there is an "oppressive culture" across Staffordshire with a system in "perpetual crisis mode". [HL165]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the change of the senior leadership in Staffordshire health services in the light of the

criticism made in the Staffordshire Distressed Health Economy report by KPMG. [HL166]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Leadership and collaborative working relationships are critical factors in securing sustainable services in any local health economy. The Commissioning Congress has been set up to bring together both clinical commissioning groups and local authority commissioners. The Congress will engage with local providers in developing plans to secure clinically and financially sustainable services in the long term. The priority for all involved is ensuring a viable set of services which will be both clinically and financially sustainable in the future.

## Higher Education: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many undergraduate places were funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England under the Employer Engagement Co-funded Students scheme for employer co-funded additional student numbers in each of the years during which the scheme operated, and at what percentage rates; and what was the total cost of the scheme, including expenditure over and above direct full-time equivalent funding for each student. [HL28]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Information on the number of recruited undergraduates through the scheme is shown in the table below.

<i>Academic Year</i>	<i>Recruited undergraduate full-time equivalent students</i>	<i>Total grant after adjustments (all levels of study)</i>
2006/07	171	£557,000
2007/08	872	£2,666,000
2008/09	3,155	£10,120,000
2009/10	6,349	£18,530,000
2010/11	11,179	£28,998,000
2011/12	14,020	£32,484,000
2012/13	3,542	£7,935,000
2013/14	1,019	£2,359,000
2014/15	248	£582,000
Total	40,556	£104,231,000

The total grant over the period 2006/07 to 2014/15 was £104million. In addition to the grant after adjustments, £101 million development funding was spent on the scheme between 2006/07 and 2011/12.

Employer contributions are only available for the period 2007/08 to 2010/11 and show that the average rate of co-founding from employers increased from 26% in 2007/08 to 41% in 2010/11.

Note: Employer contributions are a mix of cash and in-kind, and are sourced from both public and private sector employers.

## Large Goods Vehicles

Asked by **Lord Bradshaw**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the last comprehensive review of the damage impact of the heaviest heavy goods vehicles on road surfaces was undertaken. [HL249]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** A comprehensive review of the effect on road wear of the heaviest goods vehicles permitted to run in normal operations was last done as part of the process before the regulations about maximum permissible Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) weights were last revised in 2000. The Road Vehicles (Authorised Weight) (Amendment) Regulations 2000 permitted the use of 44 tonne vehicles for general use. These vehicles have been permitted in Great Britain since 1 February 2001.

Estimates of the road wear attributable to HGVs have been updated periodically, but not comprehensively, most recently in 2014 when road to rail and water mode shift grants were reviewed. A significant piece of research about the potential effects of longer and heavier lorries was published by the Department for Transport in 2008.

## London Airports

Asked by **Lord Bradshaw**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, after the Commission examining the site of a new runway in the south east makes its recommendations, what further steps are necessary before construction begins. [HL143]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We will consider the Airports Commission's full body of work and decide how and at what pace to respond to any recommendation the Commission may make.

## Ministers: Pay

Asked by **Lord Jopling**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Ministers did not receive Ministerial salaries in each Parliament since 1985. [HL106]

Asked by **Lord Jopling**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Ministers in each House are unpaid; how this compares with the 2010–15 Parliament; and whether they plan to legislate for all Ministers to receive salaries. [HL107]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** There are currently three unpaid Ministers in the House of Commons and seven unpaid Ministers in the House of Lords. During the 2010–2015 Parliament a total of six Ministers in the House of Commons and twenty Ministers in the House of Lords

held unpaid roles. There are currently no plans to amend the limits on the number of Ministerial salaries set by legislation.

The table below lists the number of unpaid Ministers across the Parliaments since 1985:

<i>Parliaments</i>	<i>Number of unpaid Ministers</i>
1 Jan 1986 – 11 June 1987	2
1987 - 92	2
1992 - 97	2
1997 - 2001	8
2001 - 2005	12
2005 - 2010	40
2010 - 2015	26
12 May 2015	10

Please note that the *Tables of Ministerial Offices* from which these numbers are taken have changed in format over the time concerned and there may be gaps looking back over a 30 year period. Therefore, the figures provided from some of the earlier Parliaments are an approximation.

## NHS Trusts: Greater London

Asked by **Lord Harris of Haringey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the currently projected deficit in 2015–16 and savings targets they are expected to meet in 2015–16 for each NHS Trust in London. [HL157]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The information requested is not available centrally.

We understand that the National Health Service trust financial plans for 2015–16 are in the process of being finalised in accordance with national planning timetables. It is the responsibility of each NHS trust Board to agree a financial plan for 2015–16, including the level of financial efficiency required to support delivery of the overall financial plan.

## Palliative Care

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why only 19 per cent of NHS Trusts offer palliative care; and what steps they are taking to ensure that (1) pain control is always available in hospitals, and (2) terminally ill patients can converse with their families in privacy. [HL132]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** It is not the case that only 19% of National Health Service trusts offer palliative care. The latest National Clinical Audit of Care of the Dying (2014) showed that, of the 131 trusts surveyed, all trusts offered at least a five-day face-to-face specialist palliative care service, including 21% of trusts offering at least a 7-day face-to-face service. 91% of trusts offered an out-of-hours specialist palliative care telephone service.

Effective pain control is one of the key elements of palliative and end of life care, as noted in *One Chance to Get it Right*, the report published in June 2014 by the Leadership Alliance for the Care of Dying people. The Five Priorities for Care of the Dying Person, which are set out in that report, state that an individual plan of care, which includes pain relief as part of symptom control, should be agreed, coordinated and delivered with compassion for every person approaching the end of life.

The Priorities for Care also highlight the importance of sensitive communication, and state that discussions involving staff, people nearing the end of life and those close to them should be conducted in a way that maximises privacy.

We would expect NHS organisations and staff to do all that they can to ensure that this happens for all people nearing the end of life.

## Productivity

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the latest figures for the employee activity rates in (1) Wales, (2) Scotland, (3) Northern Ireland and (4) each of the regions of England. [HL194]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Referenced Tables [HL194 Tables.xlsx]

UK Statistics Reply [HL194 Lord Wigley ONS Reply.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-02/HL194>

## Written Answers

Monday, 15 June 2015

### Africa: Refugees

Asked by *Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to (1) the African Union, and (2) the governments of African source and transit countries, regarding (a) strengthening law enforcement against human traffickers and their agents in sub-Saharan Africa, and (b) warning their citizens about the dangers of making trans-Saharan and Mediterranean voyages for the purposes of irregular migration. [HL215]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Government Ministers have discussed combating trafficking with African partners, including at the meeting in Rome last November, which launched the EU-African Union (AU) Khartoum Process designed to tackle trafficking and smuggling in the Horn of Africa.

Our Posts and senior officials from London have continued this dialogue with relevant countries and the AU. Most recently, officials participated in the Khartoum Process Steering Committee meeting in Egypt in April, which discussed a range of projects to strengthen law enforcement and raise awareness.

In Ethiopia, the Department for International Development works with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and partners to fund awareness raising campaigns on the dangers of illegal migration for Eritrean refugees.

The Government is committed to taking action to fight Modern Slavery. The Modern Slavery Strategy, published alongside the Modern Slavery Act in March, includes efforts to work with other countries to tackle the problem at source.

### Air Passenger Duty: Scotland

Asked by *Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the impact on Newcastle International Airport of the proposal to devolve power to the Scottish Government to determine the level of Air Passenger Duty for travellers using Scottish airports. [HL119]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The impact on Newcastle airport will depend on a number of decisions following the devolution of air passenger duty (APD) to the Scottish Parliament.

The date that APD is "switched off" in Scotland will depend on discussions on the over-arching Fiscal Framework to be agreed between HM Government and the Scottish Government. It will also depend on the readiness of the Scottish Government to assume the fiscal responsibility of having the power to charge its own tax

devolved to it. The Scottish Parliament will have the power to introduce its own APD, with rates at the levels it chooses.

In response to the concerns voiced by airports about the potential impacts of devolution, the Government will publish a discussion paper exploring the options for supporting regional airports from such effects. The discussion paper will be published by the summer.

### Aircraft Carriers

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Astor of Hever on 23 March (HL5737), how many years at sea in aircraft carriers the Head of Carrier Enabled Power Projection has served; and how many years at sea, in aircraft-carrying warships, the Senior Responsible Owners for the Carrier and F35B projects have served. [HL241]

**Earl Howe:** Carrier Enabled Power Projection (CEPP) is a joint programme, bringing together the Carriers, F-35B aircraft and Merlin Crowsnest helicopters. The Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for CEPP is the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff for Military Capability, who is directly accountable to the Permanent Under Secretary for Defence for the coherent delivery of the overall CEPP capability. The principal skill set required by the SRO is leadership and experience in delivering complex programmes across Defence. Specialist experience of carrier air operations is provided by the individual SROs for the carrier and F35B projects (Royal Navy and RAF respectively), both of whom have significant experience of carrier air operations. The CEPP SRO is also directly supported by a programme director, a Rear Admiral with extensive experience in the Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) programme, as well as frigate and air station command, an Air Commodore (Head of CEPP), and a small joint staff with significant maritime, combat air and command experience.

The Head of CEPP is an experienced Air Commodore having served extensively within the joint arena delivering capability. While he has not served at sea in aircraft carriers, his portfolio does not require this. He is responsible for ensuring coherent delivery across the CEPP programme rather than an individual project remit.

The QEC SRO is a Rear Admiral. He has blended his extensive aviation experience with considerable time at sea. He has served at sea extensively in frigates, air defence destroyers, Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and commanded the Royal Navy's largest warship; the helicopter carrier HMS OCEAN. He has also commanded the patrol vessel HMS ANGLESEY conducting fishery protection and the Type 23 frigate HMS SOMERSET. Other maritime commands include the Iraqi maritime Task Group during Operation TELIC and Chief of Staff appointments for two counter piracy missions: operation ATALANTA and CTF 151, which included a deployment in the US Navy Ticonderoga class destroyer USS ANZIO. He spent over two years working for Flag Officer Sea



Training as the lead Commander for Warfare and Command. He has recently completed an 18 month appointment as the United Kingdom Maritime Component Commander and Deputy Commander Combined Maritime Forces, based within the USNAVCENT Headquarters in Bahrain. The period spanned operation LUMINOUS from Cyprus, the completion of operation HERRICK and the commencement of operation SHADER in Iraq.

The SRO for the F-35B is an Air Commodore. He is a highly experienced former Harrier pilot whose embarked experience with 3(F) Sqn flying the Harrier GR7 from HMS ILLUSTRIOUS saw him both day and night deck qualified. He also acted as a Landing Signals Officer, responsible for providing critical safety information to both the pilot in the cockpit and the command team during aircraft recovery. This qualification required him to be not only a skilled aviator, but also knowledgeable about broader ship operations. He achieved a total of three months of embarked flying, which was followed by two and a half years as a Joint Harrier Squadron Commander.

### Asylum

*Asked by Lord Paddick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bates on 8 June (HL Deb, col 671), whether the Dublin Regulation would still apply to the United Kingdom if it were no longer a member of the European Union. [HL351]

**Lord Bates:** The Prime Minister is focused on success: he believes he can and will succeed in reforming and renegotiating our relationship with the EU and is campaigning to keep the UK in the EU on that basis.

### Bahrain: Prisoners

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the arrest and imprisonment of Ms Zainab Al Khawaja whilst attempting to visit her father in prison in Bahrain; and whether they plan to hold discussions with the government of Bahrain about her imprisonment. [HL281]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** This case against Zainab Al Khawaja follows an incident in Jau prison when her father, Abdulhadi Al Khawaja, was on hunger strike. We understand Ms Al Khawaja attempted to enter an area of the prison closed to the public and stage a sit-in, and as a result, was forcibly removed from the facility. She has the right to appeal. Our Embassy in Bahrain will continue to monitor the case closely.

### Banks: British Overseas Territories

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve banking regulation in United Kingdom overseas territories in the light of allegations that companies in the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos were used by FIFA officials and executives to facilitate corrupt payments. [HL130]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** International standards on anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing (AML and CTF), including regulation and supervision of financial institutions, are set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) of which the UK is a member. The Caribbean Overseas Territories (OTs) are members of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) and as such have signed up to implement the FATF standards. They are also subject to mutual evaluations of their AML/CTF regimes through this body. The UK Government continues to engage actively with the OTs to encourage them to make improvements to their AML and CTF regimes in line with the international standards and the UK's approach. However, the OTs are separate jurisdictions with their own democratically elected governments and changes to their regimes will ultimately be a decision for the locally elected government of each Territory.

### Burma: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of financial assistance that is being provided to Rohingya refugees in camps in Rakhine State, Burma and Bangladesh. [HL123]

**Baroness Verma:** The UN Humanitarian Response Plan budget for Rakhine State, Burma in 2015 totals \$118m. This is for overall humanitarian assistance including, but not limited to, the camps. The UK's bilateral humanitarian funding to Rakhine is £18 million since 2012 including needs identified in the UN humanitarian response plan. DFID visits displaced persons camps in Rakhine regularly and assesses the UN response plan and budget to be realistic. We are also the largest donors to a major \$44m rural livelihoods programme in Rakhine. Addressing the political challenges is equally important and we are pushing for improved humanitarian access, greater protection and accountability and sustainable solutions to displacement, intercommunal relations and citizenship.

A range of donors including the UK, Australia, the European Commission and the US have committed approximately £19 million for 2014 – 2017 towards humanitarian activities for Rohingyas living in camps and host communities in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh the UK's Rohingya related humanitarian programme totals £4.75

million of which £2.25 million will target Rohingya refugees living in camps.

### **Cider: Tax Allowances**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the European Commission following its formal request that the United Kingdom end the tax exemption currently available to small cider producers. [HL207]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government's support for small cider makers has helped create a diverse and vibrant market, improving consumer choice and creating jobs. We are therefore studying the Commission's arguments carefully, but the government's support for this unique British industry will continue.

Most recently, to support the wider industry, the duty on lower strength cider was cut by 2 per cent at Budget 2015, with a similar benefit in cash terms for higher strength still cider.

### **Department for Work and Pensions: Ministerial Duties**

*Asked by Baroness Campbell of Surbiton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the ministerial brief of the Minister for disabled people will change in the light of the fact that the position is now at the level of Parliamentary under-Secretary of State; and if so, how. [HL252]

**Lord Freud:** The status of the office for the Minister for Disabled People remains unchanged. Previously, where the role has been held by a Minister of State, the portfolio has included other responsibilities.

The Minister for Disabled People's portfolio is now available on GOV.UK.

The Ministerial brief for the Minister for Disabled People is as follows:

Cross-government disability issues and strategy; disability benefits (Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Attendance Allowance); mental health matters; carers; appeals reform; Health and Safety Executive and Access to Work.

### **Dermatology: Nottingham**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether all locums employed by Circle Nottingham are qualified to be included on the General Medical Council specialist register for dermatology specialist services. [HL190]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No assessment has been made by the Department of whether all locums employed by Circle Nottingham, an independent organisation, are

qualified to be included on the General Medical Council specialist register for dermatology specialist services.

Circle Health Limited is an independent organisation. It is for the employer, not the Department, to ensure its employees are appropriately skilled, trained, qualified and professionally registered for the roles they are fulfilling.

### **Dismissal**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the difficulties faced by employees who are sacked in their first two years of employment, in the light of changes to employment law and employment tribunal fees. [HL382]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The qualifying period for unfair dismissal was increased to two years in 2012. From initial analysis we cannot see any clear signs that this has had a negative impact on employment. ONS Labour Market Statistics show a decreasing trend in unemployment figures and according to the CBI/Accenture employment trends survey 2014, half of employers (50%) expect their workforce to be larger in 12 months' time.

The Ministry of Justice has initiated a review of the impact of employment tribunal fees. We will consider the outcome of this review in due course.

### **EU Grants and Loans**

*Asked by Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the value for money obtained by the European Structural and Investment Funds in the light of the increase in the United Kingdom's net contribution to the European Union budget. [HL286]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** In 2013, the Prime Minister secured the first ever cut to the seven-year EU Budget Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). As a result, according to the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR's) latest forecast, UK net contributions to the EU Budget going forward will, on average, be lower per year than in 2013/14 – the final year of the last seven-year deal secured by the previous Government – not higher. The Government supports the objectives of the European Structural and Investment Funds. These programmes are now more strongly focused on results following the implementation of a rigorous performance framework sought by the UK and other net payers during MFF negotiations. The Government is committed to continue to ensure maximum restraint and maximum value for money when it comes to EU expenditure.

### **Fuels: Excise Duties**

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to alter fuel duties to change the relative price

difference paid by customers for petrol and diesel fuels. [HL174]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government has no current plans to alter fuel duty to change the relative price difference paid by customers for petrol and diesel.

### Gaza

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current availability of electricity, water, and sewerage to the people of Gaza. [HL150]

**Baroness Verma:** UK aid is saving lives and providing services, but we still need to see a political solution for Gaza that will open up movement and access whilst addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns. We continue to press Israel to facilitate improvements in water and electricity infrastructure in Gaza. The issue has also been raised in recent visits by the Minister of State for International Development and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

### Graduates: Numeracy

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the 2015 Skills: Outlook report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development which reported that United Kingdom graduates leave university with lower numeracy skills than their peers in any other country except the United States, and of its implications for young people entering the labour market; and what plans they have to address this issue. [HL140]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is committed to driving up standards at all levels of education to help improve employability and the OECD's report underlines the need for our rigorous new curriculum that focuses on the basics, so that children from a young age have a strong foundation on which to build. We would want higher education institutions to continue to play their part in helping to address the weak basic skills exhibited by a small proportion of graduates. However, surveys of employers currently show very high levels of satisfaction with the skills of UK graduates.

### Health Services: Foreign Nationals

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to change the rules governing migrants' access to healthcare. [HL267]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department updated the Charging Regulations on 6 April 2015 to improve the identification and recharging of European Economic Area and non-EEA patients. We will continue to consider

whether any additional changes should be made to the charging rules, and communicate as required.

### House of Lords: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask the Chairman of Committees whether there has been consultation with Historic Royal Palaces during the development of plans concerning the refurbishment of the House of Lords. [HL173]

**Lord Sewel:** The Parliamentary Estates Directorate has links with Historic Royal Palaces and the occupied Royal Palaces. These bodies, along with the Government Historic Estates Unit and the National Trust, share knowledge gained from both the execution of works affecting the historic fabric of their buildings and the extensive research which precedes any such operation. The Restoration and Renewal Programme has had informal, off the record discussions with Historic Royal Palaces from time to time.

### Immigrants: Detainees

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they are giving to ending detention of child immigrants and to replacing it with an alternative. [HL341]

**Lord Bates:** We ended the routine detention of families with children in 2010 following the introduction of the Family Returns Process, key elements of which were enshrined in the Immigration Act 2014. As part of that process, families with children who have failed to take up the opportunities to leave the UK voluntarily may, as a last resort, be detained very briefly to support their ensured return in dedicated accommodation, supported by appropriate professionals. In addition, it remains necessary on occasion to detain families with children at the border for short periods of time while enquiries are made to decide whether they can be admitted to the country, or until the next available return flight if they are refused entry.

It is already the case that unaccompanied children may be detained only in a limited number of very exceptional circumstances. This includes at the border, where they may be detained very briefly for their care and safety pending alternative care arrangements being made for them, for example, collection by relatives or friends or local authority children's services.

### Infrastructure: Capital Investment

*Asked by Lord Kinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development statement that without investment in United Kingdom infrastructure of around 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product per year,

competitiveness would be blunted and there would be detrimental implications for the quality of life for the United Kingdom's growing population. [HL253]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Following actions taken in the last Parliament, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development forecasts the UK to be the fastest growing major advanced economy in 2015, with GDP growth of 2.4 per cent.

The Government recognises that improving productivity is the route to raising standards of living for everyone in this country, and that high quality infrastructure is necessary for a productive and competitive economy.

That is why the National Infrastructure Plan was introduced. It sets out a coherent vision for economic infrastructure in the UK, including delivery plans to 2020 in key sectors to provide transparency and clarity to investors and the supply chain on the Government's strategy to finance and deliver critical projects. The 2014 Plan was published alongside a pipeline of over £460 billion of public and private investment in infrastructure to the end of the decade and beyond.

It is also why the Government will publish a Productivity Plan before the Budget. This will be our plan to make Britain work better. It will be based on providing economic security, rebalancing the economy and building the Northern Powerhouse, and making our economy more productive by improving our physical infrastructure, among other measures.

*Asked by Lord Kinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to increase government investment in infrastructure from the currently planned level of around £30 billion a year in order to achieve the annual target recommended by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product. [HL254]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Average annual infrastructure investment, in the public and private sectors, was 15 per cent higher in the last Parliament than it was in the preceding Parliament - increasing from £41 billion between 2005-06 and 2009-10 to £47 billion between 2010-11 and 2013-14.

The National Infrastructure Plan 2014 set out an infrastructure pipeline of over £460 billion of planned public and private investment to the end of the decade and beyond.

In the last parliament, the Government prioritised capital investment plans in infrastructure, increasing them by £10 billion. The 2013 Budget made those increases permanent, increasing capital plans by £3 billion per year from 2015/16.

## Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft: Procurement

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many F35B aircraft (1) have been ordered; and (2) will be ordered in this financial year. [HL242]

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many F35B aircraft they plan to have ordered in total by April 2016. [HL243]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Procurement (Mr Dunne) in the House of Commons on 5 June 2015 to Question number 353.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft: Procurement [HOC 353 Hansard Extract 5 June 2015.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-03/HL242>

## Maternity Services

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve access to healthcare for all mothers, regardless of their wealth or immigration status. [HL178]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** All women regardless of their wealth or immigration status are encouraged to contact their maternity services as soon as they know they are pregnant for a full assessment of their health, risk factors and choices so that a personalised plan of care can be prepared. The latest data shows that over 96% of pregnant women in England received their full health and risk assessment before 12 weeks and 6 days between April and June 2014. Early access to maternity services helps tackle the negative impact of health inequalities from the start of life and supports good health and well-being in mother and baby.

Women with complex social factors do not always access maternity services early, or attend regularly for antenatal care and poorer outcomes are consequently reported for mother and baby. Maternity services need to be proactive in engaging all women. To support National Health Service maternity services engagement with pregnant women with complex social factors, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has published clinical guidelines on pregnancy and complex social factors, which describes how access to care can be improved and contact with antenatal care maintained.

Maternity services feature prominently in the key objectives set out in the Mandate between the Government and NHS England. All women, regardless of their wealth or immigration status, should have a named midwife responsible for ensuring she receives



personalised care throughout pregnancy, childbirth and during the postnatal period. To help reduce unwarranted variation in service delivery and encourage innovation, NHS England has established Maternity and Children Strategic Clinical Networks.

Entitlement to free NHS hospital treatment in England is based on being 'ordinarily resident' in the United Kingdom. Except in rare circumstances, nationals of countries outside the European Economic Area must also have 'indefinite leave to remain' in the UK in order to be ordinarily resident here. Anyone not ordinarily resident here is subject to the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015, and will be charged for any treatment they receive unless an exemption from charge category applies.

Chargeable treatment which is considered by clinicians to be immediately necessary, must never be withheld from an overseas visitor. Guidance to NHS trusts makes clear that all maternity services – including routine antenatal treatment – should be regarded as immediately necessary. This means that no woman will be denied maternity services, even if she cannot pay in advance, although she will still be charged for treatment and expected to pay later.

### **Mental Illness: Children**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address the reported rise in the number of children suffering from mental health issues. [HL177]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This Government is committed to improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

The Department is working with NHS England and other partners to consider how best to drive forward transformation in children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. The Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (CYP IAPT) programme is already being expanded to cover additional areas of clinical practice, so that by 2018 children and young people across all of England will have access to evidence based psychotherapies. The Department is also commissioning a new national survey on the prevalence of mental health problems in children and young people, the first since 2004.

### **Military Bases: Omagh**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what terms they offered to transfer ownership of the St Lucia barracks in Omagh to the Northern Ireland Executive. [HL322]

**Earl Howe:** It is expected that St Lucia Barracks will transfer to the Northern Ireland Executive on freehold terms by summer 2015.

### **Modern Greek Language: GCE A-level**

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that Modern Greek remains available as an A-level subject. [HL192]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education is currently considering what further support and encouragement can be provided to awarding organisations to enable as wide a range of languages as possible to be maintained at GCSE and A level, including Modern Greek.

The government has been clear that it wants to see all pupils provided with the opportunity to take a core set of academic subjects, including modern foreign languages. The number of pupils entering for a modern language GCSE has increased by 20% since 2010 due to the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. There are considerable benefits to learning a second language and the government is keen to see the range of languages at GCSE and A level preserved. To this end, the Secretary of State wrote to exam boards during the pre-election period in April to express her concern about their decision to stop awarding qualifications in some languages. She asked awarding organisations to work with Ofqual on the future of these qualifications and committed, if there is no further action, to launching a consultation on how best to secure the future of these qualifications.

### **Obesity: Cancer**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle obesity as a cause of cancer deaths. [HL233]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Tackling obesity is one of our major priorities. Progress has been made in recent years, but we know we have much further to go and we will put forward our plans in due course.

### **Poland**

*Asked by Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to raise with the newly-elected President of Poland the issue of restitution of property seized from Polish citizens during the Nazi and Communist regimes. [HL247]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I refer the noble Baroness to my answer of 24 March 2015 (HL5574). We will continue to look for more opportunities to raise property restitution with the relevant Polish authorities, and encourage the government in Poland to make progress on legislation in this area.



## Prison Sentences

Asked by *Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each of the last three calendar years, how many courses for (1) indeterminate sentence prisoners and (2) prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection were provided in (a) HMP Acklington and HMP Durham, and (b) the rest of the prison service. [HL118]

**Lord Faulks:** National Offender Management Service and its partners provide a range of courses and activities within prisons to enable prisoners to increase the chances of successful resettlement and to protect the public

NOMS allocates programme and public protection resources based on the type of offender, their needs and their level of risk in order to maximise public safety and value for money. Central records of what courses and activities different categories of prisoners can access are not kept, except those for NOMS accredited Offending Behaviour Programmes but this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

In HMPs Durham and Northumberland specifically there are currently 120 different interventions listed.

## Refugees: Syria

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further consideration have they given to taking in the quota of refugees from Syria suggested by the UN. [HL414]

**Lord Bates:** The Government is deeply concerned about the suffering and hardship caused by the Syrian conflict, and we are determined that the UK will continue to play our full part in responding to the humanitarian crisis.

The UK has donated £800 million in response to the crisis, making us the second largest bilateral donor after the USA, and helping to provide vital support to hundreds of thousands of displaced Syrians right across the region. Through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme, we are also helping some of the most vulnerable Syrians who cannot be supported effectively in the region by offering them care and support in the UK, prioritising women and children at risk, people in severe need of medical care and survivors of torture and violence. The scheme runs in parallel to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) Syrian humanitarian admission programme, as we believe we can contribute most by basing our resettlement scheme on need rather than a fulfilling a quota. However, we have said we expect the scheme to help several hundred people over three years, and we remain firmly on track to achieve that. We are working closely with the UNHCR to identify the most vulnerable displaced Syrians, and bring them to the UK. Between the first arrivals in March 2014 and the end of March this year, 187 people arrived under the scheme, and groups continue to arrive on a regular basis. This is in addition to Syrians the UK has granted asylum under our

normal rules; since the crisis began in 2011, we have granted asylum or other forms of leave to over 4,200 Syrian nationals.

However, with 3.9 million displaced Syrians in Syria's neighbouring countries and millions more in need within Syria itself, protection in the UK can only ever help a minority of those who so desperately need help. The Government strongly believes that the UK can have the greatest impact by continuing to focus our efforts on substantial humanitarian aid to help provide support to the majority of displaced people who remain in the region and ease the burden on their host countries. By the end of September last year, UK aid had delivered over 8.7 million food rations (each of which feeds one person for one month), provided access to clean water for 1.5 million people per month, and over 1.3 million medical consultations in Syria and the region. The VPR scheme, which is the first resettlement scheme operated by the UK to target beneficiaries specifically on the basis of vulnerability, complements our aid by focusing on providing support in the UK to some of the most vulnerable displaced people who cannot be supported effectively in the region.

We therefore have no current plans to participate in a quota resettlement scheme; we believe that our current approach is the best way for the UK to help people who are suffering due to the crisis.

## Rights of Way

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their timetable for implementing the provisions concerning footpaths and bridleways contained in the Deregulation Act 2015. [HL171]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The relevant provisions in the Deregulation Act 2015 will be implemented as soon as all the secondary legislation and guidance needed to make them work have been put in place.

## Social Security Benefits

Asked by *Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development In It Together: Why Less Inequality Benefits All; and whether they plan to reconsider further cuts in benefits in the light of that assessment. [HL185]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government considers reports and publications from external organisations on an ongoing basis as part of the policy making process. The UK has one of the most redistributive tax and welfare systems in Europe, supported by a labour market that is continuing to perform strongly. UK income inequality is lower than in 2010 and the gender pay gap is at its lowest since records began. The government is committed to its path of fiscal consolidation, so will continue to making

savings in public expenditure, including in welfare. The Chancellor will set out further detail on the composition of spending and welfare changes at the forthcoming Budget and Spending Review.

### Teachers: Standards

*Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to recruit more good graduates into teaching and to improve the skills of current teachers. [HL222]

**Lord Nash:** We are committed to recruiting high-quality graduates into teaching. We have seen an increase over the last five years in the proportion of new entrants who hold a first or upper second class degree, rising from 61% in 2009/10 to 73% in 2014/15.

For 2015/16, we have increased the postgraduate bursary from £20,000 to £25,000 for trainees with a first class degree training to teach mathematics, physics, computing, chemistry and modern foreign languages. Prestigious scholarship awards, of £25,000, are also available to outstanding graduates with a first or upper second class degree in mathematics, physics, chemistry or computing. We have supported the expansion of Teach First, which brings the highest quality graduates into challenging schools, by more than doubling the number of participants since 2010 and widening coverage of the programme to schools across England.

We also recognise the importance of teachers being able to develop and improve their practice throughout their careers. Improvement in teaching is most effective when it is led by the best teachers and the most successful schools, and when it is based on evidence. That is why we promote opportunities for teachers to learn from others and for schools to support other schools, for example through the growing Teaching Schools network. The government also remains committed to offering support to emerging plans for a profession-led College of Teaching to increase the status of the profession and take the lead in developing truly outstanding professional development and evidence-informed practice.

### Trident

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the Ministry of Defence to be ready to make the Main Gate decision for replacing Trident. [HL145]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon) in the House of Commons on 8 June 2015 (Official Report, column 904), to the hon. Member for Barrow (John Woodcock).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hansard Extract [T10.doc Monday 8 June 2015.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-01/HL145>

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, by October 2015, how much money will have been committed to replacing Trident. [HL146]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer my predecessor the noble Lord Astor of Hever gave on 4 November 2014 to Question number HL2404.

Figures for the end of the Financial Year 2014-15 will not be available until the Ministry of Defence's Annual Reports and Accounts have been published.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Trident Submarines [Hansard Extract 4 November 2014.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-01/HL146>

### Trident Submarines

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the decision to proceed with the building of four replacement Trident submarines will require parliamentary approval; and if so, whether they plan to seek such parliamentary approval at the same time as, or before, the Main Gate decision is made. [HL144]

**Earl Howe:** This Government was elected on a mandate to renew Trident and provide continuous at sea deterrence by replacing the Vanguard-class submarines with a fleet of four Successor submarines. Parliament has already debated the vote twice on the issue, on 14 March 2007 and again on 20 January 2015. A further debate is planned during this Parliament.

### Turkey: Kurds

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Turkey regarding the extent of progress in providing Kurdish-language education in state primary schools in majority Kurdish areas. [HL220]

**Earl of Courtown:** UK officials often visit Kurdish areas in Turkey to meet interlocutors from government and civil society and frequently discuss issues such as mother tongue education. We welcome efforts by the Turkish government, such as the 2013 "democratisation package", to improve minority rights for minority groups in Turkey, including the Kurds, and we look forward to further progress in this area.

## UK Membership of EU

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Ireland on the possible implications for cross-border relations between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland of the United Kingdom withdrawing from the European Union. [HL196]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Contact with the Irish government takes place regularly at all levels. This reflects the close relationship which we now enjoy with the Government of Ireland and the Irish people. Discussions cover all issues, including the impact that the British Government's proposals for reform will have on Ireland, our closest neighbour and friend. Most recently the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr David Lidington), visited Dublin on 26 May for consultations on EU reform; the first visit he made after his reappointment following the general election.

This Government intends to seek reforms in the EU which will benefit not just the UK but all Member States. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), is confident that he can and will succeed in negotiating to reform the European Union and maintain Britain's position within it. The Prime Minister will meet the Taoiseach for their annual Summit on 18 June which will provide another opportunity for an exchange of views.

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps, if any, they are taking to ensure that no significant European Union policy changes will be agreed or implemented during the period of re-negotiation ahead of a referendum in the United Kingdom on membership of the European Union. [HL203]

**Earl of Courtown:** The British Government will continue to conduct European Union business during this period. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), has been clear with EU partners that reforming the EU and renegotiating the UK's relationship ahead of a referendum is a priority for the UK and the British people.

## USA: Electronic Surveillance

*Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the United States regarding the temporary halt of a range of surveillance powers in that country; and what assessment they have made of the impact of that halt for the United Kingdom intelligence services in the light of the forthcoming bill regarding communications data. [HL221]

**Earl of Courtown:** We have ongoing discussions with the US government on a full range of intelligence and security issues. The approval of the Freedom Act is a matter for the US government. With regard to the impact on our intelligence services of the temporary halt of a range of surveillance powers in the US, it is a long-standing policy of the British Government that we do not comment on intelligence matters. The Gracious Speech contained a commitment to bring forward legislation on communications data, and that legislation will extend to all of the investigatory powers covered in David Anderson's review.

## Warm Home Discount Scheme

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to providing eligible families with the Warm Home Discount automatically. [HL367]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Warm Home Discount scheme is established in regulations until March 2016. Recent changes to the regulations included the introduction of standard eligibility criteria to make it simpler for working families to access the scheme (under the so-called Broader Group).

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the number of households eligible for the Warm Home Discount. [HL450]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Warm Home Discount scheme is established in regulations until March 2016.

As set out in the fuel poverty strategy published in March 2015, the Government will continue to consider the role of energy bill rebates as a tool both for cost effective progress against the fuel poverty target and for alleviating the negative impacts of energy price rises in low income low cost households.

## Warships: Libya

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make providing a ship of the Naval Service to operations off Libya a directed task. [HL148]

**Earl Howe:** There are no plans to make the Naval assets currently delivering search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean a part of the Committed Force.

The terminology 'directed task' was replaced at the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010 by 'Committed Force' as a new approach to describing the tasks required by Future Force 2020.

## Written Answers

Tuesday, 16 June 2015

### Affordable Housing: Construction

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of progress towards building 80,000 new affordable homes per year for the next five years. [HL218]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is committed to deliver 275,000 new affordable homes over the next five years with £38 billion of public and private investment.

### Africa: Refugees

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the European Union Regional Development and Protection Programme for refugee and host communities in North Africa and the Horn of Africa to become effective; and what further consents are needed before this can happen. [HL309]

**Lord Bates:** The North Africa Regional Development and Protection Programme was launched in April 2015 and the Horn of Africa Regional Development and Protection Programme in June 2015. The UK strongly supports both programmes. Activities on the North Africa Programme are expected to begin in September 2015. The proposal for the Horn of Africa Programme will be finalised in the autumn, following a trip to the region by a Dutch-led delegation.

### Armed Forces: Mesothelioma

Asked by **Lord West of Spithead**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data is collected about the incidence of mesothelioma among members of the armed forces; what studies of this issue have been conducted; what estimates they have made of the future incidence of mesothelioma among service men and women and of connected fatalities; and whether any consideration is being given to extending legislative provisions on compensation related to mesothelioma to include members of the armed forces affected by their service. [HL397]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds some data about the incidence of mesothelioma among members of the Armed Forces. For example, since 1995 the MOD has been able to identify if an individual has been medically discharged as a result of the condition.

Diagnoses for cancers are made at secondary care level by the NHS, however the data the NHS Cancer Registries collect is not at an occupational level.

The MOD has not conducted studies or research about mesothelioma. A 2009 case control study of occupational risks in the British population undertaken by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine estimated that about 2,500 Royal Navy veterans will die from mesothelioma between 2013 and 2047. Two thirds of the deaths occur in those aged 80 years or above.

The War Pensions Scheme provides no-fault compensation on discharge for Service personnel and their dependants for injuries, illness and death caused as a result of Service before 6 April 2005. Veterans who contracted mesothelioma before 6 April 2005 can claim no-fault compensation under the War Pensions Scheme, rather than through the Mesothelioma 2014 Scheme. The latter is a last resort arrangement for individuals when their employer/employer's insurer is unknown. Because their employer is known, and the MOD insures itself, the 2014 Act does not benefit former Service personnel.

### Bovine Tuberculosis

Asked by **Lord Hoyle**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what difference the badger culls in Somerset and Gloucestershire have made to the incidence of tuberculosis in cattle in those areas. [HL228]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In Gloucestershire the total annual cattle herd incidence of tuberculosis fell from 12.70% in 2012 to 11.48% in 2014. In Somerset the total annual cattle herd incidence of tuberculosis fell from 7.56% in 2012 to 6.91% in 2014.

		Total new breakdowns	Breakdowns with OTF status withdrawn	TB tests in OTF herds	Total annual herd incidence *
<b>Glos.</b>	2012	224	181	1764	12.70%
	2013	213	174	1735	12.28%
	2014	196	153	1708	11.48%
<b>Soms.</b>	2012	310	213	4103	7.56%
	2013	317	202	4106	7.72%
	2014	288	197	4167	6.91%

\* Total new breakdowns divided by TB tests in OTF herds

The biology of bovine tuberculosis and its epidemiology is complex. The full effects of interventions will only be seen several years after their introduction.

### Common Purpose

Asked by **Lord Stoddart of Swindon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the charity Common Purpose receives funding from government sources. [HL208]



**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Cabinet Office has no records of current funding from Cabinet Office to Common Purpose.

### Constituencies

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce the number of seats in the House of Commons ahead of the 2020 general election. [HL197]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government remains committed to equalising the size of constituencies in order to make votes of more equal value. The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies (PVSC) Act 2011 provides for the number of UK constituencies to be reduced from 650 to 600 through a boundary review which must report before the 1 October 2018.

### Cyprus

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the length of the land perimeter of the Sovereign Base Area of Dhekelia with (1) the area administered by the Turkish Cypriot Authorities, and (2) the area administered by the government of Cyprus. [HL417]

**Earl Howe:** The length of the land perimeter of the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area, excluding the small Republic of Cyprus enclaves, with (1) is approximately 50.4 km and (2) approximately 34.6 km. The Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area is also on the perimeter of the UN controlled zone and the length of the boundaries is approximately 8.5 km in the West and 1.1 km in the East.

### Derelict Land

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for increasing the percentage of social housing grant for new developments by housing associations on brownfield sites on which the development would not otherwise be financially viable. [HL278]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There is no set amount of grant allocated for new affordable housing developments.

The Homes and Communities Agency assess all applications on a case by case basis, taking into account local circumstances against the criteria set out in the 2015-18 Affordable Homes Programme prospectus. Around 80% of the Affordable Homes Programme in 2011-15 delivered by the Agency outside London was on brownfield land.

Applications to deliver affordable homes in London are assessed by the Greater London Authority against their published prospectus (The Mayor's Housing Covenant 2015-18 Programme).

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent from the £1 billion fund for remediation of brownfield land in each district or unitary local authority in England in each of the last five years. [I] [HL300]

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to match the brownfield investment fund created by Pendle Borough Council on a pound for pound basis or in some other way in order to help bridge the funding gap in the development of such sites. [I] [HL301]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is committed to ensuring that brownfield land is used as much as possible for new development. This is supported by our intention to create a £1 billion Brownfield Fund to unlock homes on brownfield land. The Fund is a new initiative and as such no payments from it were made in previous years.

The focus of the Fund will be on unlocking homes on brownfield land to create additional housing. Ministers are finalising the details of how it will operate and are clear that the role of local authorities such as Pendle Borough Council will be crucial.

### Drugs: Prices

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the pharmaceutical industry about the costs of new treatments for cancer and rare diseases. [HL264]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Ensuring that the National Health Service is able to support the availability and use of effective medicines for cancer and rare conditions is a key priority for this Government. We continue to work with the pharmaceutical industry on a range of issues, including the pricing of new medicines, through mechanisms such as the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme.

The Cancer Drugs Fund has already helped over 72,000 people and this year £340 million will be provided so people get the drugs they need. A working party made up of NHS England, cancer charities, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, the Ethical Medicines Industry Group and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry is looking at options for the sustainable long-term commissioning of cancer drugs.

We take the issue of ensuring rapid access to innovative therapies very seriously, which is why we have launched an Accelerated Access Review to make recommendations to Government later in the year on speeding up access for NHS patients to innovative and cost effective new medicines, diagnostics and medical technologies.



## FIFA

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with United Kingdom businesses that sponsor FIFA regarding how to achieve more accessible, efficient, transparent and accountable management of that organisation. [HL138]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government acknowledges and welcomes the important role of FIFA's sponsors in pushing for reform of FIFA. To date, the Government has not had any discussions with FIFA sponsors about the management of FIFA. FIFA's sponsors will be aware of Government's views that urgent reform of FIFA is needed, however it remains a decision for them as to how they now choose to work with FIFA following Sepp Blatter's resignation.

## Forests

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have regarding the future ownership and management of the forestry estate. [HL298]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** As set out in our manifesto we will ensure that our public forests and woodlands are kept in trust for the nation in line with the 2012 Independent Panel on Forestry's recommendations. A great deal of preparatory work has already taken place, in which key interested parties have been involved. In the meantime, the estate will remain secure in the care of the Forestry Commission.

## Fracking

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in respect of which areas (1) they have granted licences for exploratory drilling in relation to fracking, (2) applications have been made for such licences but have not yet been determined, and (3) applications have been made for planning permission relating to exploratory drilling for fracking. [HL296]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDLs) are not specific to shale gas. They grant exclusive rights to extract hydrocarbons, including shale gas but also other forms, within a particular onshore area. A separate consent is required before any drilling or hydraulic fracturing (fracking) can take place. So far the Government has granted hydraulic fracking consent for shale to Cuadrilla's Lancashire operations.

The Oil & Gas Authority does not have any undetermined consent applications. Applications for new PEDLs under the 14<sup>th</sup> Onshore Licensing Round are being considered – 95 applications for 295 licence blocks have been made.

Planning permission is a matter for the local Mineral Planning Authority. However, the applications submitted by Cuadrilla in Lancashire and by Third Energy in North Yorkshire are in the public domain.

## Gaming Machines

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of reducing the maximum stake for fixed odds betting terminals from £100 to £2. [HL160]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We conducted a review of stakes and prizes during the last triennial review in 2013 and acknowledged the lack of evidence on whether FOBT gaming machines and related stake size in themselves have had any significant effect on the level of problem gambling in Britain. However, recognising that harm can be caused by gambling, including machine gambling, the government brought in restrictions for the maximum unsupervised stake on FOBTs.

More time is needed for these changes to bed in before drawing conclusions as to their effectiveness. The Government continues to monitor the effects of existing controls and if need be will take action if these controls are found to be insufficient.

## General Practitioners: Private Sector

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Exeter Medical School showing that private general practitioner out-of-hours care providers in England provided a worse service than the NHS or not-for-profit equivalent. [HL191]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We are aware of the recent research, which found that on average, less positive patient experiences were associated with commercial providers of out-of-hours general practitioner (GP) care in England, but that the best commercial providers scored higher than many of the National Health Service and not-for-profit providers. The research suggests that further work is required to understand the reasons for this.

We know that there are variations and examples of good practice among all providers; recent inspections of out-of-hours GP services conducted by the Care Quality Commission found many examples of good practice, but also highlighted areas for improvement.

All out-of-hours providers must meet national quality requirements that include sharing details of the patient's medical history and care plan and ensuring that the patient is treated by the clinician best equipped to meet their needs.

NHS England must support clinical commissioning groups to meet the national quality standards and act appropriately to any concerns arising. GP practices that do not provide out of hours services to their own patients are required to monitor the quality of the out of hours

services that are offered or provided to its registered patients having regard to the national quality standards and record, and act appropriately in relation to, any concerns arising.

### Government Departments: Empty Property

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many vacant houses and flats are owned by government departments or agencies; and what plans they have either to bring them into use or to redevelop their sites. [HL217]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government Property Unit in the Cabinet Office is working with departments to reduce vacant space across the estate.

Since May 2010, we have reduced our Estate by 2 million square metres, saving over £625 million in running costs and generating £1.4 billion in capital receipts. On 31st March 2014 only 2.4% (204,327 sq m) of space was vacant across the mandated Civil Estate, well below the reported national average of 8.8%.

Information on the number of vacant houses and flats owned by departments or their agencies is not held centrally.

### Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Asked by **The Countess of Mar**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, to date, how many adverse reactions to (1) Cervarix, (2) Gardasil and (3) generic human papilloma virus vaccines have been reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency; for each category, how many of those reports are of serious adverse reactions; and what age-specific rate those figures represent. [HL229]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** A total of 8,243 suspected adverse drug reaction (ADR) reports with human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines have been reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), via the Yellow Card Scheme, up to 3 June 2015.

To date, more than 8 million doses of HPV vaccine have been given across the United Kingdom as part of the routine immunisation programme. The MHRA does not hold data on age-specific vaccine usage, and therefore age-specific reporting rates cannot be calculated.

It is important to note that a Yellow Card report is not proof of a side effect occurring, but a suspicion by the reporter that the vaccine may have been the cause. Yellow Card data cannot be used as a reliable indicator of the frequency of suspected ADRs to vaccines or medicines. The level of ADR reporting may fluctuate between given years due to a variety of reasons such as a medicine being new (reporting rates are generally higher when a product is first introduced), stimulated interest/publicity and variations in exposure to the medicine.

The possible known side effects, and the frequency, are listed in the product information which is provided with the vaccines. The vast majority of the 8,243 ADRs relate to the known risks of vaccination that are well-described in the available product information. The proportion of suspected ADRs for HPV vaccines that were reported as serious (32%) is less than the proportion reported as serious for other routinely used vaccines (68% overall) during the same time period. The expected benefits in protecting against HPV-related mortality and disease outweigh the known side effects of HPV vaccine.

The following table provides a breakdown of UK suspected spontaneous ADRs received via the Yellow Card Scheme in association with the HPV vaccine. The MHRA does not hold data on age-specific vaccine usage, and therefore age-specific reporting rates cannot be calculated.

Vaccine Brand	Total number of reports	Number of serious reports (% of total)	Reporting rate per 1000 doses (serious reporting rates per 1000)
Cervarix	6,266	1,768 (28%)	0.78 (0.22)
Gardasil	1,471	504 (34%)	0.18 (0.06)
HPV Brand unspecified	507	326 (64%)	0.06 (0.04)
Total for Human Papilloma virus vaccines	*8,244	2,598 (32%)	1.03 (0.32)

Source: MHRA sentinel database for adverse reactions.

\* It should be noted that the total number of reports received will not be equal to the totals in the table above as some reports of suspected adverse reactions may have included more than one vaccine.

The seriousness criteria for ADR reporting were determined by a working group of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) and are defined as 6 possible categories which are explained on the Yellow Card. The MHRA asks reporters to select one of the following criteria by ticking the appropriate box on the Yellow Card: (1) patient died due to reaction; (2) life threatening; (3) resulted in hospitalisation or prolonged inpatient hospitalisation; (4) congenital abnormality; and (5) involved persistent or significant disability or incapacity; or (6) if the reaction was deemed medically significant. In addition to this, seriousness of reaction terms has also been defined by the MHRA in its medical dictionary. Therefore an ADR report can be serious because the reporter considers the reaction to be serious or because the reaction term itself is considered serious in the MHRA medical dictionary.

### In Vitro Fertilisation

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with other governments regarding the decision of the United Kingdom to permit germline modifications for the purposes of preventing the

transmission of mitochondrial disease; and what, if any, concerns were raised during those discussions. [HL182]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has had no discussions with other international governments about Parliament's decision to pass the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Mitochondrial Donation) Regulations 2015. Although a matter reserved to the Westminster Parliament, the Government has kept the Devolved Administrations informed about the development of these regulations. Information is not routinely collected by the Department about other countries' approaches to addressing mitochondrial disease.

The Government has made no formal assessment of the statement by Mr John Holdren, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, however we understand that his comments were not in relation to mitochondrial donation.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they collect information on whether other countries permit germline modification for the purposes of preventing the transmission of mitochondrial disease. [HL183]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement of the government of the United States on 26 May that "altering the human germline for clinical purposes is a line that should not be crossed at this time"; and the statement by the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy that "the full implications of such a step could not be known until a number of generations had inherited the genetic changes made – and choices made in one country could affect all of us". [HL184]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has had no discussions with other international governments about Parliament's decision to pass the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Mitochondrial Donation) Regulations 2015. Although a matter reserved to the Westminster Parliament, the Government has kept the Devolved Administrations informed about the development of these regulations. Information is not routinely collected by the Department about other countries' approaches to addressing mitochondrial disease.

The Government has made no formal assessment of the statement by Mr John Holdren, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, however we understand that his comments were not in relation to mitochondrial donation.

*Asked by Lord Winston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many human eggs were frozen in the last six years by centres registered by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority; and how many of those eggs were frozen by (1) the slow-cooling method, and (2) the process of vitrification. [HL223]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that the number of human eggs frozen between 2008 and 2013, the last six years for which data is available, by centres registered by the Authority, is 24,406. The HFEA does not hold information on the method of freezing, vitrification or slow cooling, during this period.

*Asked by Lord Winston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average age of women submitting their oocytes for freezing in the last six years; and how many were undertaking the process (1) as a result of cancer or similar treatment, and (2) for social reasons. [HL224]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that the average (mean) age of women freezing eggs for their own use was 34. The age of egg donors (i.e. freezing eggs for donation) is limited by professional guidelines. The HFEA does not hold information on the reasons for egg freezing during this period.

*Asked by Lord Winston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many human eggs frozen by slow-cooling have been (1) thawed, and (2) fertilised, in the last six years; how many of those have (a) developed into embryos, and (b) been transferred to a recipient uterus; and of those transferred, how many have developed into pregnancies, and how many (i) live births, and (ii) early pregnancy losses or stillbirth, have resulted. [HL225]

*Asked by Lord Winston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many human eggs frozen by vitrification have been (1) thawed, and (2) fertilised, in the last six years; how many of those have (a) developed into embryos, and (b) been transferred to a recipient uterus; and of those transferred, how many have developed into pregnancies, and how many (i) live births, and (ii) early pregnancy losses or stillbirth, have resulted. [HL226]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that it does not hold information on the method of freezing, vitrification or slow-cooling, during this period. The HFEA collects data on the other information requested on treatments and outcomes but cannot break this down by method of freezing. The relevant information held by the HFEA, as indicated on the treatment form completed at the time, is set out in the attached tables.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Treatment form information tables [HL225\_HL226 Tables.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-02/HL225>

*Asked by Lord Winston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure the follow-up of children born after fertilisation of frozen oocytes, in particular to understand any epigenetic or other deleterious effects that might be associated with egg freezing. [HL227]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that, as part of its Information for Quality program, it will in future collect information on the methods of freezing, vitrification or slow-freeze. The HFEA will also work closely with researchers to enable longer term research.

### **Iraq: Military Aid**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how long the deployment of army personnel to Iraq to provide training to the Iraqi security forces is planned to last. [HL356]

**Earl Howe:** The Government has been clear that dealing with this threat will take time and patience. Our intention is to provide support to the Iraqi Government whilst the Iraqi Government still requests it and we believe it to be needed.

### **Legislation**

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what procedures they have put in place to ensure that legislative proposals have been adequately discussed and agreed by committees of the Cabinet and the Cabinet before being announced. [HL201]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Parliamentary Business and Legislation Committee is tasked with overseeing the Government's legislative programme. The Government does not comment on the proceedings of Cabinet or its committees.

Information on the legislative process is available on the [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) website. A copy of 'Guide to Making Legislation' has been attached for ease.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Guide to Making Legislation  
[Guide\_to\_Making\_Legislation\_July\_2014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-02/HL201>

### **Lung Cancer: Drugs**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve lung cancer therapy available on the NHS in the light of the recent trial of Nivolumab. [HL234]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Nivolumab for previously treated locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer was referred to the National Institute for Care Excellence (NICE) in March 2015. The development of the appraisal is expected to start shortly, and NICE is anticipating final guidance to be issued in May 2016.

### **Marriage**

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their definition of marriage. [HL202]

**Lord Faulks:** There is no single legal definition of marriage. Marriage in England and Wales is a legal relationship between two people that is provided for by the Marriage Act 1949, as amended.

### **Merlin Helicopters**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether plans have been developed and exercised to use the new Merlin Mk2 helicopters to fill the reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare gap in the North-west Approaches, and the Greenland, Iceland and United Kingdom gaps, left by cancellation of the Nimrod programme. [HL334]

**Earl Howe:** Merlin Mk2 Helicopters have been utilised in support of exercises and operations and remain at readiness to do so.

A decision on whether to take further steps to mitigate the maritime surveillance capability gap will be part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

### **Minimum Wage**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of how many people who work 37.5 hours per week or more (1) receive benefits and (2) would receive benefits if the minimum wage were increased to the living wage. [HL257]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Revenue and Customs does not hold the information requested.

### **National Parks**

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timetable for decisions on the proposals to extend the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales national parks. [HL274]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** A public inquiry into Natural England's proposals to extend the boundaries of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks was held in June 2013. The inspector's report has been



submitted to Defra and is now being considered. The Secretary of State will issue her decisions in due course.

### Public Bodies

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the case for, and powers of, the existing non-ministerial departments, agencies and other public bodies. [HL204]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government's Public Bodies Reform Programme, introduced in 2010, has reduced the number of arm's-length bodies, including executive agencies and non-ministerial departments, by a third. To date, this has delivered cumulative savings in excess of £2.6bn.

As part of this Programme, there is a requirement that both non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies are subject to regular review.

### Public Sector: Investment

*Asked by Lord Kinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to increase the level of public sector net investment set out in the December 2014 Office of Budget Responsibility Economic and Fiscal Outlook to a level above 1.3 per cent of gross domestic product for the 2016–17 financial year, and to a level above 1.2 per cent of gross domestic product for the 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20 financial years. [HL255]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The most recent forecasts for Public Sector Net Investment by the Office for Budget Responsibility can be found in their March 2015 Economic and Fiscal Outlook. The government will set out its plans for spending beyond 2015-16 later this year.

### Seas and Oceans: Surveillance

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the requirements of the Border Force, HM Revenue and Customs, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and other government departments and agencies in United Kingdom waters are part of the work on future maritime surveillance informing the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and if so, what is the composition of the team responsible for the maritime work. [HL336]

**Earl Howe:** Work has now begun on the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). The process is still in the early stages and is being led by the Cabinet Office in close consultation with all relevant departments and agencies. The National Maritime Security Committee, a cross-government group with responsibility for this area of policy, will feed their work into the SDSR.

### Taxpayers against Poverty

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when and how they plan to reply to the 19 May letter to the Prime Minister from Taxpayers Against Poverty. [HL219]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** As far as I am aware, the Prime Minister's Office has not received this letter.

### Trident

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent is vulnerable to espionage as a result of insufficient maritime patrol surveillance. [HL355]

**Earl Howe:** The Government takes its responsibilities for maintaining a credible nuclear deterrent extremely seriously and continually conducts assessments to ensure that the required security and operational effectiveness standards are met. I am not prepared to comment on any further details as this could allow conclusions to be drawn on the UK's capabilities.

### UK Membership of EU

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment, if any, they have made of the economic analysis in the report A Blueprint for Britain: Openness not Isolation. [HL258]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** In order to inform policy making, the government reviews and notes the wider evidence on key international economic questions on an ongoing basis.

The Government has a clear mandate to improve Britain's relationship with the rest of the EU, and to reform the EU so that it creates jobs and increases living standards for all its citizens.

The Prime Minister has started to discuss his plans for EU reform and renegotiation with other EU leaders. He has been clear that the plans involve reforming welfare and immigration rules, increasing economic competitiveness and cutting red tape to create jobs and growth for hard working families, and protecting Britain's interests outside the euro.

It also means halting the constant flow of powers to Brussels including by ensuring a stronger role for national Parliaments. The Government will hold an in/out referendum on the UK's membership of the EU by the end of 2017.

### Universal Credit: Disqualification

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to publish statistics on sanctions imposed under



the universal credit scheme as it is brought into effect.  
[HL402]

**Lord Freud:** The Department published its strategy for releasing official statistics on Universal Credit in September 2013. As outlined in the strategy, officials are

quality assuring data for Universal Credit and formulating a definitive list of what statistics will be provided in the future.

These statistics will be published in accordance with the relevant protocols in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

## Written Answers

Wednesday, 17 June 2015

### A1: Nottinghamshire

Asked by *Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 8 June (HL105), what "significant problems" caused the cost of the A1 roadworks near Gamston Airfield almost to double; and whether the contractor will be deleted from the list of approved contractors. [HL349]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The significant problems encountered by Highways England and their contractors were:-

- the removal and treatment of a previously unidentified old contaminated landfill site which was buried in woodland and unknown at the tender stage,
- the need to excavate old concrete/tarmac within the central grassed reservation which was not identified by site surveys at the tender stage,
- the need for an additional infiltration pond,
- a change to the central pier design which while increasing short term costs will save long term maintenance costs.

Discussions with the contractors are ongoing. Highways England does not hold lists of contractors but is able to take into account past performance as part of their procurement process.

### Advertising: Children

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Impact Report 2015 by Bye Buy Childhood, what plans they have to work with the regulators to strengthen penalties against companies who repeatedly have complaints about their advertising upheld. [HL159]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Advertising in the UK is controlled through a system of co-regulation and self-regulation, enforced by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). The Government supports the ASA's aim to take action against all misleading, harmful or offensive advertising and ensure compliance across all sectors. ASA has a range of sanctions it can take against non-compliant advertisers, including Ad Alerts to the media, withdrawal of trading privileges, mandatory pre-vetting and ultimately referral to Trading Standards. There are no current plans to strengthen these sanctions, but they are kept under review.

### Africa: Refugees

Asked by *Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the willingness of their African

development partners to address at source the underlying causes of the increase in the number of their citizens seeking to enter the European Union through irregular migration. [HL214]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The EU-African Union (AU) Summit Declaration in 2014 reiterated a shared commitment to tackling irregular migration in a comprehensive manner, including by addressing the root causes. Since then EU and African countries have worked together closely through the Khartoum and Rabat Processes, which include commitments to promote sustainable development in countries of origin. The EU and AU will hold a Summit on migration in Malta later this year to drive this work forward. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (Mr Duddridge), will also discuss tackling irregular migration with African partners at the upcoming AU Summit in Johannesburg.

### Burma: Ethnic Groups

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent the persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar; and when they last held discussions with the government of Myanmar on this subject. [HL354]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have raised our serious concern at the situation of the Rohingya community in all of our recent Ministerial contacts with the Burmese government. On 18 May, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), called the Burmese Ambassador in London to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to express our concern at the situation of Rohingya and the related migrant crisis in the Bay of Bengal. He made clear the need for Burma to work towards a long-term solution that brings peace and reconciliation and ensures the civil and human rights of all communities within Rakhine State. The UK is one of the largest bilateral humanitarian donors in Rakhine State. We have invested over £18m in humanitarian support there since 2012.

### Channel Tunnel Railway Line: High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by *Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to building a rail link between the terminus of High Speed 2 at Euston station and the terminus of High Speed 1 at St Pancras International station. [HL396]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The High Speed 2 Phase One hybrid Bill includes a link to High Speed 1. It has been decided not to take forward this rail link. However, a study has been commissioned into better connectivity to

the Continent which is due to report later this year. Whilst there are currently no plans to provide a rail link between Euston and St Pancras, we are looking at how connectivity between the two stations can be improved.

### **Cycling: Accidents**

*Asked by Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps, if any, they have taken since 1 May to reduce fatalities to cyclists caused by heavy goods vehicles. [HL262]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Since 1 May 2015, the Department for Transport has not taken any specific, additional steps to directly reduce the number of fatalities to cyclists caused by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).

However, improving road safety including the reduction of cyclists killed or seriously injured on the roads, particularly by HGVs is a subject that we take extremely seriously. The Department continues to work to improve the safety of cyclists and the reduction of cyclist fatalities, through actions including regulations impacting on the design of vehicles, and education campaigns aimed at both drivers and cyclists, for example the THINK! "tips" campaign.

This THINK! campaign uses a series of practical tips to advise and remind both groups of the rules of the road and the positive actions they can take to help reduce cyclist casualties.

The campaign previously ran in Autumn 2013 and Spring 2014 using paid-for roadside advertising in five cities where cycling KSIs are over represented - Cambridge, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and Birmingham.

THINK! repeated the campaign in these five cities in March 2015, to build on awareness and knowledge of the tips amongst drivers and cyclists. In addition, the campaign was also extended to seven additional cities - Southampton, Newcastle, Portsmouth, Bradford, Kingston upon Hull, Brighton and Hove and Liverpool, these were selected as they also have high levels cyclists being killed or seriously injured (KSIs).

Later this year, the Department will be commencing Section 21 of the Infrastructure Act 2015, and consulting on a Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS). The safety of cyclists and our plans to tackle cyclist fatalities caused by all vehicle types, including HGVs will form a key part of the CWIS document.

*Asked by Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have issued any guidance on performance and evaluation criteria for equipment designed to reduce collisions between heavy goods vehicles and cyclists. [HL263]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport has not issued guidance on additional equipment fitted to heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), although officials are actively participating in work commissioned by Transport for London (TfL) to develop an independent methodology for performance and

evaluation criteria for the effectiveness of such equipment. TfL is aiming for the methodology to be validated and available in the Autumn.

Prior to entry into service, new heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) already require approval of mirrors, including their field of view and correct attachment to the vehicle. Information on these requirements is publicly available.

### **Driving: Licensing**

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the difficulties caused by recent changes in policies relating to the issuing of driving licences to elderly motorists and other motorists who either do not use the internet or do not have easy access to the internet. [HL405]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has introduced a number of services for drivers and others to obtain the information that was previously held on the paper counterpart to the driving licence. These include an online service, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Drivers who cannot or do not wish to use the online service can telephone the DVLA to obtain a code which will allow them to share their driving licence details if they wish to do so. Drivers can also give permission to the DVLA for certain information from their record to be given verbally over the telephone to a nominated person or organisation.

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advance publicity was made to advertise recent driving licence policy changes at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [HL408]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) utilised media, online and direct mail channels to inform customers and businesses about the abolition of the paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence. The DVLA also engaged directly with trade organisations and car hire companies who may need to check the status of drivers. Since March 2015, the DVLA has written directly to 640,000 professional bus and lorry drivers and sent information to around a million drivers each month with driving licence renewals. Information on GOV.UK about the change has been viewed more than 2.6 million times and DVLA representatives took part in 40 pre-planned broadcast interviews on 8 June, the day the change was introduced.

### **Egypt: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Egypt about human rights violations, and in particular arbitrary and unlawful killings and the disappearances

of civilians, detentions without trial and arbitrary arrests of human rights lawyers, government pressure on the media and trades unions, and impunity for members of the army and police. [HL362]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We raise our human rights concerns regularly with representatives of the Egyptian government. On 17 May the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised our concerns over the sentencing to death of over one hundred individuals, including former President Morsi, with the Egyptian Ambassador in London. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials have also discussed this case and other human rights concerns with representatives of the Egyptian government.

We continue to believe that stability and prosperity in Egypt is dependent on open and inclusive politics and on full respect for the rights contained in the Egyptian constitution. That is why in recent months FCO Ministers have asked the Egyptian authorities to take action to release journalists and political detainees who remain imprisoned, to review mass judicial decisions, and to remove restrictions on civil society.

### Eritrea: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about the safety of the Eritrean refugees abducted by ISIS in Libya on 3 June. [HL361]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is aware of reports that 86 Eritrean nationals were abducted in Libya on 3 June by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. We have no further information at this time about what has happened to them. We have seen appalling acts of terror inside Libya, including the targeting of others because of their faith. This strengthens our determination to work with our international partners to counter the terrorist threat in Libya and the region, and to support UN efforts to find a lasting political solution.

### European Parliament Members: Allowances

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much each Member of the European Parliament is entitled to claim per year for staff costs; and whether the level of funding made available to MEPs forms part of their reform agenda. [HL310]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Members of the European Parliament (MEP) may choose their own staff, within a maximum budget set by the European Parliament of €21,379 per MEP per month. None of these funds are paid to the MEPs themselves. Since 2009, MEPs may no longer have close relatives among their staff.

The British Government has pushed hard for reform of MEPs' salary and allowances in order to introduce

transparency and accountability. There has been some progress. For example, MEPs must attend and vote at sessions of the European Parliament to receive their full allowances and may reclaim travel costs on presentation of receipts only.

In general, the Government is pushing for greater transparency and budgetary restraint in EU spending. The EU institutions have an important role to play and should be held to the same resource constraints as Member States.

The Government achieved the first ever reduction in the EU's budget in 2014 which shows that change is possible.

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Recruitment

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to recruit Russian experts to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and how many fluent Russian speakers have been recruited since March 2015. [HL353]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Since 2010 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has increased from 43 to 56 the number of Russian speakers posted to Russia and the former Soviet Union. Full language training is given to all FCO officers who require it for their postings.

We have also launched an Eastern Europe and Central Asia cadre of experts in March of this year – already counting 400 members – designed to pool experience and underpin a first class foreign policy towards Russia and the region.

We have also re-opened the FCO Language School that had been closed down in 2007.

Although we have recruited no Russian speakers since March 2015, we expect three Russian speakers to join the FCO later this year.

### General Practitioners

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the results of a survey on behalf of Monitor, which found that one in ten people are dissatisfied with their general practitioner surgery. [HL235]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** On 1 June 2015, Monitor published *Improving GP Services: Commissioners and Patient Choice*, which included the findings of a nationally representative survey conducted by Ipsos Mori.

The report noted a high level of satisfaction with general practice overall. It found that 81% of patients were satisfied with their general practitioner (GP) practice, while only 10% were dissatisfied.

Monitor's report found that, after location, patients most value the ease of getting an appointment when choosing a GP practice. In order to improve access for

patients, the Government has invested £175 million over two years through the Prime Minister's GP Access Fund. This is testing improved and innovative access to GP services through longer opening hours, such as at evenings and weekends, but also different ways of accessing services, for example the use of Skype consultations. Altogether, there are now 57 schemes covering over 2,500 practices, meaning that over 18 million patients are expected to benefit from improved access and transformational change at local level by March 2016.

Additionally, the Primary Care Infrastructure Fund is investing £1 billion and £25 million as part of the Prime Minister's GP Access Fund, over four years to improve premises and information technology, which will also improve access.

### Homelessness: Young People

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that 16 and 17 year-olds presenting as homeless receive a seamless joint assessment from Children's Services and Housing Services. [HL238]

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to legislate to prevent under-18s from being considered intentionally homeless and therefore having state support withdrawn. [HL239]

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by The Children's Society Getting the house in order, which found that few 16 and 17 year-olds are being properly assessed and supported when they present as homeless. [HL240]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education is clear about how local authorities should support 16 and 17 year-olds presenting as homeless. The report from the Children's Society, 'Getting the house in order' reminds local authorities to ensure that under-18s who are homeless receive the help they need. The government has no current plans to legislate on this issue, but we are taking action to ensure that all homeless people have access to the help that they need: we have invested £500 million in homelessness services, including funding for the development of the 'Youth accommodation pathway' service model. This is designed to support all young people remain in the family home where it is safe to do so, and offer tailored support options for those that cannot remain in the family home, including supported accommodation as a starting point for 16- to 17-year-olds.

With regard to 16- to 17-year-old care leavers, revised statutory guidance was issued to local authorities in 2010, setting out how they can better meet the needs of this group. It makes clear that local authorities should work pro-actively with young people and their families to identify and resolve issues which have led them to become homeless. The guidance also underlines the

importance of effective agency collaboration between Children's Services and Housing Services.

The guidance reminds Housing Services that applicants cannot be considered to have become homeless intentionally if they fail to take up an offer of accommodation; the guidance says that homelessness can only be deemed to be 'intentional' where the applicant has ceased to occupy accommodation that it would have been reasonable for him or her to continue to occupy. Local authorities that do not follow these procedures are open to legal challenge. The full statutory guidance on the provision of accommodation for 16- to 17-year-olds who may be homeless or require accommodation can be accessed on GOV.UK.

Since 2013, Ofsted inspections of local authorities' children's social care services have included a separate sub-judgement on care leavers, which includes an assessment of whether the local authority is ensuring that care leavers have access to suitable accommodation. Where Ofsted judges that a local authority's social care services are inadequate, the department may intervene to secure necessary improvements in the quality of care that is provided.

### Housing: Construction

Asked by *Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the regional distribution of the public sector land in England that they expect to release for the building of new homes; and how much of this land they expect to be brownfield. [HL299]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is committed to releasing surplus public sector land with capacity for up to 150,000 homes by 2020. It is important that we prioritise the release of land where there is housing need. We are clear that brownfield land that is suitable for housing has a vital role to play in meeting the need for new homes, and ensuring that the Green Belt is protected.

Government Departments are reviewing their land holdings in order to identify suitable surplus public sector land to meet the commitment. We also expect local authorities to consider how they can release their surplus land.

### Ilois: Resettlement

Asked by *Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking on the possible resettlement of the Chagos Islands; which departments are conducting this work; and whether they will publish any further conclusions they reach on the feasibility and costs of resettlement by those exiles and their descendants who wish to return. [HL280]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I refer the noble Lord to the Written Ministerial Statement of 24 March 2015 made



by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (James Duddridge), which I repeated the same day in the House of Lords, (HLWS440).

Further work building on the independent KPMG Feasibility Study is now underway to seek to clarify fundamental uncertainties around the likely costs, ongoing liabilities and potential demand for resettlement. This is being led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in close collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, and we will explain our conclusions to interested parties in due course.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) what assessment they have made of the government of Israel's changing policy towards Hamas, and (2) what support they will give to Hamas in policing the Salafist jihadist movement and ISIS in Gaza. [HL343]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government of Israel proscribes the whole of Hamas and the law in Israel therefore prohibits any discussion with the organisation. We are not aware of any change in this policy. While the British Government proscribes only the military wing of Hamas, we have no contacts with Hamas. Our policy on Hamas remains clear: they must renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept previously signed agreements.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the government of Israel concerning the number of children killed and injured in the West Bank and Gaza, in the light of the current UN debate on Israel's inclusion on the list of countries which violate children's rights. [HL344]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raise the issue of excessive use of force with the Israeli government and security figures including on cases of children injured and killed. Officials last raised issues surrounding the welfare of Palestinian children with the Israeli Ministry of Justice on 2 June.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the government of Israel concerning the 64 Palestinians, including nine children, who were injured by Israeli Forces in the West Bank during the week ending 1 June. [HL345]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have not raised these incidents with the Israeli authorities, we do regularly raise our concerns with representatives of the Israeli security forces on the use of lethal and non-lethal ammunition.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the government of Israel concerning the State Attorney's decision to file an indictment for only a minor offence in the case of 16 year-old Samir Awad. [HL346]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have not yet raised the latest update on the Samir Awad case with the Israeli authorities, but they are planning to do so at the next relevant meeting. We understand that the Israeli State Attorney's office made the decision to charge the respective soldiers in this case with reckless and negligent use of firearms. This decision came from the Israel Defence Forces' assessment that it was not clear which of the soldiers fired the firearms. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv is concerned about the high rate of criminal investigations into the fatal shootings of Palestinians that are closed without indictments. They regularly meet with senior Israeli authorities in the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Office, Military Advocate General's office, State Comptroller, National Security Council and other government bodies to lobby on this issue.

### Merlin Helicopters

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all Merlin Mk2 helicopters will have been fitted with Nimrod MRA4 anti-submarine technology by October 2016. [HL335]

**Earl Howe:** The appropriate elements of the anti-submarine technology originally planned for Nimrod MRA4 are part of a modification programme to all of the Royal Navy's Merlin Mk2. This capability will be progressively delivered from March 2016. It is expected that all Merlin Mk2, subject to operational constraints, will be upgraded to this standard by October 2016.

### Middle East: Nuclear Weapons

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the threat to stability in the Middle East of a nuclear-armed Israel; and what action they will take to discourage nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. [HL352]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK notes that Israel has neither confirmed nor denied that it possesses nuclear weapons. Israel is the only state in the region not to have acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The British Government continues to call on Israel to do so as a non nuclear weapon state. In that regard we also call on Israel to agree a full scope Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The UK will continue to discourage nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, including by working

with E3+3 (China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the UK, and the US) partners and Iran to negotiate a comprehensive deal on Iran's nuclear programme, supporting efforts to tackle the deep seated regional tensions and genuine security concerns in the region, as well as working towards holding a conference on establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

### Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what savings have been made at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency through not issuing tax badges for displaying on cars, and what assessment has been made of potential losses in tax revenue through increased difficulty in identifying non-payers. [HL407]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) collects £6 billion in vehicle excise duty every year. The changes to the administration of vehicle excise duty are expected to save the DVLA £13.8m each year. A breakdown of these savings is shown below:

No longer having to print or store tax discs.	£1.3m pa
No longer having to post tax discs to customers.	£7.9m pa
No longer having to process applications for vehicle excise duty refunds (which are now paid automatically without the need for an application) or handle enquiries about lost or missing tax discs.	£1.2m pa
Reduction in Post Office Ltd costs as they no longer issue paper tax discs, but offer an assisted digital service instead.	£3.4m pa

Businesses will also save an estimated £8.6m each year from not having to post tax discs to customers, apply for refunds of vehicle excise duty and pay to replace lost or stolen tax discs.

The Tax Impact and Information Note published by Her Majesty's Treasury alongside the Finance Bill 2014 stated that abolition of the tax disc was not expected to have an Exchequer impact. The DVLA operates a comprehensive package of measures to tackle vehicle excise duty evasion. These range from the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera, reminder letters, and penalties through to court prosecutions and the wheelclamping and/or removal of unlicensed vehicles. This approach has not changed following abolition of the tax disc. The DVLA will continue to monitor vehicle excise duty evasion rates.

### Motor Vehicles: Hire Services

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will investigate the difficulties reported as having been caused by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

policies in relation to the hiring of motor vehicles. [HL404]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence was abolished on 8 June 2015 as part of the Red Tape Challenge commitments. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) introduced a number of services for drivers and others to obtain the information that was previously held on the counterpart. These include an online service.

There was a slowdown in service on 8 June, when high demand led to some customers being unable to access the online service. During this period, the DVLA increased the number of available telephone lines in its contact centre. This meant that all customers who needed a code to be able to share their driving licence details with third parties, including car hire companies, could get one. In the week commencing 8 June, the DVLA answered all calls to the dedicated local rate telephone service to check driving licence details within one minute 55 seconds.

The issue with the DVLA's online service was fixed at around 1am on 9 June and the service has been working as it should since. More than 280,000 customers have successfully used the online service between Monday 8 June and Thursday 11 June and more than 83,000 check codes have been generated. Also, more than 18,000 check codes have been redeemed by third parties to check the details on the driving licences.

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what level of telephone service was available recently at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for motorists who wished to prove their credentials in order to hire cars following recent changes in policy. [HL406]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** To prepare for the abolition of the paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) increased the number of telephone lines by 50% and staffing levels by 28%.

This has successfully addressed the 18% increase in the number of calls received. In the week commencing 8 June, the DVLA answered all calls to the dedicated local rate telephone service to check driving licence details, within one minute 55 seconds.

### Navy: Vehicles

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Astor of Hever on 25 October 2013 (WA 203-4), whether the decision has now been made whether the Royal Navy should own and operate shore- and sea-based drones for maritime operation and wide area ocean surveillance. [HL333]

**Earl Howe:** Royal Navy plans include the use of ship launched and recovered Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). These plans do not currently include the operation

of land-based systems, but the ability for sea-based UAS to be used ashore may be considered in the future.

### Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether part of the United Kingdom's net contribution to the European Union development aid budget should be counted in the calculation of the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for overseas aid. [HL285]

**Baroness Verma:** The majority of the External Assistance Budget of the European Commission is deemed to be official development assistance eligible, and therefore is included in the calculation of the 0.7 per cent of gross national income.

### Russia: Propaganda

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what capacity they have immediately available to counter misleading propaganda by official and unofficial Russian sources; and what plans they have for using it. [HL311]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government uses a range of tools to counter Russian propaganda: corrective statements, social media (as exemplified by our Embassy in Kyiv's Twitter feed @UKinUkraine), and regular contact with traditional media via Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and our Embassies in Europe and the Former Soviet Union. We coordinate with like minded international partners such as the US on this work.

We have also funded £1.2m of projects in the last financial year to support strategic communications in Ukraine, and are increasing this spend by 50% this year. Additionally, the Good Governance Fund (£20m, covering Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina) will fund projects which support independent, pluralistic and reliable media in the region.

### Russia: Sanctions

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all members of the Russian cabinet, together with senior officials in executive and military posts, are covered by existing sanctions and travel bans. [HL312]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** EU sanctions are designed to impose a cost on Russia for its illegal actions in Ukraine. So far the EU has listed 151 individuals in line with the designation criteria agreed by the Council. The EU has focused on listing Russians who have (amongst other things) been associated with, voiced support for, and been held responsible for destabilising eastern Ukraine and annexing Crimea.

### Saudi Arabia

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Saudi Arabia concerning the funding of extremist jihadi movements, such as ISIS, and its steps to propagate Wahhabism outside Saudi Arabia. [HL348]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and his Saudi Arabian counterpart both attended the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) Coalition Small Group Ministerial meeting in Paris on 2 June. In addition to the plenary meeting, the Foreign Secretary discussed ISIL with Ministers from across the Gulf Cooperation Council, including a separate bilateral meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al Jubeir. With ISIL on its doorstep in Iraq and Syria, and following the attacks on 22 and 29 May at two mosques in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom is a key part of international efforts to defeat ISIL. The King and the religious establishment continue to condemn ISIL clearly and publicly, and emphasise that they do not in any way represent the teachings of the Islamic faith. The Saudi Arabian government is working to reduce the threat that religious extremists pose in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, and has a comprehensive set of laws in place to prevent terrorist financing, which it enforces vigorously.

### Shaker Aamer

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the release of Mr Shaker Aamer following his clearance for release from Guantanamo Bay. [HL363]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Following the meeting on 16 January between the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), and President Obama, Mr Aamer's case has been prioritised for review through an interagency process which involves six government departments. The review is currently underway.

It is necessary for the British Government to keep the details of diplomatic discussions with the US Administration confidential. Any breach of the US Administration's expectation of confidentiality would be likely to hinder UK efforts to secure Mr Aamer's release and return.

However, Mr Aamer's case remains a high priority for the Government and we continue to make clear to the US that we want him released and returned to the UK as a matter of urgency. We are confident that the US government understands the seriousness of the UK's request for Mr Aamer's release.

### South Sudan: Armed Conflict

*Asked by **The Earl of Sandwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many newly displaced and malnourished people there are in South Sudan following the latest outbreak of fighting in Unity State. [HL282]

**Baroness Verma:** The exact numbers of newly displaced and malnourished people following the May outbreak of fighting in Unity State have yet to be confirmed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Due to the ongoing fighting, humanitarian access has been extremely limited, preventing assessment of the humanitarian impact. We expect an update in mid-June, following the launch of the mid-year review of the 2015 United Nations Humanitarian Response Plan in Geneva on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

*Asked by **The Earl of Sandwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the loss of food production this year owing to the conflict in South Sudan; and how they are assisting United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations to meet the food shortages in the affected areas. [HL283]

**Baroness Verma:** Since December 2013 over 2 million people have been displaced by the conflict in South Sudan with the majority now residing in refugee camps and reliant on humanitarian aid. While it is too early for assessments for crop production in 2015, widespread disruption to agriculture is predicted to continue across the country and internally displaced people will continue to be reliant on aid, particularly during the dry season.

Under the Humanitarian Response Plan, the United Nations has appealed for USD 1.7 billion for 2015. The UK is one of the top three donors to this plan.

*Asked by **The Earl of Sandwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to bring the parties to the conflict in South Sudan together; and what lessons have been learned from previous failures. [HL284]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly engage with both parties to the conflict to press them to end the conflict and secure peace. Most recently the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge), wrote to the South Sudanese Foreign Minister on 8 June calling on the Government of South Sudan to end the fighting and re-engage in peace talks. The failure of the parties to reach agreement in previous peace talks emphasises the need for consistent and united international pressure. We are in discussions with our partners on how the recently created UN sanctions mechanism can be best be used to force the parties to return to negotiations.

*Asked by **Baroness Cox***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of reports that the government of Sudan is supplying weapons to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition. [HL316]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned by recent reports claiming arms originating from Sudan have been used in the South Sudan conflict, and have raised this with the Government of Sudan, most recently with the new Sudanese Foreign Minister. We continue to call on all regional governments to focus their efforts on the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) peace process as the best means to resolve the current conflict in South Sudan and not to take any actions that could escalate the situation further.

### Syria

*Asked by **Lord Ahmed***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is an international peace plan regarding Syria. [HL389]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** A negotiated political transition in Syria remains the only way to end the conflict and alleviate Syria's humanitarian crisis. The Geneva Communiqué, agreed in June 2012, set out steps that must be in place to establish a transitional governing body, leading to full, free and fair elections in Syria. UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, is in consultations with the parties to the Syria conflict as well as the key regional and international powers, including the UK, to establish a route back to political talks. We continue to exchange views with Mr de Mistura and his team.

### Syria: Armed Conflict

*Asked by **Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to UNICEF's call for negotiations with Islamic State in Syria, with a view to persuading it to allow UNICEF into areas controlled by the militants. [HL338]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK continues to call on all sides to the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law and ensure free, unimpeded access for neutral and impartial humanitarian agencies to provide vital assistance to all those in need. The UK is providing £59.5 million to help over two million displaced Iraqis, and £800 million of humanitarian aid in response to the crisis in Syria, which is the largest ever UK response to a single humanitarian crisis. The UK continues to work to find a political solution to the Syrian conflict, and as part of a Global Coalition to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). We do not have any communication with ISIL.



## Syria: Refugees

Asked by *Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the refugee crisis resulting from the war in Syria, consideration will be given to increasing the United Kingdom's humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable Syrian refugees. [HL340]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK remains committed to alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable people in Syria and the region affected by the ongoing conflict. That is why our response in Syria and the region is our largest ever response to a humanitarian crisis. To date, the UK has allocated £422 million to support refugees in the region and vulnerable host communities. This is providing food, access to water, shelter, and other essential items and services to hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. We recognise the protracted nature of the crisis and are providing longer term funding to our partners to give them the certainty they need to plan ahead, and are calling on other donors to do the same. We encourage our partners to use UK funding flexibly in order to respond where needs are greatest.

## UK Membership of EU

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the joint statement by the German and French Ministers for the economy that "our common goal is to render it unthinkable for any country in pursuit of its national interest to consider a future without Europe - or within a lesser union". [HL302]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), has already started working with other leaders, including those of France and Germany, on how best to address the UK's concerns and believes that he can and will succeed in negotiating to reform the EU and Britain's relationship within it.

As he has said, the EU needs to be flexible enough to find solutions for the eurozone members, while also flexible enough for countries like Britain at the heart of the single market, but not wanting to be part of the ever closer union, to be comfortable with their membership, too.

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to foreign leaders and European Union officials to encourage them not to intervene in the campaign leading up to the proposed referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the EU. [HL307]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The decision in the Referendum will be one for British voters to make. The Government will make this clear as necessary in its discussions with foreign leaders and EU officials in the coming months.

## Ukraine: Armed Conflict

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the use by both sides of heavy weapons at Mariinka in Ukraine; and whether they plan to take steps to continue and to tighten existing sanctions against Russia in the light of such heavy weapons use. [HL308]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have been concerned with the escalation in fighting in eastern Ukraine, particularly around the town of Maryinka on 3 June. Reports by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on the movement of a large amount of heavy weapons in separatist held areas, close to Maryinka, preceding and during the fighting, point clearly to this being a separatist provocation. At the G7 Summit on 7-8 June, all G7 leaders were clear that sanctions should be linked to Russia's complete implementation of the Minsk agreements and respect for Ukraine's sovereignty.

## UN Secretariat

Asked by *Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in advance of the retirement of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, how they propose to ensure that suitable female candidates to replace him are given serious consideration. [HL342]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UN Secretary General must command the greatest possible support from the international community, and authority to carry out the role effectively. The current system of selection, whereby the Security Council nominates a single candidate to the General Assembly, ensures the candidate receives maximum support. This process has produced good consensus candidates in the past and we would not want to see it significantly changed. That said, we believe that the process would benefit from more structure and transparency, which is why the UK is supporting moves to set clear deadlines for candidates to declare themselves and for the selection to take place; encourage greater scrutiny of candidates; and promote more applications from women.

## Veterans: Prisoners

Asked by *Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Defence has issued to prison governors any guidelines on meeting the needs of prisoners who are armed forces veterans. [HL437]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not issue guidelines to prison governors. However, my officials work closely with their counterparts in the Ministry of Justice to address the issues facing veterans in the criminal justice system. We achieve effect through the



Ex-Service Offenders Working Group (ESOWG) which includes the Ministry of Justice, the National Offender Management Service and Service charities.

The ESOWG aims to ensure that the ex-Service prison and probation offender populations, their families and resettlement services are fully informed of the support available from Defence Business Services, Veterans UK and the voluntary and charitable sectors. This support and

assistance applies during imprisonment as well as pre- and post-discharge.

A key objective of the ESOWG is to ensure that the differing requirements of ex-Service prisoners are understood and communicated and that tailored support is available in those prison establishments with higher veteran populations.

# Written Answers

Thursday, 18 June 2015

## Channel Tunnel: Safety

Asked by *Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to undertake, in conjunction with the government of France, an independent study into the safety of open lorry shuttle wagons operating through the Channel Tunnel. [HL294]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government continues to work closely with our French counterparts through the Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission to supervise and monitor the safety of the Channel Tunnel. The design of HGV Shuttles is only one aspect of the technical and operational measures that have been put in place and regularly reviewed to ensure the Channel Tunnel remains an acceptably safe operation.

## Charter of the Forest

Asked by *Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to mark and celebrate the 800th in 2017 anniversary of the granting of the Charter of the Forest. [HL272]

Asked by *Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will mark the 800th anniversary in 2017 of the granting of the Charter of the Forest in a similar way to that in which the Magna Carta is being marked this year. [HL273]

**Lord Faulks:** The Charter of the Forest was an important document in its own right when it was issued by Henry III in 1217 at the same time as a re-issue of Magna Carta. The Charter re-established rights of access to the forest for free men that had been eroded over the time. However, although the provisions of the Charter of the Forest remained in force for a number of centuries, it has not enjoyed the same lasting and worldwide recognition as Magna Carta, which has had an enduring significance on the development of the concept of the rule of law.

Consequently, while the Government is actively supporting the celebration of the 800 anniversary of Magna Carta this year, it has no plans to mark and celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter of the Forest.

## Children: Day Care

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Nash on 3 June (HL Deb, col 413),

what format the funding review of the early-years childcare proposal will take; and whether the details will be available prior to the second reading of the Childcare Bill. [HL327]

**Lord Nash:** The Government has committed to increasing the average rate that providers are paid for the entitlement. At oral questions on 15 June 2015, My Hon Friend the member for East Surrey, Sam Gyimah confirmed that a cross-Government review of the cost of providing childcare is underway.

A call for evidence to inform the review was launched on 15 June and will close on 10 August. This is part of a process of gathering the necessary evidence which will inform the outcome of the review and will report in the autumn.

The call for evidence document is attached.

## Children: Poverty

Asked by *Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of how many children live below the poverty line; and what assessment they have made of the impact of living below the poverty line on the future well-being of those children. [HL357]

**Lord Nash:** Estimates of the number and proportion of children in relative and absolute low-income are published in the National Statistics 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series. The latest publication estimates that 2.3 million children (17%) lived below the relative low income line in 2012/13, measured on a before housing costs basis. We have made progress on this, there are 300,000 fewer children living in relative poverty since 2010 and the number of children growing up in workless families is at a record low.

The government recognises the importance of action to drive real change in children's lives, by tackling the root causes of poverty: entrenched worklessness, family breakdown, problem debt, and drug and alcohol dependency. Evidence suggests that children who are raised in low income families are more likely to end up as poor adults.

## Council Tax

Asked by *Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of recipients of council tax support are in employment. [HL292]

Asked by *Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated number of (1) working households, and (2) non-working households, previously in receipt of 100 per cent council tax benefit that are now required to pay council tax; and what is the total respective amount that each group is required to pay as a result of changes to council tax benefit. [HL438]

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated number of (1) working households, and (2) non-working households, previously in receipt of partial council tax benefit that are now required to pay more council tax as a result of changes to council tax benefit. [HL439]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This data is not held centrally.

## Council Tax Reduction Schemes

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the impact of changes to the council tax reduction scheme, in particular on (1) the extra amounts now payable by people hitherto receiving (a) full or (b) partial rebates, and (2) arrears of council tax. [HL291]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** These are local schemes and it is for local authorities to consider the effect on specific groups of council tax payers.

Council tax collection rates in England remain high at 97% in 2013-14.

This is a devolved matter in Scotland and Wales; council tax does not operate in Northern Ireland.

## Derelict Land

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what flexibility the National Planning Policy Framework gives to local authorities to prioritise the development of brownfield sites over greenfield land in local plans; and whether they propose to amend the National Planning Policy Framework in order to allow local authorities to strengthen such local policies. [HL279]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government wishes to ensure that brownfield land is prioritised and used as much as possible for new development. We will require local authorities to have a register of suitable brownfield sites and ensure 90 per cent of suitable sites have planning permission for housing by 2020. Our planning guidance stresses the importance of bringing brownfield land back into use and encourages councils to use other local plan policies to promote the viability of brownfield across the local area.

## Doctors: Qualifications

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many practising doctors received their qualifications (1) in the United Kingdom, and (2) elsewhere. [HL289]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The information requested about the number of practising medical doctors with

qualifications received in the United Kingdom and elsewhere is not held centrally.

The General Medical Council (GMC) is the independent regulator of medical doctors in the UK and is responsible for doctor registration. Information provided by the GMC on the number of doctors registered with a licence to practise as at 9 June 2015, broken down by whether their primary medical qualification was gained in the UK or elsewhere, is shown in the following table. However, it should be noted that although these doctors have a licence to practise, they may not be actively practising.

	Total	Qualified in the UK	Qualified Elsewhere
Number of doctors registered with a licence to practise	232,931	153,306 (66%)	79,625 (34%)

*Source:* The General Medical Council

*Note:* The 'qualified elsewhere' column includes those qualified in the European Economic Area (EEA) excluding the UK and those trained outside of the EEA.

## Electoral Register

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the number of people currently not on the electoral register and the reported risk that this will increase with the implementation of individual registration, how much they plan to spend in the current financial year to support local authorities to ensure that the register is as complete as possible. [HL271]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Over £14million has been invested over the last two financial years to support activities aimed at increasing the completeness and accuracy of the register, including in the run up to the General Election. In addition, Electoral Registration Officers have been provided with grant funding in the current financial year of £20million. The Electoral Commission is due to publish its latest analysis of the electoral register later this month, including the impact of activity to promote registration before the election, and it is important to consider any further steps in light of this report.

## Employment: Disability

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to end the disability employment gap. [HL268]

**Baroness Altmann:** In the last 12 months there has been an increase of 238,000 disabled people in work. That is really positive, but there is more to do.

We have been very clear that the gap between the employment rates of disabled people and non-disabled people remains too big and have committed to halving it.

Government cannot achieve this ambition alone so we are working closely with disabled people, their organisations, employers and employment support providers to develop our strategy to enable more disabled people to get into, remain in and progress in work.

The Disability Confident Campaign, which actively promotes the Access to Work scheme, is key to supporting employers in working with Government to halve the disability employment gap.

### Eritrea: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the United Nations estimate that in total 360,000 refugees have fled Eritrea. [HL359]

**Baroness Verma:** We are concerned by the United Nations report that 360,000 refugees have fled Eritrea, particularly given that they report the numbers of people leaving increased sharply towards the end of 2014, and given the vulnerability of refugees leaving by land and by sea. Our Ambassador in Asmara closely monitors events in Eritrea and Foreign Office and DFID staff work closely with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees throughout the Horn of Africa.

### EU Aid

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the new transparency and accountability framework, The European Union International Cooperation and Development Results Framework. [HL337]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK strongly welcomes the publication of the EU Results Framework. This will provide much needed accountability and transparency for EU taxpayers, and has the potential to transform EU development spending – allowing programmes to deliver much better value for money and development results.

The attachment 'Explanatory Memorandum, Launching the EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework' contains detail on the UK position on the Staff Working Document, which can also be found online at: <http://europeanmemoranda.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/memorandum/commission-staff-working-document-launching-the-eu-international-cooperation-development-results-framework>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Explanatory Memorandum [Explanatory Memorandum, Launching the EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-08/HL337>

### Fuel Direct Scheme

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the affordability of a standard Fuel Direct rate of £3.70 for direct payments for arrears on fuel bills; and whether in setting that rate they considered (1) allowing some customers to pay a lower rate of direct deduction, and (2) allowing customers to pay by Fuel Direct for ongoing bills when they are not in arrears. [HL394]

**Baroness Altmann:** Third Party Deduction is a long standing scheme of last resort where all other means of budgeting have been exhausted. Where the Secretary of State decides that it is in the claimant's best interests to order repayment of the arrears he can do so. The scheme was introduced in the 1970's to protect the vulnerable and their family, whilst not adding to their financial burden.

Fuel Direct is set in legislation at 5% of their Personal Allowance, which is a fixed deduction of £3.70 for each element of fuel debt. This is considered to be the most appropriate level of repayment in order to clear the fuel debt arrears and to prevent enforcement action.

Each year the amount of Third Party Deduction is reassessed as part of The Social Security Up-rating Order.

Once the arrears have been paid a person will usually be taken off the Fuel Direct scheme. In exceptional circumstances a person may be allowed to remain on the Fuel Direct scheme to help ensure that they don't get into debt again.

However Fuel Direct is not intended as a budgeting aid and the Government's main objective is to help people into employment, whilst encouraging them to be responsible for their own financial affairs, whether they are on benefit or not.

### High Speed 2 Railway Line: Sheffield

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what cost-benefit analysis has been conducted on the impact on the economic performance of South Yorkshire of siting the HS2 station at (1) Sheffield City Centre, and (2) Meadowhall; and whether they will publish the results of any such study. [HL453]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In March 2012 the Government received a report from HS2 Ltd: 'Options for Phase Two of the High Speed Rail Network', which considered the various station location and alignment options for a station in South Yorkshire, from a demand and appraisal perspective. The report found a station at Meadowhall would provide the best overall value for money.

A further demand and appraisal report in 2013: 'Demand and appraisal report by the MVA consultancy for phase 2 of the High Speed Two (HS2) rail network' re-examined costs and demand at potential stations in Sheffield. The study re-affirmed Meadowhall as the optimal location for South Yorkshire.

The reports were published at the time and are available on the GOV.UK website.

### Languages: Qualifications

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the written answer by Lord Nash on 4 June (HL94), when they expect Ofqual's work with awarding organisations on the future of the relevant community languages to be completed and a decision to be taken on whether to launch a consultation. [HL328]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education, Ofqual and awarding organisations continue to consider and discuss potential approaches to securing these qualifications. The government is keen to ensure reformed qualifications in community languages will be available for first teaching in 2017. If no course of action can be agreed by Ofqual and awarding organisations the department will consult more widely on potential approaches and seek to ensure this timeline is adhered to.

### Mesothelioma: Compensation

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, with regard to the compensation payments awarded under the Mesothelioma Act 2014, what is their estimate of (1) the difference between the actuarial calculations on which they based their assumptions for payments of compensation and the payments now being made by insurance companies; and (2) how much such companies will save in each of the next 10 years compared with the original legislative assumptions. [HL380]

**Baroness Altmann:** No actuarial calculations were carried out in relation to the payments that would be made by the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme. The tariff table, which sets out the rate of payment according to age at diagnosis, is based on an average of similar payments made under civil compensation.

The Impact Assessment published in March 2014 estimated that £93.7m would be paid out by the Scheme in the first year of its operation, and £412.4m would be paid out over the first 10 years.

Initial application volumes were lower than anticipated so the amount levied on the insurance industry for the period 2014/15 was £32m. It is too early to estimate what the application volumes will be over the next 10 years given volumes received to date. As this is a demand led scheme, the calculations for the levy are done afresh each

year. An upturn in applications to the Scheme would result in a higher levy rate in future years.

### Middle East: Internally Displaced People

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support the proposed establishment of an international enclave, protected by the United Nations, in Syria and Iraq to house internally displaced people. [HL387]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK welcomes any option compliant with international law that might save lives in Syria and Iraq. The situation in Syria and Iraq is incredibly complex, and international enclaves are not currently feasible. For such a safe area to work in any context, all parties to the conflict would need to agree on its establishment. In the absence of such an agreement, this would require foreign military intervention, authorised by a UN Security Council resolution.

### Nepal: Earthquakes

*Asked by Lord Harries of Pentregarth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that post-earthquake aid to Nepal is being distributed fairly. [HL350]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK is providing more than £33 million to the earthquake response in Nepal, making us the largest donor to the relief operation, and we are committed to ensuring that this assistance is available to those most in need. UK funding and technical expertise is supporting a central coordination mechanism, under the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which is gathering real time information and feedback from affected communities. This mechanism helps to ensure that aid efforts are not being duplicated and that the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable are understood and acted upon.

The UK has placed particular emphasis on reaching vulnerable groups; immediately after the earthquake, DFID identified the heightened risk of violence to displaced women and children. Examples of our assistance include: two UK-funded support centres, in Sindhupalchowk District, which ensure a safe and protected environment for around 500 women and girls; and the distribution of over 15,000 dignity kits to provide women with basic essentials, like clothing and hygiene products.

### Nurses

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of claims by patient safety campaigners and others that NHS England may introduce lower standards in terms of the number of nurses required in the light of the termination by the National Institute of



Health and Clinical Excellence of its work on staffing levels. [HL378]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government is committed to supporting National Health Service trusts to use their resources as effectively as possible for patients, including the critical priority that staffing levels are safe.

Existing National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance will continue to be used by NHS trusts to help them look at their approach to staffing and decide what is best for patients. NHS England will take this work forward alongside their programme of service reviews.

The Chief Nursing Office for England wrote to Directors of Nursing and other NHS staff on 11 June confirming the steps she will be taking to advance the programme of work.

### Nurses: Qualifications

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many nurses working in the NHS received their qualifications (1) in the United Kingdom, and (2) elsewhere. [HL290]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The information requested about the numbers of nurses working in the National Health Service with qualifications gained in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, is not held centrally.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the independent regulator of nurses and midwives in the UK and is responsible for nurse registration. Information provided by the NMC on the total number of registered nurses and midwives at the end of each financial year since 2010, broken down by whether they trained in the UK or elsewhere is shown in the following table. However, it should be noted that those on the NMC register may not be practising or working in the NHS.

<i>Year ending 31 March</i>	<i>Total effective registrants</i>	<i>Qualified in the UK</i>	<i>Qualified Elsewhere</i>
2010	665,983	584,589 (88%)	81,394 (12%)
2011	670,011	587,451 (88%)	82,560 (12%)
2012	672,622	588,815 (88%)	83,807 (12%)
2013	675,278	590,364 (87%)	84,914 (13%)
2014	680,882	592,945 (87%)	87,937 (13%)
2015	686,797	593,536 (86%)	93,261 (14%)

*Source:* The Nursing and Midwifery Council

*Note:* The 'elsewhere' column includes those nurses and midwives trained in the European Economic Area excluding the UK and those trained outside of the EEA.

### Palestinians: Refugees

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential for violence and fighting in countries surrounding Syria if UNRWA

have to stop cash payments to Palestinian refugees from Syria, because of a lack of funds. [HL413]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK is concerned that cuts to UNRWA assistance may exacerbate existing tensions amongst Palestinian refugees who have fled to Syria's neighbouring countries. That is why the UK has been in close contact with UNRWA, other donors, and host governments on how best to manage and mitigate the impact of funding shortfalls. The UK is the third largest donor to UNRWA's General Fund, and the fourth largest donor to UNRWA's operations overall. This includes over £28 million provided to date to support Palestinian refugees in Syria and the region affected by the Syria crisis.

### Poultry: Campylobacter

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of campylobacter in imported chickens and chicken meat and how it compares to the level found in their recent study of chickens produced in the United Kingdom. [HL259]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Food Standards Agency advises that there are no available comparisons of campylobacter levels between chickens imported into the United Kingdom from outside the European Union and chickens produced in the UK. Chicken imported from outside the EU is not assessed for levels of campylobacter as most chicken imported into the UK is frozen. The European Food Standards Authority has indicated that a greater than 90% risk reduction from campylobacter can be obtained by freezing carcasses for two to three weeks.

### Prescribed Industrial Diseases

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many claims they have received for Prescribed Disease C3b in the last 10 years; and of these, how many were allowed. [HL419]

**Baroness Altmann:** The information as requested is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Sheep Dipping

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by George Eustice, Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on 10 June (HC Deb, col 136WH), who published the 1991 Health and Safety Executive report of an inquiry into sheep dipping; and to whom it was distributed. [HL420]

**Baroness Altmann:** The 1991 Health and Safety Executive (HSE) report presented the findings of a 1990

survey of sheep dipping and was published by HSE as an internal document in May 1991.

The report was discussed at a meeting of the then Health and Safety Commission's Agricultural Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) working group, Chemicals In Agriculture (ChemAg), on 10 July 1991. The ChemAg working group membership included HSE, the Confederation of British Industry, the Trades Union Congress and other industry organisations.

### State Education

*Asked by Lord Davies of Stamford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many state secondary schools there are in England; and how many of these have not had a student enter into Oxford or Cambridge University as an undergraduate over the past five years. [HL293]

**Lord Nash:** The number of state-funded secondary schools is available in the 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics' Statistical First Release published by Department for Education. Table 2a of the 'National tables' spreadsheet contains information for each year since 2003.

Detailed destinations information such as destinations to Oxford and Cambridge Universities is only compiled for students completing Key Stage 5 (A levels or other level 3 qualifications), and is published in the Department for Education "Destinations of Key stage 4 and key stage 5 pupils" experimental statistical first release. Figures are therefore only available for secondary schools where they have sixth forms. Data has only been published for four years up to the 2011/12 cohort and information for the previous five years cannot be provided. In the latest destinations data (published 27 January 2015), destinations for institutions are available in table IN1 of the 'Key stage 5: institution level tables' spreadsheet.

The table below summarises the published information. Data have only been published for four years up to the 2011/12 cohort so information for the previous five years cannot be provided.

<i>Number of state-funded secondary schools at January 2012</i>	<i>Number of state funded schools in 2012/13 Key Stage 5 destination cohort</i>	<i>Number with no student having sustained participation at Oxford or Cambridge University as an undergraduate, over the 4 cohorts of destinations data available [1]</i>
State-funded schools	3,329	1,870
		533

[1] To be included in the destinations measure, young people have to show sustained participation in an education or employment destination

*in all of the first two terms of the year after they took an A level or other level 3 qualifications (October to March).*

### Stormont House Agreement

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 2 June (HL34) concerning the government of Ireland's involvement in the talks leading up to the Stormont House Agreement, what is the full list of talks attended by the government of Ireland's representatives; and why that list was not given in that Answer. [HL393]

**Lord Dunlop:** As I said on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 Irish Government representatives were present on a number of occasions in the talks leading up to the Stormont House Agreement. As the Noble Lord is aware, the involvement of the Irish Government was in accordance with the established three-stranded approach to Northern Ireland affairs and the 1998 Belfast Agreement. As the Conservative Party's Northern Ireland Manifesto for the General Election states:

"This provides that Northern Ireland's internal arrangements are for the parties here and the United Kingdom Government alone to decide. A Conservative Government will always stand by that principle".

### Teachers

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the letter to The Times of 2 June from 28 former prime ministers and presidents which claims that there is a worldwide decline in the respect paid to and status of teachers. [HL376]

**Lord Nash:** The research cited, in the letter to The Times, was the Varkey GEMS Global Teacher Status Index, which was published in 2013. The index surveys public opinion on the status of teachers and contained several positive findings in relation to the UK.

For example, teachers' status was ranked higher in the UK than in many other countries, including France, Finland and Germany. Respect for headteachers in the UK was ranked highest of all the countries in the study. When respondents were asked to assess 'how good is the education system?' the UK ranked seventh out of all countries surveyed – a higher score than the USA, South Korea and Germany.

To help raise the status of teaching further still, our manifesto set out our commitment to supporting the establishment of a new, independent College of Teaching. Teaching is unique amongst the professions in this country in not having a membership body to champion high standards of practice.

The recognition of teaching as a respected and high-status profession is reflected in the calibre of those joining. Almost three quarters of new teachers now have an upper-second or first class degree, 10% higher than in

2010. We have a record proportion of new teachers (17%) with first class degrees and, for several years running, teaching has remained the most popular career destination for graduates from Oxford University.

Whilst perceptions of teachers and teaching in this country are positive, the government remains committed to doing all we can to support the profession to develop and improve.

### Thames Water

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Thames Water regarding (1) its payment to its offshore shareholders of £170 million in dividends, (2) its non-payment of United Kingdom tax, and (3) the pay increase given to its chief executive officer, in the light of the fact that the company is in receipt of a government guarantee to finance the Thames Tideway Tunnel. [HL295]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government has had no discussions with Thames Water in this regard.

The payment of dividends is a matter for Thames Water.

The Government cannot comment on the tax affairs of individual companies. Thames Water is resident for tax in the UK and is required by law to pay all taxes for which it is liable.

Thames Water Chief Executive Officer's pay is also a matter for the Thames Water Board and its shareholders.

The Government is not providing a guarantee to Thames Water. The Thames Tideway Tunnel project is being delivered in the private sector and will be financed and delivered by a competitively tendered Infrastructure Provider that is an entirely separate entity to Thames Water. Details of the contingent Government Support Package for this entity were announced in a Written Ministerial Statement on 5 June 2014.

### UN Agencies

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the governments of the Gulf States concerning the funding of UNRWA and UNHCR. [HL416]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK continues to play a prominent role in encouraging the international community, including the Gulf states, to support UN agencies in meeting urgent humanitarian and human development needs. The UK regularly raises the issue of UNRWA funding in discussions with Gulf States at both ministerial and official level.

### UNRWA

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with donor partners about the level of funding needed for UNRWA. [HL412]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK engages in regular discussion with other donors about the UN Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) financial situation through the UNRWA Advisory Commission and Sub-Committee. The UK uses its influence as a predictable, multi-year donor to UNRWA to encourage other donor contributions and incentivise reforms which would get the Agency on a more sustainable financial footing.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Bridges of Headley on 3 June (HLWS10), whether they will publish figures on the response rates to questions for written answer during the 2010–15 Parliament along similar lines. [HL256]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** In line with the commitment made by my predecessor to begin to publish annually the performance of departments on their promptness in dealing with QWAs (HL Deb 8 May 2014, col 1575), I have today published data on departmental performance in answering Questions for Written Answer for the 2014/15 session (HLWS39). I am pleased to say that, overall, 91% of Questions for Written Answer were answered within the expected 10 working days in the last session.

I will continue to publish departmental performance data on an annual basis to enable performance to be compared over time. My office will also continue to work with all departments to ensure prompt and comprehensive responses to all Questions for Written Answer.

## Written Answers

*Friday, 19 June 2015*

### Aviation: Ukraine

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the report of the Dutch inquiry into the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in Ukraine on 17 July 2014 to be published. [[HL305](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Dutch Safety Board are aiming to publish their report in into the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in Ukraine on 17 July 2014, in October this year.

### Corruption and Money Laundering

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Transparency International, Empowering the United Kingdom to Recover Corrupt Assets, which claims that the police lack the resources and adequate legal processes to bring prosecutions for corruption and money laundering. [[HL383](#)]

**Lord Bates:** We have published the UK Anti-Corruption Plan, which sets out our commitment to tackling corruption and its proceeds. The Government established the Economic Crime Command of the National Crime Agency to lead, co-ordinate and support the national law enforcement response to money laundering and corruption. The National Crime Agency's new International Corruption Unit creates a single UK centre of excellence within the NCA for dealing with international bribery and corruption. It brings together resources from the Metropolitan Police Service, the City of London Police and the NCA.

Tackling these crimes is not just about action by the police. The Serious Crime Act 2015 closed a number of loopholes in the Proceeds of Crime Act and has made it easier to obtain restraint orders. The Serious Crime Act also made it a criminal offence to participate in the activities of an organised crime group. We have improved our information sharing arrangements, with the National Crime Agency leading work with the financial sector to improve our response to money laundering and corruption.

On 14 December 2014 we announced a review of the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime to develop ways of better identifying money laundering and terrorist financing, and to prevent the dissipation of the proceeds of corruption.

The Government welcomes the report of Transparency International on the recovery of corrupt assets. We continue to consider all proposals, to give law

enforcement and prosecutors the tools that they need to do their job.

### Driving: Young People

*Asked by Lord Condon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made with the first phase of research into how telematics can reduce accident rates among young drivers; and when the second phase of the research will begin. [[HL441](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Phase one of the telematics research project has been completed and a written report is currently being finalised for Ministerial consideration. Initiation of phase two research will be dependent upon the findings from phase one.

### Hallucinogens

*Asked by Lord Tanlaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to reschedule psilocybin from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 to enable its use for medicinal purposes, in particular with regard to alleviating the mental suffering of patients diagnosed with terminal cancer. [[HL505](#)]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has no plans to reschedule psilocybin. Drugs that are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, such as psilocybin, are harmful and can damage people's mental and physical health when misused. We will not circumvent the regulatory process by which drugs are assessed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency for their safety and efficacy as medicines.

### Police

*Asked by Lord Condon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in the review of the publication of Taser data and other use of force by police officers. [[HL442](#)]

**Lord Bates:** It is vital that we do all we can to ensure the police use of Taser and other use of force are appropriate and proportionate, and for its use to be transparent to the public. That is why the Home Secretary asked the national policing lead Chief Constable David Shaw to work with the Home Office on an in-depth review of the publication of Taser data and other use of force by police officers. CC David Shaw is due to update the Home Secretary shortly on the emerging findings of the review.

### Surgery

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the number of cancelled operations in the National Health

Service in the final quarter of 2013–14 was the highest ever recorded. [HL423]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England collects the number of operations cancelled at the ‘last minute’ for non-clinical reasons on a quarterly basis.

The number of cancelled elective operations in the final quarter of 2013-14 was not the highest ever recorded. The highest number of cancelled elective operations was recorded in quarter 4 2000-01.

Cancelled elective operations as a percentage of elective admissions are stable. In both 2009-10 and 2013-14 cancelled elective operations represented 0.9% of elective admissions, despite a 546,000 increase in the number of elective admissions in this period.

The National Health Service should do everything it can to reduce cancellations and keep them to an absolute minimum. Where this is unavoidable, patients should receive treatment as soon as possible. This is reinforced by a pledge in the NHS Constitution for all patients who have operations cancelled, on or after the day of admission (including the day of surgery), for non-clinical reasons to be offered another binding date within 28 days, or the patient’s treatment to be funded at the time and hospital of the patient’s choice.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what action they are taking to reduce the number of cancelled operations in the National Health Service. [HL424]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government why there has been an increase in the number of cancelled operations in the National Health Service since 2009–10. [HL425]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England collects the number of operations cancelled at the ‘last minute’ for non-clinical reasons on a quarterly basis.

The number of cancelled elective operations in the final quarter of 2013-14 was not the highest ever recorded. The highest number of cancelled elective operations was recorded in quarter 4 2000-01.

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## Written Answers

Monday, 22 June 2015

### Armed Forces Covenant: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why Northern Ireland only received a grant of £50,000 from the armed forces covenant (Libor) fund of £35 million which was shared amongst 96 armed forces charities and causes across the United Kingdom. [HL501]

**Earl Howe:** I am very pleased that, as a result of the Chancellor's decision in 2012 to transfer £35 million of Libor money to support the Armed Forces community, the fund has supported 96 charities and good causes in a variety of ways across the UK.

While it is correct that only one of the successful grant applications is designed to solely benefit the Northern Irish Armed Forces community, we anticipate that this community will benefit from a number of UK-wide projects which have received funding.

This year sees the implementation of a permanent commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant through a £10 million per annum Covenant Fund, which will be open to applications from across the whole of the UK. Details about the scheme will be announced later this year and I hope that we will see strong applications which will benefit the Armed Forces community in Northern Ireland.

### Bhutan: Overseas Aid

Asked by *Lord Smith of Finsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funds in aid and development assistance have been made available to Bhutan in each of the past three years; and for what purpose. [I] [HL369]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK contributes to aid and assistance in Bhutan primarily through the EU. The EU development programme for Bhutan from 2007-2013 was €14 million and focused on support for renewable natural resources and enhancing good governance. The 2014-2020 programme is a €42 million package focused on strengthening civil society, supporting local governance and developing sustainable rural livelihoods by enhancing food and nutrition security and generating employment opportunities.

There was no bilateral spend in financial years 2013-14 or 2014-15. In financial year 2012-13 the UK spent:

- £15,000 on a high-level visit to the UK headed by the Bhutanese Chief Justice. The purpose of the visit was to develop relationships in the field of judicial and advocacy training, explore ways of developing cooperation and mutually beneficial trade links.

- £14,610 on a Chevening Scholarship for a Bhutanese journalism scholar.

### Burma: Rohingya

Asked by *Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make representations to the government of Myanmar regarding the treatment of Rohingya Muslims. [HL391]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We continue to raise the problems in Rakhine with the government of Burma at every opportunity, and will continue to do so. Most recently in relation to the humanitarian crisis in the Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), called the Burmese Ambassador to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 18 May to express concern, calling for an urgent humanitarian response and regional coordination. In parallel, our Ambassador in Rangoon delivered the same message with the EU and US in a demarche to Burmese Ministers, and again bilaterally on 4 June.

### Courts: Disclosure of Information

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will introduce measures to open the proceedings of the family courts and the Court of Protection to the press and public; and, if not, why not. [HL306]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government supports steps to increase openness whilst remaining mindful of the rights to privacy of those involved in such personal proceedings.

Since May 2009, amendments to the rules of court governing the practice and procedure to be followed in family proceedings have allowed accredited members of the media access to the majority of court hearings.

In January 2014 the President of the Family Division issued guidance requiring more judgments of both the Family Court and Court of Protection to be published online.

In August 2014 the President of the Family Division issued a consultation seeking views on the impact of these earlier steps to increase transparency in the family court and on ways to further increase transparency including, the possibility of public access. The Court of Protection Rule Committee is also taking forward work which will examine the benefits and risks of making rule changes which allow greater access to the media and public.

### Cyprus

Asked by *Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many residential units are owned by the United Kingdom authorities in the Sovereign Base of Dhekelia, and to which authority it is intended to surrender them to facilitate a political settlement in Cyprus. [HL546]

**Earl Howe:** There are 416 residential units owned by the United Kingdom authorities in the Sovereign Base of Dhekelia.

The land offer put forward to the UN in 2003/4, and subsequently readdressed in 2009 in the event of a reunified Cyprus, does not include any of the residential units owned by the United Kingdom authorities in the Sovereign Base of Dhekelia.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo: SOCO International**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take in the light of reports into the activities of Soco International in Virunga national park, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which allege breaches of bribery and corruption laws. [HL381]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of allegations of serious wrongdoing made against Soco International, its employees and agents connected to its activities in the Virunga National Park in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We expect all companies to act appropriately and encourage anyone with evidence of fraud, bribery or corruption to pass this to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

Allegations of bribery and corruption, and incidents of violence, intimidation and threats directed at environmental activists, fishermen and local residents campaigning against oil exploitation in the Virunga National Park have been inadequately investigated by the DRC authorities. We have called upon the DRC authorities to undertake a full investigation.

### **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Cost Effectiveness**

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government where the £83 million savings in the budget of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are to be found, further to the recent announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [HL330]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Defra is planning to remain within its budgetary control totals for 2015-16 and is currently developing options to deliver the £83 million savings announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. These options include tight control of budgets to drive underspends in-year; further efficiency savings; and asset sales. The options are being considered across the Core Department and Defra's executive agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

### **Developing Countries: Drugs**

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of Médecins Sans Frontières' claims that too little funding goes into the development of new drugs and vaccines for neglected diseases, or for illnesses which have proved to be resistant to available treatments. [HL339]

**Earl of Courtown:** Globally there is insufficient funding for the development of new drugs and vaccines for neglected diseases and resistance to essential drugs is a growing problem. Responding to these challenges is a priority for the UK, and the Government is leading a major new drive to develop drugs for the world's deadliest diseases.

The Government has a manifesto commitment to lead a major new programme to develop drugs for the world's deadliest diseases. The UK Government is the second largest Government funder of product development public-private partnerships (PDPs) and in recent years, these PDPs have developed over 10 drugs, two vaccines and six diagnostic tests. Several new drugs are currently under development for the treatment of illnesses which are resistant to available drugs.

### **Eritrea: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea accusing Eritrea of crimes against humanity. [HL358]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government note the report of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea published on 8 June. We are carefully reviewing their findings and look forward to discussion of the report at the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 23 June. We are disappointed the Commission has not been granted access to Eritrea. We continue to call on the Government of Eritrea to honour its international human rights obligations and cooperate fully with the whole UN human rights system, including the Commission.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to press the United Nations Security Council to refer Eritrea to the International Criminal Court, in the light of the report by the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea. [HL360]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UN Commission of Inquiry Report on Human Rights in Eritrea does not recommend referral of Eritrea to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Report recommends that the international community continues to engage closely on the human rights situation in Eritrea, including on countering irregular migration, human smuggling and trafficking. The UK is already fully engaged on this

through the African Union-EU 'Khartoum Process'. The UK will also continue to press Eritrea to improve its human rights record through a range of channels including via the UN Human Rights Council and Special Rapporteur, EU Article 8 Dialogue, and through regular bilateral diplomacy.

### Gaza

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 2 June (HL10), what is their assessment of the cause of the conflict in Gaza, and in particular the effect of Israel's military occupation; and what improvements in living standards have been delivered to the people of Gaza following Israel's lifting of certain restrictions. [HL347]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The underlying causes of the conflict in Gaza are rocket fire and other attacks against Israel from Hamas and other militant groups; Israeli restrictions on movement and access; and the lack of progress made by the Palestinian Authority in returning to Gaza to restore effective and accountable governance. Israeli restrictions damage the economy and living standards of ordinary people in Gaza. Israel's lifting of certain restrictions has resulted in some limited improvements in living standards in Gaza compared to the situation in the immediate aftermath of last summer's conflict. The water supply has been doubled, more agricultural produce is leaving Gaza for export to Israel or transfer to the West Bank, and the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism is facilitating repairs. However, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs assesses that the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire. We are continuing to call on Israel to ease movement and access restrictions further.

### General Election 2015: Absent Voting

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen on 4 June (HL Deb, cols 916–18), how many complaints were made by registered electors overseas who failed to receive the postal votes for which they had applied because of maladministration by electoral offices in the United Kingdom. [HL329]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested is not held centrally. The Electoral Commission will produce a report on the General Election in the coming months and this will cover any concerns that arise around the use of postal votes by overseas electors.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they accept the RAND Corporation's calculation of the

benefits that would follow a full solution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine; and whether they will discuss those findings with both sides. [HL409]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not made an assessment of the findings of RAND Corporation's calculations. However we do agree that there would be economic benefits for both sides in the event of a two-state solution being achieved, and have made this clear with the parties and will continue to do so.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Disqualification

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have incurred three-year Jobseeker Allowance sanctions; and whether they will provide a breakdown of three-year sanctions imposed by (1) gender, (2) age group, (3) disability status, (4) lone parent status, (5) ethnicity, and (6) region. [HL400]

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information is available on the number and proportion of sanctioned Jobseeker Allowance claimants who have challenged their sanctions, broken down according to the length of the sanction. [HL401]

**Lord Freud:** The information requested regarding the length of a sanction is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Macedonia

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the current situation in Macedonia and its possible impact on neighbouring states; and whether they consider that a process of national dialogue, involving civil society as well as political parties, would be helpful. [HL410]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain concerned about the ongoing political crisis in Macedonia and the potential impact on stability for the region. We welcome efforts by Commissioner Hahn on 2 June 2015 in brokering a tentative cross-party political agreement as a first step towards resolving the political crisis in Macedonia and urge the political leaders to implement their commitments and work towards credible reforms that strengthen the rule of law, media freedom, independence of the judiciary and depoliticisation of state institutions. Civil Society has an important role to play in advancing this agenda.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they and the European Union are currently providing in Macedonia. [HL411]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government undertakes a range of programme activities in Macedonia in the areas of public administration, good governance, rule of law and human rights, freedom of expression and promotion of diversity. This is worth £1.16m. At the same time, through the Instruments of Pre-Accession (IPA) II Fund, the Commission provides financial and technical assistance to support Macedonia to undertake political and economic reforms. €664m has been earmarked for Macedonia for the period 2014-2017.

### Middle East

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have for addressing interfaith conflict between Sunni and Shia Muslims in the Middle East. [HL434]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) supports greater dialogue between Sunni and Shia Muslims among all faith groups in the Middle East and North Africa region to build bridges, talk, listen and learn from each other. At the 27 March UN Security Council debate on the persecution of minorities in the Middle East, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), called for bold leadership from governments and communities in the region to continue working for tolerance and reconciliation. Where the British Government is best placed to act, and has the means to do so, we will. For example, in Syria a number of Government-funded projects have brought together religious leaders from all denominations (including Alawi, Christians, Kurds, Druze and Sunnis) to foster greater understanding between faiths and support reconciliation.

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money has been invested in soft power in conflict zones in the Middle East in order to bring interfaith communities together. [HL435]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Spending on projects to bring together interfaith communities is dispersed across Government and is a mainstream part of other Government activity. Disaggregating this spending would incur disproportional cost.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to encourage the governments of Saudi Arabia and Iran to find political solutions to the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Bahrain. [HL388]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have a long history of friendship, understanding and co-operation. Our shared

interests are wide and diverse, and include cooperation on counter-terrorism, defence, trade and investment, education and healthcare. We also work closely with the Government of Saudi Arabia across a range of shared key foreign policy interests.

Iran is an important country in the region but it is contributing to regional instability through its actions. We discuss regional issues as part of our bilateral dialogue with Iran, and continue to encourage Iran to play a constructive role in the region.

### Muslim Brotherhood Review

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the report of the Muslim Brotherhood review will be published. [HL433]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** I refer the noble Baroness to the Prime Minister's Written Ministerial Statement of 16 March. The government intends to publish the main findings of the Muslim Brotherhood Review, and the government's Counter Extremism Strategy, in due course.

### Philip Blackwood

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United Kingdom Ambassador to Burma raised the case of Philip Blackwood when he met the Minister of the President's Office earlier this year; and if so, whether he specifically requested Mr Blackwood's release from prison. [HL364]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Ambassador in Rangoon informed the Minister of the President's office that we were following Mr Blackwood's case closely. We continue to provide advice and support to the New Zealand Embassy, who are providing consular assistance to Mr Blackwood who is a dual British/New Zealand national.

### Prison Service: Training

*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they ensure that new prison officers in prisons in England and Wales receive sufficient training to fulfil their role effectively. [HL323]

*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they ensure that prison officers in prisons in England and Wales receive the in-service training they require to support them in their role. [HL324]

*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how prison officer training has changed in the last five years. [HL325]



*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the suggestion by the Howard League for Penal Reform that prison officer training should be developed into a vocational degree. [HL326]

**Lord Faulks:** Currently, initial training of newly recruited prison officers begins with an eight week Prison Officer Entry Level Training (POELT) course. This includes two weeks officers spend in their prison, an induction week and a week of prison based learning. The training provides new officers with a foundation level of training in all core skill areas including interpersonal skills, mental health awareness, equality, violence reduction and safer custody, alongside the more traditional security awareness and practical skills needed to be a prison officer.

In recognition of the complexity of the role of a prison officer, NOMS plans to increase initial training to twelve weeks. Newly recruited officers will spend 10 weeks at a NOMS learning centre and 2 weeks at their designated prison. This revised course will have an expanded content in relation to safer custody and mental health issues, and there will be a bespoke supporting qualification aimed to prepare new entrant officers to deliver in a rehabilitative culture. There will be more emphasis on building stronger staff-prisoner relationships, with prison officers acting as motivating role models and positively reinforcing values, attitudes and behaviours in order to change their lives.

NOMS attaches great importance to the continuing professional development of prison officers, and the range of learning and development opportunities available to staff supports this. NOMS provides specialist training in areas such as Offender Management, Safer Custody, Use of Force, Hostage Negotiator and Intelligence while generic training is available via Civil Service Learning. Each prison is responsible for assessing the training needs of its officers in order to achieve its business objectives.

The content of all NOMS' learning programmes is regularly reviewed and updated to reflect policy and legislative changes and the changing needs of the organisation. We are adopting a more flexible approach to learning, for example, e-learning has been introduced to support face to face learning programmes; prison officers complete knowledge based workbooks during their initial training.

There are currently no plans to consider a vocational degree programme for prison officer training.

## Public Expenditure

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Scottish Government, Northern Ireland Executive or Welsh Government can pass an annual budget that includes spending limits higher than the anticipated income to those devolved administrations. [HL321]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The processes around setting annual budgets to fund public services within the devolved competence of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly reflect the specific arrangements set out in both legislation passed by Parliament, and by each of the devolved legislatures.

The Treasury sets annual control totals for each of the devolved administrations which inform the level of funding Parliament is asked to make available to each of the Northern Ireland, Scottish and Welsh Consolidated Funds. The Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Offices can only release cash into the devolved Consolidated Funds up to the level approved by Parliament in the relevant Supply Estimate.

## Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much they have reduced the block grant to the Northern Ireland Executive for the current financial year as a result of the failure of the Northern Ireland Assembly to pass the Welfare Reform Bill. [HL317]

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the £100 million loan from the contingency reserve provided to the Northern Ireland Executive in financial year 2014-15 has been repaid. [HL319]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** As a result of the Northern Ireland Assembly's inability to pass welfare reform legislation, the Northern Ireland Executive's allocation has been reduced by £114m in 2015-16 to offset foregone cost savings which would otherwise have accrued. The Executive have been aware of the level of the deduction since March 2014.

Following the exceptional access to the reserve granted to the Northern Ireland Executive in 2014-15, the Executive's 2015-16 allocation has been reduced by £100m in 2015-16 in accordance with normal budgetary procedures.

These deductions will be reflected in the control totals published alongside departmental Main Supply Estimates for 2015-16.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what circumstances £53 million was returned to them by the Northern Ireland Executive following the failure to establish a new police and fire service training college near Cookstown, County Tyrone. [HL318]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** As part of the 2010 Spending Review, the Northern Ireland Executive were permitted to carry forward capital underspends accrued by the Northern Ireland Department of Justice in order to facilitate the planned construction of a new police and fire service training college, through to the end of the period



covered by the Spending Review. The Executive has not sought to draw down these funds.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what monies have been returned to them by the Northern Ireland Executive in the last four years for which figures are available. [HL320]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The underspends of the Northern Ireland Executive for the years 2011-12 to 2014-15 are shown in the table below

<i>£ million</i>	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Resource	-133.7	-102.7	-54.2	-78.2
Capital	-19.8	-26.8	-36.8	-14.4
Total	-153.6	-129.5	-91.0	-92.6

Under current arrangements, each of the Devolved Administrations may carryforward underspends of up to 0.6% of its resource and 1.5% of its capital allocations. The amounts carried forward by the Northern Ireland Executive for the underspends in the 2011-12 to 2013-14 are shown in the table below. The Government has yet to agree the carryforward arising from the 2014-15 underspend with the Northern Ireland Executive.

	<i>Carryforward from</i>		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
	<i>to</i>		
<i>£ million</i>	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Resource	48.3	41.7	29.4
Capital	6.8	30.4	21.5
Total	55.1	72.1	51.0

### **Raif Badawi**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they pressed for the case of Raif Badawi to be discussed at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Conference in Jeddah on 3 and 4 June; and if so, what was the response of the government of Saudi Arabia. [HL422]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The conference was a multilateral event hosted by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and not by Saudi Arabia, and therefore was not an appropriate forum to discuss individual Saudi Arabian legal cases. However, we are extremely concerned about Raif Badawi's case and have discussed it at the most senior levels in the Government of Saudi Arabia, most recently on 9 June. We await the outcome of the current Saudi Arabian Supreme Court review of the case.

### **Rohingya: Human Trafficking**

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage international action to prevent Rohingya Muslims from becoming victims of human trafficking. [HL392]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Ministers have instructed our Embassies and High Commissions in South East Asia to lobby governments in the region to take a coordinated response to address people trafficking and irregular migration from the Bay of Bengal, including that of Rohingya Muslims. We are also lobbying the EU and international partners to the same end. In addition, we have engaged with non-governmental organisations and international organisations, including the International Organisation for Migration and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and supported a discussion of the crisis in the UN Security Council on 28 May. We welcome the international coordination meeting hosted by Thailand on 29 May, which we attended as an observer. We also welcome the Association of Southeast Asian Nation's commitment to raising the issue in its forum.

### **Sierra Leone: Ebola**

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress is being made in ensuring that rapid diagnostic tests for ebola are available in Sierra Leone. [HL287]

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the rapid diagnostic test developed by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratories will be made available for use in Sierra Leone. [HL288]

**Earl of Courtown:** Prompt diagnosis of Ebola is vital for an effective response. The UK is investing £1.34 million in new research to fight the virus, including the ongoing development of two rapid diagnostic tests for diagnosis of Ebola by the Institut Pasteur and University of Westminster. The UK is also providing support to other research programmes on Ebola diagnostics and treatments, through enabling the use of the UK funded treatment facilities and laboratories.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratories (DSTL) has been working with BBI Detection to provide Public Health England (PHE) with prototypes of a rapid diagnostic device, named the UK Ebola Lateral Flow Device. The device has been evaluated in Sierra Leone by PHE to determine its utility in the outbreak setting, and the decision on whether to proceed with production now rests with the manufacturer.

### **Sudan: Christianity**

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Sudan about the arrest of two Christian pastors from South Sudan. [HL315]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Ambassador in Khartoum raised the cases of Reverend Yat Michael and Reverend Peter Reith with the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March. In addition, officials at our Embassy in Khartoum are in close contact with the legal team working on behalf of the two pastors and are co-ordinating with other Embassies in Khartoum to ensure the international community is represented at the ongoing legal proceedings.

### **Trees: Imports**

*Asked by Lord Framlingham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many young trees were imported into the United Kingdom for the 2014–15 planting season; how this compares with the previous year; and what assessment they have made of the impact of such imports on the health of trees in the United Kingdom. [HL368]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The data provided relates to forest reproductive material, the generic name for the seeds, cones, cuttings and planting stock used in forest establishment. It does not cover imports for non-forest

reproductive purposes, which are monitored through the statutory notification schemes administered by the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

The data is only available in financial years and relates to imports from the EU and elsewhere. In summary, import of bare-root and container forestry plants for 2014/15 was 2,088,890 (this figure is for controlled and voluntary species). This represents a significant decrease on 2013/14.

According to the Forest Nursery Trade, the decrease in figures is due to an increase in demand for home grown material in Great Britain.

We assess the impacts of tree and plant pests and diseases using the Plant Health Risk Register, which is publicly available on the Fera website.

Where necessary, we introduce additional plant health requirements in response to threats associated with movements from other Member States.

### **VAT**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the judgment of the European Court of Justice ending the value added tax concession on energy-saving products for non-social housing. [HL303]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government is currently considering the full implications of the decision of the European Court of Justice on the application of the VAT reduced rate to the installation of energy saving materials.

## Written Answers

Tuesday, 23 June 2015

### Agency Nurses

Asked by *Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many agency nurses worked across the National Health Service in (1) 2011–12, (2) 2012–13, and (3) 2013–14; and how many are working or have worked in the National Health Service in the current financial year. [HL431]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department does not hold information on the number of agency nurses that work or have worked across the National Health Service.

### Agency Nurses: Greater London

Asked by *Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many agency nurses worked in London teaching hospitals in (1) 2011–12, (2) 2012–13, and (3) 2013–14; and how many are working or have worked in the National Health Service in the current financial year. [HL430]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department does not hold information on the number of agency nurses that work or have worked in London teaching hospitals.

### Army Reserve

Asked by *Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average age of an Army Reserve Officer. [HL436]

**Earl Howe:** As at 1 April 2015, the average age of Army Reserve Officers was 26 years (untrained) and 44 years (trained), providing an overall average of 43 years.

### Army: Reserve Forces

Asked by *Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many direct entry Army Reserve or Territorial Army Officers have been commissioned each year for the last 15 years. [HL495]

**Earl Howe:** It is not possible to identify commissions of direct entry Army Reserve or Territorial Army Officers before April 2012. Rounded figures for the financial years from 2012-13 to 2014-15 are shown in the table below:

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Direct Entry Commissions</i>
2012-13	30
2013-14	35
2014-15	50

### Blood: Donors

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to raise awareness of the shortage of blood donors. [HL375]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Although blood stocks are currently in a healthy position, there is a continuing need for new donors to fill the gaps left by existing donors who are not able to give blood, particularly from those with blood types A, O and B - to ensure that there is the right mix of blood groups to match patients' needs. As part of National Blood Week (8-14 June 2015), NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) launched the 'Missing Type' campaign highlighting the need for these blood types. NHSBT co-ordinates local and national awareness campaigns such as the 'Missing Type' campaign which are intended to motivate thousands of people to start donating blood, specifically targeted at encouraging younger people (aged 17-30) and people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to become blood donors.

### Climate Change

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Salisbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the Lambeth Declaration on Climate Change, signed by the leaders of the United Kingdom's Christian and other faith communities and launched on 17 June. [HL655]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** I very much welcome publication of the Lambeth Declaration 2015 on climate change and would like to thank the Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, for his work in securing it.

Faith communities have a strong track record of bringing about real and lasting change at every level of society so we welcome this significant intervention on climate change and urge all faiths to work together in the lead up to Paris Climate Summit and beyond.

We all have a responsibility to learn how to live and develop sustainably in a world of finite resources. Caring for our environment and being conscious of our impact on it is central to many faith's beliefs and something that faith groups communicate better than anyone.

The UK Government is working hard to secure a global climate deal in Paris and will continue to work with stakeholders from all sectors to help deliver an ambitious international agreement on climate change.

### Dermatology: Greater Manchester

Asked by *Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the reduction of dermatology services in Nottingham, what action they are taking to ensure that those services remain in place in Manchester. [HL399]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Local health services, including dermatology services, are commissioned by local clinical commissioning groups, taking into account the healthcare needs of their populations and having regard to National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines.

It is for the National Health Service in Manchester to determine the provision of dermatology services locally.

We understand that South and Central Manchester, along with Trafford, clinical commissioning groups have commissioned a new community dermatology service to increase capacity and reduce waiting times.

### Exercise

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan actively to promote physical activity in the light of reports that cities that do so experience increases in retail activity and revenue, and lower healthcare and crime costs. [HL473]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government recognises the health, economic and social benefits to individuals, communities and the nation of increasing physical activity levels. Through the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, local authorities are encouraged to ensure development plans and proposals promote active, healthy lifestyles and well-being including active travel, like cycling and walking, and access to high quality open space and sport and recreation facilities. It is for local authorities, as statutory planning bodies, to determine how best to apply this guidance in their own area.

### Foreign Investment in UK

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new inward investment projects were secured for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland respectively in the last year for which figures are available; and what is their estimate of the number of new jobs associated with these projects in each of the four nations respectively. [HL517]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** During 2014/15 UKTI recorded a total of 1,988 successful foreign direct investment projects successfully landing in the UK. The table shows the regional distribution of these projects, and the estimated number of new jobs created.

<i>Nation</i>	<i>Inward Investment Projects 2014/15</i>	<i>Estimated new jobs associated</i>
England (excluding London)	905	38,157
London	796	21,776
Scotland	119	5,445
Wales	101	5,085
Northern Ireland	48	4,007

### General Election 2015: Fraud

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role the police played in the prevention of electoral fraud at the General Election in (1) areas identified as being at particular risk of fraud, and (2) other areas. [HL297]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** At elections in the UK, the police are responsible for ensuring that electors' democratic rights are upheld. The police are also responsible for investigating all allegations of electoral fraud.

The previous Government made an additional £500,000 available to 17 local authorities identified as being at greater risk of electoral fraud and the majority of these worked with the police in some capacity. Initiatives included police analysis of data to identify potential issues and providing a greater police presence before and during the poll. Feedback from Returning Officers has been positive.

### Illegal Immigrants: France

*Asked by Lord Condon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken in recent weeks, and what action they intend to take, to respond to the number of displaced people in Calais. [HL443]

**Lord Bates:** The large number of displaced people in Calais is, in part, a consequence of the Schengen Area, in which the UK does not participate. The maintenance of law and order on French soil is, of course, a matter for French Government, but it is in the UK's interest to work with them to bolster security at the port.

The Home Secretary and French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve set out a number of commitments in a joint declaration on 20 September 2014 to tackle problems at the port of Calais. This included £12m from the UK Government to help reinforce security.

We continue to work with the French Government to implement the practical solutions that have been agreed. We are also working to address the wider problem of illegal migration, for example by increasing joint intelligence work with the French to target the organised crime gangs behind people smuggling.

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they expect the report of the Chilcot Inquiry to be published before the summer recess; and, if not, why not. [HL304]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Sir John Chilcot and the Prime Minister exchanged letters on 15 and 17 June. In his letters, Sir John said that once the essential Maxwellisation process was complete, it was his intention

to provide the Prime Minister with a timetable for the completion of the Inquiry's report.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

David Cameron to Sir John Chilcot Letter [2015-01-20\_Cameron\_to\_Chilcot.pdf]

Sir John Chilcot to David Cameron Letter [2015-01-20\_Chilcot\_to\_Cameron.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-08/HL304>

### Israel: UNRWA

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel on the subject of that country helping with the funding of UNRWA. [HL415]

**Earl of Courtown:** The UK regularly engages with the Government of Israel on the need for both parties to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to reach a political solution which includes a just, fair and realistic settlement for Palestinian refugees. The UN Relief and Works Agency's mandate is to provide protection and assistance to Palestinian refugees until such a solution is reached.

### Life Peers

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to address the disparity in representation in the House of Lords between the Liberal Democrats and Ukip, in the light of their respective shares of votes in the recent General Election. [HL371]

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to recommend more Liberal Democratic peerages to Her Majesty the Queen; if so, why; if not, why not. [HL372]

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to recommend any Ukip peerages to Her Majesty the Queen; if so, why; and if not, why not. [HL373]

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proportionality objective on appointments to the House of Lords as set out in the agreement made by the governing parties in the 2010–15 Coalition agreement remains an objective for Her Majesty's Government over the next five years. [HL509]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** Appointments are a matter for the Prime Minister. Any appointments will be vetted for propriety by the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

### Mental Health Services: Young People

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve mental health services for teenagers. [HL476]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This Government is committed to improving mental health services for teenagers as part of our focus on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. The Department is working with NHS England and other partners to drive forward system wide, sustainable transformation to improve the support offered to children and young people.

We are already making progress in a number of areas including:

- the extension and expansion of the children and young people's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme;
- the commissioning of a new prevalence survey on mental health problems in children and young people; and
- joint training and piloting of staff in schools and local mental health services to strengthen the mental health support and advice available in schools.

In addition, NHS England is leading work to develop new access and waiting time standards for eating disorder services.

### Mental Patients

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients with serious mental illnesses absconded from care in (1) 2009–10, (2) 2010–11, (3) 2011–12, (4) 2012–13, and (5) 2013–14. [HL426]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk to the public from the increase in the number of seriously mentally ill patients who have absconded from care since 2009–10. [HL427]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the cut in mental health in-patient beds on the number of patients with serious mental illnesses who have absconded from care. [HL428]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The information is not held in the format requested. Mental health providers have been required to notify the Care Quality Commission (CQC) of patients who have been absent without leave. The following table shows the number of notifications of patients absent without leave since 2010-11 and 2012-13, latest data available.



*Notifications of absence without leave from 2010-11 to 2012-13*

Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Notifications	4183	4896	3923

Source: Care Quality Commission

Since 1 April 2010, providers have been required to notify the CQC of any inpatients who are absent without leave, which is defined by certain parameters. For the first three years of this data collection, providers were required to notify the CQC of all patients absent without leave whose absence records were still open at midnight on the day the absence began. Incidences of absences at any time from high security hospitals, and the return of persons from unauthorised absences had to be recorded also.

Between 2010-11 to 2012-13, all mental health providers were required to notify the CQC of patients who were absent without leave.

Since 1 April 2013, only mental health providers with a designated level of security of high, medium or low are required to notify the CQC of patients who are absent without leave. In 2013-14 there were 909 notifications of absence without leave from services designated as low, medium or high security.

There has been no assessment of the risk to the public of patients absent without leave. Instances of mental health patients absent without leave causing harm to the public are rare. We would expect mental health providers to work with their commissioners, other partners and the authorities if a patient reported as absent without leave poses a significant risk to the public.

There has been no assessment of the impact of availability of mental health beds on the numbers of patients reported as absent without leave. Commissioners and mental health providers work together to ensure the availability of inpatient beds for people who require them based on need.

### **Mesothelioma: Compensation**

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of (1) the number of people who have received compensation under the terms of the Mesothelioma Act 2014 since the Act came into effect, and (2) the number of people projected to receive compensation in each of the next three years. [HL496]

**Baroness Altmann:** The information requested is available from the attached Impact Assessment for the Diffuse Mesothelioma Payment Scheme which was published in March 2014 and sets out the anticipated levels of claims over the first 10 years of the scheme.

The scheme has now been running since April 2014 with payments being made from July 2014. We will publish statistics on the number of claims made in 2014/15 in due course, and consider a review of the

estimates made in the Impact Assessment in light of this data.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Impact Assessment for Mesothelioma Payment Scheme  
[mesothelioma-payment-scheme-ia-mar-2014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-15/HL496>

### **NHS Foundation Trusts: Private Finance Initiative**

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS foundation trusts have major Private Finance Initiative contracts; and how many of those hospitals are in debt. [HL432]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** 37 of the 153 National Health Service foundation trusts have a completed major (over £10 million capital cost) Private Finance Initiative scheme. Of these 37, 20 will end 2014-15 with a financial deficit.

### **NHS: Expenditure**

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what they expect will be the total expenditure on the National Health Service for each of the years 2014-15 and 2015-16. [HL597]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department expects to spend £113.3 billion in 2014-15 and £116.6 billion in 2015-16 on health and social care, of which £98.1 billion and £101.1 billion respectively was allocated to NHS England to commission health services.

These figures represent total Departmental Expenditure Limit spending and include National Health Service commissioners, NHS providers, the Department of Health itself and its arm's length bodies, including Public Health England and Health Education England.

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what part of the total expenditure on the National Health Service during 2014-15 was incurred (1) by general practice, (2) by individual hospitals, and (3) in respect of administration of the National Health Service (a) at Government level, and (b) by NHS management above the level of individual hospitals. [HL598]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The 2014-15 data is not available as the accounts are still being audited.

## North Africa: Refugees

Asked by *Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage the international community to house refugees from the north of Africa. [HL390]

**Lord Bates:** We believe resettlement of refugees should be a matter for individual countries. Resettlement has a place as part of the wider asylum process, including as a route for particularly vulnerable refugees, but resettlement of all refugees in North Africa is not practical and could not meet the needs of all genuine refugees. It also would not address the reasons for their flight and risks increasing concentrations of illegal migrants in North Africa. The only sustainable solution is to address the drivers of illegal migration: increasing stability and supporting the development of countries of origin; increasing the capacity of countries in the region to protect refugees so they may return home when circumstances permit; establishing a more effective process of returning illegal migrants; and cracking down on the ruthless criminals who are playing so callously with human lives.

## Nuts

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote the eating of nuts, in the light of reports that doing so could substantially lower the risk of early death. [HL477]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Nuts can make a useful contribution to intakes of protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals within a balanced diet. They are also rich in fat and are therefore a concentrated source of energy (calories).

Government promotes a healthy balanced diet as visually depicted in the eatwell plate. As part of this, the Government recommends people eat some meat, fish, eggs, beans and other non-dairy sources of protein including nuts.

## Police: Horses

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 8 June (HL172), when the most recent assessment of the utility of the work of police horses in preventing crime and maintaining public safety was made. [HL536]

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 8 June (HL172), what is the proportion of the work of police horses (1) in operational activity such as crime prevention and maintaining public safety, and (2) in ceremonial activity. [HL537]

**Lord Bates:** There is no formal assessment process to determine the utility of police animals, how resources are deployed is an operational matter which rightly rests with chief officers. The contribution of police horses remains important and the Home Office corresponds with the relevant national policing lead on an ad-hoc basis to stay apprised of their views. The most recent contact by my officials was this month and the merits of mounted policing remain unchanged.

The Home Office does not record this information, how police horses are used is a matter for chief officers to determine.

## Public Buildings: Asbestos

Asked by *Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Ministers and officials in the Welsh government regarding exposure to asbestos in public buildings in Wales. [HL516]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** There have been no discussions. The statutory responsibility for ensuring that risks from asbestos are managed falls to the duty holder and to any employer undertaking work on asbestos-containing materials in those premises. For public buildings in Wales this could include, but is not exclusive to, the local authority, schools or the Welsh Government.

## Public Transport

Asked by *Lord Hanningfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage commuters to give up their seats to the elderly and differently able. [HL366]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** This remains an operational matter for public transport operators to decide on. There are already good practice examples within the industry such as Southern's Priority Seat Card which can be shown to fellow passengers who are sitting in a priority seat. This will indicate that the passenger using the card has been recognised by Southern as needing a priority seat. The Government is keen to encourage further uptake of these schemes. It remains the responsibility of train operators and their staff to assist priority passengers to obtain a seat and direct other passengers occupying seats accordingly.

## Pupils: Gender Recognition

Asked by *Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they give to schools to ensure that the names of transgender children are recorded appropriately and in such a way as to protect their privacy. [HL478]

Asked by *Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the School Information

Management System records the names of transgender children in such a way as to protect their privacy. [HL479]

**Lord Nash:** The department does not give specific guidance to schools about recording the names of transgender children. The operational arrangements as to how information is recorded and protected within a school's own information management system are for them to decide locally.

The department advises in its equalities guidance for schools that they must protect from discrimination because of gender reassignment, and address any issues early on, sensitively and proactively. The equalities guidance links to further helpful transgender guidance written by a partnership of bodies in Cornwall, which schools might like to follow.

### Racial Discrimination

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the actions and resources required to minimise the adverse effects and impact of institutional racism in society as a whole and in the Metropolitan Police Service, particularly in the light of the statement by the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police that institutional racism remains a serious problem. [HL492]

**Lord Bates:** The Government recognises that people from all communities want the police to fight crime while having confidence that their individual needs will be understood and respected.

The Metropolitan Police have worked hard to improve equality and diversity since the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. The officer workforce is more representative in terms of gender and ethnicity than it has ever been. However, the Government is clear that there is more for all police forces to do.

Our reforms will allow for faster progress on equality and diversity. PCCs and the College of Policing will play a key role in ensuring improvements in forces. The College of Policing has published advice for forces on the use of more proactive, lawful approaches to the recruitment and progression of officers from currently under-represented groups, using positive action provisions in the Equality Act 2010.

New entry routes into policing such as direct entry and Police Now are also helping to improve the diversity of the police workforce. Police Now, a flagship Metropolitan Police scheme aimed at attracting top university graduates, which is supported by Home Office funding received over 2,200 applications, of which 48% were from women, and 19% were from people from Black or Minority Ethnic backgrounds. 79 individuals accepted provisional job offers. Of these, 16% are from a Black or Minority Ethnic background and 47% are women. This is in contrast to the current representation levels in the Metropolitan Police where only 11% of police officers are

from a Black or Minority Ethnic background and 25% are women.

We have reformed the use of stop and search to ensure that the police use all such powers lawfully, in a targeted and intelligence-led way; and local communities must be able to hold the police to account for their use of the powers. All 43 forces in England and Wales, and the British Transport Police, signed up to the voluntary Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme.

In London, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has introduced London residency criteria for police constable recruitment in 2014. Since its introduction MPS figures indicate that the proportion of black and other minority ethnic applicants is now reaching representative levels when compared with London's population.

### Schools: Homework

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the initiative for schools to stop giving homework, to help reduce the incidence of teenage mental illness. [HL377]

**Lord Nash:** It is right that schools look at how and when they set homework to take account of their individual circumstances and best support pupils to achieve.

Homework is an important part of a child's education. There is no statutory obligation for schools to set homework. The government does not dictate how much homework children should have to do at any age.

The amount of time children spend on homework, and the type of homework set, varies between schools and depends on a number of factors including the ages of the pupils and their levels of ability. We expect schools to take into account the health and well-being of their pupils at all times, and they have a duty to do so.

### Sleeping Rough: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their latest estimates of the number of rough sleepers in the London area; and what was the equivalent figure five years ago. [HL158]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Local authorities provide a snapshot of the number of rough sleepers on a single night each Autumn. Based on these figures, the number of rough sleepers in the London area in Autumn 2014 was 742. A corresponding figure for 2009 is not available because of a new more robust assessment methodology was introduced in 2010 to provide a more accurate picture of rough sleeping across England.

A copy of the latest Statistics Release on rough sleeping is attached and further, detail, including figures for individual local authority areas, is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homeless-ess-statistics>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Autumn 2014 Rough Sleeping data [150226 Rough Sleeping Autumn 2014 Stats Release.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-01/HL158>

### **Social Security Benefits: Immigrants**

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many victims of trafficking with positive conclusive grounds decisions under the National Referral Mechanism have had applications for (1) Jobseeker's Allowance, and (2) Housing Benefit, refused since 1 January 2014. [HL543]

**Lord Freud:** This information is not collected by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

### **Visas: Overseas Students**

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students from Scottish higher educational institutions

were granted a Tier 1 Post-Study Work visa in each year since 2009. [HL332]

**Lord Bates:** It is not possible to provide data on the number of students from Scottish higher educational institutions who were granted a Tier 1 Post-Study Work visa for every year since 2009 because our records for Tier 1 Post-Study Work applications do not record the previous sponsoring institution in a format which can be used as the basis for a search.

It is however possible to provide data on the number of applicants who were granted a Tier 1 Post-Study Work visa while they were resident in Scotland. This data can be found below.

*Year Total amount of grants issued to migrants resident in Scotland*

2009 2374

2010 2648

2011 2999

2012 2249

Total 10270

It cannot be confirmed that these migrants had previously studied at Scottish higher educational institutions, for the reasons previously stated. The Tier 1 Post-Study work route was closed to new applications on 6 April 2012.

# Written Answers

Wednesday, 24 June 2015

## Armed Forces Covenant: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications were submitted from Northern Ireland for the first three tranches of the Armed Forces Covenant (Libor) Fund. [HL657]

**Earl Howe:** Seven applications were submitted from Northern Ireland for the first three tranches of the fund.

## Arts

Asked by *Lord Smith of Finsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the economic return to gross domestic product arising from each £1 invested in support for the arts. [HL370]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** A report called *The contribution of the arts and culture to the national economy* was published in May 2013 by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) and showed that arts and culture make up 0.4% of the UK's gross domestic product. The report explained that for every £1 of gross value added (a measure of the economic value of goods and services) generated by the arts and culture sectors, an additional £1.43 of GVA is generated in the wider UK economy.

## Burma: Ethnic Groups

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the nationwide ceasefire talks in Burma, and the prospects for peace in the ethnic states, particularly Kachin state. [HL463]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 31 March the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team and government negotiators successfully agreed a draft text of the Nationwide Ceasefire Accord (NCA). Following this agreement, a series of consultations has taken place to discuss the detail of the Accord, including a meeting between 2 – 9 June in Karen State attended by over 100 representatives from 17 ethnic armed groups as well as UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Burma, Vijay Nambiar. As a result, amendments to the text were proposed, and the ethnic armed groups agreed to form a new committee, comprising more senior representatives, to engage in further negotiations with the Burmese government. Prospects for a NCA ahead of the elections in Burma scheduled for November 2015 remain uncertain. However, even in the absence of a NCA, we do not anticipate a return to widespread conflict. Bilateral ceasefires remain in place between the government and

the majority of armed groups, and a timetable for further negotiations is being discussed. We remain actively engaged in the peace process and stand ready to provide whatever additional assistance is required.

## Burma: Military Aid

Asked by *Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money has been spent to date, and how much money is allocated to be spent in the future, on training the Burmese army. [HL365]

**Earl Howe:** We do not provide combat training to the Burmese army. Since 2013, we have undertaken a limited number of carefully calibrated education courses with the Burmese military focussed on modernisation and reform of the army and which adhere to the core principles of democratic accountability, international law and human rights. As the single most influential institution in Burma, it is right that we engage with the military to encourage them to support Burma's continuing transition to democracy.

From late 2013 to March 2015, the UK spent £105,905 on these educational activities. In financial year 2015-16, £74,210.82 has been allocated for the provision of English Language Training at the Defence Services Academy of Burma and a further £85,000 towards the delivery of leadership and reform activities. We are continuing to carefully assess what additional educational activities we might undertake with the Burmese military in future years in order to encourage reform.

## Burma: Police

Asked by *Baroness Nye*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what equipment has been exported from the United Kingdom to Burma for use by the Burmese police force in the past two years. [HL384]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Export Control Organisation only holds data on licences issued and refused that fall within strategic export controls.

No such licences have been granted for the Burmese police force.

## Burma: Refugees

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Verma on 10 June (HL125), what is their current estimate of the number of men, women and children in those camps; why that estimate was not given in that Answer; and what is their estimate of the average number of years refugees have been living in the camps on the Burma–Thai border. [HL421]



**Earl of Courtown:** According to latest reports from The Border Consortium (TBC) at the end of December there were 110,094 refugees who had been verified in the TBC database and were living in the camps. According to UNHCR's refugees profiling report on years of residency, as of 2014: approximately 64% of the refugees have lived in the shelter for less than 10 years. Almost 30% have lived in the shelter between 11-20 years and only 7% have lived in the shelter over 20 years.

### Communications Data and Interception Powers Review

*Asked by Lord Paddick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of David Anderson's finding that there is no compelling case for the compulsory retention of third party data in his report of the Investigatory Powers Review. [HL452]

**Lord Bates:** As my right Honourable Friend, the Home Secretary, said in her statement to the House of Commons on 11 June (Col 1356), which I repeated, David Anderson does not say that access to third party data should not be permissible or possible but that a compelling operational case should be made first. The Government will consider all David Anderson's recommendations carefully before bringing forward legislative proposals.

### Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to ratify the Istanbul Convention in order to protect women and girls who have suffered sexual violence regardless of their immigration status. [HL582]

**Lord Bates:** This Government is committed to ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ("the Istanbul Convention").

The UK already has some of the most robust protections in the world against violence towards women and we already comply with the vast majority of the articles in the Istanbul Convention. This includes those related to protecting women and girls, whatever type of violence or abuse they may have been subjected to and irrespective of their immigration status.

The UK Government is liaising with the devolved administrations about ratification, including any further legislative steps necessary.

Primary legislation will be needed to comply with the extra-territorial jurisdiction provisions in Article 44 of the Convention before it can be ratified.

### Council Tax

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated increase in council tax arrears following changes to council tax benefit. [HL440]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Local authorities are responsible for assessing the impact of their local council tax support schemes, including on arrears, and ensuring that this is taken into account when schemes are reviewed.

### Demonstrations

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to consider further the banning of the use of masks by demonstrators in order to avoid identification; and what assessment they have made of the current policy's impact on police forces and members of the community. [HL616]

**Lord Bates:** Face coverings can be worn in public places for a variety of legitimate reasons. In the context of a public order situation, where face coverings are being worn with the express intention of concealing identity, section 60AA of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 enables a police officer in uniform to require any person to remove any item which the officer reasonably believes is being worn wholly or mainly for the purpose of concealing their identity. Section 60AA also enables a police officer in uniform to seize any item which they reasonably believe any person intends to use to conceal their identity.

A refusal to comply with a direction under this section of the Act is punishable by a fine of up to £1,000 and/or one month's imprisonment.

These powers only apply in the locality and for the period for which an authorisation under section 60 or section 60AA of the Act has been given by a police officer of the rank of inspector or above. An inspector's authorisation lasts for a maximum period of 24 hours, unless a police officer of the rank of superintendent or above authorises their use for a further 24 hours.

There are currently no plans to ban the use of masks in public order situations.

### Drugs: Misuse

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they have that prohibition reduces the consumption of psychoactive drugs. [HL572]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has carefully considered the issue of Psychoactive drugs. Last year the Home Office commissioned an expert panel to consider the issue and approaches to tackling New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

The NPS expert panel carefully considered the available evidence of different legislative approaches to tackling New Psychoactive Substances. Informed by the evidence on new psychoactive substances and responding to the ease of their availability in the absence of a comprehensive legal framework, the Panel recommended the Government consider a blanket ban similar to the general prohibition approach in Ireland, enacted by their Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Act 2010. Recognising that the legislative approach alone was not a panacea the panel also considered the education, prevention and treatment response to NPS and made a series of comprehensive recommendations. A report by an expert panel in Scotland in February 2015 and a Welsh Government inquiry by the Health and Social Care Committee in the National Assembly for Wales which reported in March 2015 reached similar conclusions.

### Electronic Surveillance

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to implement the recommendation of David Anderson QC that communications data should not be intercepted without the authorisation of senior judges for warrants; and if so when. [HL455]

**Lord Bates:** As my Rt Honourable Friend, the Home Secretary, said in her statement on 11 June, the Government will need to give proper consideration to the recommendations made by David Anderson, QC, as well as those made by the Intelligence and Security Committee, before bringing forward legislative proposals in the autumn for pre-legislative scrutiny.

### Employment Tribunals Service: Fees and Charges

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Faulks on 10 June (HL23), what assessment they have made of the effect of the increase in employment tribunal fees on the number of claims being brought. [HL386]

**Lord Faulks:** On 11 June 2015 the Government announced a review of the introduction of fees in the Employment Tribunal.

Further details are available on the Ministry of Justice website.

### Eritrea

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Eritrea regarding Aster Fissehatsion. [HL533]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain concerned about the case of Aster Fissehatsion who is one of a group

of prominent public figures in Eritrea who were arrested after calling for democratic reforms. We have directly, and through the EU, called on the Eritrean authorities to unconditionally release all political prisoners, including Aster Fissehatsion. The UK remains concerned about the human rights situation in Eritrea, including the arrests of opposition leaders, journalists and religious figures. Eritrea featured as a country of concern in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report.

### EU Reform

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 11 June (HL206), whether the Prime Minister has yet discussed with other European Union leaders the repatriation of agriculture and fisheries policies to member states, and what position he has taken in those discussions. [HL520]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Discussions are at an early stage. My reply of 11 June referred to some of the areas where the Government believes the EU needs to change.

### European Union: Education

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they intend to introduce to ensure that sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996 are complied with in relation to the European Union, particularly before the holding of a referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union. [HL521]

**Lord Nash:** Schools are aware of their duties regarding impartiality and treatment of political issues. Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996 require maintained schools to prevent political indoctrination and secure the balanced treatment of political issues. This duty is reflected in the model funding agreement for academies and free schools.

In citizenship education, pupils are taught about local, regional and international governance and the United Kingdom's relations with the rest of Europe, the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the wider world. Pupils will be equipped with the skills to think critically and debate political questions.

### FCO Services

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are in place for assessing whether information assurance and cyber security systems in FCO Services are adequate. [HL457]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** FCO Services follows the principles set out in the Government Security Policy Framework and the Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO) Handbook. The FCO Services appointed SIRO is

a Board member supported in their role by the Head of Corporate Knowledge and Security and the Chief Information Security Office. The SIRO provides an annual report to the Chief Executive Officer and FCO Services Audit and Risk Assurance Committee on the effectiveness of information risk management arrangements. All FCO Services Directors are made accountable and responsible as Information Asset Owners, and provide quarterly assurance to the SIRO on the security of and risk to all information assets in their area of responsibility. Each Information Asset Manager is supported by a network of Information Asset Owners, and a suite of Information Management policies. Risk management of information assets and cyber security is considered at the quarterly Security Committee chaired by the CEO.

The FCO Services Cyber Security Steering Group provides assurance that IT System security is effectively managed in accordance with Communications Electronics Security Group (CESG) good practice guidelines, CESG Information Security standards, and any relevant legal and regulatory requirements. Chaired by the SIRO, it identifies and mitigates cyber security risk.

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when information systems at FCO Services were last independently penetration tested. [HL458]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** FCO Services operates a range of security accredited information services on behalf of our clients. External penetration tests are conducted as a mandatory part of the security accreditation process. The external penetration tests are commissioned at solution deployment and then at least annually thereafter to maintain the security accreditation. The last external penetration test commissioned was completed in April 2015.

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many power failures have affected information systems at FCO Services in the last two years. [HL459]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Since June 2013 there have been two occasions when power failures have caused information services hosted by FCO Services to become unavailable. The first event was a failure of the Hanslope Park campus electrical supply resilience on the feed from the National Grid being lost. The second occurred during maintenance work in March 2015 to replace failing components. These components were repaired as an interim step but were successfully replaced in June 2015.

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff at FCO Services have been (1) dismissed or (2) disciplined in the last three years for (a) breaching security arrangements or (b) other reasons. [HL460]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Over the last three years, one member of staff has been dismissed for breaching security regulations, and thirteen have been dismissed for other reasons. For the same period, six members of staff have been disciplined for breaching security arrangements, and thirteen have been disciplined for other reasons.

## Flood Control

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to invest in flood defences. [HL643]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Flood defences are a priority for this Government. We are spending £2.3 billion on more than 1,500 schemes to improve defences through a six-year programme of work up to 2021. This is projected to reduce overall flood risk by 5%.

## Gambia

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they and other Commonwealth governments are making to the government of The Gambia about female genital mutilations, in particular regarding the desirability of eliminating the practice. [HL584]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Embassy in Banjul has been working closely with non-governmental organisations to change local attitudes towards the practice. The Department for International Development is also funding a joint UN Population Fund (UNFPA)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) programme in The Gambia to raise public awareness. Progress is being made, but there is still a long way to go.

We welcome statements by the Gambian government against Female Genital Mutilation, including by the Vice President and the Minister of Health and Social Welfare but it has yet to legislate against the practice.

## Gaza

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they plan to take with international partners to support the Freedom Flotilla Coalition to Gaza. [HL502]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we are aware of the intention of a ship departing from Sweden to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza, we have no plans to offer any support to the Freedom Flotilla Coalition. We understand that the Israeli authorities have offered for it to dock in the port of Ashdod and to provide onward transportation into Gaza.

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about allowing the Freedom Flotilla Coalition to deliver humanitarian supplies to Gaza without intervention by Israel's military services. [HL503]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government has not made any representations to the Israeli authorities regarding the Freedom Flotilla Coalition to Gaza. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) travel advice is clear on the subject: "The FCO advise against all travel to Gaza (including the waters off Gaza). Don't attempt to enter Gaza by sea, including via a flotilla. The Israeli Navy routinely patrol the area and have made clear that they will prevent any vessels attempting to breach the restrictions. You will be detained and deported, and your electronic equipment is likely to be confiscated. The FCO does not believe that humanitarian supplies should be delivered in this way. Anyone wishing to send humanitarian assistance or other goods to Gaza should do so through established channels."

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they have taken to secure the end of Israel's blockade of Gaza, and to monitor the extent of international aid arriving in Gaza as a result of the last cease-fire agreement. [HL504]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government continues to urge the parties to prioritise progress towards a durable solution for Gaza, and to take the necessary steps to ensure Gaza's reconstruction and economic recovery. There is an urgent need for agreement to address the terrible situation in Gaza and the drivers of conflict.

We welcome the recent positive steps that Israel has taken to ease some restrictions. However, we want to see Israel go much further, and we are continuing to call on them to do so. Under the temporary Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, over 95,000 people have now been able to buy materials to repair their homes. The UK continues to encourage the full implementation of the reconstruction mechanism as soon as possible.

## General Practitioners: Recruitment

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recent report by recruitment firm Manpower that argued that the shortage of General Practitioners cannot be addressed unless immigration rules are changed to allow the recruitment of more doctors from overseas. [HL490]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department has acknowledged the report published by Manpower.

As at September 2014, there were 36,920 full-time equivalent general practitioners (GPs) working and

training in the National Health Service. This is an increase of 1,677 since September 2010. The Government's mandate to Health Education England requires it to ensure that 3,250 trainees are recruited to GP training programmes each year from 2016. This mandate commitment will enable 5,000 additional doctors to be available in general practice by 2020.

The Migration Advisory Committee, an independent non-Departmental public body that advises the Government on migration issues, consulted with stakeholders in the health sector and concluded that GPs should not be included on the national shortage occupation list. However, international recruitment of GPs under Tier 2 of the immigration points-based system continues to be an option for employers where genuine and continued difficulties exist in meeting demand from domestic and European Economic Area supply.

## Gibraltar: Spain

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the reasons for the multiple incursions by Spanish state vessels into British territorial waters around Gibraltar. [HL539]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by the former Senior Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my noble Friend, the right hon. Baroness Warsi, on 6 May 2014, Official Report, column WA361, which still stands.

## Iran

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Iran concerning the case of Atena Farghadani. [HL632]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned by the continuing detention of Ms Farghadani, apparently for drawing satirical cartoons and describing her ill-treatment in prison. Our non-resident Chargé d'affaires discussed freedom of expression in Iran when he met the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Director General for Human Rights in May 2015. We have not raised the detention of Ms Farghadani specifically.

## Iraq

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their most recent assessment of the steps taken by the government of Iraq to encourage political reconciliation and the move towards an inclusive framework of government in Iraq. [HL548]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcome the commitments that Prime Minister al-Abadi has made to reaching out to all of Iraq's communities, including the Sunni community, and delivering the reforms needed to



secure a meaningful political settlement. Prime Minister al-Abadi has already taken some important steps in this regard, including appointing the most inclusive government that Iraq has seen for a decade, securing an important revenue sharing deal with the Kurdistan Regional government and building cross-party support for the 2015 budget. We will continue to support Prime Minister al-Abadi as he works to progress political reconciliation and a unified response to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Coventry***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to assist the government of Iraq with its community-building efforts in post-conflict areas such as Tikrit where ISIS have been expelled. [HL550]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Restoring security, governance and vital services to areas liberated from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) are important for the safe return of those displaced by violence and to stop ISIL retaking ground. This stabilisation work is one of the five lines of effort in the Counter-ISIL Coalition's strategy. It must be led by the Iraqi government, but closely supported by the international Counter-ISIL Coalition.

The UK is actively supporting the Iraqi government in a number of ways: as a key member of the Coalition Stabilisation Working Group; providing technical expertise and advice to the Iraqi government-led Stabilisation Task Force in Baghdad; and through our military and humanitarian support. On 2 June, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), joined other Coalition ministers to review the Coalition's progress in defeating ISIL, including ways to support communities recovering from the effects of ISIL's brutal occupation. During the meeting, the Foreign Secretary announced that the UK would pledge £2 million in support to the UN Development Programme's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilisation.

### **Islamic State: Propaganda**

*Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking directly to combat ISIL recruiting propaganda broadcast on social media. [HL629]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are working with responsible social media companies to take robust action against terrorist material from groups like ISIL. Since 2010, over 90,000 pieces of terrorist-related material have been removed at the request of the dedicated Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit. We want industry to go further and see them employ a zero tolerance approach to terrorist activity on their networks. We will continue encouraging companies to produce industry standards for the identification, removal and referral of terrorist activity. We have initiated work on this, together with the

Minister for Internet Security at the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

We have also helped build the capacity of civil society groups through training and support, in order to give them the tools to challenge extremist messages online and provide credible alternatives. For example, the Home Secretary has given her personal support to the campaign launches of Families Matter, aimed at showing the distress caused to families by young people travelling to Syria and Iraq, and Making a Stand, promoting the voices of women to directly challenge the ISIL narrative.

### **Israel: Palestinians**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the signed declaration by Hamas and other militant groups that they will accept a ruling by the International Criminal Court (ICC), what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following its reported statement that the ICC has no authority to consider Palestinian complaints because Palestine is not a state. [HL467]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government has had various discussions with the Israeli authorities about the International Criminal Court most recently with the Israeli National Security Adviser on 3 June.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel regarding its policy on child detention, in the light of the 1,266 detentions by Israel of Palestinians under the age of 15 documented by the Palestine Liberation Organization in 2014; and what recommendations from the 2012 report Children in Military Custody have so far been adopted. [HL468]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I met the Israeli Military Advocate General and the Israeli Ambassador to London on 2 June where the issue of child detention was discussed. I was given an update on the efforts made by Israel on the issue of Palestinian child detainees.

I made clear that while we welcome improvements, such as changes to standard operating procedures on methods of restraint and the pilot to use summons instead of night-time arrests; we continue to push for the full implementation of changes and to encourage further changes in practice.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel regarding its use of soldiers from the Israeli Defence Forces to expel 200 Palestinians from the pool and park in the occupied village of al Karmil in order for Israeli settlers to use the park's facilities. [HL469]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government has not had any discussions with the Israeli authorities over



this incident. We have, however, instructed our Consulate-General in Jerusalem to look into this incident.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Rand Corporation's report that a peace settlement would boost both the Israeli and Palestinian economies, what pressure they plan to put on the government of Israel to withdraw from Palestinian territory; and what assessment they have made of the potential saving to the United Kingdom aid budget over 10 years if the West Bank and Gaza were to develop their own economy. [HL470]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK will continue to press the parties strongly to make progress towards peace, maintain calm, refrain from taking actions which could make the resumption of negotiations more difficult and focus once again on finding common ground.

The Rand Corporation's report estimates that the Palestinian economy would gain \$50 billion over 10 years (raising average per capita income by approximately 3%). In that event, the UK would consider the future size and scope of its aid programme.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they plan to give to France regarding its draft resolution to time limit renewed negotiations for a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine. [HL471]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We see merit in a balanced UN Security Council resolution at the right moment, setting out parameters for a political settlement. Any resolution must command the full support of the Security Council. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has regular discussions with his French counterpart on the Middle East peace process. We will judge any proposal on the basis of whether it supports further progress in that process.

### **Jobcentre Plus: Training**

*Asked by **Lord McColl of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what training on human trafficking has been provided to Jobcentre Plus staff. [HL542]

**Lord Freud:** The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) policy is to develop its staff in the skills and knowledge required to support a range of claimants sensitively and to respect their individual needs.

The department is currently developing guidance and training for DWP staff around human trafficking. This will be available for any member of staff who is told or

suspects that the customer they are dealing with is a victim of human trafficking.

### **Maldives: Political Prisoners**

*Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about the well-being of former president of the Maldives Mohamed Nasheed, opposition leaders, activists, and other political prisoners who have been arrested or jailed; and what representations they and the Commonwealth have made to the government of the Maldives on behalf of those individuals. [HL465]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have received many reports about the well-being of former President Nasheed and others, and about the conditions in which they are held. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), has regularly raised these issues, and our wider concerns, with the Government of the Maldives, most recently with Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon on 28 May and 12 June. We also regularly raise the issue of the Maldives with the Commonwealth Secretary General, most recently on 16 June. Commonwealth delegates have recently visited the Maldives to investigate the circumstances of former President Nasheed's imprisonment.

### **Mexico: Human Rights**

*Asked by **Lord Kilclooney***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made representations to the government of Mexico about human rights in that country, and about access to water and sewage services for protestant families in Mariano Matamoros in the state of Chiapas. [HL545]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government attaches great importance to the support of human rights around the world, in Mexico as elsewhere. We are aware of reports that some Protestant communities face discrimination in certain areas of Mexico and will continue to monitor the situation closely. We encourage efforts by the Mexican government to strengthen processes and mechanisms to prevent human rights violations and ensure that those responsible for violations are brought to justice. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), discussed human rights with President Peña Nieto during his State Visit to the UK in March this year. Our Embassy in Mexico City has an ongoing programme of meetings and discussions with representatives of the Mexican government, human rights defenders and non-governmental organisations. We hope these efforts will help strengthen rule of law in Mexico and build respect for fundamental human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief.

## Migrant Workers: Domestic Service

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether anyone applying to enter the United Kingdom accompanying an employer on a Domestic Workers in a Private Household visa since 2009 has disclosed abuse perpetrated by their employer. [HL313]

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether anyone entering the United Kingdom accompanying an employer on a Domestic Workers in a Private Household visa since 2009 has disclosed abuse perpetrated by their employer. [HL314]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office does not collect data on disclosures of abuse by applicants for, or those entering the United Kingdom on, domestic worker visas. However, disclosures of abuse perpetrated by employers do occur. Analysis of Home Office management information indicates that of the 1,623 trafficking cases which were confirmed between May 2009 and May 2015, 71 were linked to people who had previously been issued an overseas domestic worker visa. This includes the Domestic Workers in a Private Household visa and the Private Servants in a Diplomatic Household visa issued under the International Agreement category of Tier 5 of the Points Based System. The Government has asked James Ewins, an expert on modern slavery, to carry out an independent review of the overseas domestic worker visas, which will consider whether they are effective in protecting potential victims from abuse. Mr Ewins is due to report in July.

## Paracetamol: Pregnant Women

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to raise awareness among pregnant women of the potential risk of paracetamol use to male fetuses. [HL374]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There are no plans to change existing advice on the use of paracetamol during pregnancy for women carrying male fetuses. Pregnant women are advised to only take medication, including paracetamol, if absolutely necessary, in the lowest effective dose and for the shortest period of time. If a painful condition persists for more than one to two days, women should consult their midwife or doctor for advice.

## Refugees: Mediterranean Sea

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts they have made to ensure that refugees crossing the Mediterranean are not assumed to be economic migrants. [HL571]

**Lord Bates:** EU Member States have obligations requiring them to accept and consider without delay an application for asylum from any migrant arriving on their territory. These obligations include the application of the Dublin Regulation to determine which EU member State is responsible for examining the merits of the application. Her Majesty's Government has made very clear that it expects all EU Member States to honour those obligations as we do.

## Rendition

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the newly declassified accounts of CIA torture practices at Guantanamo Bay, what assurances they will give that they will not repeat their use of rendition or collaborate in such practices, and that full transparency will be allowed regarding the treatment of United Kingdom detainees. [HL472]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government stands firmly against all torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. We do not do it, we do not condone it, and we do not ask others to do it on our behalf.

The US government has been clear that it has no intention of reverting to previous practices under the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)'s detention and interrogation programme. President Obama formally ended the CIA's use of enhanced interrogation techniques soon after taking office. In response to the recent publication of the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's declassified summary of their report on CIA detentions and interrogation, he issued a statement which referred to those former practices as "inconsistent with our values as a nation", and reiterated that he would continue to use his authority as President to make sure that they were not used again.

## Social Security Benefits: Immigrants

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether Polish citizens of working age settled in the United Kingdom are more or less likely to claim benefits than the national average. [HL540]

**Lord Freud:** Specific assessments of the number of Polish benefit claimants as a proportion of the working age population are not available.

## Thames Tideway Tunnel

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many bids have been received for the infrastructure provider utility to receive a licence from the Water Services Regulation Authority to build and operate the Thames Tideway Tunnel; and what assessment they have made of

whether this number is sufficient to achieve competitive tension and to comply with the Utilities Contract Regulations 2006 Schedule 1 and HM Treasury's Guide on Procurement for Complex Investments in Infrastructure Assets. [HL524]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Procurement of the Thames Tideway Tunnel Infrastructure Provider is being carried out by Thames Water Utilities Limited. As this is a live procurement, the Government is unable to comment on commercially-sensitive aspects, including the number of bidders. Once complete, further information on the procurement will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union as a contract award notice. Having been consulted on the terms that the project was put out to tender, the Government is satisfied it complies with all relevant procurement law and is capable of delivering value for money.

### Visas: Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many certificates of sponsorship were issued in respect of Scottish employers for students who switched from Tier 4 into Tier 2 in each of 2012, 2013 and 2014. [HL331]

**Lord Bates:** The number of certificates of sponsorship used in each of the calendar years 2012, 2013 and 2014 by migrants to switch from Tier 4 into Tier 2 employment in Scotland, is set out at Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Tier 2 Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) Used per calendar year 2012 to 2014 for employment in Scotland*

<i>Year</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
Tier 2 CoS used to switch from Tier 4 to Tier 2 employment in Scotland	164	501	527

### War Pensions

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 10 June (HL211), whether war pensions have been mentioned in any government statements concerning the level of spending on defence, other than their statement on

defence spending submissions to NATO between 2011 and 2014. [HL596]

**Earl Howe:** The information is not held centrally and to check all statements and publications could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure on war pensions has been included in the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Annual Report and Accounts as part of the MOD's operating costs since 2001.

### Welfare State

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the impact of any shrinking of the welfare state on access by individuals to their communities and work. [HL683]

**Lord Freud:** The Government's commitment to reduce welfare spending was set out in its election manifesto. Further details will be given in due course.

### Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many separate incidents of detainees self-harming and requiring medical treatment occurred at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre in 2013 and 2014 respectively. [HL585]

**Lord Bates:** Information is collated on the number of incidents of self-harm requiring medical treatment at Yarl's Wood IRC. In 2013 there were 74 incidents and in 2014 there were 61.

These are the number of incidents of self-harm requiring medical attention; they do not necessarily equate to the number of detainees requiring medical attention as one individual may have received medical attention on more than one occasion.

The data quoted has been taken from management information only and has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for national statistics publications. These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

# Written Answers

Thursday, 25 June 2015

## Ambulance Services: Greater London

Asked by **Lord Harris of Haringey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of calls relating to an immediately life-threatening situation received an emergency response from the London Ambulance Service within eight minutes in each London Borough area in the last three months; and what was the proportion that received an ambulance vehicle capable of transporting the patient safely within 19 minutes of the request for transport being made. [HL456]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The information in the attached tables has been provided by the NHS Trust Development Authority and shows performance data for the London Ambulance Service from February 2015 to April 2015, detailing the response times within eight minutes and 19 minutes for each London borough.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL456 Data [HL456 Tables.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-15/HL456>

## Asylum: Eritrea

Asked by **Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many requests for asylum from Eritreans have been granted over the last year, on a month by month basis. [HL451]

**Lord Bates:** The table below shows the latest published number of nationals of Eritrea granted asylum and other form of protection in the UK, based on initial decisions for main applicants since January 2014.

*Number of nationals of Eritrea granted asylum or other form of protection in the UK (main applicants), based on initial decisions (1)*

Month/Year	Grants of asylum	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other form of protection (2)
2014				
January	83	0	0	0
February	58	0	0	0
March	67	0	0	0
April	77	0	0	0
May	94	0	0	0
June	111	0	0	2
July	190	0	0	2

Month/Year	Grants of asylum	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other form of protection (2)
August	179	0	1	2
September	270	1	0	0
October	281	0	0	1
November	325	0	0	1
December	409	1	0	1
Total 2014	2,144	2	1	9
2015				
January	316	0	0	2
February	157	0	0	1
March	63	0	0	4
Total January to March 2015	536	0	0	7

The figures provided in the table are a subset of latest statistics published in the Immigration Statistics release by the Home Office, in Table as\_01\_q "Asylum applications and initial decisions for main applicants, by country of nationality".

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on asylum applications and initial decisions within the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics January – March 2015, is available from the Library of the House.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

table 1 [HL 451 Table(1).xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-11/HL451>

## Bill of Rights

Asked by **Lord Falconer of Thoroton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their position on the United Kingdom withdrawing from the European Convention on Human Rights. [HL448]

Asked by **Lord Falconer of Thoroton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to bring forward proposals for a British Bill of Rights. [HL449]

**Lord Faulks:** This Government was elected with a mandate to reform and modernise the UK human rights framework. A Bill of Rights will protect fundamental human rights, but also prevent their abuse and restore some common sense to the system.

Our plans do not involve us leaving the European Convention on Human Rights. That is neither our objective nor our policy. However, our number one



priority is to restore some balance to our human rights laws, so no option is off the table for the future.

We will consult fully before introducing legislation and will bring forward proposals for a British Bill of Rights in due course.

### Burma: Sexual Offences

*Asked by Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure the investigation of the allegations of the use of rape and sexual violence by the Burmese army against women in Burma. [HL514]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly raise our serious concerns about the use of rape and sexual violence in conflict with the Burmese government, and emphasise the requirement to investigate allegations. The then Minister of State at the Home Office, the Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone, in her role as UK Champion for Tackling Violence Against Women, discussed these issues with senior members of the Burmese government in January, including with Ministers of the President's Office, U Soe Thane and U Aung Min, and also with Deputy Foreign Minister U Thant Kyaw.

### Children: Day Care

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many pilots will be trialled in 2016 in preparation for the implementation of the measures contained in the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL610]

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which areas of the country pilots will be trialled in preparation for the implementation of the measures contained in the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL611]

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the terms of reference for the pilots planned for 2016 of the measures to be implemented under the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL612]

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will be invited to take part in the pilots of the measures to be implemented under the Childcare Bill [HL] in 2016. [HL613]

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government over what period of time the pilots of the measures to be implemented under the Childcare Bill [HL] will run in 2016. [HL614]

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish the full results of the pilots of the measures to be implemented under the Childcare Bill [HL]; and if so, when the results will be published. [HL615]

**Lord Nash:** We have announced that we will bring forward the implementation of the additional 15 hours of free childcare to September 2016 for some working families in some areas. More details on the early roll-out, including the timescale, where it will take place and who will be eligible will be announced in due course.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many three and four year-old children benefitted from the 15 hours free childcare allowance in (1) nursery classes in primary schools, and (2) maintained nursery schools, in each of the previous five years. [HL647]

**Lord Nash:** The information requested is shown in the table below.

*Number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from funded early education places in January each year*

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nursery schools	37,520	38,730	39,300	38,640	37,590
Nursery classes in primary schools	291,510	296,550	302,720	297,090	296,840

Source: Early Years Census (EYC), School Census (SC), and School Level Annual School Census (SLASC)

The information is published as part of the statistical first release entitled "Provision for children under 5 years of age".

The Department has also estimated that in 2013 there were 230,000 more registered childcare and early education places than in 2009, based on data from the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. The basis for this internal estimate differs significantly from the above because: registered childcare includes unfunded childcare places; covering places for all children aged 0-5; including places in private and voluntary providers and provided by childminders. The estimate excludes out of school settings.



## Commonwealth: Education

Asked by *Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Minister will attend the Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference in the Bahamas on 22 June. [HL525]

**Lord Nash:** Baroness Verma, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for International Development, with responsibility for the Commonwealth, will represent Her Majesty's Government at the 19<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers in the Bahamas. Education officials have worked closely with those attending to ensure the Minister is briefed across the full agenda of the Commonwealth Conference.

## Constituencies

Asked by *Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the number of parliamentary constituencies. [HL446]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government remains committed to equalising the size of constituencies in order to make votes of more equal value. The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies (PVSC) Act 2011 provides for the number of UK constituencies to be reduced from 650 to 600 and there is due to be a boundary review on this basis which must report before 1 October 2018.

## Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Asked by *Baroness Hooper*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to ratify the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage. [HL379]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The government has no plans to ratify the convention at present, but we will keep the situation under review.

## Detainees: Death

Asked by *Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Faulks on 10 June (HL139), what assessment they have made of the report by the Institute for Race Relations, *Dying for Justice*, and in particular the finding that, between 1991 and 2014, over 500 deaths occurred in some form of custody, resulting in 10 verdicts of unlawful killing, five prosecutions, and no convictions. [HL429]

**Lord Faulks:** Every death in custody is a tragedy. Each one is investigated independently by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman or the Independent Police Complaints Commission, and is the subject of a coroner's inquest. Every effort is made to learn lessons from these

investigations, and the prevention of further deaths is a priority for police, prisons and immigration detention services.

The very small number of cases in which criminal offences are believed to have been committed are referred for further investigation by the police and/or to the Crown Prosecution Service, and where appropriate charges are brought. The final outcome in such cases is a matter for the courts.

The report by the Institute of Race Relations brings together information from a number of sources to highlight the particular issue of deaths of Black and Minority Ethnic people in custody. It describes 509 cases of 'suspicious' death, including large numbers of natural causes deaths as well as self-inflicted deaths and the ten cases that resulted in inquest findings of unlawful killing. These deaths occurred over a period of more than twenty years.

The report acknowledges some of the improvements that have been made during that period. It also reminds us of the enduring nature of many of the issues related to deaths in custody, particularly that the families of the deceased and others in the Black and Minority Ethnic community continue to lack confidence that appropriate action is being taken in response to such deaths. The Government is working to address this, for example through more effective liaison with families, as well as improvements to restraint techniques and training.

The Government announced in February 2014 that Lord Harris of Haringey would lead a review into self-inflicted deaths of 18-24 year olds in NOMS custody. The report will be published in due course.

## Electoral Register

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people successfully registered to vote in the May 2015 General Election in the month preceding the deadline for registration. [HL444]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** On 18 June the Electoral Commission published their analysis of the state of the electoral registers used for the General Election. The report shows that the number of entries on the local government and Parliamentary registers had increased by 1% compared with the last registers published before the transition to Individual Electoral Registration. The full report can be found at:

[http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/190464/IER-June-report.pdf](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/190464/IER-June-report.pdf)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

IER Report [IER-June-report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-11/HL444>

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to bring forward the end date for transitional arrangements to Individual Electoral Registration to December 2015. [HL447]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** On the 18 June the Electoral Commission (EC) published its analysis of the state of the registers used for the elections on 7 May. A decision on when the transition to Individual Electoral Registration ends will be made in light of this once the Government has had the opportunity to fully digest the detail it provides.

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to end the requirement for Electoral Registration Officers to canvas households annually. [HL553]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Following the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) in Great Britain in 2014, the annual canvass of households has been retained. There are no current plans to exercise an order under Part 1, Section 7(2)(b) of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

### **Electoral Register: Students**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take to combat the decline in students registering to vote. [HL445]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government has made it easier and more convenient than ever for students to register to vote. Students can now register online in as little as three minutes and many chose to do so before the General Election.

In addition the Government has released £530,000 directly to organisations that work to encourage student electoral registration, including £380,000 to the National Union of Students, and continues to foster closer working relationships between universities and authorities through the Student Forum, established and supported by the Cabinet Office.

### **Employment Tribunals Service: Fees and Charges**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Faulks on 10 June (HL23), how many applications for waivers of employment tribunal fees have been made since the fees were increased; and how many of those were granted. [HL385]

**Lord Faulks:** Since the fees were introduced in 2013 there have been 17,869 applications for a fee remission to issue proceedings. Of these, 6,536 were granted either in full or in part. There have also been 3,912 applications for

a fee remission for a hearing, of which 2,766 were granted in full or in part.

These figures are published in the latest quarterly Tribunal statistics bulletin which is available online.

### **Eritrea**

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of human rights conditions in Eritrea; and how that assessment has influenced their policy on migrant returns to Eritrea. [HL634]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Eritrea. There are serious shortcomings in the rule of law, reports of arbitrary detention, and limits on freedom of speech. While we acknowledge some limited progress made by the Eritrean government, including ratifying the Convention Against Torture in 2014 and the hosting of a visit by international human rights experts in January 2015, we continue to call on Eritrea to take concrete steps to implement the recommendations of the 2014 Universal Periodic Review and to fulfil its international obligations.

We have been clear with the Eritrean government that the poor human rights situation is a driver of irregular migration, and the UK is committed to working with Eritrea on the issue. As with any country, decisions on migrant returns are made on a case-by-case basis in light of our international obligations and taking into account the latest available country information from a range of reliable sources. We only enforce removal when we and the courts conclude that it is safe to do so, with a safe route of return.

### **FIFA**

*Asked by Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the allegations of corruption at FIFA, and the resignation of the FIFA President. [HL403]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government welcomes the investigations that are taking place into the allegations of corruption at FIFA, however, we are unable to comment further given that these investigations are ongoing.

The Government also welcomes Sepp Blatter's resignation, however, this is only the start of the process of reform we need to see from FIFA.

### **HMS Bulwark**

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the total cost of deploying HMS Bulwark in the Mediterranean on search and rescue missions will be allocated to the defence budget; and how much to the aid budget. [HL675]

**Earl Howe:** The marginal costs of deploying HMS Bulwark in the Mediterranean on search and rescue missions will be met from the UK aid budget.

### **Iraq: Minority Groups**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the long-term future of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq; and what steps they are taking to assist Iraq's religious minorities. [HL551]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government continues to condemn in the strongest terms the atrocities committed by the self-styled Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) against all communities throughout the areas under its control. There is no doubt that religious and ethnic minorities face real dangers and great hardship in parts of Iraq. To safeguard the future of religious minorities we have to confront, drive back, dismantle and ultimately defeat ISIL and promote an inclusive and stable Iraq that recognises the importance of all its communities.

We are in contact with religious leaders to discuss this issue. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), visited Iraq on 12 February and encouraged Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi to continue progress on ensuring that all minorities are represented and their rights protected. I met Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil to discuss the ongoing situation in northern Iraq.

In 2015/16, the recently launched Conflict, Security and Stability Fund will provide funding for a number of projects in Iraq. One key strand of this work will focus on community cohesion, encouraging reconciliation and promoting acceptance and tolerance between communities at a grass roots level. We continue to encourage influential religious leaders in Iraq to speak out publicly and condemn sectarian violence. We will continue to explore what further support we might be able to provide to vulnerable groups and internally displaced persons.

### **Iraq: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their most recent assessment of freedom of religion or belief in Iraq and what assessment they have made of the steps taken by the government of Iraq to protect this human right. [HL549]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We firmly believe in the importance of freedom of religion or belief. The persecution of individuals of all faiths, anywhere in the world, is of profound concern to us. The self-styled Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is seeking to stoke sectarian conflict across the Middle East and has launched a campaign of violence and terror in Iraq and

carried out appalling atrocities against people from all communities.

We welcome the commitments that Prime Minister al-Abadi has made to inclusivity, to protecting Iraqi citizens, addressing human rights abuses and holding those responsible to account.

In 2015/16, the recently launched Conflict, Security and Stability Fund will provide funding for a number of projects in Iraq. One key strand of this work will focus on community cohesion, encouraging reconciliation and promoting acceptance and tolerance between communities at a grass roots level. We continue to encourage influential religious leaders in Iraq to speak out publicly and condemn sectarian violence.

### **Large Goods Vehicles**

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for conducting tests of the amount of damage caused by heavier and overloaded axles when on a typical, rather than an ideal, road. [HL579]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The amount of damage caused by heavier and overloaded axles is assessed applying well established, and internationally recognised, engineering based methods of calculating road wear. Current design standards for new road construction take account of recent research which shows that existing well-built asphalt roads on the Strategic Road Network do not weaken through the effects of cumulative heavy goods vehicle traffic loading but maintain their strength with time.

### **Libya**

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the latest situation in Libya. [HL531]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is deeply concerned by the continuing violence and political polarisation in Libya, and its impact on the Libyan people and the stability of the wider region. The Libyan people have suffered gravely from human rights violations by all sides in the conflict, and over 400,000 Libyans have been internally displaced. Infrastructure has been seriously damaged while the depletion of state resources threatens the Libyan economy. Terrorist groups including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant have established themselves, and threaten the security of both Libya and the wider region. Criminal gangs are exploiting the security void to smuggle and traffic increasing numbers of refugees and migrants through Libya, leading to continuing loss of lives at sea.

A united Libyan government is urgently needed in order to address these challenges. That is why the UK welcomed the latest round of talks in Morocco and Berlin on 8 and 10 June respectively on the fourth draft Libyan

political agreement, led by UN Special Representative of the Secretary General Leon. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and our diplomatic network have intensively lobbied Libyan negotiators and regional governments in support of the agreement. We welcome regional efforts and those of the African Union and others in support of the process. We urge all parties in the dialogue to sign an agreement and establish a representative Government of National Accord (GNA) that can deal with the political and security challenges that Libya faces.

### **Malaria: Drugs**

*Asked by Baroness Corston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) serving and (2) former service men and women have required psychiatric treatment after taking Lariam (mefloquine). [HL563]

*Asked by Baroness Corston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many service men and women who were deployed to Afghanistan between 2007 and 2014, and were required to take Lariam (mefloquine), subsequently required mental health treatment. [HL564]

**Earl Howe:** Between 1 April 2007 and 31 December 2014, 16,473 UK Regular Armed Forces personnel were prescribed mefloquine (commercial name Lariam). Up to 31 March 2015, 1,066 (6 per cent) were assessed as having a mental health disorder at their initial assessment at an MOD Department for Community Mental Health (DCMH) or on admission to an MOD in-patient provider. It is not possible from centrally-held data to identify whether an assessment is associated with a patient having taken mefloquine.

Former Service men and women are treated by the NHS and their status as a veteran is not always recorded on their NHS medical records. It is therefore not possible to say how many former Service personnel have required psychiatric treatment after taking mefloquine.

Between 1 April 2007 and 31 December 2014, 536 UK Armed Forces personnel were prescribed mefloquine prior to or whilst on deployment to Afghanistan. Up to 31 March 2015, 43 (8 per cent) were assessed as having a mental health disorder at their initial assessment at an MOD DCMH or on admission to an MOD in-patient provider.

*Asked by Baroness Corston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what stocks of Lariam (mefloquine) they currently hold. [HL568]

**Earl Howe:** As at 22 June 2015, the Ministry of Defence holds 11,505 packs of mefloquine (commercial name Lariam) each containing eight tablets.

### **Medical Examiners**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the system of medical examiners will be rolled out across the National Health Service. [HL491]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We remain committed to these reforms and will provide an update on implementation plans once the forthcoming Spending Review has been completed.

### **Mental Health Services**

*Asked by Baroness Tyler of Enfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Care Quality Commission's report *Right here, right now*, what steps they are taking to ensure that local Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat plans are properly funded and implemented in all areas. [HL510]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government's Mandate to NHS England sets out clearly that "we expect NHS England to make rapid progress, working with CCGs and other commissioners, to help deliver on our shared goal to have crisis services that, for an individual, are at all times as accessible, responsive and high quality as other health emergency services." The Mandate also states that the Government expects "every community to have plans to ensure no one in crisis will be turned away" based on the principles set out in the Crisis Care Concordat. The current NHS England planning guidance for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) makes specific reference to the Concordat, as well as asking CCGs to increase their mental health spend this year.

As part of their commitment to the Concordat, we asked the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to undertake a review of the experiences of people receiving crisis care. The report, *Right Here, Right Now: Mental health crisis care review*, has been placed in the Library and is available at:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/right-here-right-now-mental-health-crisis-care-review>

The report will inform future inspections as part of the CQC's new inspection regime. As part of the review, the CQC carried out 15 local area inspections of services that respond to people experiencing a mental health crisis during winter 2014-15. The CQC has now provided feedback to those localities. This feedback and the wider report will enable local partners in these areas, as well as others across the country, to identify areas for improvement which can in turn be addressed through continuously improving Concordat action plans.

The Department, NHS England and Mind are supporting all areas to develop and improve their plans, which were in place throughout England by spring 2015, on an ongoing basis, including in light of the CQC's review.



The Government has put mental health at the centre of its programme of health reform.

We have increased investment in mental health. Spending on mental health was estimated to increase by £302 million in 2014-15, with total mental health spending rising from £11.362 billion in 2013-14 to £11.664 billion planned in 2014-15, an increase of 0.6% in real terms. We have legislated to put mental health on a par with physical health, and close the health gap between people with mental health problems and the population as a whole.

### **Middle East: Unmanned Air Vehicles**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British-controlled military unmanned aerial vehicles are currently operating within the Arabian Peninsula. [HL628]

**Earl Howe:** The Scan Eagle Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) offers enhanced maritime surveillance and is used to provide situational awareness to Royal Navy ships deployed to the Arabian Peninsula. In addition, a number of Reaper Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) are currently operating in the Middle East in support of the Iraqi Government and International Coalition's ongoing operation to counter the threat of ISIL.

Regardless of asset type or location, it is departmental policy not to confirm specific numbers of equipment platforms deployed on operations. Therefore, I am withholding the exact number of UAS/RPAS deployed on operations to safeguard operational security.

### **Migrant Workers: Domestic Service**

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in the United Kingdom on overseas domestic worker visas have, since 2012, been granted a residence permit, including grants of discretionary leave to remain, following a positive conclusive grounds decision that they have been trafficked. [HL395]

**Lord Bates:** A manual review of a significant number of applications would be needed in order to provide an accurate response and this would incur a disproportionate cost to the public purse. Therefore we are unable to confirm the number of individuals in the United Kingdom who have been issued residence permits following positive identification as a victim of Human Trafficking who held leave as a domestic worker since 2012.

### **Multiple Births**

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Care Quality Commission's new maternity inspection framework and NHS England's new maternity

commissioning guidance will explicitly refer to the need to demonstrate how providers are actively working to reduce the much higher risks of still birth, neonatal death and clinical negligence claims among multiple pregnancies. [HL498]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care providers in England and has supplied the following information:

The current version of CQC's core service framework does not refer explicitly to multiple births. CQC is currently reviewing the framework and they are working with organisations such as the Twins and Multiple Births Association to determine how best to ensure their new framework takes account of the risks associated with multiple births. As part of the existing inspection framework CQC expects maternity services to have due regard to existing advice and guidance, such as NICE Quality Standard 46 which refers specifically to multiple births and risk assessments. Going forward the CQC will expect trusts to provide evidence of their compliance with these recommendations.

NHS England has informed us that its new maternity commissioning guidance will explicitly refer to the need to demonstrate how providers are actively working to reduce the much higher risks of still birth, neonatal death and clinical negligence claims among multiple pregnancies and how it will achieve this.

The Department together with the parent's support and campaigning organisation Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity (Sands) and a number of key organisations including NHS England, Public Health England, the Royal College of Midwives and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists are working on an ongoing stillbirth prevention work programme. This work identifies key messages which can be used to raise awareness among both pregnant women and health professionals of the risk factors for stillbirths and the actions that can be taken to minimise these risks.

The new maternity commissioning guidance will make reference to stillbirth prevention work and will focus on identifying the evidence based interventions which impact on reducing stillbirths and early neonatal death.

NHS England has been working with many stakeholders on collating a package of interventions and best practice models to reduce stillbirths which will result in recommendations for clinical practice and are likely to be included in future commissioning specifications for maternity. The NHS England – led "Saving Babies' Lives" Care Bundle brings together a number of elements likely to impact on still birth rates including:

- reducing smoking in pregnancy by carrying out Carbon Monoxide test at antenatal booking appointment to identify smokers (or those exposed to tobacco smoke) and referring to stop smoking service/specialist as appropriate;
- identification and surveillance of pregnancies with fetal growth restriction;



- raising awareness amongst pregnant women of the importance of detecting and reporting reduced fetal movement; and

- effective fetal monitoring during labour.

The commissioning guidance will refer to sufficient provision of resource to support appropriate levels of these types of surveillance within the clinical practice environment.

## NHS

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the report by the NHS Forum on the creation of a fully integrated service and seven-day working has not yet been published. [HL489]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Work on fully integrated seven day services has moved on and the NHS Five Year Forward View, published in October 2014, now sets out how the health service needs to change over the next five years if it is to close the widening gaps in the health of the population, quality of care and the funding of services. This overarching strategy also establishes service integration as a design principle for the new care models emerging from it. More information about new care models is attached and can be found at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/5yfv-web.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Five Year Forward View [Five Year Forward View.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-15/HL489>

## Nurseries: Free Schools

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether nurseries linked to free schools will be allowed to employ unqualified staff. [HL650]

**Lord Nash:** All nursery provision, including that provided by Free Schools, is subject to the requirements set out in the statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Nursery provision that is part of a Free School must meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety. The staff qualification requirements and adult to child ratios for all providers are set out in paragraphs 3.28 to 3.39 of the EYFS Framework which is attached.

Providing other staff hold the necessary qualifications as set out in the EYFS, Free Schools (as can all early years providers) may employ unqualified staff as part of their staffing mix.

## Pregnant Women: Exercise

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to raise awareness earlier in pregnancy of the importance of exercise, in particular in reducing the risk of diabetes and improving babies' health. [HL474]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public Health England's Start4Life Information Service for Parents (ISP) provides help and advice to encourage pregnant women to develop behaviours that support a healthy pregnancy and healthy start for babies.

Start4Life provides essential information and free tools on healthy eating, keeping active, vitamin supplement and breastfeeding. The Start4Life ISP sends regular texts and emails detailing baby's development through pregnancy and up to 42 months, and currently includes information from 11 weeks gestation onwards on the importance of being active during pregnancy.

The Get Going tool developed by Change4Life, helps mums keep moving by providing a personalised activity plan to suit every level of fitness.

## Pupils: Food

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers teachers in the state sector have to inspect children's lunch boxes and to confiscate items that they deem unsuitable. [HL522]

**Lord Nash:** Governing bodies are responsible for their school meals service including their packed lunch policies and whether to ban certain products to promote healthy eating. If schools wish to adopt such policies, we strongly recommend that they consult parents first and ensure that any adopted policy is clearly communicated to parents and pupils.

Schools have common law powers to search pupils, with their consent, for items. There is nothing to prevent schools from having a policy of inspecting lunch boxes for food items that are prohibited under their school food policies. A member of staff may confiscate, keep or destroy such items found as a result of the search if it is reasonable to do so in the circumstances. It would be good practice for the pupil to be present during an inspection and for a second member of staff to be present if any items are to be confiscated.

If authorities and schools are concerned about their legal position, they should seek their own legal advice.

## Schools: Discipline

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in what specific ways they plan to promote recommendations on classroom control by Tom Bennett to teachers. [HL588]

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recent remarks by Tom Bennett regarding the inadequacy of teacher training with regard to managing behaviour in the classroom. [HL589]

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any correlation between classroom behaviour and classroom seating arrangements. [HL590]

**Lord Nash:** The government is committed to ensuring that all teachers are trained to tackle serious behaviour issues as well as low-level classroom disruption. We have not undertaken a formal assessment of any correlation between classroom behaviour and classroom seating arrangements; however Sir Andrew Carter's recent review of initial teacher training (ITT) content identified that some training courses are insufficiently robust in terms of training teachers to manage poor pupil behaviour. That is why we have invited Tom Bennett, a renowned behaviour expert, to lead an expert group to develop core content on behaviour management for ITT. His group will consider how best to promote their recommendations to ITT providers.

All qualified teachers are required to meet the Teachers' Standards, which include specific requirements for developing and demonstrating effective behaviour management skills. This includes setting clear rules and routines for behaviour in classrooms, and taking responsibility for promoting good and courteous behaviour both in classrooms and around the school.

### **Skills Funding Agency**

*Asked by Lord Smith of Clifton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the funding provided by the Skills Funding Agency is

allocated to (1) learner support and (2) skills infrastructure. [HL534]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The amount of funding allocated to the Skills Funding Agency is set out in the Skills Funding letter attached here. The letter sets out the funding priorities and available budget for the further education (FE) and skills sector for the 2015 to 2016 financial year. The letter confirms that £172.8m has been allocated for Learning Support and £23.1m for Skills Infrastructure.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Letter to skills Funding Agency [Letter to skills funding Agency.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-16/HL534>

### **West Africa: Ebola**

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the total cost so far of providing personnel from the Ministry of Defence, National Health Service and Public Health England, and materials and medicines from the United Kingdom, to international efforts to tackle the recent ebola crisis. [HL418]

**Earl of Courtown:** The UK has committed £427m to combat Ebola in West Africa, £373m for the ongoing response and £54m for early recovery programmes. This package of support covers the cost of UK operations, including Ministry of Defence assets and personnel, PHE clinicians, materials and medicines. Over £260 million has now been disbursed.

## Written Answers

Monday, 29 June 2015

### Asthma: Drugs

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that patients with asthma receive the right medication. [HL684]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The NHS mandate for 2015-16 says that every patient with a long-term condition, including asthma and other respiratory conditions, should be offered a personalised care action plan. They and their families or carers should know the right medications to use at the right times and how to use them, and to understand the importance of monitoring their condition and how to do this.

### Asylum

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United Kingdom accepts a responsibility to grant asylum to refugees fleeing countries where in the last 10 years British military forces have been involved; and if not, why not. [HL627]

**Lord Bates:** The United Kingdom has a proud tradition of providing protection to those who need it and we fulfil our responsibilities to all who claim asylum in the UK, irrespective of whether British military forces have previously been engaged in the country of origin.

### Azerbaijan: Human Rights

Asked by *Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the human rights situation in Azerbaijan. [HL631]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is concerned about the shrinking space for civil society and freedom of expression in Azerbaijan, including the selective application of the rule of law. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has issued a number of statements expressing concern, most recently on 17 and 23 April 2015, following the sentencing of human rights defender, Rasul Jafarov, and human rights lawyer, Intigam Aliyev. We consistently raise our concerns both bilaterally and in international organisations such as the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe and the UN. Our Ambassador in Baku raised concerns about freedom of the media in a statement on 17 June about the opening ceremony of the European Games in Baku.

### Belarus

Asked by *Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Belarus regarding Ihar Tsikhanyuk. [HL532]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has made no direct representation specifically on behalf of Mr Tsikhanyuk. We are careful not to do so in such sensitive cases unless we have the consent of those concerned. Our Embassy in Minsk supports the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in Belarus where possible. Our Embassy in Minsk also support events to raise awareness of LGBT issues. The UK raises Belarus's human rights record in meetings with Belarusian ministers and officials.

The UK raised the issue of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the UK advanced questions to the Belarus Universal Periodic Review this year.

### Birds

Asked by *Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what process there is to establish a national bird of the United Kingdom, and what plans they have, if any, to make the robin the national bird. [HL454]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The robin is synonymous with the British countryside and I am delighted that it has been voted as Britain's favourite bird, however, there are no plans to adopt it as the national bird.

### Budgets: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the budget passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly on 15 June. [HL526]

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the budget passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly on 15 June is consistent with their guidelines to devolved administrations. [HL528]

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take in the event that the spending of Northern Ireland Departments, detailed in the budget passed on 15 June, is greater than the income received by the Assembly in the current financial year. [HL530]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** I refer the noble Lord to the written answer (HL321) that I gave to him on 22 June 2015. It is vital that all parties to the Stormont House Agreement live up to the commitments they entered into

in December, including on welfare reform, and in doing so that they also ensure that the Northern Ireland Executive's 2015-16 budget does not exceed the resources available to it.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have sought legal advice or consulted the Law Officers regarding the budget passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly on 15 June. [HL527]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The Government is monitoring developments in relation to the finances of the Northern Ireland Executive closely. By long-standing convention, observed by successive administrations and embodied in the Ministerial Code, the fact that the Law Officers may or may not have advised or have been requested to advise on a particular issue, and the content of any advice, is not disclosed outside government.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place between Treasury Ministers and other Ministers concerning the legitimacy of the budget passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly on 15 June. [HL529]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Treasury Ministers have regular discussions with other Government Ministers across a wide range of Government business. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury also discussed the Northern Ireland Executive's current budgetary position with the Northern Ireland Minister for Finance and Personnel on 17 June.

## Burma: Elections

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the forthcoming elections in Burma can be free and fair, in the light of the withdrawal of temporary voting rights given to Rohingya Muslims and the fact that the military is allocated one quarter of seats. [HL661]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Burma's elections in November are a milestone in its transition to democracy, and we have consistently called for democratic, inclusive, credible and transparent elections in which all the people of Burma, including persons belonging to minorities, can fully exercise their political rights and cast their vote. This was reiterated in the EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on 22 June. However, there are significant challenges in holding Burma's first credible elections in decades. The withdrawal of temporary residence cards for Rohingya Muslims is a major concern. We have also long made clear that the military should step back from politics. In assessing the overall standard of the election, we will look at these and a range of other factors, including the assessments of both local and international observers on the ground at the time. The UK has

supported the EU in sending an Election Observation Mission to observe the elections.

## Burma: Internally Displaced People

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address the continuing humanitarian situation for internally displaced people in Kachin state, Burma. [HL461]

**Baroness Verma:** Since 2011 we have committed over £17m in humanitarian funding in Kachin and Northern Shan states in Burma which includes food and cash, health services, and water and sanitation to sites for internally displaced people (IDP). We have also provided £5m of humanitarian health programming. We also fund UN agencies for coordination and capacity building around gender based violence, camp management and water and sanitation. Minister of State Rt. Hon. Desmond Swayne TD MP visited Kachin in August 2014 and met with IDPs and camp officials to discuss their situation. DFID's head of office visited Kachin in June 2015, visiting IDP camps around Laiza and discussing IDP issues with the Kachin Chief Minister.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that food rations for internally displaced peoples in Kachin state, Burma, are not cut. [HL462]

**Baroness Verma:** Since 2011 we have committed over £17m in humanitarian funding in Kachin and Northern Shan states in Burma which includes support for food and cash. We are also working with the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) to investigate development work on livelihoods for those displaced by conflict in Kachin State Burma.

## Cambodia: Freedom of Association

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Cambodia regarding the draft law on non-governmental organisations currently before the Cambodian Parliament, which restricts freedom of association. [HL639]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly raise human rights concerns with the government of Cambodia and encouraged them to carry out a full consultation before publishing the draft law on non-governmental organisations. EU Ambassadors have also made their views known to the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, and our Ambassador in Phnom Penh called on the Council of Ministers' Spokesman, who is tasked with managing the law's passage. On 5 June, a joint letter from member states of the Community of Democracies Working Group on



Enabling and Protecting Civil Society, and the Stand with Civil Society initiative, was handed to the Cambodian government. The letter called for a meaningful public consultation and urged the Cambodian government to ensure the legislation does not constrain basic freedoms of speech, association and peaceful assembly, in line with Cambodia's international obligations.

## Cannabis

*Asked by Lord Fearn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what legislation governs the use of cannabis in the United Kingdom. [HL766]

**Lord Bates:** The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 controls the possession, possession with intent to supply, supply, production, cultivation and importation and exportation of cannabis. Cannabis is a Class B drug, and a Schedule 1 substance under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001.

The 1971 Act also makes it unlawful for an occupier or manager of a premises to permit or suffer the consumption, production and supply of cannabis.

A new offence created by the Crime and Courts Act 2013 makes it illegal to drive with one (or more) specified drugs in the body above a specified limit. The new offence came into force on 2 March 2015.

## Clinical Commissioning Groups

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take in the event of the Clinical Commissioning Groups outsourcing parts of their commissioning role to get round the restrictions on administrative costs. [HL778]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, when Clinical Commissioning Groups outsource some of their commissioning role to integrators, lead providers or through other similar mechanisms, how the administrative costs so transferred will be counted against the Clinical Commissioning Groups' administrative cost cap. [HL779]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, when Clinical Commissioning Groups outsource some of their commissioning role, the element of administration that would have counted towards the fixed cap on administrative costs will be separately identified and appropriately deducted from Clinical Commissioning Group budgets. [HL780]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), as independent statutory bodies, can choose how best to carry out their commissioning functions from within their running cost budget.

Where CCGs choose to outsource their support and to buy from external providers, this funding will be charged against their fixed running cost allowance.

Service integrators and lead providers co-ordinate and provide care for patients; they are not commissioners, nor do they undertake commissioning activities or responsibilities.

## Cole Commission on Exports

*Asked by Lord Harrison*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Cole Commission on Exports An Action Plan from business. [HL787]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** The Government welcomes this report and the serious work by members of the Cole Commission. It contains much invaluable analysis and we will consider its recommendations very carefully.

## Conditions of Employment

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 11 June (HL Deb, col 886), how they plan to ensure that people on zero hours contracts are aware that they can no longer be bound by an exclusivity clause; whether clear notification of this change will be sent to all relevant employers and employment agencies; and whether this law will override any existing contract which until 26 May included both zero-hours and exclusivity terms. [HL493]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Changes to employment law are publicised in the same way to ensure employers and individuals know how to access the information. This includes guidance on .GOV.UK, and via relevant organisations, including representative and advisory bodies such as Acas, who have mechanisms to ensure the information reaches the right people.

The ban applies to all those with an existing exclusivity clause in their zero hours contract.

## Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Freedom of Information

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what commercial interests the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has that are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [HL622]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Freedom of Information Act provides an exception under Section 43 allowing commercially sensitive information to be withheld. Use of this exception is considered and applied as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.



## Deportation

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their policy of returning migrants to their countries of origin excludes for humanitarian reasons certain countries of origin; and if so, which countries. [HL626]

**Lord Bates:** Her Majesty's Government believes that the right approach is to consider the protection needs of individuals on an individual basis, and does not adopt a blanket approach to any one country.

Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual. Those found to be in need of international protection are provided with it. Those who have been found by the Home Office and the appeals process not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK are expected to return to their country of origin and may have their removal enforced.

## European Court of Human Rights: Legal Costs

*Asked by Baroness Seccombe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made or are aware of any assessment of the average cost of taking a case to the European Court of Human Rights; who bears those costs; and in what proportion of cases costs are incurred by (1) private concerns, and (2) the United Kingdom public purse. [HL398]

**Lord Faulks:** The applicant has to pay the costs of making the application. However if the Court finds a violation against a state, it can then make an award of costs against the state as part of its judgment. The costs to the Government vary significantly depending on the complexity of the case.

Legal aid is not available from the UK for an application to the European Court of Human Rights. However, the European Court has its own legal aid scheme, to which the UK contributes via its national contribution to the costs of Court.

## Former Prime Ministers: Security

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the latest available figures of the cost of providing police and other security protection for former prime ministers and deputy prime ministers. [HL714]

**Lord Bates:** It is Home Office policy not to comment upon matters of personal protective security and their associated costs. Disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

## Fracking: Regulation

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how responsibility for the regulation of fracking is divided between the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department of Energy and Climate Change. [HL642]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) leads on energy policy including hydraulic fracturing for shale gas and oil. Defra is responsible for the environmental aspects of shale gas and oil policy, with the exception of climate change and seismicity issues which are a DECC lead.

Defra's responsibility extends to England only as environmental policy is a devolved matter. The Environment Agency is the environmental regulator in England which is responsible for issuing environmental permits to ensure that operations are undertaken in a way which protects people and the environment.

## Gambling

*Asked by Lord Chadlington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current level of gambling addiction in the United Kingdom, and the comparable figure from before the coming into force of the Gambling Act 2005. [HL506]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The England and Scotland Health Surveys and the British Gambling Prevalence Surveys contain data on problem gambling levels going back to 1999. The approach and methodology for these different surveys are broadly comparable and show that there has been very little significant change in the levels of problem gambling since 1999, with current levels at around 0.5% of the adult population compared to 0.8% in 1999. Nevertheless the Government remains determined to tackle problem gambling and is working with the Gambling Commission and the industry to improve measures to prevent harm.

## Gambling: Advertising

*Asked by Lord Chadlington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent advertising related to gambling on television before the watershed. [HL507]

*Asked by Lord Chadlington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent advertising related to gambling offering "free bets" and "free money". [HL508]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The previous Government initiated a review of gambling advertising including "free bets" and "free money" last year. Televised gambling advertising in the UK is governed by the Advertising Codes which are maintained by the Broadcast Committee

for Advertising Practice. This is supplemented by a self-regulatory industry code, the Industry Code for Socially Responsible Gambling. The Industry Code includes a 9pm television watershed for all gambling advertising, with exceptions for bingo, lotteries and the advertising of sports betting around televised sporting events.

### Habitual Residence Test

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that the habitual residence test introduced in 2014 does not exclude victims of human trafficking who are nationals of European Economic Area countries from accessing Jobseeker's Allowance. [HL541]

**Lord Bates:** The habitual residence test is critical to the integrity of the benefits system. To be eligible for income-related Jobseeker's Allowance, EEA migrants must be habitually resident in the UK and provide evidence that they have been living here in the three month period prior to their benefit claim.

Victims of modern slavery are eligible for support through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), including accommodation, for at least 45 days. In many cases victims receive support for a longer period and are likely to be able to provide evidence that they meet the habitual residence test when they exit NRM support. The Home Office and DWP are working together to make it easier for those victims whose circumstances make it difficult to provide such evidence to do so.

EEA Nationals who are identified as victims of human trafficking through the NRM may qualify for discretionary leave where, for instance, they are helping police with an investigation or where their personal circumstances are such that it would be detrimental for the individual to leave the UK. EEA Nationals granted discretionary leave for those reasons would be exempt from the habitual residence test.

### Health Services: Tax Allowances

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why private healthcare companies can claim tax relief on drug purchases but equivalents in the National Health Service cannot. [HL486]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The supply of drugs is subject to Value-Added Tax (VAT) at the standard rate (20 per cent); however, no VAT is charged on drugs that are supplied on prescription and dispensed by a pharmacist.

Healthcare businesses, like high street pharmacies, supply drugs at the VAT zero rate where the pharmacist dispenses drugs on prescription direct to a patient. This includes NHS prescriptions and where drugs are delivered to patients' homes. Any VAT incurred on the drugs would be recoverable by the pharmacy or the healthcare business.

### Health: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Pinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will provide details of which local authorities are going to be asked to cut their public health budgets. [HL741]

*Asked by Baroness Pinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to work with local authorities to ensure that cuts in local public health budgets do not adversely affect services that help to prevent emergency hospital admissions. [HL742]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department will shortly publish a consultation on how best to implement these savings in ways that minimise any impact on services.

### Housing Starts

*Asked by Baroness Hollis of Heigham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many house building completions in receipt of government financial support there were in each financial year from 2005–06 to date. [HL575]

*Asked by Baroness Hollis of Heigham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many house building starts in receipt of government financial support began in each financial year from 2005–06 to date. [HL576]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government does not track all housing starts and completions, but the number of affordable housing starts in receipt of government funding since 2009-10 is published in the Department's Live Table 1012. A copy is attached and it is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-affordable-housing-supply>.

Figures in this format were not collected prior to 2009-10.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table 1012 Affordable Housing [PQHL575 and 576.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL575>

### Human Trafficking

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each financial year from 2009–10 to date, how many victims of trafficking who are nationals of European Economic Area countries have (1) applied for discretionary leave to remain, (2) been granted discretionary leave to remain, and (3) been refused discretionary leave to remain. [HL544]

**Lord Bates:** It is considered that disproportionate cost are applicable to aspects (1) and (3) of this PQ as there are no means, other than manual, to gather the necessary statistical information to provide an accurate figure for disclosure.

In reference to aspect (2) Her Majesty's Government provides the following statistical data in financial years as requested:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Numbers of people granted discretionary leave</i>
2009/2010	13
2010/2011	13
2011/2012	11
2012/2013	8
2013/2014	9
2014/2015	30

### **Immigrants: Tuberculosis**

*Asked by Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on screening for tuberculosis in reception centres for migrants arriving in the United Kingdom. [HL591]

**Lord Bates:** All detainees are seen by a nurse within 2 hours of arrival at an immigration removal centre for a health screening. The purpose of the initial health assessment is to identify any immediate and significant mental or physical health needs, the presence of a communicable disease and whether the individual may have been the victim of torture.

The individual will be referred straight away to a GP if the nurse feels an issue has been identified which requires immediate attention. Otherwise detainees are given an appointment to see the GP within 24 hours.

### **Insomnia**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to increase the availability of therapy for insomnia patients. [HL475]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health Care Excellence (NICE) has produced a Clinical Knowledge Summary (CKS) to support clinicians in the management of both short-term and long-term insomnia. The choice of management strategy will depend upon certain considerations, such as the duration and nature of the presenting symptoms as well the role of any pre-existing medical conditions a patient may have. Advice on appropriate routines and behaviours to encourage good sleep, such as avoiding coffee and other stimulants, should also be a key element to the overall strategy.

Pharmacological interventions should only be prescribed for short durations and usually only when daytime impairment is severe. The guidance makes clear that for patients suffering from insomnia for over four

weeks a referral to a cognitive behavioural therapy service should be considered. Where symptoms persist the guidance recommends referral to a sleep clinic or specialist with expertise in sleep medicine. The NICE CKS can be found at:

<http://cks.nice.org.uk/insomnia>

This information is only available as a web link.

### **Islamic State**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether aid to victims of ISIS qualifies as part of the ring-fenced overseas aid budget; and what capacity the Department for International Development has to support directly the victims of ISIS. [HL464]

**Baroness Verma:** All UK aid spend meets the OECD Official Development Assistance (ODA) Reporting Directives, including that support provided to those affected by ISIL. To date, the UK has pledged £800 million to support vulnerable people in Syria and the region affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria, including those displaced by ISIL. In Iraq, DFID has provided £59.5 million of humanitarian assistance, as a direct consequence of ISIL's atrocities. Access to areas held by ISIL is however extremely limited and the majority of UK Aid in Iraq is supporting those who have been displaced by ISIL's brutality. We continue to call on all sides to the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law and ensure free, unimpeded access for neutral and impartial humanitarian agencies to provide vital assistance to all those in need.

### **Loans: Direct Selling**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Financial Conduct Authority's consultation on telemarketing of payday loans, announced on 26 November 2014 during the passage of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 (HL Deb, col 913), will take place. [HL513]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Financial Conduct Authority has committed to undertake a consultation on unsolicited marketing calls, emails and text messages from consumer credit firms, including payday lenders. This will take place in the summer. The consultation will include specifically looking at whether these unsolicited communications should be banned, given the potential for causing significant distress to consumers.

The FCA requires that cold calling by phone, text or email makes both the identity of the firm clear, as well as the purpose of the communication, so the consumer can decide whether to proceed.

## Multiple Births

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the National Health Service's Sign up to Safety Campaign will aim to reduce the higher-than-average proportion of multiple pregnancies that result in a still birth, neonatal death or clinical negligence claim. [HL499]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The NHS Litigation Authority (NHS LA) has supported the campaign by managing incentive scheme bids to reduce harm and subsequent claims. Whilst there are no bids received specific to multiple pregnancies the NHS LA has awarded over £8 million across 25 successful maternity bids. This funding is aimed at supporting the reduction of claims relating to stillbirth and birth injury for all pregnancies and will include multiple births.

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to issue advice to commissioners, regulators and providers about tackling the disproportionately high rates of still birth and neonatal death in multiple pregnancies. [HL500]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We have made reducing stillbirth an improvement area for the National Health Service in the NHS Outcomes Framework. The Department is working with key partners, including NHS England, Public Health England, The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, The Royal College of Midwives and the stillbirth and neonatal death charity Sands, to identify and drive forward the actions required to help reduce further the stillbirth and neonatal mortality rate in England.

Evidence based advice on the care of women with multiple pregnancies is set out in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Clinical Guidelines 'Multiple Pregnancies – The management of twin and triplet pregnancies in the antenatal period' which is attached. In line with these guidelines, we would expect clinical care for women with twin and triplet pregnancies to be provided by a nominated multidisciplinary team consisting of a core team, including named specialist obstetricians, who have experience and knowledge of managing twin and triplet pregnancies. The Department has not undertaken an assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of the NICE guidelines. It is for local maternity care providers to determine how best to deliver services for women with multiple pregnancies in their area. In doing so we would expect them to give due regard to NICE guidance.

NHS England is undertaking a major review of the commissioning of NHS maternity services, in line with commitments made in the NHS Five Year Forward View. The review will assess current maternity care provision and consider how services should be developed to meet the changing needs of women and babies. This review is expected to report by the end of the year.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NICE - Multiple Pregnancies [NICE - Multiple pregnancy.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-15/HL500>

## National Parks Authorities

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to hold elections for the membership of National Park Authorities. [HL670]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Following careful consideration of proposals developed by the coalition Government to introduce elections to national park and the Broads authorities, the Government does not intend to bring forward the legislation necessary to enable elections to be held. Local communities are already well represented on the boards of the authorities.

## NHS: VAT

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are in place to compensate the National Health Service for irrecoverable VAT. [HL487]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** NHS bodies are compensated for irrecoverable VAT in two ways. Firstly as a part of the upfront public funding for healthcare, and secondly through a special scheme in section 41(3) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 that refunds VAT on certain contracted out services.

## North Korea: Diplomatic Relations

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the British Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is allowed to travel freely within that country. [HL691]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) permits travel by diplomatic missions and international organisations, including our Embassy, to the following areas of the country: Pyongyang; Sinanju; Wonsan; Mount Kumgang; Sariwon; Songrim; Kwail County; and Haeju. Any diplomatic mission or international organisation wishing to undertake travel is required to notify the DPRK's Ministry of Foreign Affairs beforehand.

## North Korea: Overseas Aid

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which locations in North Korea the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea allows the United Kingdom to implement or fund projects. [HL690]



**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There is no formal agreement between the UK and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) regarding project activity. The UK supports projects delivered by a range of international non-governmental organisations who work in co-ordination with the DPRK government. In recent years, UK funding has contributed to projects taking place in: Pyongyang; North Hwanghae Province; North Pyongan Province; and Kangwon Province.

### Parliament: Asbestos

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask the Chairman of Committees what assessment has been made of the levels of asbestos throughout the Palace of Westminster and the parliamentary estate; what is the policy regarding disturbing it, leaving it in place, or removing it; and what advice has been taken about the dangers of asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, to those involved in repair and construction work and those working in areas where asbestos has been removed or disturbed. [HL466]

**Lord Sewel:** It is difficult to estimate the amount of asbestos that is present in the Palace of Westminster and on the parliamentary estate because asbestos materials of various types have been widely used (often concealed in ducts and voids, and buried in the fabric of the building) over the years. Before the dangers of asbestos were known it was used extensively in building works due to its strength and resistive properties. Extensive surveying has been undertaken to inform Parliament's management of asbestos and robust controls are in place to cover checking for the presence of asbestos and the safe execution of works.

Parliament's Asbestos Management Plan complies with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and follows Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance. Risks associated with asbestos-containing materials are managed in line with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The plan is reviewed annually and has been independently audited.

Each presence of asbestos is judged for removal or management in situ on its own merits, in line with best practice and HSE guidance. All staff in the Parliamentary Estates Directorate undergo mandatory training in asbestos management which provides information and advice about the dangers of asbestos, including asbestos-related diseases. Contractors and their staff are also required to undertake this training, or to provide evidence that they have done equivalent training. The removal of asbestos would be part of the minimum outcome of the Palace Restoration and Renewal Programme and is therefore addressed in all the scenarios that are described in the recent Independent Options Appraisal.

### Prisons: Overcrowding

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 11 June (HLWS22), which prisons had been misinterpreting overcrowding figures between 2008 and 2015. [HL482]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 11 June (HLWS22), what urgent steps have been taken to ensure that future figures will be subjected to rigorous quality control. [HL483]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 11 June (HLWS22), when and how it became apparent that some prisons had been misinterpreting overcrowding figures between 2008 and 2015. [HL484]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 11 June (HLWS22), whether erroneous figures on overcrowding have informed decisions by the Ministry of Justice; if so, which decisions; and whether those decisions will now be subject to review. [HL485]

**Lord Faulks:** Further to my WMS of 11 June the errors in crowding figures began in 2008 – 2009, under the then Lord Chancellor Jack Straw.

The following is a list of prisons whose previously published crowding figures required correction in respect of at least one monthly figure during the period 2008-09 to 2013-14 as a result of misinterpretation.

Aylesbury  
Blundeston  
Brinsford  
Bristol  
Brixton  
Bullwood Hall  
Bure  
Channings Wood  
Chelmsford  
Coldingley  
Dorchester  
Dovegate  
Foston Hall  
Full Sutton  
Garth  
Highpoint  
Holloway  
Leicester



Lewes  
 Lindholme  
 Littlehey  
 New Hall  
 Northumberland  
 Parc  
 Parkhurst (part of Isle of Wight)  
 Peterborough  
 Portland  
 Reading  
 Risley  
 Rye Hill  
 Shrewsbury  
 Swinfen Hall  
 Thameside  
 Wandsworth  
 Wayland  
 Wellingborough  
 Wetherby  
 Whatton  
 Wormwood Scrubs

The National Offender Management Service has taken action to ensure that future figures will be subject to more rigorous quality assurance. This includes strengthening the monitoring guidance for establishments to address common errors of interpretation, and adding further automatic checks to the management information system to pick up anomalies between prisoner population, cell capacity and reported crowding. NOMS will also issue an instruction to Governors to make sure that staff are clear about the definition of crowding and their responsibilities to quality-assure the data they submit.

The errors came to light as a result of an internal check of the crowding returns in addition to the processes already in place for validating data ahead of the end-of-year publication of outturns in the NOMS Annual Report.

Decisions on the future size of the prison estate reflect the current and projected prison population. Therefore previously understated levels of crowding have not informed any capacity-based decisions made by the Ministry of Justice.

### Privy Council

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the size of the Privy Council was on (1) 6 February 1952, and (2) 15 June 2015; and how many new members have been appointed since 7 May 2010. [HL497]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information is set out in the table below.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of Privy Counsellors</i>
6th February 1952	281
15th June 2015	657
Appointments since 7th May 2010	170

### Raif Badawi

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to follow the government of Canada in offering asylum to Raif Badawi. [HL573]

**Lord Bates:** The United Kingdom has a proud tradition of providing protection to those who need it and we will continue to fulfil our responsibilities to those who arrive in the UK and claim asylum.

However to be eligible for international protection under the 1951 Refugee Convention, a person must be located outside their country of origin. We cannot undertake to consider granting asylum to individuals or groups of people abroad and it is not our practice to grant visas for the purpose of seeking asylum. It is understood that Mr Badawi's wife and children have been given asylum in Canada.

### Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish the action plan agreed by the Youth Justice Board and G4S for improvements at Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre following the OFSTED inspection in February 2015. [HL480]

**Lord Faulks:** The safety and welfare of young people in custody is vital and the Ministry of Justice takes the issues raised in the recent Rainsbrook inspection report extremely seriously. We have taken immediate action to make sure these issues were being addressed by the operator.

G4S's action plan for Rainsbrook, which is agreed by the Youth Justice Board, is not a government document and such documents are not normally published.

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been placed in Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre each week since February 2015. [HL481]

**Lord Faulks:** The safety and welfare of young people in custody is vital and the Ministry of Justice takes the issues raised in the recent Rainsbrook inspection report extremely seriously. We have taken immediate action to make sure these issues were being addressed by the operator.

The Youth Justice Board is responsible for placing all young people in a suitable secure establishment that can

safely and effectively manage their individual needs and risks.

Table 1 shows the number of new admissions into Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre (STC). Young people can be placed from the community as the result of a custodial remand or sentence being given by the courts, or can be transferred from another youth secure establishment.

*Table 1: Number of new placements (admissions) into Rainsbrook STC from the week commencing 2 February 2015 to the week commencing 27 April 2015*

<i>Week commencing</i>	<i>Number of new placements (admissions)</i>
02/02/2015	3
09/02/2015	7
16/02/2015	1
23/02/2015	9
02/03/2015	2
09/03/2015	1
16/03/2015	0
23/03/2015	1
30/03/2015	4
06/04/2015	5
13/04/2015	2
20/04/2015	6
27/04/2015	7
Total	48

Notes:

1. A young person can appear as a new admission more than once during the reporting period. This would account for those young people who are released and subsequently recalled to custody, remanded or sentenced on new matters.

2. The information presented is based on unpublished operational data.

3. The information comes from Youth Justice Board's eAsset database which is the booking system used to place young people into custody.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

## Refugees

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated average cost, including any state benefits, of accepting a refugee into the United Kingdom in the first year. [HL676]

**Lord Bates:** We do not hold the data in a format which would allow us to answer the question and we have estimated that to obtain the necessary information would incur disproportionate cost.

## Refugees: Mediterranean Sea

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to realise the Prime Minister's aim stated on 3 June, that "we need to break the link between getting on a boat and achieving residence in Europe" (HC Deb, col 583). [HL678]

**Lord Bates:** The perceived likelihood of illegal immigrants being able to remain in Europe after crossing the Mediterranean plays into the hands of the criminal gangs who are exploiting them. While the Government remains committed to saving lives at sea, it is clear that this link needs to be broken if the EU is to tackle the current situation successfully. That can be achieved only through concerted EU and international action, ensuring that Member States' asylum systems are not exploited by people smugglers and traffickers or by economic migrants, and that those found not to be in need of protection are swiftly removed.

Ministers and officials are working closely with our counterparts in other European States and EU institutions to try to break this link, focusing on four key areas: conditions in migrants' country of origin; availability of protection and economic opportunities in the region; tackling the criminal gangs; and ensuring the return of those who do not need to remain in the EU.

The UK is playing a leading role in practical EU efforts, including the development of joint work in transit and origin countries to combat people smugglers and traffickers and to enhance protection for those who genuinely require it.

## Rights of Way

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 15 June (HL171), when they expect to put in place the secondary legislation and guidance needed to make the relevant provisions concerning footpaths and bridleways. [HL557]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The target timetable for the whole rights of way reforms package to be brought into effect is April 2016.

## Social Security Benefits: Young People

*Asked by Lord Smith of Clifton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for the latest year for which figures relating to 18 to 21 year-olds in England, (1) how many claimed Jobseeker's Allowance (a) in the first six months of the year, and (b) in total; (2) how many claimed Employment and Support Allowance, and of those, what proportion became part of the work-related activity group; and (3) how many entered the Work Programme. [HL535]

**Lord Freud:** The information requested regarding part (1), how many claimed Jobseeker's Allowance (a) in the first six months of the year, and (b) in total, is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

There were 38,000 (rounded to the nearest thousand) claims made to ESA by 18-21 year-olds in England during the business year 2013-14, of whom 2,000 (6%) were assigned to the work-related activity group.

Between April 2014 and March 2015 there were 24,660 18 to 21 year-olds, in England, referred to the Work Programme. Please note this is rounded to the nearest ten and referrals are 'net' referrals which do not include rejections, cancellations or referrals to ESA information sessions.

### Sovereignty: Scotland

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of recent statements by the Scottish National Party seeking further devolution of powers, whether they plan to arrange a referendum in England on whether to maintain the union with Scotland. [HL523]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government has no such plans.

### Spencer Perceval

*Asked by Lord Butler of Brockwell*

To ask the Chairman of Committees why the mispatterned tile which was a memorial of the spot where Prime Minister Spencer Perceval was

assassinated has been removed from St Stephen's Hall; and whether it can be replaced. [HL726]

**Lord Sewel:** The tiles in St Stephen's Hall were not in a special pattern to mark the spot of Spencer Perceval's assassination as some have suggested; they were poor repairs done after the original tiles were damaged during the Second World War. A plaque has been erected in St Stephen's Hall near the spot where Spencer Perceval was assassinated.

### Teachers: Training

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of primary school teachers in England have been professionally trained through recognised three-year teacher training courses, and what percentage through a one-year Postgraduate Course in Education; and how those percentages have changed since 2005. [HL558]

**Lord Nash:** The department does not hold data on the percentage of primary teachers professionally trained through recognised three-year teacher training courses or one-year postgraduate courses. The department does hold information on primary trainee teachers who were awarded qualified teacher status (QTS).

In the 2012 to 2013 academic year, 28% of those awarded QTS in England trained through an undergraduate programme. 72% trained through a postgraduate programme. This has changed from 37% and 63% respectively in the 2004 to 2005 academic year.

Undergraduate courses are typically three or four years. Postgraduate courses are typically for one year and the vast major lead to PGCE.

	<i>Number of primary trainees gaining QTS who were on undergraduate courses</i>	<i>Number of primary trainees gaining QTS who were on postgraduate courses</i>	<i>Total number of primary trainees gaining QTS</i>	<i>Percentage primary trainees gaining QTS who were on undergraduate courses</i>	<i>Percentage of primary trainees gaining QTS who were on postgraduate courses</i>
2004/05	4,550	7,774	12,324	37%	63%
2005/06	4,652	7,542	12,194	38%	62%
2006/07	5,091	7,397	12,488	41%	59%
2007/08	5,335	7,916	13,251	40%	60%
2008/09	5,609	10,135	15,744	36%	64%
2009/10	5,212	10,454	15,666	33%	67%
2010/11	5,093	10,701	15,794	32%	68%
2011/12	5,381	12,101	17,482	31%	69%
2012/13	5,111	12,934	18,045	28%	72%

1) Data excludes Teach First and Assessment Only

2) Data includes Employment Based Teacher Training (EBITT)

3) Data for 2013/13 includes School Direct Trainees

## Thames Tideway Tunnel

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what basis they determined that providing information regarding the Thames Tideway Tunnel, including the number of tenders received, and the extent of the Government's Pre-Funded Risk Reserve, would prejudice the commercial interests of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and therefore fell under the exemption in section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [HL621]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We have responded to a Freedom of Information request for this information and the individual concerned has requested an internal review of our response. When this review is complete the individual will be informed of its outcome, including the reasons why any particular exemptions applied.

Thames Water Utilities Ltd (TWUL) is conducting this procurement under the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 which includes an obligation on the procuring authority to protect the confidentiality of bidders. Defra is also subject to a non-disclosure agreement with TWUL in relation to confidential information it has shared with Defra about this procurement. Revealing information on this procurement while it remains live other than as required by these Regulations would, or would be likely to, harm the commercial interests of both TWUL and the Government.

TWUL will release appropriate details at the Preferred Bidder stage and Ofwat will consult on granting a project licence to the Preferred Bidder before Licence Award. In addition we will inform Parliament of the outcome of the procurement including relevant details once the procurement is complete. At this point the contract award notice will also be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

## Tuberculosis

*Asked by Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recommendations of the most recent collaborative tuberculosis strategy for England, whether they have put in place provisions for screening and treating latent tuberculosis in vulnerable and marginalised groups. [HL592]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Collaborative Tuberculosis (TB) Strategy for England, which is attached, recommends ten key areas of action, including tackling TB in underserved groups and to systematically implement new entrant latent TB screening. The systematic screening and treatment of individuals with latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) is therefore expected

to significantly decrease the incidence of TB in England. LTBI screening for new entrants from TB high incidence areas is an effective and cost effective public health intervention <sup>1</sup> and is recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). The NICE Tuberculosis guideline is attached.

LTBI testing and treatment for other vulnerable groups, such as prisoners and substance abusers is more complex and requires an individualised patient-centred approach to ensure arrangements to assist with subsequent treatment completion are robust. Whilst the Collaborative Strategy supports current NICE recommendations, including the expansion of active case finding and available support for these underserved populations, arrangements for LTBI testing among these groups will be a carefully balanced decision for local health services.

*Notes:*

i) Pareek M, Watson JP, Ormerod LP, Kon OM, Woltmann G, White PJ, et al. Screening of immigrants in the United Kingdom for imported tuberculosis: a multicentre cohort study and cost-effectiveness analysis. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2011 Jun;11(6):435–44.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Collaborative TB Strategy  
[Collaborative\_TB\_Strategy\_for\_England\_2015\_2020\_.pdf]

NICE Tuberculosis Guidelines [guidance-tuberculosis-pdf.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL592>

## Turkey

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the present state of relations between the United Kingdom and Turkey. [HL538]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK and Turkey enjoy a strong bilateral relationship, underpinned by the 2010 Strategic Partnership agreement. Turkey is a key regional power, a NATO ally and a valued security partner. The UK remains a strong supporter of Turkey's EU accession process. We look forward to continuing to develop relations with a new Turkish government following the parliamentary elections of 7 June.

## Welfare State: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of welfare reform not being agreed in Northern Ireland. [HL664]

**Lord Dunlop:** The failure to implement welfare reform puts the entire Stormont House Agreement at risk, including the steps it contains to pave the way for a more stable and prosperous Northern Ireland and to help deal with the past.



**Whales: Japan**

*Asked by Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Japan about that government's intention to resume whaling in the Antarctic. [[HL594](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK Government regularly makes representations to the Government of Japan to set out our opposition to special permit whaling for "scientific purposes". Most recently, the UK Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission

(IWC) reiterated the Government's concerns, including in relation to Japan's proposals to resume whaling in the Antarctic, at a meeting with the Japanese Commissioner to the IWC in May 2015, and officials from the Japanese Embassy in March 2015. The Minister of State for Farming, Food and the Marine Environment, George Eustice, attended the IWC meeting in September 2014, where he underlined the Government's continued opposition to commercial whaling.

We will continue to make our concerns known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity, including in light of the recently published advice of the IWC Scientific Committee, which has examined Japan's latest proposals.

## Written Answers

Tuesday, 30 June 2015

### Affordable Childcare Select Committee (HL)

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to respond to the report of the Select Committee on Affordable Childcare. [HL649]

**Lord Nash:** The government welcomes the work of the House of Lords Affordable Childcare Select Committee and the excellent report it produced.

As a new government, we want to consider the report in full as we develop our own childcare proposals. The government will respond to the Committee's report in the autumn.

### Agriculture: Chemicals

Asked by *Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that any proposals by the European Commission to ban an agricultural chemical are supported by full science-based risk analysis rather than the precautionary principle. [HL679]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government agrees that decisions on the approval of pesticides should be based firmly on a scientific risk assessment. We take this position in EU negotiations on individual pesticide chemicals.

The European Commission is due to review the rules for pesticide approval. The Government will make the case for changes that ensure that the legislation protects people and the environment on the basis of scientific evidence, without placing unwarranted barriers in the way of pesticide approval.

The European Commission's Communication on application of the precautionary principle makes it clear that decisions should be based on the best possible scientific risk assessment and should be proportionate to the risk to be addressed. The Government supports this approach. We would not agree with the use of the term "precautionary principle" as cover for advocating a regulatory approach which is not backed by the scientific evidence.

### Airguns

Asked by *Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the law relating to the purchase and possession of air guns in England, in the light of the increasing number of shootings of cats being recorded by the RSPCA. [HL798]

**Lord Bates:** There are currently no plans to review the laws in place for the purchase and possession of air weapons. Animal cruelty is abhorrent. It is already an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to an animal, and all such incidents should be reported to the police who have the necessary powers to investigate.

### Airports Commission

Asked by *Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the recommendations of the Airports Commission must go through statutory planning processes. [HL580]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The remit of the Airports Commission included providing materials to support the government in preparing a national policy statement to accelerate the resolution of any future planning application(s) for major airports infrastructure. We will carefully consider the Airports Commissions final report and its recommendations when the final report is published.

### Armed Forces: Gender

Asked by *Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what procedures they have put in place since 2014 to increase the situational awareness of gender within the armed forces at home and on deployment. [HL697]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence is undertaking a number of actions aimed at increasing the situational awareness of gender within the Armed Forces. This includes incorporating gender issues into relevant Armed Forces doctrine and pre-deployment training and a wider review of gender issues in all Armed Forces training.

In domestic terms, the Armed Forces undertake mandatory diversity and inclusion training on entry into service and every two years. Equality and diversity advisors are also embedded within each unit. Each service has a senior gender advocate and a servicewomen's network to improve access and opportunities for women.

### British Nationality: English Language

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why only the examinations offered by the International English Language Testing System and Trinity College London were deemed suitable for English language tests used for applications for citizenship. [HL702]

**Lord Bates:** Following significant abuse identified in the provision of English language testing the Home Office commissioned an independent review. A key outcome was the need to develop new and robust business and commercial requirements. A competitive procurement

exercise secured two Concession Service Providers for the UK, Trinity and IELTS SELT Consortium and one Concession Service Provider overseas, IELTS SELT Consortium. Both Concession Service Providers met the new business and commercial requirements of the Concession Agreements.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what risk assessment they have undertaken regarding the decision to appoint only two examination boards for English language tests used for applications for citizenship. [HL703]

**Lord Bates:** The decision to appoint two Concession Service Providers was based on the market's ability to meet the Home Office's business and commercial requirements. Two Concession Service Providers were able to meet both the new examination centre control measures and geographic coverage in the UK and Overseas. The new Concession Agreements have improved both control and coverage requirements compared to previous arrangements.

### Change of Use

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether permitted development rights on the conversion of offices to residential premises, due to expire in May 2016, are to be extended beyond that date. [HL757]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I refer the noble Lord to the Written Ministerial Statement of 26 March 2015, HLWS487, where we made it clear that we would keep under review the case for extending the office to residential permitted development rights, which are helping provide much needed new homes on brownfield land. This remains the case.

### Children: Day Care

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many families they estimate will benefit from the proposed provision of 30 hours free childcare contained in the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL599]

**Lord Nash:** Currently around 600,000 families in England have three or four year old children with both parents in work. This number will change over time according to employment choices and population fluctuation. The number of families taking up the extended entitlement will depend on a number of variables including parental choices and how many four year olds will be in reception classes at school.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when an Impact Assessment for the Childcare Bill [HL] will be published. [HL600]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish the draft regulations to be made under the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL604]

**Lord Nash:** Following Second Reading of the Childcare Bill on 16 June 2015, I have written to colleagues responding to points raised in the debate. This included the government's consideration of the impact of the Childcare Bill provisions on child poverty, the Public Sector Equality Duty, the government's Family Test, the European Convention on Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. A full economic impact assessment will be published when draft regulations are published for public consultation in due course.

The government has also made a policy statement available to the House of Lords, setting out further details on the government's intention behind the legislation and to aid Peers in their scrutiny of the Bill ahead of Committee Stage.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the timetables for the consultation of parents and the funding review to ensure that childcare providers are properly reimbursed for the free places they supply, announced by Lord Nash on 16 June (HL Deb, col 1085); whether the findings will be made public; and what is their assessment of how the findings will impact on the content of the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL601]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what organisations and individuals they will consult in order to ascertain the views of parents on the contents of the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL602]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ascertain the views of staff employed in the early years sector regarding the content of the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL603]

**Lord Nash:** On 25 June 2015, the government made a policy statement available to the House of Lords, setting out further details on the government's intention behind the Childcare Bill, to aid Peers in their scrutiny of the Bill ahead of Committee Stage.

The government wants to engage with parents, providers and employers about how they currently access and deliver childcare and what they think are the relative priorities for an additional 15 hours of childcare. This will begin in the summer.

We want to hear what is important to parents in choosing a childcare provider and their views on how the extended entitlement will best meet their childcare needs. We will make the best use of the consultation channels available, including social media and online forums and we are keen to work with employers who have a shared

interest in this agenda to hear the views of their busy, working parents. Many voluntary and community sector organisations have already offered to host events for parents and providers, including groups representing and supporting disabled children and their parents, and we will be working with them to plan these events. We are also hoping to work closer with employer organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry who have welcomed the extension of the free childcare entitlement.

The government has committed to increasing the average rate that providers are paid for the entitlement and the cross-government review of the cost of providing childcare is underway. The objective of the review is to inform decisions on the level of funding providers require to deliver quality childcare provision at good value to the taxpayer, and be consistent with the government's fiscal plans.

A call for evidence to inform the review was launched on 15 June and will close on 10 August. This is part of a process of gathering the necessary evidence which will inform the outcome of the review and report in the autumn.

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which disabled children's groups they plan to consult on the impact of the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL651]

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which maintained sector providers they plan to consult on the impact of the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL652]

**Lord Nash:** On 25 June 2015, the government made a policy statement available to the House of Lords, setting out further details on the government's intention behind the Childcare Bill, to aid Peers in their scrutiny of the Bill ahead of Committee Stage.

The government wants to engage with parents, providers and employers about how they currently access and deliver childcare and what they think are the relative priorities for an additional 15 hours of childcare. This will begin in the summer.

We want to hear what is important to parents in choosing a childcare provider and their views on how the extended entitlement will best meet their childcare needs. We will make the best use of the consultation channels available, including social media and online forums and we are keen to work with employers who have a shared interest in this agenda to hear the views of their busy, working parents. Many voluntary and community sector organisations have already offered to host events for parents and providers, including groups representing and supporting disabled children and their parents, and we will be working with them to plan these events. We are also hoping to work closer with employer organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry who have welcomed the extension of the free childcare entitlement.

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will be asked to review the conclusions of the pilot schemes for the measures to be implemented under the Childcare Bill [HL] in 2016. [HL653]

**Lord Nash:** The government has made clear its intention to roll out the extended free childcare entitlement in certain areas from September 2016 in advance of implementation from 2017.

The government is currently considering where early implementation of the extended entitlement should take place, including the number of areas and the locations to ensure geographic balance. The areas will test out the important operational details for delivering the extended entitlement and provide a source of intelligence to support the government in refining the systems to deliver the entitlement. We will announce further details in the autumn.

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish details of possible new criminal offences to support regulations made under the Childcare Bill [HL]. [HL654]

**Lord Nash:** Clause 1(5) (k) of the Childcare Bill enables regulations to make provision for criminal offences in connection with the provision of information and documents and disclosure of information for the purposes of eligibility checking, mentioned in paragraphs (5) (i) and (j) of the Bill only.

As set out in the policy statement made available to the House of Lords on 25 June 2015, the government's intention is that any new offences should align with existing offences for schemes involving information sharing and self-declaration. Clause 1(7) provides for a cap on the penalty that may be imposed on indictment, namely a maximum term of imprisonment of two years, with or without a fine. This is an appropriate safeguard, which might be appropriate in large scale fraud cases, or misuse of sensitive personal tax data, whilst retaining the option of imposing lesser penalties.

It would be for the police and the relevant prosecuting authority to decide whether to bring a prosecution and at what level.

## Climate Change

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Salisbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to address the issue of climate finance at the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change conference in Paris; and whether they plan to commit the United Kingdom to budgeting for climate finance arrangements up to 2020. [HL656]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Prime Minister, with other G7 leaders, recently reaffirmed their commitment to jointly mobilise USD \$100 billion of



climate finance a year by 2020 from a wide variety of sources, both public and private, and that they stand ready to engage proactively in the negotiations of the finance provisions of the Paris outcome. The UK has a strong track record on climate finance and is meeting its commitments, for example committing £3.87bn through the International Climate Fund (ICF) in this spending review period. Climate finance commitments beyond 2015/16 will be determined through the forthcoming Spending Review process.

### **Common Agricultural Policy**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to seek reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy in order to boost productivity and sustainability. [HL644]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Our immediate priority, over the next year, is to simplify the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Reducing the administrative burden of the CAP on farmers is a necessary part of increasing the competitiveness of our food and farming sector.

We have pushed hard in the EU for reforms such as a review of the greening rules which place unnecessary burdens on farmers for limited environmental benefits. There is an opportunity to deliver some reforms to the CAP as part of the Commission's CAP simplification programme.

### **Conflict Resolution: Females**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made toward establishing a senior defence working group on gender, as set out in the United Kingdom National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. [HL698]

**Earl Howe:** A senior-level steering board on Women, Peace, and Security (and related issues) has been established within the Ministry of Defence.

### **Developing Countries: Drugs**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether their provision of aid for drug control in countries such as Iran and Pakistan is proving effective in reducing harm, and of whether there is a contradiction between their policy on this issue and their policies on eliminating the use of the death penalty. [HL763]

**Lord Bates:** The Government provides counter-narcotics assistance to a range of countries. We do so to tackle the international drugs trade and minimise the threat it poses to the UK and its citizens. To ensure that we remain consistent with our human rights principles all

Government Departments must adhere to the Overseas Security & Justice Assistance (OSJA) Guidance. This enables a comprehensive and ongoing assessment of the human rights risks attached to international activity.

In March 2015, when Pakistan lifted the moratorium on the use of the death penalty, the Government reviewed its security engagement. All of our programmes in Pakistan continue to be conducted in full accordance with the OSJA guidance. The UK does not currently provide financial assistance for counter-narcotics programmes in Iran. We stopped providing financial assistance to UNODC programmes in Iran in 2007, and ended our bilateral cooperation with Iran on these issues in 2009.

The Government strongly opposes the use of the death penalty in all circumstances. UK Ministers have and will continue to urge countries, including Iran and Pakistan, to repeal the death penalty and take action to ensure human rights are safeguarded.

### **Diplomatic Service: Documents**

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the legal responsibilities are under United Kingdom law of consulates of other countries for the care and protection of United Kingdom citizens' documents which are submitted to them for visa and other purposes; whether, in cases where documents are retained by consulates for periods well beyond those which those consulates have announced to be normal and expected, United Kingdom citizens have any formal right to request or require return of their documents; and whether in cases where, after a period which clearly exceeds the normal and expected time for return, the return of documents is requested but not honoured, HM Passport Office will accept that documents have been lost for the purposes of requesting a replacement passport. [HL692]

**Lord Bates:** It is a matter for individual foreign diplomatic missions how they run their visa operations in the UK. The British passport remains the property of the Crown at all times and HM Passport Office (HMPO) has the right to require the return of the passport at any time.

HMPO will not consider the issue of a replacement passport if it is known that the passport is being held by a foreign diplomatic mission for the purposes of considering a visa application. It is open to a visa applicant to withdraw their application at any time and seek return of any supporting documents they have provided.

### **FIFA**

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place between ministers or officials of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and officials of the English Football Association regarding the continued full recognition of the Welsh, Scottish and

Northern Ireland Football Associations within FIFA. [HL518]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Department has not engaged in any discussions with the English Football Association on this subject. Sport is not only a devolved matter, but it is also for the football associations in each of the home nations to maintain their own relationships with FIFA, and in particular with regard to their independent status in world football.

### Food: Exports

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the total food and drink exported from the United Kingdom in each year since 2000 was to countries that are members of the European Union or party to an EU Free Trade Agreement. [HL666]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Below is a table showing total food and drink exports from the UK from 2000 to 2014. Included are the percentages of total UK exports each year that are exported to EU countries and EU Free Trade Association countries.

Year	Total food and drink exports from the UK (£000s)	Percentage of UK food and drink exports to EU countries	Percentage of UK food and drink exports to EU Free Trade Association countries
2000	8,378,287	62%	2%
2001	8,214,282	62%	2%
2002	8,603,872	64%	2%
2003	9,550,913	65%	2%
2004	9,386,712	65%	2%
2005	9,626,612	65%	2%
2006	10,141,048	66%	2%
2007	10,976,473	67%	1%
2008	12,711,889	68%	2%
2009	13,445,210	68%	2%
2010	15,194,264	65%	2%
2011	17,455,367	63%	2%
2012	17,347,316	61%	2%
2013	17,956,542	60%	2%
2014	17,915,031	60%	2%

Data source: HM Revenue and Customs

Data prepared by: Defra Trade Statistics team

### Food: Labelling

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of food labelling in the United Kingdom. [HL671]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The regulations governing food labelling are largely set at EU level, establishing common rules in support of the operation of the single market. These Regulations were reviewed in depth resulting, in 2011, in the Regulation on the Provision of Food Information to Consumers (1169/2011). The UK took the opportunity of this review to press for better country of origin labelling for meat. The new rules on mandatory country of origin labelling for fresh and frozen meat came into force on 1 April 2015. The Government is continuing to press the European Commission to consider extending country of origin labelling to other types of food where there is consumer demand, particularly for key dairy products.

We took the opportunity of this revision of EU Regulations to simplify our domestic regulations, reducing them in number and reducing their overall burden, including by adopting derogations from the EU Regulations where considered advantageous for the UK. Defra is also undertaking a research study to evaluate the impact of the Food Information Regulations, looking in particular at how consumers respond to the level and type of information provided to them on food labels.

Legislation on foods for specific groups such as baby food is also being reviewed to simplify and reduce the regulatory burden, with national legislation implementing EU rules expected to be in place from July 2016. An assessment of the balance of competences between the EU and the UK for nutrition and food labelling was completed in 2013.

The impact of the Department of Health's Responsibility Deal has been assessed, including national voluntary agreements in nutrition labelling, such as front of pack labelling. EU Legislation on nutrition and health claims made on food has been assessed and an evaluation of the impact of the legislation, in particular on the evolution of the market in foods for which nutrition or health claims are made, is being carried out.

### Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre

Asked by **Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will continue to provide religious and spiritual support for the detainees at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre. [HL605]

Asked by **Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of whether MITIE has provided adequate amounts of food to Muslim detainees at Harmondsworth and Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centres during the month of Ramadan and at the time of sunset. [HL607]

Asked by **Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have approved the withdrawal of religious support for

detainees at Harmondsworth and Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centres. [HL608]

**Lord Bates:** The provision of religious and spiritual support for detainees in immigration removal centres (IRC) is a statutory requirement of the Detention Centre Rules 2001, IRC Operating Standards and is a contractual or service level specification for all centre operators. These provisions have not and will not be withdrawn at any centre.

Arrangements for the observance of Ramadan are in place at all IRCs. This includes special catering arrangements to allow the breaking of the fast at the prescribed time. The Home Office is consulted about the arrangements to ensure that they are appropriate.

There have been no complaints about the amount of food provided at the Heathrow centres and catering provision will be monitored during Ramadan as it is throughout the year.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the standard of the services provided by the private outsourcing group MITIE at Harmondsworth and Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centres. [HL606]

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the hygiene and stability of conditions of the Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre; and what actions, if any, they have taken to ensure the hygiene and stability of the Centre. [HL609]

**Lord Bates:** All immigration removal centres operated by the private sector, including Harmondsworth and Colnbrook, have their contracts managed by a central commercial team. The Home Office also has staff based in each centre to monitor contract delivery and compliance.

The current level of services provided, including hygiene, is consistent, compliant with relevant standards and is considered by the Home Office to be satisfactory. Meetings take place with the contractor, on a weekly, monthly and quarterly basis (at a more senior level) where any issues will be addressed.

Moreover, on 9 February the Home Secretary announced an independent review of detainee welfare in immigration detention, led by the former prisons ombudsman Stephen Shaw. The review is expected to report in September and will seek to identify whether improvements can be made to safeguard the health and wellbeing of detainees across the immigration detention estate, short term holding facilities, and those being escorted in the UK. The Government will publish the report by laying it before Parliament, alongside the Government's response to the recommendations.

## Honours

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Wallace of Saltaire on 10 July 2014 (HL828), whether they will update the table to reflect all honours lists since the New Year Honours List 2012, including the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 2015, and (2) give details of the percentage of those who were styled professor. [HL547]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** 19% of all Honours recipients at the level of Knight, Dame, CB and CBE from Birthday Honours 2012, and up to and including Birthday Honours 2015, have styled themselves Professor.

## Housing Benefit: Young People

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of removing housing benefit from 18 to 21 year-olds. [HL760]

**Lord Freud:** The detail of the policy will be announced in due course, and the Government will consider the impact in line with our legal obligations as part of that process.

## Loans: Advertising

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice with its review of the scheduling of televised advertisements for payday loans. [HL511]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding by the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice that payday loan advertisements are not aimed at encouraging children to ask their parents to take out a loan, and whether they plan to consult parents, psychologists and educationalists working with children about this issue. [HL512]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is concerned about consumer detriment in the payday loan market, and agrees it is important that consumers are protected from unfair costs. We therefore legislated to require the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) to introduce a cap on the cost of payday loans, which came into force on the 2nd January this year.

We believe BCAP's review of payday loan advertising provides a good evidence base to ensure that consumers are protected from harm in the payday lending market. We welcome the revised guidance to advertisers produced in response to this review, to help ensure that both adults and children are protected, together with BCAP's public consultation on scheduling to be launched by the end of

July. There are no plans to carry out a separate Government consultation on this matter.

### **Malaria: Drugs**

*Asked by **Baroness Corston***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have received from Public Health England on Lariam (mefloquine), in particular in relation to members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan. [HL565]

*Asked by **Baroness Corston***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the warning issued by Roche, the manufacturer of Lariam (mefloquine), in October 2013 that the drug "may induce potentially serious neuropsychiatric disorders". [HL566]

*Asked by **Baroness Corston***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision taken by the United States Special Forces to ban the use of Lariam (mefloquine) for malaria prophylaxis. [HL567]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Lariam (mefloquine), is an extremely effective antimalarial and is one of a number of antimalarials for travellers currently recommended by the Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention (ACMP), an expert advisory committee of Public Health England (PHE) established in 1998 to formulate evidence-based guidelines on malaria prevention in the United Kingdom.

The use of mefloquine, for travellers, including military personnel, to high risk areas should be based on an individual risk assessment that takes into consideration the destination of travel, planned activities while travelling and the individual's current health and medical history.

The ACMP regularly reviews data on safety and efficacy of all antimalarials. Whenever new evidence about antimalarials appears the ACMP considers this as part of its continuous process of developing advice.

The ACMP will be meeting in summer 2015 to finalise the 2015 revision of the ACMP guidelines. This meeting will review current evidence on the use of mefloquine, including data provided by Roche, and recommendations made by other countries including the United States with regard to the use of mefloquine for malaria prevention.

### **Metropolitan Police**

*Asked by **Lord Harris of Haringey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Home Secretary expects to decide whether to authorise the Metropolitan Police to use, under appropriate operational circumstances, the water cannons that the Mayor of London has purchased; and whether this decision will be made before the water cannons become usable. [HL835]

**Lord Bates:** A key element of the established process for the approval of less lethal weapons, including water cannon, is an assessment by the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal weapons. This has only recently been received. There are a number of scientific, medical, operational and ethical issues which need careful consideration.

The authorisation process states: "only less lethal weapons that have been approved by the Secretary of State may be used by the UK police service." The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Metropolitan Police have stated that the water cannon would not be used until, and unless, they are authorised for use by the Home Secretary.

### **Missing Persons**

*Asked by **Baroness Hamwee***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will decide the timetabling of the legislation proposed in their recent response to their consultation on the guardianship of the property and affairs of missing persons. [HL552]

**Lord Faulks:** My Department is working to prepare the legislation necessary to create the new legal status of guardian of the property and affairs of a missing person. We are grateful for the continued assistance in this work of the charity, Missing People, and its pro bono lawyers, Clifford Chance. We will bring forward legislation when Parliamentary time allows.

### **Motorcycles: Helmets**

*Asked by **Lord Laird***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make the wearing of safety helmets by drivers of quad bikes compulsory. [HL809]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There are no immediate plans to make the wearing of helmets compulsory for tricycles/quad bikes but we are keeping the position under review; there are a number of factors that will need to be taken into consideration such as, the level of use, the safety of riders in a collision and the availability or otherwise of seat belts.

### **NHS: VAT**

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was paid in 2013–14 to compensate the National Health Service for irrecoverable VAT. [HL488]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** It is not possible to isolate the tax component from the overall funding for healthcare. However, VAT refunded to the NHS Trusts and Health Authorities by virtue of section 41(3) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 is estimated at £1.9 billion in 2013/14. The figure was similar in 2010.



## Parking: Disability

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the rules regarding disabled parking spaces on private land, such as hotels and supermarkets; whether there is a minimum number of such spaces required in each case; and if so, how that number is calculated. [HL672]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Blue Badge Scheme does not apply to off-street car parks, whether these are provided and managed by a local authority or privately. The Department for Transport provides guidance on the provision of parking facilities for disabled people in Section 5 of 'Inclusive Mobility: A Guide to Best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure'. However, it is ultimately a matter for car park operators to decide on the parking spaces that they make available to disabled motorists.

## Personal Independence Payment

Asked by *Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recent High Court ruling regarding delays in Personal Independence Payments. [HL725]

**Baroness Altmann:** The Court rejected two of the three legal grounds brought by the claimants, finding that their human rights had not been breached and not awarding damages.

Where the Court found that the historic delay for the two claimants was unlawful, they also ruled that they are not "test cases" and it would be inappropriate to make wider findings.

The Court accepted that the Government had made significant improvements to the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) process and there are now no inherent failings in the system.

As a result of these improvements, the average time taken for a claimant to be assessed by an assessment provider has fallen by more than three quarters since June 2014. In April 2015, the average new claimant was waiting 5 weeks for their PIP assessment – well within the 16 week target set by the Secretary of State.

## S4C

Asked by *Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the current level of direct funding of S4C by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will be retained in the new licence period irrespective of the outcome of discussions concerning the renewal of the BBC's Charter. [HL519]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government are committed to Welsh language programming and to the future of S4C.

The level of all exchequer funding for public bodies will be a matter for the Spending Review, which has yet to begin.

## Sheep Dipping: Organophosphates

Asked by *Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of how many (1) farm workers, and (2) other people, may have had their health affected by working with organophosphate sheep dipping chemicals. [HL515]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Veterinary Medicines Directorate's (VMD's) Pharmacovigilance Unit runs a voluntary scheme that encourages veterinary professionals, medical professionals and the general public to report suspected adverse reactions or treatment failures following use of veterinary medicines. Pharmaceutical companies are also legally obliged to report adverse reactions they are made aware of to the VMD within agreed timeframes and are inspected periodically to ensure compliance with this requirement.

Adverse reactions may occur in treated animals, in-contact animals, people administering the product or handling treated animals. Each report is individually reviewed before being subjected to statistical analysis to look for trends. Should a pattern of adverse events for a specific product emerge, regulatory actions to improve the safety of that product may be taken. The action taken will depend on the seriousness of the adverse events and the conditions under which they occurred.

All human reports and statistical findings are regularly reviewed by the VMD's veterinarians, immunologists, pharmacists, toxicologists and ecotoxicologists before being considered by the Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) who provide independent advice to the VMD.

The number of reports of suspected adverse reactions in humans to organophosphate (OP) sheep dips received by the VMD each year since records began in 1985 is shown below.

It is not compulsory for reporters to provide information on the occupation of the patient but it is known that at least 83% of those affected were farm workers.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Reports</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Reports</i>
1985	8	2001	3
1986	10	2002	2
1987	10	2003	3
1988	19	2004	0
1989	9	2005	0
1990	4	2006	0
1991	126	2007	1



<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Reports</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Reports</i>
1992	130	2008	0
1993	167	2009	0
1994	47	2010	0
1995	41	2011	1
1996	27	2012	0
1997	32	2013	1
1998	17	2014	0
1999	24	2015	0
2000	6	Total	688

The majority (56%) of these reports have been assessed to relate to short term illness following acute exposure but since some reports describe a period of illness following each exposure over a number of years, they have been classified as chronic. Almost 50% of reports do not contain any information on whether Personal and Protective Equipment (PPE) was worn, but of those where this information is known, 82% of the reports describe PPE as being either inadequate or totally absent.

At the request of the Government, the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (the COT) considered the issue of whether prolonged or repeated low level exposure to OPs can cause chronic ill health on two separate occasions. The COT's "Organophosphates" report of 1999 identified some gaps in the scientific knowledge.

The Government responded by commissioning the research and once it was completed referred back to the COT to seek advice on the meaning of this research.

Following a broader review of published scientific literature the COT published a statement on 13 March 2014. The COT concluded that the reviewed evidence suggests that exposures to cholinesterase-inhibiting organophosphates that are insufficient to cause overt acute poisoning do not cause important long-term neurological toxicity in adults and that if toxic effects on the nervous system do occur then they are minor and subtle.

The full COT statement and lay summary are both available on the COT website.

### **Sovereignty: Scotland**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what circumstances they will consent to a second referendum on Scottish independence. [HL494]

**Lord Dunlop:** The people of Scotland voted decisively on 18 September 2014 in favour of remaining part of the United Kingdom. In September 2013, the now First Minister described the independence referendum as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity for Scotland'. The issue of a further referendum therefore does not arise.

### **Stormont House Agreement**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 18 June (HL393), what is the full list of those who attended the talks leading up to the Stormont House Agreement on behalf of the government of Ireland; and who invited them. [HL720]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Irish Government was represented at the Stormont House talks by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Charles Flanagan TD and Minister Sean Sherlock TD. The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, and Tánaiste Joan Burton, attended along with the Prime Minister, on 11-12 December. The Irish Government attended as one of the signatories to the Belfast Agreement. As has been previously set out to the Noble Lord, their participation was in accordance with the three stranded approach to Northern Ireland affairs which the Government has a manifesto pledge to uphold.

### **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on the negotiations of the free trade agreement between the European Union and the United States. [HL805]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** Following the most recent round of negotiations for the EU-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which took place between 20 and 24 April in New York, there continues to be good progress on the technical work which would underpin the final deal. The next negotiating round is due to take place in July.

### **Tuberculosis**

*Asked by Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recommendations of the most recent collaborative tuberculosis strategy for England, what criteria they plan to use to determine who should be screened and treated for latent tuberculosis. [HL593]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** When implemented, the systematic latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) testing and treatment programme for recent migrants will have the following eligibility criteria:

- Born or spent more than six months in high TB incidence country (150 cases per 100,000 or more/Sub-Saharan Africa);
- Entered the United Kingdom within the last five years (including where entry was via other countries (e.g. within European Union/European Economic Area);
- Aged 16-35 years;
- No history of TB either treated or untreated; and

e) Never screened for TB in UK.

In addition to this, The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence recommends LTBI testing for other groups at higher risk of infection, such as close contacts of active TB cases or individuals who are immunocompromised. The decision to screen and treat these persons is usually made on an individual patient basis and funding is available through local arrangements.

### **Type 45 Destroyers**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to fit land-attack missiles to T45 destroyers to augment the planned number of F-35B Sea Lightnings available for initial air campaign operations. [HL659]

**Earl Howe:** The Department does not have any plans, at this time, to fit land-attack missiles to the Type 45 destroyers.

### **VJ Day**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what commemorative events they have planned for the 70th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day. [HL640]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with The Royal British Legion, will lead national commemorations in central London on Saturday 15 August 2015 to mark the 70th Anniversary of Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day 70).

The event will begin with a special commemoration on Horse Guards Parade, attended by senior political and military representatives, veterans and their families, which will include at its heart a traditional Drumhead Service. Current members of the Armed Forces will then lead veterans and their families in a parade down Whitehall, past the Cenotaph and the statue of Field Marshal Lord Slim, who famously led the 14th Army.

Further details of the VJ Day 70 programme will be announced in due course.

Invitations to participate in VJ Day 70 have been issued to representatives from all declared allies of the UK, Commonwealth countries, overseas territories and Crown Dependencies. In this way, the contribution and sacrifices made during the Far East campaign by communities such as the Burmese hill tribes will be recognised on this milestone anniversary.

### **Work Programme: Older People**

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Work Programme in relation to its support for older people. [HL759]

**Lord Freud:** The Work Programme is succeeding. It is helping push long-term unemployment to its lowest level in over 5 years, and is transforming people's lives.

An independent evaluation of the Work Programme published by DWP in December 2014 identified that 63.9% of older participants found Work Programme support useful in helping them find work or move closer to work, and 63.5% felt that the support offered through the Work Programme matched their needs.

Since this research was carried out, we have made changes to our contracts with providers to further strengthen our performance management activities, and deliver even better outcomes for participants.

A copy of the full evaluation report has been placed in the House of Commons library.

### **Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to receive the results of their investigations into the matters raised by the Channel 4 News programme on Yarl's Wood shown on 2 March; and whether they plan to publish those results. [HL586]

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to receive the independent review of the welfare of detainees in immigration removal centres; and whether they plan to publish that review. [HL587]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office has been working closely with Serco, the supplier at Yarl's Wood, to address the matters raised by Channel 4 News.

They have demonstrated their shared commitment to ensuring the dignity and welfare of detainees at the centre with the action they have taken to address the concerns raised in the programme and have made good progress in delivering against our agreed action plan. Serco have commissioned their own independent review of the culture and staffing at Yarl's Wood led by Kate Lampard, which is expected to report in the autumn.

The welfare in detention review, commissioned by the Home Secretary in February 2015, which is being led by Stephen Shaw, former prisons and probation ombudsman, is expected to report in September. The review has been asked to prioritise an assessment of conditions at Yarl's Wood within the broader review of detention performance and policies. Ministers will publish the report by laying it before Parliament, alongside the Government's response to the recommendations.

# Written Answers

Wednesday, 1 July 2015

## Affordable Housing

Asked by **Baroness Hollis of Heigham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many affordable house building completions in receipt of government financial support there were in each financial year from 2005–06. [HL577]

Asked by **Baroness Hollis of Heigham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many affordable house building starts in receipt of government financial support began in each financial year from 2005–06 to date. [HL578]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The numbers of affordable housing starts and completions in England funded by the Homes and Communities Agency and the Greater London Authority from 2009/10 are as follows

Financial Year	Total affordable housing starts	Total affordable housing completions
2014/15	36,604	59,226
2013/14	41,625	36,334
2012/13	35,930	36,734
2011/12	15,410	51,731
2010/11	48,465	55,909
2009/10	53,917	53,172

Source: DCLG Statistics Live Table 1012 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-affordable-housing-supply>)

Figures for earlier years are not readily available on a comparable basis.

## Afghanistan: Females

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, or plan to have, with the government of Afghanistan about improving conditions there for women and girls among the internally displaced population; and what assessment they have made of the work of the United Nations Population Fund on Women and Girls Safe Spaces in the Middle East in this context. [HL583]

**Baroness Verma:** UK Government officials recently discussed the level of support provided to internally displaced women and girls with Afghanistan's First Lady. Along with other international donors, we will continue raising this issue with representatives of the Afghan Government.

DFID is funding five safe spaces inside Syria, and has supported the publication of a United Nations Population Fund guidance note on safe spaces based on experience in the region. The guidance has been widely disseminated in the region and has influenced the United Nations Population Fund's work in Yemen. Together with the use of mobile teams and women's centres, safe spaces are an important way for women and girls to access psychosocial support and referral to specialised services.

## Africa: Tuberculosis

Asked by **Baroness Nye**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made, if any, of the proportion of tuberculosis cases in (1) Malawi, (2) Mozambique, (3) Nigeria, and (4) Rwanda occurring in people living with HIV. [HL595]

**Baroness Verma:** Details of the proportion of tuberculosis cases in (1) Malawi, (2) Mozambique, (3) Nigeria, and (4) Rwanda occurring in people living with HIV are as follows:

*HIV-positive TB patients 2013*

Country	Number	%
Malawi	9 998	56
Mozambique	28 585	56
Nigeria	19 423	22
Rwanda	1 447	25

Tuberculosis country profiles can be found on the World Health Organization (WHO) website.

Asked by **Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the proportion of tuberculosis cases in (1) South Africa, (2) Tanzania, (3) Uganda, (4) Zambia, (5) Zimbabwe occurring in people living with HIV. [HL662]

**Baroness Verma:** Details of the proportion of tuberculosis cases in (1) South Africa, (2) Tanzania, (3) Uganda, (4) Zambia, (5) Zimbabwe, occurring in people living with HIV are as follows:

*HIV-positive TB patients 2013*

Country	Number	%
South Africa	181 736	62
Tanzania	20 320	37
Uganda	20 648	48
Zambia	25 476	62
Zimbabwe	22 442	69

Tuberculosis country profiles can be found on the World Health Organization (WHO) website.

## Armed Forces

Asked by *Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to increase the availability and use of gender advisers and cultural advisers within deployable United Kingdom armed forces; and whether they will list those instances where such advisers have been deployed. [HL699]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently examining the number, training and requirement of military gender advisors.

Over the past 12 months, the MOD has deployed gender advisors to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Iraq (in order to train the Kurdish Security Forces (KSF); approximately 700 KSF have been trained so far). The MOD will also be deploying one gender advisor to the United Nations Headquarters to support the United Nations' military advisor to the Secretary-General on gender issues.

The MOD's cultural advisors have undertaken over 60 deployments over the past 12 months, to locations such as Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Nigeria, Ghana, Angola, Mozambique and Bosnia.

## Bangladesh: Marriage

Asked by *Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the issue of child marriage was last raised with the government of Bangladesh. [HL635]

Asked by *Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Bangladesh about its proposals to reduce the legal age of marriage for girls from 18 to 16. [HL636]

Asked by *Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the progress made by the government of Bangladesh in implementing the commitments on child marriage it made at the London Girl Summit in 2014. [HL637]

**Baroness Verma:** Since the London Girl Summit in 2014, the Government of Bangladesh has made progress on tackling the issue of child marriage. It is in the process of revising the Child Marriage Restraint Act to, for example, include tougher sanctions to improve enforcement. It is also in the process of finalising a 5 year National Plan of Action for Ending Child Marriage.

The UK Government continues to raise with the Government of Bangladesh our concerns regarding proposals to lower the legal age of marriage, including through Ministerial meetings and regular representations by the British High Commissioner and DFID officials.

## Broadband: Lincolnshire

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to invest in high-speed broadband in Lincolnshire. [HL645]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government has allocated £16.66 million to the Lincolnshire broadband project. 79,824 homes and businesses had been given access superfast broadband by 31 March 2015 as a result of the project.

## Children: Day Care

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many primary schools have spare capacity to accommodate three and four year-old children of parents entitled to the new 30 hours free childcare allowance. [HL648]

**Lord Nash:** Primary schools are an important provider of places for the current funded entitlement of 15 hours, with almost 297,000 three and four-year-olds benefiting from funded early education places in primary schools in January 2014. This is 94% all of three-year-olds and 99% of all four-year-olds. Schools have a track record of creating capacity by re-arranging their existing nursery provision, as we have seen where they have expanded their nurseries or worked in partnership with other providers, including for the delivery of funded two-year-old places.

The decision whether or not to make these sorts of changes is a choice for schools to make, but we would encourage them to consider establishing or expanding nursery provision, either directly by the school or in partnership with a third party. We will be working closely with schools and other providers to understand more about their capacity and what approaches might work best in their setting.

## Children: Immigrants

Asked by *Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to revise the statutory guidance Working together to Safeguard Children to make specific reference to the considerations that arise in the cases of destitute families with no recourse to public funds seeking accommodation and financial support from local authorities under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, in the light of the recent report by the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society Safeguarding children from destitution. [HL748]

**Lord Nash:** The statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children, is already clear that professionals should put the needs of children first, and take the right action to promote the welfare of children and keep them safe. We continue to keep this guidance under review.



As the report notes, under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, local authorities have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need, by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs. One instance where a child, including a destitute child, is taken to be 'in need' for these purposes, is if they are unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development or to have the opportunity of doing so, without the provision of services for the child by a local authority. This may include providing accommodation and subsistence.

### **Courts: Closures**

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to close courts. [[HL554](#)]

**Lord Faulks:** We are building a justice system which is simpler, swifter and more efficient. Our estate is a major asset, and in an increasingly digital world, we are looking at how we use our buildings to deliver the best possible service to our users now and in the future. Any new proposals on the future of courts will be subject to consultation.

### **Domestic Violence: Legal Aid Scheme**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bates on 16 June (HL Deb, col 1072) concerning domestic violence, whether male victims of domestic violence will have access to legal aid. [[HL562](#)]

**Lord Faulks:** Tackling domestic violence is a core priority for this Government. The Government have made a number of changes to the system to make it easier for victims of domestic violence to access legal aid, regardless of gender. The Government have made changes to existing evidence requirements, to make legal aid easier to acquire, and introduced new acceptable forms of evidence.

These changes include Domestic Violence Protection Orders and police bail or a binding over order for a domestic violence offence as acceptable forms of evidence. They have also expanded the definition of 'health professional' to include practitioner psychologists. Evidence that someone has been turned away from a refuge because of lack of accommodation will also be accepted.

### **Exercise: Children**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report by ukactive that the Chief Medical Officer's guidance is not being followed in schools, how they plan to ensure that children get the recommended 60 minutes of daily exercise. [[HL682](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The Government recognises the importance of encouraging children to become more active. Through the Primary Physical Education (PE) and Sport Premium, head teachers have already received over £300 million of ring-fenced funding to spend on improving PE and sport provision. Our research has found that schools have already increased the amount of curricular PE they are delivering by an average of 13 minutes since the introduction of the Premium. In addition, 83% of schools reported an increase in the levels of participation in extra-curricular activities and 96% observed improvements in pupils' physical fitness. The interim research brief, 'PE and sport premium: an investigation in primary schools', was published in September 2014, and the final report will be published in the autumn.

The Department of Health also funds Change4Life Sports Clubs in schools which target less active children. An independent evaluation reported that in 2012-13 alone, clubs had engaged over 115,000 children. In primary schools, 75,000 children are now achieving 60 active minutes on most days of the week, an increase of 57%, and 38,000 children are now achieving 60 active minutes every day, an increase of 92%.

### **Exports: BRIC Countries**

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to assist small and medium-sized enterprises to enter markets in Brazil, Russia, India and China. [[HL806](#)]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) provides a range of support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to enable them to export to these and other markets. Support is tailored to meet the needs of the business and the market that they are looking to enter including advice on specific contacts and market information.

### **Freedom of Expression**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to changing the law to provide further protection for the right of individuals to freedom of expression, in the light of the recent case involving Professor Tim Hunt. [[HL561](#)]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government has no plans to change the law to provide further protection for the right of individuals to freedom of expression.

### **Fruit**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that more British-grown fruit is sold within the United Kingdom. [[HL646](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The British fruit industry forms a vital part of our food production. We are working with industry to develop a long-term plan to buy more, sell more and grow more British food and ensure our industry can become a world leader.

There has been a steady increase in the total value of UK fruit production over the past five years. Developments in new varieties, production techniques and storage have contributed to increased productivity. More UK-grown fruits are available to British consumers than ever before.

This Government has taken a lead in buying more British food, implementing the Bonfield plan for public sector procurement. It is opening a potential £400 million of new business by making it easier for schools, hospitals and canteens to buy high-quality local food, including British-grown fruit.

Under the Government's Agri-Tech Strategy we have announced £5.3 million of government and industry funding for seven projects to address challenges for the British fruit sector. These projects will tackle diseases and other issues that limit the supply of British produce.

The industry and government are working to promote the long-term health benefits of eating fruit and vegetables. The UK school fruit and vegetable scheme ensures that every child under the age of seven in school receives a piece of fruit or vegetable every day to help build healthy eating habits.

### Homosexuality

*Asked by Lord Sharkey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to be able to fulfil their manifesto pledge to introduce legislation to pardon those men, now deceased, who were historically convicted of gross indecency even though they would be innocent of any crime today; and whether this new law will extend the pardon to those men similarly convicted but still living. [HL625]

**Lord Faulks:** We are committed to fulfilling our manifesto commitment in due course. Those who are still living are able to apply for a "disregard" under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

### Honours

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Wallace of Saltaire on 27 November 2014 (HL2967), whether the reduction in the number of persons styled professor in the list of knighthoods and damehoods in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2015 anticipates the next Quinquennial review. [HL556]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** There is no specific allocation of Honours for Professors who compete with other candidates in the normal way.

### Horse Racing: Betting

*Asked by Viscount Astor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to introduce the horse racing betting right announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 2014 Autumn Statement. [HL581]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We are committed to replacing the current levy system to create a level playing field for British based and offshore gambling operators.

It has always been recognised that more work will be needed on the detailed design of a Horserace Betting Right before any legislative proposals can be brought forward. This work is now under way and is expected to be completed later this year. We have not set a target date for introducing a bill as this will depend on both the completion of the detailed design work and the availability of Parliamentary time.

### Magistrates

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish a white paper on reform of the magistracy; and if so, when. [HL555]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government currently has no plans to publish a white paper on reform of the magistracy. We have yet to see the full impact of changes brought about by our rehabilitation reforms, the Transforming Summary Justice Programme and the new Single Justice Procedure. These are already changing the way that magistrates work. My Rt Hon Friend the Lord Chancellor gave a speech outlining this Government's approach to criminal justice on 23 June. The content of that speech, "*What does a one nation justice policy look like*", can be viewed online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-does-a-one-nation-justice-policy-look-like>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Speech - Michael Gove [What does a one nation justice policy look like - Gove Speech.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL555>

### Mediterranean Sea: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Higgins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what orders are given to British naval vessels that have rescued migrants in danger at sea regarding where the migrants should be disembarked. [HL844]

**Earl Howe:** Under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, the government responsible for the Search and Rescue Region in which assistance to those in distress at sea has occurred has the primary responsibility for ensuring that survivors are disembarked at the most

convenient place of safety, with minimum deviation for the rescuing vessel.

The Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (IMRCC) manages all rescues in the Central Mediterranean area of operations. At present, those rescued in the Central Mediterranean are brought to shore in Italy, in ports determined by the IMRCC.

### Merseyside Police Authority

*Asked by Lord Fearn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total number of staff of the Merseyside Police Authority. [HL767]

**Lord Bates:** The number of police workers employed by Merseyside Police are published in the 'Police Workforce, England and Wales' release. The latest published figures are as at 30 September 2014 and figures broken down by police force area can be found in the data tables of the release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-30-september-2014-data-tables>.

There were 6,012 full-time equivalent police workers employed by Merseyside Police as at 30 September 2014, which includes police officers, police staff, police community support officers and designated officers.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Police Workforce - England & Wales - Data Tables [Police Workforce - England and Wales - 30.09.14 - Data Tables.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-23/HL767>

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total cost during 2014–15, and what is the budgeted cost for 2015–16, of providing monetary assistance to persons displaced by conflict in the Middle East, and to which countries this money has been allocated. [HL677]

**Baroness Verma:** The total DFID programme spend in response to the humanitarian crises, arising from conflict in the Middle East, was £457 million in 2014–15. The budgeted cost for 2015–16 is £448 million. This money has been allocated to Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Egypt, Turkey and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

### Military Aid

*Asked by Lord Craig of Radley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the cost of the armed forces' contributions to providing humanitarian assistance in (1) Sierra Leone for the

Ebola crisis, (2) Nepal for earthquake relief, and (3) the Mediterranean for the rescue of illegal immigrants, will be met from the defence budget. [HL754]

**Earl Howe:** The marginal costs of providing humanitarian assistance in Sierra Leone and earthquake relief in Nepal will be met by DfID. The marginal costs of supporting search and rescue missions in the Mediterranean will be met by the UK aid budget.

### North Korea: Droughts

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the drought in North Korea and its potential impact on food supplies in that country. [HL665]

**Baroness Verma:** According to UN reporting, a prolonged dry spell from mid-April to early June has led to soil moisture deficits, particularly in the central and southern provinces of North Korea, resulting in reductions of the 2015 staple rice crop and adversely affecting yield potential of early-planted crops, including maize and soybeans. A detailed assessment of the crop damage is not yet available, but early official estimates provided by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC), as of 8 June, indicate a severe contraction for rice plantings and large cultivated areas adversely affected by the current dry spell.

### Peers

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask the Chairman of Committees what plans there are for providing adequate accommodation for any new members of the House of Lords. [HL574]

**Lord Sewel:** The House's Estate has been carefully managed over the last fifteen years to enable the Administration to provide a desk to all Members who need one, whilst pursuing objectives of good management of property and value for money, and working within agreed property benchmarking and space targets.

Desks are allocated to the party groups by the Accommodation Steering Group (a sub-group of the Administration and Works Committee) and it is the responsibility of the party groups to allocate desks to specific members. The Administration seeks to provide desks for a few members who are non-affiliated or who belong to smaller groups not represented in the Usual Channels.

### Pensions: Advisory Services

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people sought telephone advice from The Pensions Advisory Service in (1) April following the commencement of the Pensions Schemes Act 2015, and (2) May. [HL230]

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people sought (1) telephone advice, and (2) an in-person interview, with Citizens Advice in (a) April following the commencement of the Pensions Schemes Act 2015, and (b) May. [HL231]

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current waiting time for an in-person interview with Citizens Advice. [HL232]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government committed to providing free, impartial guidance through Pension Wise, to help people make informed and confident decisions about how they use their defined contribution pension savings in retirement. It is available online, via the telephone and face to face.

As of 6 April – the date on which the new pension flexibilities commenced – Pension Wise had handled more than 3,600 calls since the opening of the contact centre in late March. Nearly 1400 people had booked a telephone guidance appointment with the Pensions Advisory Service, while nearly 380 people had booked a face to face appointment with Citizens Advice. Citizens Advice does not provide Pension Wise guidance over the phone.

Information on Pension Wise service usage since 6 April will be published in due course.

Pension Wise recommends that users take their time to prepare and gather relevant information before their guidance session, if they have not already done so by the time of booking their appointment; this can normally take around 2 weeks. The government estimates that, on average, face to face appointments take place within 9 days of booking.

### **Prisoners: Veterans**

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have issued any guidelines to prison governors regarding the needs of prisoners who are veterans of the armed forces. [HL680]

**Lord Faulks:** The previous Government made clear its commitment to working with other organisations to help deliver the best outcomes for offenders in its response to the independent review into the rehabilitation needs of ex-armed service personnel in the CJS by Stephen Phillips QC MP, in December 2014. The current Government shares this commitment and we will be issuing updated guidance for staff on working with ex-armed service personnel in custody and the community later this year.

### **Prisons**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what tasks, if any, prisoners are now asked to undertake that hitherto were

undertaken by staff at (1) HMP Durham, and (2) HMP Acklington. [HL560]

**Lord Faulks:** The National Offender Management Service is committed to reducing reoffending by giving prisoners the support they need to break away from a life of crime. An important factor in their rehabilitation is providing them with the opportunity to learn new skills, contribute positively to prison life and develop a strong work ethos. As part of this, prisoners have always carried out tasks under the supervision of staff to assist the running of the prison and to gain skills in preparation for release.

HMP Durham has recently added further opportunities to do this, with jobs such as the receipt and recording of routine applications; the provision of general information; non-confidential prisoner record preparation; the issuing of toiletries, and the delivery of information as part of the induction programme for new prisoners.

HMP Acklington merged with HMP Castington in March 2013 to form HMP Northumberland. From December 2013 HMP Northumberland has been operated under contract by Sodexo Justice Services. Since December 2013 prisoners have carried out some tasks previously undertaken by staff related to the stores department, prisoner property area, general cleaning, catering and electrical testing.

### **S4C**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that funding for S4C does not drop below its current level. [HL570]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** S4C currently receives funding both from the exchequer (£6.8 million for 2015-16) and £74.5 million from the licence fee, for 2015-16 and also 2016-17, the end of the licence fee settlement. All options around the licence fee will be considered as part of the Charter Review. The level of all exchequer funding for public bodies will be a matter for the Spending Review, which has yet to begin.

### **Social Mobility**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what their response is to the report by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission that many top companies exclude bright working-class candidates from recruitment. [HL706]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The noble Lord will be aware that the recommendations of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission report are rightly directed at employers, not Government. However, participation in higher education is one of the key factors in improving social mobility and we now have record levels of disadvantaged students entering higher education. Also, through the Social Mobility Business Compact employers



are working to improve access to opportunities for young people regardless of their background.

### **Television: Licensing**

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on public service broadcasting of decriminalising non-payment of the licence fee. [HL569]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The potential impacts of decriminalisation are being considered as part of the TV Licence Fee Enforcement Review. This review is in its final stages and David Perry QC will report his findings to the Secretary of State by the end of June.

### **Unidentified Flying Objects**

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to the 18 Ministry of Defence files on unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) that have yet to be released to the public, what is the originating division of the file reference M9/18; what is the remit of that division in relation to UAP; and what is their latest estimate of when the 18 files will be passed to the National Archives, and then released to the public. [HL796]

**Earl Howe:** The originating branch of file reference MO9/18 relates to ministers' private offices. The latest estimate of when the 18 files will be delivered to the National Archives is before March 2016. The National

Archives will make the necessary judgement about when they release these files to the public.

### **VJ Day**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any representatives of the Burmese hill tribes will attend commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the Victory over Japan Day. [HL660]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with The Royal British Legion, will lead national commemorations in central London on Saturday 15 August 2015 to mark the 70th Anniversary of Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day 70).

The event will begin with a special commemoration on Horse Guards Parade, attended by senior political and military representatives, veterans and their families, which will include at its heart a traditional Drumhead Service. Current members of the Armed Forces will then lead veterans and their families in a parade down Whitehall, past the Cenotaph and the statue of Field Marshal Lord Slim, who famously led the 14th Army.

Further details of the VJ Day 70 programme will be announced in due course.

Invitations to participate in VJ Day 70 have been issued to representatives from all declared allies of the UK, Commonwealth countries, overseas territories and Crown Dependencies. In this way, the contribution and sacrifices made during the Far East campaign by communities such as the Burmese hill tribes will be recognised on this milestone anniversary.

# Written Answers

Thursday, 2 July 2015

## Broadband: Rural Areas

Asked by *The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they estimate that residents living in rural areas will be able to access the same broadband speeds as customers living in cities and towns. [HL808]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government recognises that customers in rural areas currently experience, on average, lower broadband speeds than those in urban areas.

This is why the Government is investing £780 million to deliver superfast broadband, mostly targeted at rural areas where it would not otherwise be available if left to the commercial sector. Superfast broadband is available to 80% of UK premises and we aim to reach 95% coverage by 2017.

By the end of this year access to standard broadband of 2 Megabits will be available to everyone. The Government has also made available up to £10 million to support pilot projects to explore ways to extend superfast broadband beyond 95% of UK premises, with technologies such as satellite and wireless and using new financing models.

## Cabinet Office: ComRes

Asked by *Lord Lipsey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have commissioned any research from ComRes in the past 12 months. [HL673]

Asked by *Lord Lipsey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Earl Howe on 24 February (HL Deb, col 1621), whether they plan to commission any research from ComRes in the future. [HL674]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** This information is not held centrally and can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

## Cancer: Drugs

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total value of projected savings to be made by removing drugs and indications from the Cancer Drugs Fund in England over (1) Q1 of 2015–16, and (2) the whole of 2015–16. [HL776]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that the projected value of savings from the Cancer Drugs Fund, as a result of removing drugs from the national list, is not yet available.

Decisions to de-list drugs were made taking account of the need to ensure the limited resources of the Fund are used most effectively. Advances in medical science mean that new and exciting cancer medicines are emerging all the time and we want people to have access to these too.

The Government established the Cancer Drugs Fund to ensure that cancer patients in England have better access to life-extending and improving drugs not routinely funded by the National Health Service.

Between October 2010 and March 2015, the Fund has helped over 72,000 cancer patients.

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of delisting from the Cancer Drugs Fund on the availability of cancer drugs in the United Kingdom, in comparison with (1) the level of access in 2010 when the Fund was introduced, and (2) availability levels in comparable European countries. [HL777]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Neither the Department nor NHS England has made any such assessment.

Decisions to de-list drugs were made taking account of the need to ensure the limited resources of the Fund are used most effectively. Advances in medical science mean that new and exciting cancer medicines are emerging all the time and we want people to have access to these too.

The Government established the Cancer Drugs Fund to ensure that cancer patients in England have better access to life-extending and improving drugs not routinely funded by the NHS.

Between October 2010 and March 2015, the Fund has helped over 72,000 cancer patients.

## Children: Corporal Punishment

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the judgment in *Re A* [2015] EWHC 1598 (Fam), in particular the judge's remarks that cultural context must be considered in such cases. [HL620]

**Lord Nash:** The law states that it is illegal to assault a child. A parent or guardian hitting their child could be prosecuted for assault, but there is a defence of 'reasonable chastisement' that they may use in cases where they have given a child a mild smack. If physical chastisement results in injury to a child, including bruises, cuts or scratches, it can be charged as actual bodily harm or a more serious offence, for which the 'reasonable chastisement' defence cannot be used.

## College of Social Work

Asked by *Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation they conducted before deciding to discontinue funding the College of Social Work; and with whom. [HL685]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Government was approached by the College of Social Work (the College) in March to discuss their financial situation for 2015-16 and beyond. As a result the College initiated an internal review of its functions and business model. The report demonstrated that even with the proposed level of Government funding, the College would be running at a loss. The financial health of an organisation is a key factor in the decision to award grant funding. The Department would not continue to provide grant funding to any organisation that is deemed to be financially unsustainable under HM Treasury rules (Managing Public Money). Therefore, funding is being provided in 2015-16 to ensure an orderly transfer of its Government funded work to other bodies.

### Community Relations

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all departments promote greater social cohesion and positive relations between all faiths, cultures and opinions, in addition to preventing extreme and criminal behaviour. [HL845]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Strong communities, built on a shared set of values, are the foundations of a strong society. Our approach to integration breaks down barriers: emphasising local action and bringing people together; celebrating what we have in common rather than what divides us and protecting and promoting our core values. My Department has spent over £45 million on integration projects since 2010 as part of a more targeted approach - building integrated communities and supporting British values. This includes £12 million in 2014 - 15 to support 30 projects to build integration, reaching over 335,000 people.

### Eating Disorders

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve NHS treatment for patients with eating disorders. [HL681]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** As part of the Autumn Statement 2014, investment of £30 million per year until 2020 was announced to improve services for children and young people with mental health problems in England, placing a particular emphasis on eating disorders.

To improve access to eating disorder services, NHS England is leading the development of an Access and Waiting Time Standard which is expected to be introduced in April 2016.

### Equality: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy regarding the enforcement of the policy of

equality of esteem in Northern Ireland, as outlined in the Belfast Agreement of 1998. [HL765]

**Lord Dunlop:** We are committed to upholding our obligations as set out in the Belfast Agreement.

### Females: Equality

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans, if any, are in place to mark the one-year anniversary of the London Girl Summit. [HL638]

**Baroness Verma:** Since the Girl Summit in London in 2014, the Department for International Development has focused on delivering the UK Government's commitment to ending FGM and Child, Early and Forced Marriage through its flagship £35 million FGM programme and recently launched £36 million programme to accelerate action to end Child marriage. DFID will co-host an event with the Canadian High Commission to mark the first anniversary of the Girl Summit and will produce, together with UNICEF a stocktake of global progress over the past year in working to end FGM and Child, Early and Forced marriage.

Progress on our domestic commitments includes a range of measures to significantly strengthen the law on FGM through the Serious Crime Act, a further £1.6 million for the next stage of the Department of Health's FGM prevention programme, and a programme of outreach by the Government's FGM Unit.

### Helicopters: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Rogan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each of the years 2010 to 2014, on how many occasions a helicopter was flown from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland to aid civil authorities. [HL756]

**Lord Dunlop:** During the years of 2010 to 2014, there was one occasion, on 28 March 2013 when two helicopters were flown from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland to assist with a farming emergency during a period of heavy snow.

### High Speed 2 Railway Line: Sheffield

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 18 June (HL453), whether any cost-benefit analysis has been conducted purely on the impact on the economic performance of South Yorkshire of siting the HS2 station at Sheffield City Centre and Meadowhall, rather than on a demand and appraisal basis; and if such analysis has been conducted, when the results will be published. [HL658]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Sheffield City Council and officers at South Yorkshire Passenger Transport

Executive carried out an assessment of the relative economic impacts of siting the South Yorkshire HS2 station in Sheffield City Centre or at Meadowhall. The conclusions of this assessment were set out by HS2 Ltd in their report *Options for phase two of the high speed rail network* (March 2012).

## India

Asked by **Lord Singh of Wimbledon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Warsi on 7 April 2014 (HL WA244), and the oral answer by the Earl of Courtown on 16 June (HL Deb, col 1077), why they consider the mass killing of Sikhs in India to be a matter for the government of India alone, and not an issue for the international community. [HL623]

**Earl of Courtown:** The events of June 1984 at Sri Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar led to a tragic loss of life and remain a source of deep pain to Sikhs everywhere around the world. We recognise the deep scars that this event left and the incredibly strong feelings that exist to this day. Relations between the Sikhs in India and the Indian government is an internal matter between those two parties.

## Kidney Diseases: Drugs

Asked by **Lord Maginnis of Drumglass**

To ask Her Majesty's Government in how many cases of Membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis kidney disease the use of the drug Eculizumab has been identified as the only viable treatment; in how many cases its use has been refused; and what assessment they have made of the circumstances of the appeal by 15 year-old Lewis Brimble against such a refusal. [HL753]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that, to date, it has received three individual funding requests for eculizumab (Soliris) to treat membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis or dense deposit disease. All three requests were declined.

Neither the Department nor NHS England can comment on individual cases.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence published a rapid evidence summary on *prevention of recurrence of C3 glomerulopathy post-transplant: eculizumab* on 26 June 2015. This is available at the following link and a copy is attached:

[www.nice.org.uk/advice/esuom44/chapter/Key-points-from-the-evidence](http://www.nice.org.uk/advice/esuom44/chapter/Key-points-from-the-evidence)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Prevention of recurrence of C3 glomerulopathy [Prevention of recurrence of C3 glomerulopathy.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-23/HL753>

## Livestock: Antibiotics

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the use of antibiotic products on farm animals contributes significantly to the antibiotic resistance problem. [HL641]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Bacteria naturally adapt and find new ways to survive the effects of an antibiotic; any use of an antibiotic accelerates the risk that bacteria will develop resistance.

The Government continues to carry out research and surveillance to better understand the link between antibiotic use and development of resistance.

## Parades Commission

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy concerning ensuring the transparency of decision-making by the Northern Ireland Parades Commission. [HL812]

**Lord Dunlop:** The disclosure of information relating to decisions made by the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland is an operational matter for the Commission acting independently of Government.

The Noble Lord may wish to write to the Parades Commission directly on this matter.

## Passive Smoking: Death

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what their assessment is of the number of people who have died from passive smoking in England in each of the last five years. [HL722]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Exposure to secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard. More than 50 carcinogens have been identified in secondhand smoke.

The report of the United States Surgeon General titled *The health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke* concluded that secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and adults who do not smoke. The scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, ear problems and more severe asthma. Smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in children. Exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer. Legislation to stop smoking in vehicles



carrying children will come into force in England on 1 October 2015.

The report of the Royal College of Physicians titled *Going smoke-free: The medical case for clean air in the home, at work and in public places* included estimates that secondhand smoke exposure caused approximately 12,200 deaths in the United Kingdom in 2003, and that the majority of these deaths occurred as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke in the home. These estimates were made prior to the introduction of smokefree legislation in England in 2007. Over the past decade, the proportion of smokers who say that they do not smoke in the home has increased.

The evidence is clear that smokefree legislation in England has had beneficial effects on health, as set out in the report *The Impact of smokefree legislation in England: evidence review* which was published alongside the "Tobacco Control Plan for England" in March 2011. The reports referred to have already been placed in the Library.

### Pets

*Asked by Lord Hanningfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to encourage the elderly to adopt or interact with pets, in the light of research regarding the positive impact they can have on people who suffer depression or loneliness. [HL853]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Loneliness is a complex problem and affects people in many different ways and it can have a severe impact on people's mental wellbeing. The reasons why people become socially isolated are diverse and a range of approaches may be needed to address these. In providing advice or support to people who are lonely or depressed local authorities could suggest interaction with pets but this will depend on the individual and the reasons behind their condition.

### Police: Cameras

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the data storage requirements arising from the increasing use of body-worn camera technology by the police. [I] [HL833]

**Lord Bates:** The Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and chief officers will make the decisions on how technology will be used by officers at a local level, including the data storage requirements arising from increased use of body worn videos.

Although storage solutions are an operational issue for policing, we are clear more needs to be done to enable forces to utilise body worn video in the most effective way to ensure that data can flow smoothly throughout the criminal justice system. This is why we are working with policing to embed interoperability between forces and encouraging the use of common standards. These

standards will support data sharing across the criminal justice system, including policing, in a way that anyone can access and understand. Open standards along with the work of the Police ICT Company, will help to create an open and active market to deliver better value for police ICT spend.

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had about the evidential use of images captured by the use of body-worn camera technology by police officers. [I] [HL834]

**Lord Bates:** The evidential use of body worn images is a matter for policing, with input from the criminal justice system. As the professional body for policing, the College of Policing published interim operational guidance in July 2014; this was developed in conjunction with a number of partners, including the courts and Crown Prosecution Service. This guidance sets out the procedures police forces must use to ensure the integrity of body worn video evidence. Body Worn Video (BWV) footage is accepted as evidence in courts and there is real enthusiasm from the judiciary for its potential to encourage early guilty pleas and lead to significantly higher conviction rates.

However the College's current guidance is clear that BWV material should be used to corroborate, rather than replace, traditional written statements and users should not rely on BWV for providing their evidence. Although a BWV recording may provide compelling evidence, it will not necessarily prove all aspects of a case and users must always be prepared to provide written evidence of anything pertinent to the case and not wholly represented by the recording.

### Prime Minister

*Asked by Lord Knight of Weymouth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent by 10 Downing Street on make-up and hair products in the last financial year. [HL740]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** No money has been spent.

### Railways: Rural Areas

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the evidence recently published in the Campaign to Protect Rural England report *Rural Reconnections: The social benefits of rail reopening*. [HL619]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is investing record amounts in building a world-class rail network across Great Britain, helping to create jobs, boost businesses, and secure long-term economic growth in every part of the country. We have asked the Peninsula Rail Task Force of local authorities and other key stakeholders in the South West to advise the Government of its strategic and local priorities for rail for the South-

West of England for the period up until 2034. The report is expected by June 2016. The Campaign to Protect Rural England report is a useful contribution to the work of the Task Force.

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which rural railway lines closed in the 1960s they would now favour reopening. [HL630]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In line with the Government's devolution agenda, it is for local transport authorities to consider in the first instance whether the re-opening of a closed railway line is the best way to meet local transport needs and, if so, whether they would wish to prioritise any such re-opening in bidding for funding from the Government's Local Growth Fund.

### Secure Colleges: Leicestershire

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the costs that will have been incurred in the event that the planned provision of a secure college on the Glen Parva site does not go ahead. [HL624]

**Lord Faulks:** Spend up to and including 30 April 2015 on the Secure College pathfinder was £1.56m resource (mainly expenditure on staff pay and procurement) and £4.04m capital (mainly design fees and site preparation costs).

No additional costs would be incurred in the event that the pathfinder did not go ahead. The design work produced for the pathfinder could be used or adapted for various other forms of adult or youth custody. The prepared site at Glen Parva could be used for a range of developments.

### Smoking: Public Places

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce deaths from passive smoking by introducing restrictions on smoking in public outdoor areas. [HL764]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has no current plans to extend smokefree legislation to open spaces. It is for individual organisations and local authorities to decide if they want to adopt a more extensive no smoking policy. Public Health England will continue its work to encourage voluntary action to protect children from the harms from exposure to secondhand smoke.

### Sri Lanka: Human Rights

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. [HL633]

**Earl of Courtown:** We welcomed the early commitments by President Sirisena, and his new government, to make progress on human rights concerns in Sri Lanka. Since then there have been a number of positive steps taken, including the adoption of the 19th amendment to the constitution that restores the independence of key institutions; removal of restrictions on freedom of expression, with exiled journalists invited to return to the country and a number of banned websites unblocked; and, more democratic space with travel bans on foreign nationals visiting the North lifted and the Non-Governmental Organisations Secretariat moved from the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Policy Planning and Economic Affairs.

Challenges however remain, particularly over high military levels in the North and their involvement in civilian life and land occupation.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights will make an assessment of progress at the September UN Human Rights Council.

### Stormont House Agreement

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to introduce legislation to implement the Stormont House Agreement. [HL841]

**Lord Dunlop:** As set out in the Queen's Speech, the Government is committed to bringing forward legislation in this session to give effect to the Stormont House Agreement in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland (Stormont House Agreement) Bill will make provision for an independent Historical Investigations Unit, an Oral History Archive, and the Independent Commission on Information Retrieval – a new body to be established by an international agreement between the UK Government and Irish Government.

The Bill will be introduced as soon as the Parliamentary timetable allows.

### Treasure Act 1996

*Asked by Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to complete and publish the recommendations of their review of the Treasure Act 1996. [HL618]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My Department will be conducting a public consultation later this year which will contain a number of proposals relating to the definition of Treasure and other measures set out in the Treasure Code of Practice. The Government's response to the consultation will be published thereafter.

## UN Convention for Protection of Cultural Property in Event of Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have not yet ratified the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; and when they plan to do so. [HL617]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government has made a commitment to bring forward legislation to ratify the Hague Convention and accede its two protocols at the first opportunity. Previous Governments were unable to find the necessary parliamentary time to do this earlier.

*Asked by The Earl of Clancarty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to introduce a bill in the current session to ratify the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; and, if not, when they plan to do so. [HL744]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government will bring forward new legislation to ratify the Hague Convention

on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict at the first opportunity.

## Veterans

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that military personnel have a smooth transition into civilian life. [HL804]

**Earl Howe:** This Government is absolutely committed to ensuring our Service leavers make a successful transition to civilian life. To support that transition, all Service leavers are entitled to a resettlement programme that allows them to capitalise on the highly marketable skills and experiences they take with them.

Resettlement provision is available through the Career Transition Partnership, a highly successful collaboration between the Ministry of Defence and Right Management. The range of help available can include training grants, resettlement leave, transition workshops, career support, housing advice, financial briefs, and employment support. During 2013-14, this package of measures helped 84 per cent of Service leavers find sustainable employment within six months of leaving the Armed Forces.

## Written Answers

Monday, 6 July 2015

### Air Pollution

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government in what proportion of the United Kingdom land area legal air pollution limits are exceeded. [HL668]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** 38 UK zones are exceeding EU air pollution limit values. An entire zone is considered to be in exceedance if any point within the zone boundary is in exceedance. While only 17.6% of total modelled road length exceeds EU limit values, the total land area covered by the 38 zones is equivalent to 72.6% of the total UK land area, but the points within the zones which are in exceedance cover a much smaller land area.

### Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Asked by **Lord Black of Brentwood**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions there have been for animal cruelty in each of the last five years; and how many of those related to cruelty to cats. [HL795]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The number of prosecutions for causing unnecessary suffering to an animal under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 for each of the last five years, for which records are available, can be viewed in the table below. Centrally held statistics do not record the species of animal involved.

*Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' court and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering(1), England & Wales, 2010-2014(2)(3)*

Offence	Outcome	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering	Proceeded against	1,077	1,277	1,385	1,266	1,016
	Found Guilty	856	1,010	1,101	1,006	800

(1) An offence under SS4(1) & 32(1) and 4(2) & 32(1) Animal Welfare Act 2006, which came into force on 6 April 2007.

(2) The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

(3) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Ref: HL795

### Armed Forces Covenant

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 27 June (HL501) regarding the distribution of the armed forces covenant (Libor) fund, who selected the charities for funding; when; and on what basis. [HL852]

**Earl Howe:** In 2013, the Government made £35 million available to deliver Armed Forces Covenant commitments from fines levied on banks for the attempted manipulation of Libor. The cross-Government Covenant Reference Group, which is chaired by the Cabinet Office and includes representatives from key Government Departments, the Devolved Administrations, the Service charity sector, and the three Service Families Federations, set the priorities for the fund. The first two tranches focused on mental health and support for Service families, while the third tranche was open to any project meeting the principles of the Covenant.

In 2014, a further £40 million of Libor funds were made available specifically to support veterans with a housing need via the Veterans Accommodation Fund (VAF). The criteria and application process for both schemes were published on gov.uk.

Both funds were administered by the Armed Forces Covenant team. Against the agreed priorities, applicants had to demonstrate evidence of need, experience of providing a service and value for money. A decision panel was convened to agree the final allocation of funding.

The panel for the £35 million fund sat three times between 2012 and 2014 and included representatives from the Ministry of Defence Covenant and Financial Governance teams, H M Treasury, COBSEO, the three Service Families Federations, and the Welsh and Scottish Governments.

The panel for the VAF sat on 7 July 2014 and included representatives from the Ministry of Defence Covenant and Financial Governance teams, H M Treasury, the Welsh and Scottish Governments, the Army Families Federation, The Royal British Legion and COBSEO Housing Cluster.

### Army Reserve: Discharges and Recruitment

Asked by **Lord Browne of Belmont**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many soldiers were recruited to the Army Reserve between 2012 and 2015. [HL925]

Asked by **Lord Browne of Belmont**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many soldiers serving in the Army Reserve have left in each year since 2012. [HL926]

**Earl Howe:** The total number recruited into the Army Reserve (officers and soldiers) between 2012 and 2015 is 12,130.



This breaks down as:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total	3,960	2,960	5,210

The total number leaving the Army Reserve (officers and soldiers) since 2012 is 12,680.

This breaks down as:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total	4,710	4,620	3,350

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

## Bees

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the factors contributing to the decline of the honeybee population. [HL667]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** UK honey bees and other pollinators play an essential role in ensuring our food security and sustaining the health of the natural environment. To help inform Defra's National Pollinator Strategy (NPS), published in November 2014, the department commissioned a report on the 'Status and Value of Pollinators and Pollination Services'. The report reviewed evidence on threats to pollinators, including the honey bee, and highlighted the many pressures pollinators face. These include aspects of land-use intensification (landscape alteration, cultivation in monocultures and agrochemical use) as well as urbanisation, invasive alien species, the spread of diseases and parasites, and climate change.

The NPS forms a framework for collective action to help manage and raise awareness of the pressures facing pollinators. The strategy seeks to address key gaps in our understanding about the status of pollinators, identifies specific policy and evidence actions for the Government and others, and identifies actions that everyone can take to help expand food, shelter and nest sites; increasing forage will have definite benefits for honey bees. The pressures honey bees face may have been offset by a recorded increase in beekeeping activity since 2008.

## Block Grant: Northern Ireland

Asked by **Lord Hay of Ballyore**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what effect the failure to pass the Welfare Reform Bill in Northern Ireland has had, in financial terms, on the block grant to Northern Ireland. [HL663]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** As a result of the Northern Ireland Assembly's inability to pass welfare reform legislation, the Northern Ireland Executive's allocation has been reduced by £13m in 2013-14, £87m in 2014-15 and £114m in 2015-16 to offset foregone cost savings which would otherwise have accrued. The Executive have

been aware of the level of the deduction since March 2014.

Following the exceptional access to the reserve granted to the Northern Ireland Executive in 2014-15, the Executive's 2015-16 allocation has been reduced by £100m in 2015-16 in accordance with normal budgetary procedures.

These deductions will be reflected in the control totals published alongside departmental Main Supply Estimates for 2015-16.

## British Nationality: English Language

Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what process they decided to reduce to two the number of examination boards whose English language tests may be used for applications for citizenship. [HL701]

**Lord Bates:** From November 2015 the same English language requirements will apply for settlement and naturalisation as already apply to other immigration applications. This is to ensure the same level of assurance, and that the same security requirements apply, throughout the immigration system. From November, only qualifications that are on the Home Office's approved list will be acceptable. The decision as to which providers are on the list was made following a competitive procurement exercise.

A letter was sent to all Awarding Bodies offering ESOL qualifications on 23 March 2015 informing them of the impending change. A further copy of the letter was sent on 13 April as it appeared some recipients were not aware of the original mailing. The Gov.Uk website was amended to reflect these forthcoming changes.

Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the process by which a decision was made to reduce to two the number of examination boards whose English language tests may be used for applications for citizenship met Cabinet Office guidance on procurement in relation to small and medium-sized enterprises. [HL705]

**Lord Bates:** Following significant abuse identified in the provision of English language testing the Home Office commissioned an independent review. A key outcome was to reduce the number of service providers. The benefit of the approach was to improve the Home Office's ability to actively manage service provision. In terms of compliance with Cabinet Office's policy for small and medium-sized enterprises the procurement process permitted all organisations, irrespective of size, to submit compliant bids in line with the business and commercial requirements. All bids were evaluated in accordance with the requirements and those organisations that were compliant were awarded Concession Agreements.

## Children: Immigrants

Asked by *Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to take steps to reduce the time taken to resolve the immigration cases of families that have recourse to public funds and are supported by local authorities under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, in the light of the recent report by the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society. [HL749]

**Lord Bates:** We work closely with local authorities to ensure that immigration decisions in cases receiving local authority support are made as quickly as possible. The No Recourse to Public Funds Connect database provides a route into the Home Office for local authorities on individual cases, so that these can be dealt with expeditiously. Where migrants granted leave to remain on family grounds show that they are destitute or that there are exceptional circumstances, they are given recourse to public funds.

## Conflict Resolution: Females

Asked by *Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to report on progress in implementing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and if so, when such a report will be published. [HL700]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The third UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, covering the period 2014-17, was published in June 2014. In December 2014 we presented an Implementation Plan to Parliament, which set out our goals for action on this important issue in our priority countries: Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Somalia and Syria. The National Action Plan, jointly owned by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence, demonstrates our intention to put women and girls at the centre of all our efforts to prevent and resolve conflict; to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls; and to promote peace and stability internationally. We will report to Parliament on progress in implementing the National Action Plan in the autumn.

## Copyright

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the draft own-initiative report of proposal to the European Parliament that commercial use of photographs or video footage, or other images of works which are permanently located in physical public places, should always be subject to prior consent from the authors or any proxy acting for them. [HL934]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Section 62 of the Copyright, Designs, and Patents Act (1988) permits the photographing and filming of certain artistic works and

buildings permanently situated in a public place or in premises open to the public, without prior consent from the owners of copyright in those works. This exception to copyright protection has existed in UK law for over a hundred years, and represents an important freedom for photographers and film-makers, whether amateur or professional.

The Government does not support any restriction to this exception, such as a requirement that prohibits commercial use without prior consent. The Government recognises the diversity of EU Member States' laws in this area and strongly believes Member States should retain their current discretion in this area of law.

## Cycling: Safety

Asked by *Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to protect cyclists from collisions with heavy goods vehicles. [HL782]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Road safety including reducing the instances of cyclists being killed or seriously injured, particularly by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) is a subject that we take extremely seriously. Government has helped encourage and develop better HGV design and will continue to do so. The Department for Transport will be consulting on a Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS). Our plans to tackle cyclist safety and fatalities caused by all vehicle types, including HGVs will form a key part of this document.

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to regulate bicycles to increase the safety of cyclists in built-up areas; and how they will ensure that any regulations are complied with. [HL810]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There are currently no plans for Her Majesty's Government to further regulate bicycles. Bicycles are currently regulated under Statutory Instruments 2010 no 198, Consumer Protection, The Pedal Bicycles (Safety) Regulations 2010.

The enforcement of cycling offences is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. Officers can issue verbal warnings, fixed penalty notices or report the road user for formal prosecution.

## Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Assets

Asked by *Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 22 June (HL330), what assets are currently owned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its non-departmental public bodies; and what prospective asset sales are under review by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [HL719]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** A summary of Defra's assets and their Net Book Value as at 31 March 2015 will be published in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) in due course. Defra's ARAs are available on the gov.uk website.

The table below shows a list of freehold property owned by the Department as at June 2015 which has been identified as a prospective asset sale, together with a summary of the status of the sale. Freehold property is the only category of asset likely to generate any significant sales. The list includes assets owned by Core Defra, its Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

<i>Property Name</i>	<i>Post Town</i>	<i>Comments</i>
GARSTANG VIC	Preston	Site under review as part of 2015-2020 property plan. Potential disposal 2016/17.
WORCESTER WHITTINGTON ROAD	Worcester	Site under offer with completion anticipated in January 2016.
TAUNTON QUANTOCK HOUSE	Taunton	Site under offer with completion expected in July 2015.
BURY ST EDMUNDS	Bury St Edmunds	Site under offer with completion expected in September 2015.
ITCHEN ABBAS VIC	Winchester	Site being vacated. Anticipated disposal 2016/17.
ELY ARTHUR RICKWOOD FARM	Ely	Site under offer. Completion expected by March 2016.
STRATFORD LUDDINGTON VIC	Stratford Upon Avon	Site vacated and marketing underway. Completion expected by March 2016.
REACH LODGE PITS	Upware	Surplus land - currently being marketed.
SPORTSMANS PIT	Swaffham Bulbeck	Surplus land - currently being marketed.
FENCED ACRE CLAY PIT	Mepal	Surplus land - currently being marketed.
RELIEF CHANNEL	Norfolk	Surplus land - being prepared for market.
HUNDRED FOOT RIVER	Earith	Surplus land - currently being marketed.
HUNDRED FOOT WASHES	Sutton	Surplus land - currently being marketed.
HAVEN RIVER: FORMER MUSSEL WASHING PLANT	Boston	Surplus - currently being marketed.
LAVENDON MILL	Olney	Surplus weir - currently being marketed.
RIVER ANT (LUDHAM BRIDGE)	Great Yarmouth	Surplus land - not on the market yet. Plan to dispose in 2017/18.
STEEPING RIVER & WAINFLEET	Saints, Lincs	Surplus land - under offer.

<i>Property Name</i>	<i>Post Town</i>	<i>Comments</i>
RIVER GLAVEN CLEY NEXT THE SEA	Holt	Surplus land - under offer.
THE SHANTY	Gloucester	Surplus part of Flood Alleviation Scheme - not on the market -planned for 2017/18.
BECKINGHAM MARSHES	Nottingham	Surplus part of Flood Alleviation Scheme - under offer.
OLD RIVER DRAIN	Scunthorpe	Surplus part of Flood Alleviation Scheme - currently being marketed.
HULL PLOT 38, WATTON NATURE RESERVE	Driffield	Surplus nature reserve - currently being marketed.
2 GREAT CULVERT P.S. HOUSE	Hull	Surplus house - being prepared for market.
1 TICKTON P.S. HOUSE	Beverley	Surplus house - being prepared for market.
2 TICKTON P.S. HOUSE	Beverley	Surplus house - being prepared for market.
1 INGS LANE, RICCALL	York	Surplus house - being prepared for market.
KILLINGTON R. LUNE BROADRAINE	Sedbergh	Surplus fishing rights - under offer.
SLAIDBURN WITCHER WELL DUNSOP	Clitheroe	Surplus fish hatchery - being prepared for market.
46 BANKS ROAD, CROSSENS	Southport	Surplus house - currently being marketed.
FERRING RIFE, HIGHDOWN WAY	Worthing	Surplus land - plan to market in 2016/17.
FERRING RIFE, LANGBURY LANE	Worthing	Surplus land - plan to market in 2016/17.
FERRING RIFE, OVAL WAYE	Worthing	Surplus land - plan to market in 2016/17.
LIME KILN COTTAGE	Rye	Surplus nature reserve - negotiations underway.

## Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Statistics

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has stopped collecting since May 2010; and why. [HL669]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Defra periodically reviews all the information businesses have to provide to it. In 2014 we produced the Smarter Data Plan to ensure we only ask for information that is needed and used, and that it is easy to submit. Data that is no longer collected does

not have an impact on how Defra delivers its policy priorities.

Since 2010 we have stopped collecting the following data sets:

- “Earnings and Hours of Agricultural and Horticultural Workers Survey” in 2011. A review of the survey concluded that suitable alternative data is published via the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

- Crop areas data collection ceased in 2011. The Home Grown Cereals Authority (HGCA) collect and publish this information.

- We stopped the collection of volatile fractions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and mercury and platinum in particulate ambient air, which was monitored with other aspects of air quality under Directive 2004/107/EC, because the evidential value and cost effectiveness was low.

- In order to reduce burdens on local authorities, the following are no longer collected by Defra:

- Fixed penalty notices (FPN) issued for 15 environmental offences.

- Local Environmental Quality Survey of England (LEQSE).

- Annual survey (from 2001/02 to 2014/15) of litter and six other indicators of cleanliness: detritus, weed growth, staining, graffiti, fly-posting and leaf and blossom fall.

- Three yearly survey of local authority action on adapting to climate change.

- Air quality - NOx and primary PM10 emissions through local authorities’ estate and operations. This was stopped as it duplicated reporting under Article IV of the Environment Act 1995.

- Local Cleanliness National Indicator.

- Local authority self-assessment against standards for the control system for animal health stopped in April 2011.

- Local authority flood risk management capacity.

## Economic and Monetary Union

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is their assessment of the European Union Five Presidents’ Report published on 22 June recommending the ceding of powers by member states to European Union institutions and the creation of a eurozone treasury. [HL713]

**Lord O’Neill of Gatley:** The Report is part of an ongoing process to identify next steps to better governance in the euro area.

The government’s position is that the UK benefits from the Single Market, and does not want to stand in the way of the euro area resolving its difficulties. But we will not let the integration of the euro area jeopardise the integrity of the Single Market or in any way disadvantage the UK.

That is one of the important objectives we seek in our renegotiation with the EU.

## Egypt

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations they are making to the government of Egypt in the light of the reporting by Human Rights Watch about human rights abuses under President al-Sisi. [HL734]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We raise our human rights concerns regularly with the Egyptian government, including some of the issues highlighted by Human Rights Watch. On 17 May, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised the death sentence for former President Morsi with the Egyptian Ambassador in London.

We continue to believe that stability and prosperity in Egypt is dependent on open and inclusive politics and on full respect for the rights contained in the Egyptian constitution. That is why in recent months Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have asked the Egyptian authorities to take action to release journalists and political detainees who remain imprisoned, to review mass judicial decisions, and to remove restrictions on civil society.

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is their estimate of the short-, medium- and long-term consequences for the stability and security of the region of alleged human rights abuses and failings in the rule of law in Egypt under President al-Sisi. [HL735]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK believes that progress on the economy, democracy and human rights are essential for security and stability in Egypt. We do not under-estimate the threat Egypt and the region face from terrorism and violent extremism, and we are committed to deepening our partnership with Egypt to defeat terrorist violence. But this must be done within a framework of respect for human rights.

We urge the Egyptian authorities to apply the rule of law consistently in line with international standards, and to implement the rights contained in Egypt’s constitution by protecting the right to freedom of expression and association. In recent months, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have asked the Egyptian authorities to take action to release journalists and political detainees who remain imprisoned; to review mass judicial decisions; and to remove restrictions on civil society.

During the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review in November 2014, we expressed our concern at the number of detainees in pre-trial detention; reports of mistreatment or torture; use of mass trials and



trial irregularities; retention of the death penalty; and restrictions on Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Assembly as well as the decreasing space for civil society and the media to operate.

### Embassies: Flags

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there has been any change of policy by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office regarding the flying of flags by British embassies. [HL695]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** It is the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s long-standing policy to fly the Union flag, national flags and the flags of Overseas Territories (on relevant days). The Union flag always takes priority and is flown from the FCO's main flag pole at all times. It is never substituted by another flag.

At our overseas posts the Union flag always takes precedence.

### Employment: Disability

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people they expect to find jobs as a result of the Disability Confident campaign. [HL724]

**Baroness Altmann:** The Disability Confident campaign makes the business case for recruiting and retaining more disabled people and aims to increase the number of employers taking positive action to be more disability confident. We are not able to measure the number of disabled people moving into employment as a direct result of it, but the campaign is an important contributor towards our commitment to halve the gap between the employment rates of disabled and non-disabled people.

### Engineering

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the numbers of people being trained in engineering at (1) apprentice level, (2) high technical level, and (3) graduate level. [HL793]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is making a series of interventions to increase the number of engineers. We are inspiring young people to consider engineering careers through the your-life campaign, tomorrow's engineer's week, STEM ambassadors in schools and improved careers advice.

We are committed to 3m apprenticeships starts this parliament and many of the new employer-led trailblazer apprenticeships standards are in the engineering and manufacturing sector.

Final data for the 13/14 academic year show that there were 64,800 apprenticeship starts in the engineering and

manufacturing technologies sector subject area, an increase of 52% on 2009/10.

We have made additional funding available for HE within Higher Apprenticeships and for 20,000 more higher apprenticeship to provide apprentices with high level technical skills that employers need.

We have also established national colleges to address skills gaps in sectors key to the economy to provide high level technical skills –colleges announced so far include advanced manufacturing, high speed rail, nuclear, oil, gas and wind.

We have also made available £30m funding to employers to address skills shortages in engineering.

In HE we have provided £200 million capital investment for teaching facilities and £185 million for teaching of high cost subjects such as engineering. We have also provided £6m for the development of an engineering conversion pilot to enable qualified non-engineering graduates to pursue a career in engineering.

### Families

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Altmann on 22 June, how they have calculated that £1 spent on advice yields approximately £11.50 in savings. [HL727]

**Baroness Altmann:** This calculation was derived from an independent review commissioned by the Department for Education.

The information is available in the Department for Education's Relationship Support Interventions Evaluation, published in 2014. This sets out a detailed explanation of how the savings were calculated using a cost benefit analysis.

### Helicopters: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Rogan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each of the years 2010 to 2014, on how many occasions a helicopter was flown from the mainland to Northern Ireland to aid civil authorities. [HL755]

**Lord Dunlop:** During the years of 2010 to 2014, there was one occasion, on 28 March 2013 when two helicopters were flown from Great Britain to Northern Ireland to assist with a farming emergency during a period of heavy snow.

### Human Rights: Republic of Ireland

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implementation by the Republic of Ireland of the human rights section of the Belfast Agreement. [HL811]

**Lord Dunlop:** The UK and Irish Governments meet regularly both at ministerial and official level to discuss issues of mutual interest and concerns including matters relating to the implementation of the Belfast Agreement in each jurisdiction. There is no formal mechanism in the Belfast Agreement for monitoring the progress of either government other than the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference.

### International Monetary Fund

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the United Kingdom's financial involvement in the International Monetary Fund; and what percentage of the whole it comprises. [HL715]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is primarily a quota-based institution. The UK's quota subscription to the IMF is 10,738.5 million Special Drawing Rights, equivalent to £10,009 million at 31 March 2015. This accounts for 4.5% of total quotas at the IMF.

There are a number of other financial arrangements and associated transactions between the UK and the IMF. The IMF routinely publishes information on its members' financial positions in the IMF, including for the UK. The Government also publishes complementary information in the annual accounts of the National Loans Fund and Exchange Equalisation Account.

Further details are available on the IMF and gov.uk websites. [1]

[1] <http://www.imf.org/external/np/fin/tad/exfin1.aspx>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmt-central-funds>

### Iraq: Iran

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in line with the United States State Department admitted practice, United Kingdom officials based in Iraq continue to avoid visiting Camp Liberty; and whether they will place in the Library of the House the latest monitor's report by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and those from the government of Iraq. [HL751]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We continue to engage with the Government of Iraq on the welfare of the residents of Camp Liberty. Our Embassy in Baghdad regularly raises this issue with the Government of Iraq. We also support UN calls for more to be done to protect residents, but remain of the view that the Government of Iraq is responsible for security at the camp.

Officials from our Embassy in Baghdad do not avoid visiting Camp Liberty. Embassy officials last visited the camp on 28 April to assess living conditions, which the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq judge to be well in excess of basic humanitarian standards. Officials plan to visit

again soon, provided the security situation allows, and are arranging to meet with the residents' representatives.

While the Government of Iraq maintains records of the management of the camp, we are not aware of a regular, consolidated report produced by the government.

The UN Assistance Mission for Iraq's monitoring reports have a restricted distribution. As we are not the owners of this information we are unable to place them in the Library of the House.

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Iranian refugees with United Kingdom connections have been assessed in either Camp Ashraf or Camp Liberty since they were first left to the responsibility of the government of Iraq; how many such refugees have been admitted to the United Kingdom in the interim; and what assessment they have made of how many refugees overall have died as a result of (1) violence, or (2) lack of access to proper medical care. [HL752]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have re-admitted four individuals from Camp Ashraf who hold valid UK travel documents. The Home Office exceptionally agreed to consider whether 52 residents of Camp Liberty previously settled in the UK, but who left many years ago, should be readmitted. Seventeen residents approved for resettlement in the UK by the Home Office are now in the UK. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has also referred 34 further residents and a decision from the Home Office is pending. We do not keep records of fatalities at Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty. We continue to engage with the Government of Iraq on the welfare of the residents of Camp Liberty. Our Embassy in Baghdad regularly raises this issue with the Government of Iraq. We support UN calls for more to be done to protect residents, but remain of the view that the Government of Iraq is responsible for security at the camp. Officials from our Embassy visited Camp Liberty on 28 April and stated that the camp hospital and dentist clinic appeared well maintained and stocked. UN Assistance Mission for Iraq monitors confirmed that, when needed residents, are permitted to leave the camp to attend hospital appointments and for treatment.

### Israel

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the suspected arson attack on the Roman Catholic Church at Tabgha, what discussions they have had with the government of Israel concerning Zionist extremism. [HL707]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 18 June officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv lobbied senior contacts in the Israeli National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure quick and high level condemnation and action from the Israeli government to catch the perpetrators of this attack.

On 19 June our Ambassador in Tel Aviv issued a local statement criticising the vandalising and burning of the Church "Loaves and Fishes" at the Kineret. He said "This was a disgusting act of disrespect at one of Christianity's holiest sites. The British Government welcomes the determination of the Israeli authorities to bring those responsible to justice."

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Coventry***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of hostility towards religious minorities in Israel following the arsonist attack on and desecration of the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves in Tabgha on the night of 17 June. [HL860]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Freedom of religion or belief continues to be a priority for this Government. We regularly raise individual cases and discriminatory legislation with other governments and we support overseas programmes designed to overcome prejudice, discrimination and sectarianism.

On 18 June, officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv lobbied senior contacts in the Israeli National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure quick and high level condemnation and action from the Israeli government to catch the perpetrators of this attack. On 19 June our Ambassador in Tel Aviv issued a local statement criticising the vandalising and burning of the Church "Loaves and Fishes" at the Kineret. He said "This was a disgusting act of disrespect at one of Christianity's holiest sites. The British Government welcomes the determination of the Israeli authorities to bring those responsible to justice."

### **Israel: Palestinians**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following the recent destruction of Palestinian olive and almond trees in Wadi Fukin; and what action they plan to take to ensure that the families receive compensation. [HL708]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised this specific incident with the Israeli authorities, officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv do express our serious concerns to the Israeli government on a regular basis about the destruction of olive trees, whether by the Israeli authorities or by extremist settlers. They raised the issue of destruction of olive trees most recently with an Israeli Police Spokesperson on 13 May. Compensation is a matter between the families concerned and the Israeli authorities.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel concerning their rules of engagement following the testimony of Israel Defence Force soldiers of indiscriminate fire during Operation Protective Edge. [HL709]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 2 June I met with the Israeli Military Advocate General, who is leading the Israel Defence Forces investigations into Operation Protective Edge, and with the Israeli Ambassador to London, where I discussed the issue of accountability. I noted that it was key for Israel to show that they would not tolerate impunity.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following the decision of the Military Advocate General not to seek an indictment over the killing of four Palestinian children on the beach in Gaza in July 2014. [HL710]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv met the Israeli Military Advocate General on 17 June, during which he discussed this incident.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the hospitals, primary healthcare facilities and ambulances damaged or destroyed by Israeli strikes during Operation Protective Edge have been rebuilt or replaced; and what assurances they have obtained from the government of Israel that any further attacks on Gaza will not target medical personnel and infrastructure. [HL711]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government does not have the figures for exact number of facilities that have been rebuilt or replaced. The UN is carrying out a detailed needs assessment which includes a Recovery Framework, to cost and prioritise interventions for reconstruction. While the Government recognises Israel's right to take proportionate action to defend itself, we have, in the past, urged Israel to do everything it can to avoid civilian casualties, and to exercise restraint in line with humanitarian law.

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the government of Israel concerning the number of Palestinian journalists killed and injured in the Gaza war zone and in West Bank demonstrations. [HL712]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials at our Embassy in Tel Aviv have registered our concerns with the Israel Defence Forces about the reported killing and wounding of Palestinian photo-journalists.

### **Libya**

*Asked by **Lord Ahmed***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any British Libyans who took part in overthrowing Colonel Gaddafi; and whether any of them have since returned to the United Kingdom. [HL743]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I can confirm that we do not hold any information on this matter.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to help prevent people traffickers from operating on Libyan territory. [HL837]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** At the Foreign Affairs Council on 22 June EU members agreed to launch a military Common Security and Defence Policy operation to disrupt the business model of the smugglers and traffickers. This will be conducted in a phased approach starting with surveillance and intelligence work. The UK is making an appropriate contribution to the EU's mission by deploying HMS Enterprise and a Merlin helicopter.

To stop the flows reaching Libya in the first place, we are engaging with source and transit countries to address the causes why migrants leave their home countries, through development aid, humanitarian support, addressing human rights abuses and tackling conflict. The UK is a member of the Core Group of the Khartoum Process, which will be important in developing collaboration between EU and source/transit countries. The initial focus will be on developing concrete actions to combat people smuggling and trafficking on the Horn of Africa/East Africa migratory route. The Department for International Development is helping shape the EU's development spending to effectively address the root causes of migration across Africa and the Middle East.

The UK is working to bring order and stability in Libya to make it a more difficult operating environment for smugglers and traffickers. That is why the UK urges all parties in the Libyan political dialogue led by UN Special Representative of the Secretary General, Bernardino Leon, to sign an agreement and establish a representative Government of National Accord (GNA). Only a stable and representative GNA can deal with the political and security challenges Libya faces, including the control of its borders. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and our diplomatic network have intensively lobbied Libyan negotiators and regional governments in support of the agreement. We welcome regional efforts and those of the African Union and others in support of the process.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed with the government of Libya the possibility of compensation for United Kingdom victims of terrorism carried out using weaponry supplied by the former Gaddafi regime to the IRA; and if so, when. [HL838]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We do not intend to negotiate a compensation settlement with the Libyan authorities. Once stability returns and our Embassy re-opens, we will again encourage the Libyans to engage with UK victims seeking redress, including those seeking compensation, and their legal representatives. The Prime

Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), is committed to doing this and has tasked the National Security Advisor to lead cross-government efforts to engage the Libyans on reconciliation initiatives. The British Government will also continue to promote broad and lasting reconciliation between Libya and affected UK communities.

The UK has urged all parties to cease all hostilities and support the UN process led by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Bernardino Leon.

## Mediterranean Sea: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what alternative measures are being discussed to assist search-and-rescue operations in the Mediterranean after the withdrawal of HMS Bulwark. [HL891]

**Earl Howe:** Having completed her deployment, HMS BULWARK was withdrawn on 3 July 2015 for planned maintenance. HMS ENTERPRISE and a Merlin helicopter have been deployed on the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy operation, launched on 22 June 2015 to disrupt the people smugglers' networks and destroy their boats. But, like all shipping, HMS ENTERPRISE will continue to rescue migrants in distress, as directed by the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre.

In addition, we are contributing HMC PROTECTOR and HMC SEEKER, two of the Home Office's Border Force Cutter fleet, in order to support search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean.

## Mental Health Services

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to achieve "parity of esteem" between acute and mental health services, both with regard to access and the provision of health services, through the increase in the number of general practitioners in primary care settings. [HL728]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We have legislated for parity of esteem between mental and physical health via the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The 2014-15 Mandate to NHS England sets a clear objective for NHS England to deliver parity of esteem. The Mandate also makes clear that 'everyone who needs it should have timely access to evidence-based [mental health] services'.

We have invested over £120 million in order to introduce for the first time waiting times standards for a number of mental health services – a very significant milestone on the road to parity.

The Government will hold the National Health Service to account for achieving the objectives set out in the NHS



Mandate for 2014-15 and the refreshed Mandate for 2015-16.

Spending on mental health is estimated to have increased by £302 million in 2014-15, with total mental health spending rising from £11.362 billion in 2013-14 to £11.664 billion planned in 2014-15, an increase of 0.6% in real terms. In the planning requirements for 2015-16, commissioners were required to invest additionally in mental health in line with their increase in allocation. The total planned additional spend is £376 million, an increase of 4.5%.

NHS England published planning guidance for 2015-16 which made the expectation clear that each clinical commissioning group's (CCGs) spending on mental health services in 2015-16 should increase in real terms, and grow by at least the same percentage as each CCG's allocation increase.

The Government is committed to increasing the primary and community care workforce to make available 10,000 primary care staff including an estimated 5,000 more doctors working in general practice by 2020. We have backed this commitment with £10 million of funding and a joint plan between NHS England, Health Education England, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the British Medical Association, to increase the GP workforce.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) is the annual reward and incentive programme detailing GP practice achievement results. A number of mental health indicators are included in the QOF. It rewards practices for the provision of quality care and helps to standardise improvements in the delivery of clinical care. The mental health indicators help to drive improvements in the care and monitoring of patients with depression, bipolar disorder, psychoses and other mental illnesses.

## Migration

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what strategic estimates they are making of the likely growth in the number of political refugees, economic migrants and those displaced by conflict and climate change in the next five, 10, 20 and 50 years; and what plans they have to respond effectively to the political, social and economic consequences nationally and internationally. [HL737]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government conducts periodic strategic reviews of countries and thematic issues that affect UK interests and how we respond to them. Some of these global issues will generate medium and long term migrant flows, within and between regions around the World. These trends are extremely unpredictable and therefore difficult to forecast. The size and composition of migrant flows can also vary dramatically over time, given the large range of factors driving migration.

We do, however, seek to identify and address the root causes. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's long term security and prosperity agendas aim to help create the right conditions for growth, security and stability, and the Department for International Development's developmental and humanitarian assistance help provide the stable conditions that allow people to remain in their homelands.

Furthermore, we have established a new, more strategic approach to work in conflict-affected states where the UK has key interests, with a £1 billion Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. It will help ensure our work in fragile or conflict-affected states supports the full range of UK objectives.

## Mohammed Morsi

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making at European and global level on behalf of the former President of Egypt Mohamed Morsi. [HL736]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government remains concerned about the sentencing to death of former President Morsi. On 17 May the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised the case with the Egyptian Ambassador in London.

We have emphasised that it is vital that any judicial decisions are objective, transparent, and in accordance with the law. There are further stages in the legal process and we will continue to raise this issue with the Egyptian government.

## Neonicotinoids

*Asked by Lord Harries of Pentregarth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of evidence that bees are harmed by the use of neonicotinoids, what plans they have to restrict the use of neonicotinoid-treated seeds. [HL792]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Decisions on the approval of pesticide active substances are made at European level. Since December 2013, three of the five neonicotinoids currently approved are not permitted for use on a wide range of crops considered "attractive to bees". A number of other uses remain permitted under the EU approval. The restrictions currently in place for neonicotinoids are not time-limited.

## North Korea

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any role played by the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in (1) sponsoring and aiding international terrorism; and (2) the abduction and attempted assassination of refugee

North Korean activists; and what consideration they are giving to revising their travel advice for North Korea based upon these assessments. [HL689]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice for North Korea reflects our latest assessment of the threat from terrorism to British nationals in North Korea. We keep our travel advice under constant review.

We do not consider that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) poses a terrorist threat, nor are we aware of any recent incidents of the DPRK abducting or physically harming North Korean refugees. It is unlikely the DPRK would issue visas to any North Korean refugees considering visiting the DPRK, but anyone who has previously held North Korean nationality should take into account that the DPRK may still regard them as North Korean nationals.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will take "merciless" steps against the planned opening of a United Nations office in Seoul to monitor human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. [HL729]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK strongly welcomes the opening of the UN Human Rights Field Office in Seoul. As the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), has commented, this is an important step in improving monitoring of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Our Embassy in Seoul attended the UN Office's opening ceremony on 23 June and confirmed to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights the UK's readiness to support the work of the UN Office.

The 29 May on-line statement by the DPRK's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland is clearly regrettable and misguided. Such statements will do nothing to convince the international community that the DPRK is serious about addressing its human rights failings. The international community has legitimate concerns over the human rights situation in the DPRK and it is right that the UN Office has been established so we can continue to document the scope and details of accusations; maintain a spotlight on the situation; and work together to identify how human rights can be improved in the DPRK.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the British Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is able to access the Kyo-hwa-so camps, the Kwan-li-so camps, the Ku-ryu-jang centres, the Jip-kyul-so prisons or the Ro-dong-dan-ryeondae centres; and how often the Embassy has requested

access to those sites during the current Ambassador's term. [HL730]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK remains deeply concerned by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s use of political prison camps and by the severe and systematic violations of human rights within the DPRK penal system. During the last UN Universal Periodic Review of human rights in the DPRK the UK called for the closure of all prison camps. Together with other EU member states resident in Pyongyang, our Embassy has requested access to these camps on numerous occasions, and will continue to do so. However, the DPRK continues to refuse access by independent observers.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent meetings have taken place between officials of the British Embassy in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and that country's government; and what were the outcomes of those meetings. [HL731]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Embassy in Pyongyang has met with a broad range of representatives from the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) since DPRK-imposed quarantine restrictions on all persons entering the DPRK (as a result of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa) were lifted in March. Meetings have included: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of External Economic Relations; the Korean People's Army; the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; the Commission for Education; and the DPRK Broadcasting Commission. The meetings supported the UK's policy of critical engagement with the DPRK, which is focussed on building relationships to enable us to deliver messages of concern regarding the DPRK's weapons programme and appalling human rights record.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what outcomes they have measured following the implementation of United Kingdom-funded cultural engagement projects in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. [HL732]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office and British Council projects in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) support the Government's objectives with regard to the DPRK, including human rights, exposure to the outside world and support to vulnerable groups. As elsewhere in the world, it can be difficult to measure the immediate impact of cultural engagement, which is intended to encourage better understanding in order to support engagement on more sensitive issues. We believe that by exposing North Koreans to British culture and values, we can open up the debate within DPRK society about issues such as human rights and democratic development.

## Nuclear Power Stations: Saudi Arabia

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are seeking assurances from the government of Saudi Arabia that the 15 nuclear power stations planned to be built with Russian involvement will not result in the production of fissile material that could be used to produce nuclear weapons. [HL718]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) sets the framework for States to pursue peaceful nuclear technology with appropriate safeguards to prevent that technology being used to develop nuclear weapons. Saudi Arabia is a member of the NPT, and we expect them to continue to remain in compliance with their Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as they develop their civil nuclear programme. We also continue to encourage Saudi Arabia to join the many non-nuclear weapon States that have given the IAEA additional information about their nuclear activities, and expanded access to check it, by signing an Additional Protocol to their Safeguards Agreement.

## Occupational Pensions

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to extend the right of access to pension funds available to employees in the private sector to those working in the public sector; and if not, why not. [HL717]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government has no current plans to extend the pension flexibilities to members of unfunded, defined benefit, public service pension schemes. The last Government restricted transfers from unfunded, defined benefit, public service pension schemes to those arrangements from which the member may acquire a right or entitlement to flexible benefits in order to protect the taxpayer from the increased in-year costs that would result should a large number of members of such schemes elect to transfer out to a scheme providing flexible access to pension pots.

In an unfunded public service pension scheme, there is no fund of assets with which to finance transfer payments. Instead, they are funded from contributions from current members and their employers, and through general expenditure.

Therefore, should the introduction of the flexibilities have led to an increase in the number of members transferring out of their unfunded public service scheme to a scheme providing flexible benefits, there would have been a direct cost to Government. For every extra pound paid out in transfers, the Government would have had one less pound to spend that year on public services.

The Government estimates that if 1% of all public service workers reaching retirement took their benefits flexibly, it could cost the tax payer £200m a year. The

Government does not think it is fair to ask taxpayers to meet such in-year costs.

Members of funded, defined benefit, public service pension schemes, such as the Local Government Pension Scheme, continue to be able to transfer. This is because there is a fund of assets available for use to meet the cost of the transfers. Government took the decision to treat funded schemes differently for this reason, extending freedom and choice to as many individuals as possible.

## Ofwat

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the definition of a customer to be protected by the core duties of Ofwat. [HL803]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The definition of a customer of a water or sewerage undertaker is: any person for or to whom that company provides any services in the course of carrying out the functions of a water undertaker or sewerage undertaker.

A customer of a licensed water supplier is defined as: any person to whom that company provides a supply of water in accordance with its retail authorisation.

*Asked by Lord Oxburgh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether Ofwat is adequately protecting customer data by ensuring that access to water meter data is compliant with regulations and best practice regarding access to personal data. [HL828]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Water companies must comply with the Data Protection Act 1988 in all aspects of their businesses, including handling data from meters.

Water UK, through its Revenue Metering Network, provides the opportunity for companies to share best practice and expertise on different approaches to metering. Each water company is responsible for ensuring that its approach is compliant with all legal and regulatory requirements.

## Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they participate in the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and, if so, whether participating has changed their policies in any way. [HL721]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK was a founder member of the then Committee for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE - later renamed Organisation - OSCE in 1994) when it was created in 1975, and has been an active participating State throughout its existence.

The OSCE is, and continues to be, an important means of pursuing a range of UK policy priorities, to promote UK values on human rights and democracy, our interests

in conventional arms control, along with wider European security issues and conflict prevention.

The UK plays an influential role in the OSCE. We work to defend OSCE commitments and principles, the OSCE institutions, and challenge failure to respect obligations.

The OSCE oversees a number of commitments on how participating States have agreed to behave towards each other and towards their citizens. Though these norms are regularly breached, their existence provides an important standard against which the people of the participating States can attempt to hold their leaders accountable.

Ongoing OSCE discussion of opportunities and challenges to the future of European security also contribute to UK policy objectives. The OSCE remains the main multilateral forum that brings together 57 countries in the Euro-Atlantic area, including Russia, the United States and EU member states, on a range of key security issues and is home to a number of interlocking instruments which form the basis for conventional arms control across the Euro-Atlantic area.

### Pension Funds

*Asked by Lord Harrison*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 7 January (HL Deb, col 432), when they plan to consult on improving transparency for pension savers regarding where their money is invested and how rights attached to it are being exercised; and when they plan to consider how secondary legislation could be used to ensure greater transparency for pension savers. [HL786]

**Baroness Altmann:** The Government is committed to ensuring greater transparency for pension savers.

From April this year, workplace schemes are required to report on the value delivered by costs and charges in their scheme for the first time. Building on this, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Financial Conduct Authority ran a joint Call for Evidence 'Transaction Cost Disclosure: Improving Transparency in Workplace Pensions', considering how transaction costs could be disclosed in a standardised way. This is the first phase of work required to meet duties under Section 44 of the Pensions Act 2014 to require transaction costs to be disclosed to members and others; and transaction costs and administration charges to be published. The Government is currently considering responses to the Call for Evidence.

Transparency is not just about costs and charges. Earlier this year the Government consulted on changes to the Occupational Pension Schemes Investment Regulations requiring trustees to report how they take financial and non-financial factors into account when investing, and their schemes stewardship policy. The Government is currently considering responses to the consultation.

The Government intends to consult on any secondary legislation required following these exercises later this year, and will consider what further proposals may be

needed to ensure greater transparency for pension savers including consideration both of its duties under the Pensions Act 2014 and the remarks made in debates on 7 January.

### Pension Funds: Climate Change

*Asked by Lord Harrison*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possible impact of climate change on pensions funds; and whether they intend to invite the Prudential Regulation Authority to include this issue in its Climate Change Adaptation Report. [HL785]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Climate Change Risk Assessment, published in 2012, identified the impact on investment funds from climate change. It found that impacts would be indirect but could be substantial and that it would be difficult to establish a link between impacts and financial performance. The assessment identified the increasing exposure of insurers due to flood risk.

As part of the current round of reporting under the Adaptation Reporting Power, the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) is focusing its report on the insurance sector and its role in addressing the increasing exposure of the sector to climate risks. It does not directly supervise pension funds.

The PRA's report will inform our next national assessment of risk, due in 2017, and the National Adaptation Programme due around 2018.

### Pensions

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what systems are in place to assess and evaluate the new pension freedoms. [HL723]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** As part of their Retirement Income Market Study, the Financial Conduct Authority have committed to monitoring the retirement market in order to assess consumer behaviour and outcomes; and to use their wide-ranging powers to intervene where necessary. The Treasury will also be consulting in July to ensure that people are treated fairly when moving their pension to a company that offers them flexible options and are not charged excessive early exit penalties.

### Public Sector Debt

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of recent research by the Taxpayers' Alliance indicating that the United Kingdom's true national debt is £8.6 trillion. [HL716]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** According to the latest *Public Sector Finances* release (May 2015) produced by the



Office for National Statistics (ONS), Public Sector Net Debt (PSND) stands at £1.5 trillion. This is the government's usual measure of debt, and the measure on the basis of which the official forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) are produced.

The number quoted by the Taxpayers' Alliance includes many future and government liabilities not generally included in debt figures and it does not include corresponding future assets, physical assets, illiquid financial assets or future revenues.

### Refugees: Mediterranean Sea

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the report published on 18 June by Human Rights Watch, *The Mediterranean Migration Crisis: Why People Flee, What the EU Should Do*. [HL761]

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they expect the European Council on 25–26 June to discuss the identification of refugees, resettlement for family reunion in Europe, the care of unaccompanied child migrants, and the possible use of humanitarian visas to help people in need of protection to travel lawfully to the European Union. [HL762]

**Lord Bates:** The Prime Minister has written directly to Ken Roth of Human Rights Watch following the publication of the report and we are currently considering its findings. The Government remains firmly of the view that the only sustainable solution to the crisis in the Mediterranean is to address the reasons why people risk their lives, to combat the organised criminals who entice them to do so, and not simply by tackling the problem once it reaches the EU.

The issue of migration in the Mediterranean was high on the agenda of the European Council. The European Commission proposals on relocation and resettlement were discussed at the Council as well as return, readmission, reintegration and cooperation with countries of origin and transit. Many of the initiatives discussed are welcome but other elements such as the relocation of asylum seekers within the EU risk exacerbating the situation and we therefore do not support them. With regard to resettlement proposals, the Government remains committed to resettling vulnerable refugees under existing national schemes and has no plans to be part of a separate EU quota scheme.

On the matter humanitarian visas for the purpose of seeking international protection within Europe, there is little evidence that providing opportunities for a small number of migrants to travel legally from source countries will have a significant impact on the very large numbers of migrants who want to come to the EU.

### Roads: Damage

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the latest figures for the mileage of structural damage to highways under the management of (1) the Highways Agency, and (2) local authorities (in respect of trunk roads); and what assessment they have made of the cost of eliminating that backlog. [HL794]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In 2014/15, 94.9% or 4,128 miles of the highways under the Highways Agency (now Highways England) responsibility remained in good condition and did not require maintenance. Local authorities are not responsible for trunk roads as Highways England manage them.

In 2014/15, the Highways Agency spent £747m for its network renewal programme, of which £555m was for the renewal of roads including pavements. Under the Government's Road Investment Strategy, Highways England will undertake a major programme of maintenance and renewal funded through the Investment Plan for the period 2015 - 2020. This includes an extensive programme of resurfacing to address ageing road surfaces and to minimise future maintenance liabilities.

### Russia: Politics and Government

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what policies they are pursuing to reduce current tensions with Russia. [HL694]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government is clear that we must maintain dialogue with Russia, to avoid misunderstanding and escalation. The Prime Minister, my right Hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), was clear in his phone call with President Putin last month that although we continue to have deep differences over issues such as Ukraine, the UK and Russia share mutual interests on certain global security dossiers such as Syria, combating the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and working towards a nuclear deal with Iran. We will look to work together on such matters whilst maintaining our firm position that Russia's aggressive and destabilising actions in Ukraine are unacceptable.

### Rwanda

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Rwanda about the termination of the BBC's local language service, human rights in that country, and proposed changes to the constitution to permit a third presidential term. [HL733]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Rwanda has made huge strides forward since 1994, impressively lifting large numbers of its citizens out of poverty. We are proud of

the role that the UK has played in contributing to this success, and as a committed partner of Rwanda we regularly engage in constructive dialogue with the Rwandan government on a wide range of issues affecting the country's economic and social development. This has included raising our concerns about restrictions placed on civil and political rights in Rwanda and other human rights concerns as set out in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s annual Human Rights and Democracy Report. A vibrant, free and plural media system is in Rwanda's interests and we are disappointed at the continued suspension of the BBC Kinyarwanda service, a popular and trusted source of news. The FCO press statement of 4 June set out our views. Our High Commissioner in Kigali has regularly discussed this case and the importance of media freedom with the Rwandan government. We continue to urge the Rwandan authorities to allow the BBC to resume its broadcasts as soon as possible. We have regularly set out our belief that successful elections and the democratic transition of power in Rwanda will be important in securing the country's long-term development and stability, and have discussed with the Rwandan authorities the importance of ensuring that the conditions are in place to ensure free and fair Presidential elections in 2017.

### Schengen Agreement

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to join the Schengen area; and what assessment they have made of the effect that doing so would have on the amount of revenue generated from tourists to the United Kingdom. [HL807]

**Lord Bates:** The UK is not part of Schengen arrangements on visas and border controls, and we have no plans to join them.

The UK decided to retain frontier controls at ports and airports because we believe that, for the UK, they are the most effective means of controlling immigration and combating organised and cross-border crime.

### Social Security Benefits: Immigrants

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Freud on 24 June (HL540), whether they plan to make such assessments in future; and if not, why not. [HL819]

**Lord Freud:** Although data regarding claimant nationality is not currently recorded on benefit payment systems, Universal Credit will record such data, when EEA nationals are able to claim. The Department has no plans to make specific assessments regarding Polish nationals when such data becomes available. However, we will continue to monitor EEA nationals' access to benefits more generally.

The Prime Minister has made clear that further steps are needed to reform welfare to reduce the incentives which have led to mass immigration from the EU.

### Stormont House Agreement

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take if the Stormont House Agreement is not fully implemented by the Northern Ireland Assembly. [HL840]

**Lord Dunlop:** The full implementation of the Stormont House Agreement offers the best way to build a brighter, more secure future for Northern Ireland. The Government will do what is necessary to implement our obligations under the Agreement and expects the Northern Ireland Executive parties to do the same.

### Strategic Defence and Security Review

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to consult with non-governmental organisations on the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and if so, what the process will be. [HL907]

**Earl Howe:** The 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review is a full review of the threats we face and the capabilities we need to tackle them. It will consider how best to deploy our defence, diplomacy, development aid and homeland security efforts together. As part of this work, we will engage with a range of audiences, including non-governmental organisations.

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to establish the position of a dedicated senior military officer committed to the women, peace and security agenda in the next Strategic Defence and Security Review. [HL910]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence has already established a senior military officer, General Gordon Messenger (Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, Military Strategy and Operations), as our Women, Peace and Security and Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative champion.

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide for appointing gender advisers on all United Kingdom operations in the next Strategic Defence and Security Review. [HL911]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence deploys gender advisers based on mission-specific requirements. On many missions, for example Afghanistan, the United Kingdom also utilises the services of NATO ally gender advisers. The Ministry of Defence is currently examining the numbers, training and need for military gender

advisers but this work is outside the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

### Subsidiarity

*Asked by Lord Garel-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the functioning of the principle of subsidiarity as a result of the procedures brought into effect by the Treaty of Lisbon; and what action they plan to take as part of the United Kingdom's renegotiation with its European Union partners to ensure that the subsidiarity principle is strengthened to the benefit of national governments and parliaments. [HL829]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Balance of Competences Review examined how the principle of subsidiarity applied in areas of EU action. It found that the mechanisms for protecting subsidiarity and proportionality could be improved in a number of ways, in particular by improving the role of national parliaments as the guardians of subsidiarity and affording them closer involvement in the EU's functioning. The Government is seeking a stronger role for national Parliaments as part of its renegotiation.

### Sudan

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Sudan regarding the continued imprisonment and persecution of the Reverend Yat Michael and the Reverend Peter Reith. [HL862]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I refer the noble Bishop to my answer of 22 June to the noble Baroness Cox (HL315), that our Embassy in Khartoum has previously raised these cases with the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since then we have maintained close contact with the legal teams working on behalf of the two pastors, and an official from our Embassy in Khartoum attended the latest court hearing on 15 June. We will continue to co-ordinate with other Embassies in Khartoum to ensure the international community is represented at the ongoing legal proceedings.

### Syria

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make contact with the democratic representatives of the cantons of Afrin, Kobane and Jazira, in Syria; if not, why not; and whether they plan to ask the United Nations mediator to make similar approaches. [HL846]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK does not currently intend to make specific contact with the Kurdish cantons on political issues in Syria. The UK has engaged with Saleh Muslim, co-leader of the Democratic Union

Party (PYD), who is their Foreign Affairs envoy. Saleh Muslim met UN Special Envoy Staffan De Mistura in May as part of the UN envoy's consultations with parties trying to find a political settlement to the conflict. Syria's political issues will need to be resolved through this wider political track.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to enable recognised religious leaders in Syria to act in parallel with all those searching for political solutions for that country. [HL848]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We recognise the important contribution that recognised religious leaders can make on the Syria political track. Along with other leading members of civil society, they will need a strong voice in the debate on Syria's future. The UK has engaged directly with a number of religious leaders and representatives of minority communities. The UK has also been funding projects aimed at promoting dialogue between different ethnic and sectarian groups in Syria, as we seek further progress on a political settlement. Minorities including Alawites, Christians, Druze, Kurds and Turkmen have been represented in these projects.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to press for the referral of possible war crimes in Syria by all combatants to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court; and who, if anyone, records all breaches of international humanitarian law. [HL906]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has consistently called for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court and supported efforts at the UN Security Council to achieve this. However, these efforts were blocked by Russia and China on 22 May 2014. In partnership with other donor countries, we have funded the collection of documentary evidence of human rights abuses and violations. We will also look to expand the EU sanctions regime to cover more people responsible for human rights abuses and violations. We will continue to press for those responsible to be held accountable.

### UK Membership of EU: Referendums

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the full estimated costs of holding the planned referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union; and whether there is a difference in the estimated costs depending on when the referendum is held. [HL696]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** At this stage we are undertaking further analysis to establish the potential cost to the Consolidated Fund. This may include any variance of cost on different dates. Electoral Commission data shows that the last such UK-wide poll - the 2011

Parliamentary Voting System referendum - cost approximately £75million.

### Universal Credit: Disqualification

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many sanctions have been applied to Universal Credit claimants in each month since the roll-out began. [HL799]

**Lord Freud:** I refer the noble Baroness to the answer I gave on 16 June 2015 to her Question number HL 402:

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett: To ask Her Majesty's Government:** whether they have plans to publish statistics on sanctions imposed under the universal credit scheme as it is brought into effect.

**Lord Freud:** The Department published its strategy for releasing official statistics on Universal Credit in September 2013. As outlined in the strategy, officials are quality assuring data for Universal Credit and formulating a definitive list of what statistics will be provided in the future.

These statistics will be published in accordance with the relevant protocols in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

### Water Companies

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what criteria water company retail arms can use regulated money to take over the customer base of water companies that have exited the market place. [HL802]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government is committed to enabling exit for the non-household part of a statutory water and sewerage undertaker's retail business. Since the Water Act received Royal Assent in May 2014, we have been working with the water industry to develop the secondary legislation necessary to enable companies to exit at the opening of the new retail market in April 2017. We consulted on the proposed policy approach in December 2014 and will be publishing a further public consultation on the draft retail exits regulations shortly.

The Government has always been clear that exit must be voluntary. Our approach will enable each water and sewerage undertaker to decide whether or not they wish to exit the market for non-household retail services. Undertakers will also have the choice to continue to provide retail services to non-household customers within their area of appointment, under the existing licence of appointment. However, an undertaker can only exit to a retailer that holds one of the new Water Supply and Sewerage licences (WSSL). An undertaker cannot exit to another undertaker because undertakers will not be eligible to hold one of the new retail licences. An undertaker could not, therefore, take a transfer of customers from outside of its area of appointment.

The only exception to this rule would be in the case of a merger between undertakers. To cover this eventuality, there is a special merger regime that explicitly considers the impact of the merger on Ofwat's ability to regulate effectively for customers and either prohibits mergers or seeks to extract remedies for customers from company shareholders to make up for any detriment. We assume that 'regulated money' refers to the revenue allowances that water undertakers are allowed to recover from customers under their price limits, most recently set by Ofwat in December. In this scenario it would not be possible for such 'regulated money' to be used to take over another water company except where that company had already outperformed the price settlement through efficiencies.

The companies holding one of the new 'retail' WSSL licences are expected to include both new entrants to the market that have no association with any existing water company; and 'associate licensees' that form part of an undertaker's wider group business but are nevertheless required to be established as a separate legal entity. These licenced retailers will operate in the competitive market and may therefore opt to use their own working capital to acquire customers through a transfer following an exit. In this scenario it would therefore similarly be impossible for 'regulated money' to be used to take over another water company's retail arm because these companies are not subject to price limits set by Ofwat through the price review process.

There are already requirements in the water and sewerage undertakers licence of appointment that ensure that all transactions with an associated licensee must be conducted on a fair and non-discriminatory basis and companies are subject to rigorous transfer pricing rules that ensure transactions are conducted on an arms' length basis. Ofwat's recently published consultation on the proposed form and content of the new retail licences for the expanded retail market proposes that similar requirements should also be placed on to holders of these new Water and Sewerage Supply Licences (the new retail licences). These checks and balances mean that it would not be possible for the retail arm of a water and sewerage undertaker to use regulated money to take over the customer base of water companies that have exited the market place.

### Work Programme

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people, after two years on the Work Programme, (1) obtained a job, and (2) returned to the jobcentre, in each year since 2010. [HL758]

**Lord Freud:** The Department does not collect official statistics on job starts made by Work Programme participants. Information is collected on the job outcomes paid to Work Programme providers for getting people into sustained employment.



The cumulative number of job outcomes paid (June 2011-March 2015) for people who have completed their allotted time on the Work Programme is 344,900.

The information requested for the number of people who have returned to the Jobcentre on completing the Work Programme is published by month of completion and can be found in the table below. It should be noted that the first applicable month was May 2013 and data is currently available up to 31 March 2015.

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*Current Work Programme Status*

	<i>Completed allotted time: returned to JCP at 104 weeks</i>	<i>Completed allotted time: returned to JCP post 104 weeks</i>
May-13	1,100	170
Jun-13	58,710	8,820
Jul-13	73,230	11,210
Aug-13	45,160	7,840
Sep-13	43,750	7,770
Oct-13	44,700	8,170
Nov-13	43,440	7,480
Dec-13	38,250	6,820

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*Current Work Programme Status*

	<i>Completed allotted time: returned to JCP at 104 weeks</i>	<i>Completed allotted time: returned to JCP post 104 weeks</i>
Jan-14	46,440	8,340
Feb-14	40,550	7,050
Mar-14	39,030	7,060
Apr-14	30,530	6,030
May-14	28,200	5,600
Jun-14	28,800	5,400
Jul-14	30,810	5,570
Aug-14	23,780	4,280
Sep-14	27,720	4,530
Oct-14	27,730	3,900
Nov-14	29,630	3,120
Dec-14	24,470	2,140
Jan-15	30,940	2,160
Feb-15	19,810	980
Mar-15	18,770	270

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# Written Answers

Tuesday, 7 July 2015

## Burma

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Myanmar concerning the Population Control Health Care Law and how it can be implemented in a non-discriminatory way. [HL864]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have made representations on all four of the so-called 'protection of race and religion bills', including the population law. We remain concerned that these laws could harm religious tolerance and respect for diversity in Burma, and contravene international standards and treaties to which Burma is a signatory. We have voiced our concerns over the proposed legislation to members of the Burmese government and parliamentarians. The then Minister of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Lynne Featherstone, raised the issue when she met Deputy Foreign Minister Thant Kyaw during her visit to Burma in January. The UK also endorsed a local statement issued by EU Heads of Mission in Rangoon in January, reiterating those concerns and calling on the Burmese government and parliament to ensure that all new legislation is fully compliant with Burma's international human rights obligations. The population bill was also raised in the EU/Burma Human Rights Dialogue on 18 June.

## Carbon Emissions

Asked by *Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of their 2020 carbon emissions reduction target they intend to achieve through energy efficiency measures. [HL991]

Asked by *Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of their 2020 carbon emissions reduction target they intend to achieve through the development of thermal heating capacity in the United Kingdom. [HL992]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Climate Change Act (2008) requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets' to meet the objective of reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. The Act requires that the UK's emissions in the third carbon budget period, which covers 2020, are at least 34% below the 1990 baseline for emissions.

The Government has not set specific targets for how much of the emissions reductions required for each carbon budget should come from different emissions sources, for example heat, electricity or transport. This is to provide sufficient flexibility to ensure carbon savings

are delivered across the economy in the most cost effective way.

However, DECC does produce projections of UK emissions that account for the impact of Government policies. The last projections published in September 2014<sup>[1]</sup> showed that the UK was on track to meet the second (2013-17) and third (2018-22) budgets having already met the first carbon budget (2008-12).

In 2020, policies<sup>[2]</sup> which drive improvements in energy efficiency (across all sectors) are projected to contribute 61% of the total reduction in emissions and policies influencing the uptake of low-carbon heat technologies are projected to contribute 5%. Other policies such as Building Regulations also support the reduction of heat emissions from buildings for example through the requirement to install a condensing boiler in most cases when a boiler needs to be replaced.

[1] Updated Energy and Emissions Projections: 2014 (DECC)

[2] Source: Annex D of the Updated Energy and Emissions Projections (EEP): 2014 (DECC). Based on all policies listed in EEP, including those introduced before as well as after the publication of the Low Carbon Transition Plan (LCTP) 2009

## Gaza

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed the recent UN report on Operation Protective Edge with the government of Israel; and if not, whether they intend to do so. [HL882]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv had meetings on 29 and 30 June with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs where the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry Gaza report was discussed.

## Gaza: Ports

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with European partners concerning the case for mediating an agreement on international supervision of the Port of Gaza; and what assessment they have made of the difficulties that stand in the way of such an agreement. [HL880]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The EU, with UK encouragement, has looked at a number of options for how it can encourage an easing of movement and access into and out of Gaza. This includes the possibility of EU assistance in establishing a sea-link from Gaza to another international port, currently envisaged in Cyprus. The difficulty that stands in the way is the remaining need for all parties to reach an agreement that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict in Gaza. This should ensure that Hamas and other militant groups permanently end rocket fire and other attacks against Israel; the Palestinian Authority resumes control of Gaza and restores effective and accountable governance; and Israel

eases movement and access restrictions to allow the Gazan economy to grow.

### Indonesia

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the government of Indonesia in its efforts to provide greater legislative protection for freedom of religion or belief in that country. [HL861]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Ambassador in Jakarta met the Indonesian Minister for Religious Affairs in April this year. During the meeting, he urged greater protection of religious beliefs and they discussed the Ministry's forthcoming bill on protection for religious and faith communities (RUU PUB) on which the Ambassador offered UK assistance and expertise.

We have also supported a range of activities in this area, such as human rights training specifically related to freedom of religion for members of the Indonesian judiciary.

### Iraq: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether driving Daesh out of Iraq would be a final military victory. [HL998]

**Earl Howe:** ISIL must be defeated both in Iraq and Syria. This will take time and patience but it is a fight we must win. We are also clear that it cannot be achieved by military action alone which is why the UK supports inclusive governance in Iraq and political transition in Syria.

### Motor Vehicles: Locks and Keys

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to discuss with motor vehicle manufacturers the possible re-introduction of metal keys in order to reduce vehicle theft. [HL1028]

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to take steps to encourage insurers to provide incentives for vehicles that have keys to secure them and disincentives for keyless locking systems or any electronic systems that are more prone to theft. [HL1029]

**Lord Bates:** The Independent Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that vehicle crime is at its lowest level since 1995. However, in order to ensure that we remain alert to trends in the nature of vehicle crime, and whether new approaches are required, the Home Office has convened a small group that brings together the police and representatives of the motor industry.

The Government is clear that we must become smarter when it comes to crime prevention. That is why we are developing a modern crime prevention strategy to address the key drivers of crime. Our work with the police and motor industry is part of this.

### Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what rules determine the proportion of the cost of military assets used for humanitarian and other overseas aid operations that can be allocated to the budget of the Department for International Development. [HL746]

**Earl of Courtown:** All UK official development assistance (ODA) meets the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ODA reporting directives. The Directives state 'additional costs incurred for the use of military personnel to deliver humanitarian aid or perform development services are included in ODA (but not their regular salaries and expenses)'.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the complete cost saving of using Ministry of Defence assets rather than equivalent private sector assets for humanitarian or other overseas aid operations cannot be allocated to the budget of the Department for International Development. [HL747]

**Earl of Courtown:** It is extremely difficult to make a direct cost comparison between military and private sector assets. In general however, in terms of capacity to deliver relief supplies, private commercial suppliers are considerably cheaper tonne for tonne than the armed forces, which is why DFID uses civil commercial options wherever possible and resorts to military assets only when necessary and as a matter of last resort, in line with the United Nations 'Oslo' Guidelines.

*Asked by Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what amount from the European Union development aid budget was included towards the United Kingdom's 0.7 per cent of gross national product aid budget target in 2013–14. [HL750]

**Earl of Courtown:** The UK Government has committed to a target of 0.7% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a percentage of Gross National Income, which is measured and reported on a calendar year basis. During 2013, the most recently reported year, £813m of the UK contribution to the EU budget was attributed as ODA.

### Police: Misconduct

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers the Home Secretary has to remove the pensions of police

officers who have been found guilty of serious misconduct. [HL1027]

**Lord Bates:** Under the Police Pension Regulations Act 1987, where a police officer has been convicted of a criminal offence committed in connection with their service as a police officer, then a Police and Crime Commissioner (in London, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) may apply to the Home Secretary for a certificate that allows them to forfeit part of the police officer's pension.

The offence must have been gravely injurious to the interests of the State or be liable to lead to serious loss of confidence in the public service.

Once a certificate is issued, the final decision on whether to forfeit the pension is a matter for the Police and Crime Commissioner of the police force concerned.

### Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what control totals HM Treasury has set for the Northern Ireland Assembly for 2015–16. [HL839]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The current control totals for the Northern Ireland Executive in the year 2015-16, broken down by Resource DEL and Capital DEL, are as follows:

<i>£m nominal</i>	<i>2015-16</i>
Resource DEL	10,109
of which:	
RDEL excluding depreciation	9,559
depreciation ring fence in RDEL	409
student loans ring fence in RDEL	141
Capital DEL	1,100
of which:	
Fiscal CDEL	971
Financial Transactions	129

### Radicalism: Social Networking

*Asked by Lord Balfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to prevent online social media platforms such as Twitter being used by terrorist organisations such as ISIS to spread propaganda and to radicalise and recruit vulnerable Europeans. [HL980]

**Lord Bates:** We are working with responsible social media companies to take robust action against terrorist material from groups like ISIL. Since 2010, over 95,000 pieces of terrorist-related material have been removed at

the request of the dedicated Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit.

We are also working with Europol and other EU member states to set up an EU-Internet Referral Unit, based on the British model – this is now up and running in pilot form and will assist with the volumes of terrorist and extremist content online, in a number of European languages.

We want industry to go further and see them employ a zero tolerance approach to terrorist activity on their networks. We will continue encouraging companies to produce industry standards for the identification, removal and referral of terrorist activity.

### Schools: Vocational Guidance

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they propose to address criticisms of careers education in schools from the Confederation of British Industry; and whether they plan to provide support and resources for the proposals set out in London Ambitions, which would ensure that London schools, including primary schools, enable every child to receive 100 guaranteed hours of experience of the world of work before they leave school. [HL1007]

**Lord Nash:** The government's aim is to bring the worlds of work and education closer together, helping to ensure that young people leave school well rounded and prepared for working life. This is also a key concern for the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). It is why the government is providing start-up funding to the Careers and Enterprise Company, which will encourage greater collaboration between schools and colleges and employers, helping young people across England, including in London, to access the best advice and inspiration. The establishment of the Careers and Enterprise Company has been welcomed by the CBI.

The National Careers Service was launched in April 2012 and also provides professional and impartial careers information, advice and guidance to young people aged 13 and over and adults to support their decision making about learning and work. From October 2014, we enhanced the role of the National Careers Service. National Careers Service contractors now have a responsibility to work with schools and colleges to facilitate relationships with local employers. They will work closely with the new Careers and Enterprise Company, whose core purpose is to take a lead role in transforming the provision of careers, enterprise and employer engagement experiences for young people to inspire them to take control of and shape their own futures.

The National Careers Service users satisfaction and progression survey shows that 94% of face-to-face and telephone customers agreed that the overall quality of the service was good.



The department welcomes the launch of the London Ambitions Careers Offer, which sets out a suggested framework for a good careers offer for young people and brings together partners from all sectors to achieve this goal. Officials will keep in touch with the Greater London Authority about this work.

### Shipping: Exhaust Emissions

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which agencies are responsible for monitoring and enforcing regulations on the levels of sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide or ozone concentrations in emissions of ships in United Kingdom waters. [HL918]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is responsible for monitoring and enforcing regulations on atmospheric emissions from ships.

There are no regulations in place, or in preparation, relating to emissions of ozone from ships.

### Syria

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to prevent states or other agents sending funds and arms to the parties to the conflict in Syria, in particular those who are guilty or suspected of war crimes and grave human rights abuses; and what further action they plan to take. [HL905]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK does not supply weapons to anyone in Syria, and we have played a major role in trying to prevent both the regime and extremists in Syria from acquiring weapons.

UN sanctions require that no states, groups or individuals may make available arms or funds to designated groups or individuals. In February 2015 the UN Security Council unanimously adopted UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2199, which the British Government co-sponsored. UNSCR 2199 specifically targets the fund raising methods used by Al-Qaida and its affiliates operating in Syria and Iraq.

The UK is also at the forefront of efforts to broaden the EU Syria sanctions regime, which limits the regime's access to funding. This year the EU has listed 24 new Syrian regime ministers who are jointly responsible for the regime's reprehensible policies. There are several EU-Syria trade embargoes currently in place, including prohibiting exportation of chemical weapons (and precursors) and luxury goods to Syria, importation of oil from Syria and access to EU financial institutions.

We will work hard to sustain these efforts.

### Syria: Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the £800 million of aid for Syria has already been (1) allocated to organizations, and (2) spent. [HL693]

**Baroness Verma:** The entire £800 million has been allocated to partner organisations delivering aid in Syria. By the end of the current financial year, a total of £653 million will have been spent by partner organisations. The remaining £147 million will be spent in financial year 15/16.

### Treasury: Correspondence

*Asked by Lord Knight of Weymouth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent by HM Treasury in the last financial year on (1) postage and printed stationery, (2) fax machines and supplies, and (3) email services. [HL738]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** In the 2014/15 financial year the Treasury spent £16,696 on postal charges. Details of spending on printed stationery are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details on the spend relating to fax machines is not available.

Email services in the Treasury form part of a wider shared ICT provision and costs are not separately identifiable.

*Asked by Lord Knight of Weymouth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of correspondence sent by HM Treasury in the last financial year was sent by (1) post, (2) fax, and (3) email. [HL739]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Treasury does not hold this information.

### Turkey: LGBT People

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they plan to make to the government of Turkey about the use of water cannons and tear gas on participants at the gay pride celebrations in Istanbul. [HL987]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly raise human rights issues and the need to allow freedom of expression as part of our ongoing dialogue with the Turkish government. As part of this dialogue, we continue to urge the Turkish authorities to exercise restraint and respond proportionately to public demonstrations.

We strongly encourage Turkey to continue work towards the full protection of fundamental rights, especially in the areas of minority rights and freedom of

expression. Further sustained work is needed to meet EU standards on the fundamental rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. But we do welcome progress made, including the ruling of Turkey's Constitutional Court finding hate speech on the grounds of sexual orientation to constitute a criminal offence.

### **Veterans**

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on meeting obligations to veterans in accordance with the Military Covenant. [HL924]

**Earl Howe:** The majority of service-leavers make a successful transition into civilian life, due in no small part to the ethos and skills they develop during their Service careers. For those who struggle, the Government is committed to ensuring they receive the support they need and are treated with the dignity they deserve.

One of the key tenets of the Covenant is that the Armed Forces community should, in some cases, be afforded special consideration. That is why, subject to clinical need, veterans receive priority care from NHS England and in the Devolved Administrations.

Over the past five years we have allocated £40 million to support veterans with accommodation needs. In addition, the Chancellor announced in March that a new £25 million fund would be set up, to which charities can apply to assist our elderly veterans. These are the people to whom our nation turned at the most perilous moments in our history, and it is absolutely right that we recognise their needs now.

### **Water Companies**

*Asked by Lord Oxburgh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated number of new entrants expected in the deregulated water marketplace. [HL826]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We expect the number of new entrants in the expanded Anglo-Scottish market for non-household retail services to grow over time ahead of the extension of choice to all non-household customers in English in April 2017.

At this point it is not possible to give a definitive number of new entrants likely to be in the market in April 2017. However, there are currently 12 new entrant companies who are licensed to operate in the existing retail market in England and there are 18 licensed providers in the Scottish retail market. Eight of these companies are currently licensed in both jurisdictions.

There are 18 water and sewerage undertakers some of whom have already established separate retail companies and all of which will have the opportunity to exit from the non-household retail market at market opening which may also increase the number of entrants to the market.

The Open Water Programme, involving Government, Industry and Ofwat, is preparing for market opening and is in contact with a number of additional businesses that are considering entering the market. These prospective retailers are playing an important role in helping to shape delivery of the programme and ensure a level playing field for all participants in the market.

## Written Answers

Wednesday, 8 July 2015

### Access to Work Programme

Asked by **Baroness Uddin**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the availability of Access to Work grants for those who especially need them to start working. [HL986]

**Baroness Altmann:** Access to Work grants are available for those who meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme including those who are about to start working. Access to Work has specialist teams to ensure more complicated cases are processed as quickly as possible and fast track applications for those who know their circumstances or have a prior assessment enabling support to be put in place quickly.

### Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Asked by **The Countess of Mar**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Cranfield study on cabin air ever collected reliable information on the concentration of organophosphates in a visible fume event; and if so, what the quantitative figures collected were. [HL831]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Cranfield University report of May 2011 successfully completed a range of air quality measurements during the course of 100 flights. Flight and cabin crew, as well as the investigating scientists reported a number of fume /smell events in a post-flight questionnaire. Samples specifically taken during recorded air quality events did not have notably elevated concentrations of any of the individually measured pollutants.

Further detailed figures and measurements can be found in the Cranfield report.

### Andrew Lansley

Asked by **Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have decided to appeal the ruling that the official diary of Andrew Lansley in the period running up to the Health and Social Care Act 2012 be disclosed; and if not, when that diary will be disclosed. [HL849]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** An application has been made to the Court of Appeal seeking permission to appeal the ruling of the Upper Tribunal.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Asked by **Earl Attlee**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the full list of armoured fighting vehicles and protected mobility

vehicles in operation with the British Army, and whether each vehicle is in general service on units' Equipment Tables, or an Urgent Operational Requirement. [HL942]

**Earl Howe:** The armoured fighting and protected mobility vehicles in operation with the British Army are: Challenger 2, Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle, Titan, Trojan, Warrior, Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle(Tracked), Bulldog, AS90, Terrier, Warthog, Mastiff, Ridegback, Wolfhound, Husky, Panther, Jackal, Coyote, Foxhound, Revised Weapons Mounted Installation Kit+ Land Rover/ Revised Weapons Mounted Installation Kit Land Rover and Snatch/Vixen.

Some of these vehicles were initially bought as Urgent Operational Requirements for operations. They have all now been brought into core funding and are shown on unit establishment tables.

### Army: Housing

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the accommodation provided in the United Kingdom for members of the British Army is not en-suite. [HL1069]

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the accommodation provided in the United Kingdom for members of the Royal Navy is not en-suite. [HL1070]

**Earl Howe:** This information is not held centrally. The department is currently developing a robust Single Living Accommodation allocation and management system which will be available in 2016.

### Army Reserve: Officers

Asked by **Earl Attlee**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 23 June (HL436), what is the average age of an Army Reserve commissioned officer. [HL944]

**Earl Howe:** As at 1 April 2015, the average age of an Army Reserve commissioned officer is 44.

More information about the age profile of the Reserve Force may be found in the annual National Statistics publication 'UK Reserve Forces and Cadets', located at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/strength-of-the-uk>, which is attached for ease of reference.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

TSP 7 UK Reserve Forces and Cadets [20150615\_TSP7Apr15-O.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-30/HL944>

## Asylum: Appeals

Asked by *The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the number of lay members sitting in asylum cases, and (2) the regional distribution of lay members who sit in asylum cases; and what steps they are taking to promote the sitting of lay members in asylum cases, in particular those concerned with appeals by foreign criminals against deportation involving complex assessments of Articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. [HL788]

Asked by *The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review how the contribution of lay members in asylum cases is treated following the Court of Appeal judgment in *PF (Nigeria) v the Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2015] EWCA Civ 251, in which the importance of the lay member's interpretation on matters of fact was highlighted. [HL789]

**Lord Faulks:** HMCTS does not routinely assess the number of lay members sitting in asylum cases or their regional distribution by either location or appeal type, as the composition of panels is a judicial function.

The First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Composition of Tribunal) Order 2008 states that the composition of Tribunal panels is the responsibility of the Senior President of Tribunals. The need for non-legal members is continuously assessed by the Immigration and Asylum Chambers and sitting days are made available based on workloads and requirements set out under the Senior President's delegated powers.

The contribution and deployment of non-legal members is a matter for the Senior President of Tribunals.

## Brixton Prison

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what facilities are available for prisoners at HMP Brixton to take part in an act of worship. [HL823]

**Lord Faulks:** The following services are scheduled weekly at HMP Brixton:

Friday

12.30pm Muslim Prayers

1.45pm Sikh, Buddhist and Hindu service.

Sunday

9.15 am Roman Catholic Mass

10.15 am Church of England & Free Church Service

Evening bible studies are run on A and B wings on Wednesdays at 4.30pm; on G wing on Mondays at 4.30pm; and on C wing at 6.00pm and D wing on Thursdays at 4.30pm. Muslim classes run each day Monday to Thursday. There is also a full-time, four week,

paid resettlement course "Faith in the Future" that is open to people of any faith and none – although it looks at resettlement from a Christian perspective.

In addition, prisoners have access and can see chaplains or ministers from the following faiths:

Church of England

Roman Catholic

Free Church

Orthodox Christian

Muslim

Jew

Sikh

Hindu

Buddhist

Jehovah's Witness

Pagan

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the opportunities for prisoners to pursue education courses at HMP Brixton. [HL824]

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the opportunities for prisoners to learn a trade at HMP Brixton. [HL825]

**Lord Faulks:** Learning and skills for over 18s in custody in England is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and co-commissioned between NOMS and the Skills Funding Agency. Provision is delivered by education providers via the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) and aims to mirror provision available in the community. Core elements of the curriculum are literacy and numeracy, vocational training, preparation for employment and personal and social development. Governors decide what should be offered in their prison, based on prisoner needs as well as the needs of employers in the areas into which prisoners will resettle.

HMP Brixton provides a diverse curriculum and opportunities for real work experience – this currently includes subjects covering barista, bakery, barbering, business studies, cleaning, numeracy, literacy, graphics, horticulture, IT, painting and decorating, retail and customer service activities. The current learning offer at HMP Brixton will be changing in the new academic year to be increasingly focussed on vocational training in areas such as hospitality, catering, customer service, retail and horticulture. Guidance will also be available on self employment. Work and learning projects include the Bad Boys Bakery; a new dry lining workshop; and the CLINK Restaurant offering prisoners nationally recognised vocational qualifications to enhance their job prospects after release.



## Community Rehabilitation Companies

Asked by *Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what processes are in place to monitor the development and effectiveness of through-the-gate services provided in prisons by Community Rehabilitation Companies. [HL815]

**Lord Faulks:** Contract Management Teams, who are responsible for managing the contracts with the 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC), are closely monitoring the delivery of 'Through the Gate' (TTG), to ensure CRCs are delivering effective resettlement services. This is being undertaken as part of the rigorous contract management arrangements which include a number of governance meetings involving the CRC, NPS and prisons. Prior to 1 May, the Ministry also undertook detailed assurance to ensure that providers were ready to stand up their TTG services. This assurance will continue until this new service is fully embedded.

## Conflict Resolution: Females

Asked by *Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 30 June (HL698), when the steering board on Women, Peace and Security was established; and on how many occasions it has met. [HL1100]

**Earl Howe:** The senior-level steering board on Women, Peace and Security was established in April 2015. The Board will meet every six months; its first meeting was in April 2015 and the second will be held in September 2015.

## Courts: Closures

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many courts have been closed since May 2010. [HL770]

**Lord Faulks:** Following the decision taken by the previous Government in December 2010, 146 underused courts have been closed since May 2010.

## Courts: Greater London

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for the court estate in London. [HL768]

**Lord Faulks:** Our court estate in London and across England and Wales is a major asset. We need to create a more efficient estate and in an increasingly digital world, we are looking at how we use our buildings to deliver the best possible service to our users in future.

Any proposals on the future of courts in London or elsewhere will be subject to consultation.

## Courts: Interpreters

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the interpretation service at courts and tribunals. [HL773]

**Lord Faulks:** This Government is committed to providing a standard of interpreter that meets the needs of those requiring support in the justice system. My department continues closely to monitor the language services contract and target work and investment to further drive improvements and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

An independent review of interpreter quality standards was published, together with the coalition Government's response, on the Ministry of Justice website on 17 December 2014.

## Defence

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government over what periods in the last 30 years there has been a threat to the existence of the United Kingdom; and what was the average percentage of gross domestic product spent on defence in each of those years. [HL999]

**Earl Howe:** The UK has, and continues to face, a broad range of complex threats both at home and abroad.

The table below shows the proportion of gross domestic product that the UK has spent on defence each year since 1985. This data is published annually by NATO as part of its Defence Expenditure publications.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Percentage of GDP spent on Defence</i>
1985	5.2
1986	4.9
1987	4.6
1988	3.2
1989	4.1
1990	4.1
1991	4.3
1992	3.8
1993	3.6
1994	3.4
1995	3.1
1996	3
1997	2.7
1998	2.6
1999	2.5
2000	2.5

2001	2.5
2002	2.4
2003	2.4
2004	2.2
2005	2.5
2006	2.4
2007	2.5
2008	2.6
2009	2.6
2010	2.6
2011	2.6
2012	2.2
2013	2.3
2014	2.2
2015	2.1

### Development Aid

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which government officials and ministers will attend the Third International Conference on Financing for Development on 13–16 July. [HL842]

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to involve United Kingdom members of parliament who are attending the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in any of their meetings and deliberations in Addis Ababa. [HL843]

**Baroness Verma:** Secretary of State Justine Greening will lead the UK delegation to the Financing for Development conference. The full UK delegation will be defined closer to the time. DfID is looking for opportunities to engage with United Kingdom members of parliament who are attending the conference.

### Driving: Licensing

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advance publicity was given before 8 June of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency telephone number so those drivers who do not wish to use the online service can use it; and what is that number. [HL800]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** On 12 May, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) published the View Driving Licence Assisted Digital telephone number (0300 083 0013) on the Abolition of the Counterpart campaign page on GOV.UK. This informed members of the public about their options for generating a driving licence check code.

From 19 May, customers telephoning the DVLA's general enquiry line have been redirected to the new service through the automated telephone system.

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what publicity was given before 8 June to the abolition of the paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence. [HL801]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) utilised media, online and direct mail channels to inform customers and businesses about the abolition of the paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence. The DVLA also engaged directly with trade organisations and car hire companies who may need to check the status of drivers. Since March 2015, the DVLA has written directly to 640,000 professional bus and lorry drivers and sent information to around a million drivers each month with driving licence renewals. Information on GOV.UK about the change has been viewed more than 3.2 million times.

### Egypt: Capital Punishment

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the death sentences passed on former President of Egypt Mohamed Morsi and more than 100 others, and of the impact of such sentences on militancy in Sinai and on the attitudes of young non-Islamic people in Egypt. [HL904]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** It is the long-standing policy of the Government to oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised our concerns over the sentencing to death of former President Morsi with the Egyptian Ambassador in May. He also issued a statement setting out our concern and noting that there are further stages in the legal process, which we will continue to follow closely.

We do not underestimate the challenges Egypt faces, including long-standing militancy in Sinai. Stability and security in the long run is best served by bringing as many groups as possible into political processes. We have been clear that the Egyptian authorities must apply the rule of law consistently in line with international standards, and protect the political and legal rights of all Egyptians as the basis for the country's future stability.

### Electoral Register

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to respond to the Electoral Commission's "Assessment of progress with the transition to Electoral Individual Registration" published on 18 June. [HL813]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government is considering the findings and recommendation set out in the Electoral Commission's report in order to inform our decision over whether to seek to end the transition to Individual Electoral Registration (IER) in December 2015 or December 2016. We will respond in due course with our approach for ending the transition to IER.

### EU Withdrawal

*Asked by Lord Inglewood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether, in the event of a member state leaving the European Union, legislation on that country's statute book that originated at European Union level remains law until expressly removed by domestic legislative procedures. [HL1039]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In general terms, national legislation which is validly adopted in accordance with national procedures will remain valid until it expires, is amended or repealed.

### Gaza

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning safe passage for the flotilla carrying medical equipment and solar panels for electricity to Gaza. [HL879]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials at our Embassy in Tel Aviv have been in close contact with the Israeli authorities regarding the Freedom Flotilla Coalition to Gaza. However, the Government did not make any representations concerning safe passage to Gaza for the flotilla, as this is against both our own travel advice and Israeli maritime restrictions. On 29 June, the Israeli Navy intercepted and boarded the Marianne of Gothenberg, no injuries or violence was reported. The Marianne of Gothenberg has now been escorted to Ashdod port.

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 22 June (HL502 and HL503), what assessment they have made of the reports, on 29 June, that Israeli forces boarded and took control of a Swedish vessel in international waters on route to Gaza with humanitarian aid and with a number of European citizens on boards; and what representations they have made to the government of Israel about this. [HL930]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have been in close contact with the Israeli authorities regarding this flotilla and in particular the Marianne of Gothenburg. We are pleased that Israel performed its intended action to maintain its maritime

restrictions peacefully. The Israeli authorities informed us that there were no British nationals on board the Marianne. Nationals from other Commonwealth countries were present and we offered consular assistance for unrepresented New Zealand nationals.

### Hepatitis

*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the national waiting time criterion for referral to hepatitis C treatment is 18 weeks whereas the national waiting time criterion for referral to specialist services for HIV treatment is two weeks. [HL784]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Timing for access to care or treatments for all NHS England service specifications or policies is based on an assessment of the evidence for clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and affordability.

### Human Rights Act 1998

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice on 23 June (HC Deb, col 749), what is the basis for the statement that parties that support reform of the Human Rights Act secured more than 50 per cent of the votes at the last general election. [HL791]

**Lord Faulks:** The Conservative Party, the United Kingdom Independence Party and the Democratic Unionist Party all publicly support reform or repeal of the Human Rights Act and together received more than half of the votes cast at the last election.

### Immigration

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve aid for migrants fleeing war, oppression and poverty, in the light of the events at Calais on 24 June. [HL895]

**Baroness Verma:** We are taking a comprehensive approach to the migrant crisis. A vital part of this response must be to stabilise the source countries from which migrants are fleeing, including through provision of more jobs and livelihood opportunities reducing poverty and the pressure to migrate. In the long-term, development assistance addresses the root causes of instability and insecurity, reducing inequality and providing economic opportunities for all. To this end, DFID is investing £1.8 billion on economic development globally in 2015/16.

## Israel Defense Forces

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has so far been the result of the internal processes launched by the Israeli Defence Force to investigate specific cases of military engagement. [HL883]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 2 June, I met the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG), Major General Dan Efrony, who is leading the Israel Defence Forces' investigations into Operation Protective Edge (OPE), and the Israeli Ambassador to London. Major General Efrony discussed the investigations into OPE. He informed me that his office had received several hundred complaints.

Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv also met the Israeli Military Advocate General on 17 June, and discussed OPE with him. Our Ambassador was informed that, to date, almost 200 complaints had been received, half of which were currently under examination or investigation. The MAG had already closed 19 cases and launched 7 criminal investigations. One case had resulted in the indictment of three soldiers for looting. The MAG currently had 13 cases on his desk, having dropped 2 as complainants refused to testify.

Tens of additional incidents are still in various different stages of examination by the Fact-Finding Assessment (FFA) Mechanism, and their findings will be submitted to the MAG in due course

In addition, the MAG has ordered the opening of 15 criminal investigations without the need for prior examination by the FFA Mechanism on the basis of allegations that indicated prima facie grounds for a reasonable suspicion of criminal misconduct. The remainder of the investigations are either still ongoing, or have been completed, with their findings having been submitted to the MAG for review.

## Large Goods Vehicles: Urban Areas

Asked by *Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many local authorities have banned the use of heavy goods vehicles during peak hours in city centres; and what assessment they have made of whether there is evidence that doing so enhances the safety of cyclists. [HL981]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** This information is not held centrally. No assessment regarding the number of authorities which have banned these vehicles or of the effect of such policies has been made by the Department for Transport. Decisions on all aspects of traffic management policy and the promotion of road safety for cyclists are the responsibility of local traffic authorities.

## Liver Diseases

Asked by *Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the programme of work for liver disease being developed by Public Health England will include a hepatitis C improvement framework. [HL783]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England and Public Health England (PHE) are working alongside a coalition of other organisations and patient groups to draft a framework for hepatitis C improvement. This hepatitis C improvement framework will set high level aims for the public health system towards elimination of hepatitis C related liver disease as a significant public health concern.

The hepatitis C improvement framework will be referred to in PHE's liver disease framework.

## Military Aircraft

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the loss of Maritime Patrol Aircraft capability in 2010, there is any airborne surveillance capability available to assist the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, HM Revenue and Customs and the Border Agency; and whether assets available today will be available next year. [HL941]

**Earl Howe:** Requests to assist other Government Departments and agencies are routinely received by the Ministry of Defence through the Maritime Operations Centre, the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre and the Air Rescue Co-ordination Centre, who will decide the appropriate surface or aviation asset to provide the support from a range of maritime and aviation capabilities.

The type and quantity of assets at the Ministry of Defence's disposal is not necessarily constant from one year to the next. Different factors are taken into account when procuring and supporting capabilities.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review will allow us to review our maritime and aviation capability.

## Ministry of Justice: Freedom of Information

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many freedom of information requests submitted to the Ministry of Justice are presently outstanding. [HL772]

**Lord Faulks:** On 23 June, 442 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) were recorded as awaiting a response. This figure includes both requests that were within the statutory deadline and those where a response was overdue. MOJ consistently receives one of the highest volumes of FOI requests across Whitehall and replies to requests every day, so the number awaiting a response constantly changes.



## Mohamed Nasheed

*Asked by Lord Naseby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether any United Kingdom funding or other resources are being used for the benefit of the former President of the Maldives, Mohammed Nasheed. [HL966]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are not providing any funding or resources for the benefit of former President Nasheed. Officials from our High Commission in Colombo continue to raise his case with the Maldivian government, as has the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron) and the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), who both met Mr Nasheed's wife and representatives of his legal team on 24 June.

## Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they plan to introduce to encourage higher penetration of environmentally friendly vehicles into the car and lorry market in order to combat the threat to public health of increasing air pollution. [HL901]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We are fully committed to tackling the challenges of air pollution. We have committed £2 billion since 2011 to increase the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles and green transport initiatives and to support Local Authorities to take action. This has included investment in cycling schemes and low emission buses. We will publish revised air quality plans for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) by the end of this year. These will set out actions at all levels, including national and local, to achieve compliance with legal limits for NO<sub>2</sub> in the shortest possible time.

## Multinational Companies: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Wallace of Saltaire*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United Kingdom will participate in the first session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, established on 26 June 2014. [HL1006]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK intends not to participate in the first session of the intergovernmental working group. Nor will the majority of those members of the Human Rights Council who opposed the resolution which created it. We supported the alternative approach pioneered in the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights.

## Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Dubs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that people with multiple sclerosis currently accessing beta interferon and glatiramer acetate through the Risk Sharing Scheme continue to access these treatments after data collection for the Scheme ends in summer 2015. [HL854]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The end of data collection for the Multiple Sclerosis Risk Sharing Scheme will not affect the availability of the beta interferons and glatiramer acetate through the Scheme. The NHS Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Group (Responsibilities and Standing Rules) Regulations 2012 require commissioners to fund the provision of the Scheme drugs for those patients who meet the clinical guidelines.

## Multiple Sclerosis: Nurses

*Asked by Lord Dubs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that specialist multiple sclerosis nurses funded through the Risk Sharing Scheme remain in post after data collection for the Scheme ends in summer 2015. [HL855]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Risk Sharing Scheme remains in operation until 2016. We will work with NHS England and the four drug company members of the Scheme to ensure that specialist nursing support for MS patients is not disrupted when the Scheme comes to an end.

## Neonicotinoids

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the latest evidence of the harm to bees from certain pesticides; and whether, in the light of such evidence, they plan to reject the emergency authorisation for use of neonicotinoids this autumn and press for the current restrictions to be made permanent and expanded to cover all crops. [HL775]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Decisions on the approval of pesticide active substances are made at European level. Since December 2013, three of the five neonicotinoids currently approved are not permitted for use on a wide range of crops considered "attractive to bees". A number of other uses remain permitted under the EU approval. The restrictions currently in place for neonicotinoids are not time-limited. They will remain in place until and unless the European Commission decides to change them.

The Commission has begun a review of the science relating to neonicotinoids and bees. This will include effects on bees from seed treatment and granule uses of

the restricted neonicotinoids on any crop. The Government will contribute fully to this review and will base its view on future regulation of neonicotinoids on all the available scientific evidence.

EU legislation allows Member States to consider applications for the authorisation of products to deal with emergency situations that are temporary, limited in scale and controlled.

### Palliative Care

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Bristol*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 23 June (HL Deb, col 1471), what steps they are taking to ensure that the ministry of chaplains in United Kingdom hospitals and hospices remains a part of end-of-life care. [HL850]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Bristol*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 23 June (HL Deb, col 1471), what steps they are taking to ensure (1) that NHS England continues to commission adequate healthcare chaplaincy services, and (2) that, as stated by the Minister of State for Community and Social Care on 17 December 2013 (HC180621), local NHS trusts continue to be "responsible for determining, delivering and funding religious and spiritual care in a way that meets the needs of their patients, carers and staff." [HL851]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We value the important role chaplaincy services play in delivering compassionate, personalised care, including at the end of life. The five Priorities for Care of the Dying Person, which the Government introduced in June 2014 and is attached, set out the importance of sensitive communication and the spiritual care of dying people and those important to them. As a member of the Leadership Alliance for the Care of Dying People, the College of Health Care Chaplains was integral to the development, dissemination and implementation of the Priorities for Care.

It remains the case that local National Health Service trusts are responsible for determining, delivering and funding religious and spiritual care in a way that meets the needs of their patients, carers and staff. NHS England is not involved in commissioning chaplaincy services locally. However, NHS England maintains a dialogue with chaplaincy associations through the NHS Chaplaincy programme and the Chaplaincy Leaders Forum as part of NHS England's work on improving patient care, promoting equality and reducing inequalities in health outcomes.

As health is a devolved issue, the commissioning and provision of chaplaincy services in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland should be addressed to the relevant devolved administrations.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

One Chance To Get It Right [One\_chance\_to\_get\_it\_right.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-25/HL850>

### Pet Animals Act 1951

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the effectiveness of the Pet Animals Act 1951 in view of the increase in the sale of pets online. [HL797]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Anyone in the business of selling pets whether in a traditional pet shop or on-line is subject to the provisions of the Pet Animals Act 1951. The definition of keeping a pet shop in the 1951 Act is broad enough to bring on-line sales within the scope of the Act; therefore no changes are needed.

### Prison Sentences

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what accredited courses are or have been available to those serving indefinite sentences for public protection in (1) HMP Durham and (2) HMP Acklington; and how many of each have been cancelled in the last three years. [HL559]

**Lord Faulks:** The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not commission accredited programmes exclusively for Indeterminate Sentence Prisoners. Programme and public protection resources are allocated based on offenders' type, level of risk and criminogenic needs in order to maximise public safety and value for money.

It is important that Indeterminate Sentence Prisoners have access to services that are appropriate to their risk and needs. NOMS has been using an evidence based approach to move investment in interventions to higher intensity longer programmes that are more likely to meet the complex needs of Indeterminate Sentence Prisoners. This approach increases the availability and access to these services across the estate.

HMP Durham, like many other local prisons, has not been commissioned to deliver accredited programmes as the primary function of the prison is to serve the courts and hold prisoners who are on remand. Where a prisoner is identified as having a need for a specific accredited programme, and has sufficient time left in their sentence to complete the programme in custody (including prisoners who are serving indefinite sentences for public

protection), they would be transferred to an appropriate prison delivering the identified programme.

HMP Acklington is the former name of HMP Northumberland. HMP Northumberland was formed following the merger of two separate prisons – HMP Acklington and HMP Castington on 31 October 2011.

HMP Northumberland is commissioned to deliver two different accredited programmes. Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) which is a short non offence specific thinking skills programme and Core Sexual Offending Treatment Programme (SOTP) which is designed for medium to high risk sex offenders.

There have been no cancellations of courses.

### Probation

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish recall to custody data broken down by each Community Rehabilitation Company area and by the National Probation Service. [HL816]

**Lord Faulks:** Data on those offenders recalled to custody broken down by each Community Rehabilitation Company and by the National Probation Service will be published in July as part of the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly bulletin.

In January, my department published a statistical consultation document and set of tables proposing how information on recalls could be presented to make sure that the changes made as a part of the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms could be monitored. In April, in response to this consultation, my department set out an intention to publish this data in the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly bulletin.

### Radicalism

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss with the governments of (1) the United States of America, (2) France, (3) Germany, (4) Italy, (5) Australia, (6) Canada, (7) India, (8) Austria, and (9) Russia, the possible creation of an international force to tackle Islamic extremism wherever it occurs in the world, including elements of those countries' armed, intelligence and police forces. [HL1025]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In addition to our efforts in the UN, EU and other multilateral fora to tackle Islamist extremism, the UK is a leading member of the Global Coalition of over 60 countries to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The Global Coalition's efforts include cutting off ISIL finance, reducing the influx of fighters, supporting governments and civil society to challenge extremist ideology, and stabilising areas liberated from ISIL control.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the latest statistics from the National Road Maintenance Condition Survey with regard to the maintenance state of (1) the motorway network, (2) the strategic road network under the care of the Highways Agency, and (3) the main road network maintained by local authorities. [HL982]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** I refer my noble Lord to my answer of 6 July (HL794) in the assessment made by Highways Agency, now Highways England, in relation to motorways and trunk roads.

The Department for Transport published road condition statistics in March 2015 based upon data reported by local highway authorities. These suggest that principal 'A' roads in England under the responsibility of local highway authorities are starting to show an improvement in condition. It is noteworthy that funding allocated to local highway authorities for local highways maintenance in the 2010-2015 Parliament was £1 billion more than in the 2005 to 2010 Parliament. The Department for Transport also set out in December 2014 how it is allocating funding of just under £6 billion to local authorities in England, outside London, for highways maintenance between 2015 and 2021. This represents an increase of around 5% compared to the previous six year period.

### Russia: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

*Asked by Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether any new armoured fighting vehicles were at the recent May Day parade in Moscow; and if so, what is their unclassified assessment of the vehicles seen. [HL943]

**Earl Howe:** This year's parade featured the T-14 tank, Kurganets-25 series armoured fighting vehicles and the Bumerang armoured personnel carrier. We judge that all three systems represent significant improvement over their predecessors.

The T-14 will have improved projectile performance; a gun launched anti-tank guided missile capability and increased crew survivability.

The T-14, Kurganets-25 and Bumerang will have the new and improved Epoch remote controlled turret. Advanced defensive aid suites are likely to be common to all new vehicle types.

### Saudi Arabia

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the steps taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to combat exclusionary and intolerant

interpretations of religious texts by religious clerics. [HL863]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Saudi Arabian government, from His Royal Highness King Salman down, continue to challenge exclusionary and intolerant interpretations of religious texts by religious clerics, as does the religious establishment. During his accession speech King Salman called for tolerance amongst religions, and during his recent speech marking the start of Ramadan he reaffirmed that he was firmly against any kind of sectarian classification or divisions among the different schools of Islam. The Saudi Arabian authorities have a programme to ensure that text books no longer contain material that could be considered hateful or inciteful. We will continue to support dialogue and opportunities for reform. However, freedom of religion or belief is severely restricted in Saudi Arabia. Public expression of any religion other than Islam is forbidden and non-Muslims are not permitted to worship openly or establish places of worship in Saudi Arabia, although private worship is permitted.

## Secure Accommodation

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of children on remand (either remanded in custody or remanded to local authority accommodation) were detained in secure children's homes each year between 2010 and 2014. [HL814]

**Lord Faulks:** Young people are placed in establishments that can most effectively manage their individual needs and risks. The Youth Justice Board is responsible for the placement of young people who are remanded or sentenced to custody.

Table 1 shows the proportion of children and young people on remand (either remanded in custody or remanded to local authority accommodation) who were detained in secure children's homes each year between 2010 and 2013 (the latest year for which complete data is available).

**Table 1: Proportion of children and young people on remand who were detained in secure children's homes 2010-2013**

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Proportion of children and young people on remand (either remanded in custody or remanded to local authority accommodation) who were detained in secure children's homes	7%	7%	7%	10%

### Notes:

1. The table shows the calendar year in which the young person was sentenced, not the date on which they received a remand decision. This is because a young person can receive multiple remand decisions over multiple dates as part of their court proceedings.

2. Only the most restrictive remand decision applied during the course of the court proceeding is presented. Where a young person was remanded both to local authority accommodation and to custody during the court process, only the remand to custody would be counted as it is the most restrictive remand decision given.

The data presented above comes from the YJB's Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS) database. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

## Skin Cancer

*Asked by Lord Clark of Windermere*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidelines are issued to Clinical Commissioning Groups regarding patients with high-risk skin cancers such as melanoma. [HL774]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has published a service specification for adult skin cancer services that sets out what the National Health Service must have in place to offer high quality skin cancer treatment, care and support. Embedded in this is the current best practice guidance on skin cancer published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

NICE is developing a guideline on the assessment and management of melanoma. NICE currently expects to

publish its final guidance in July 2015. Further information is available at the following link and a copy of the webpage has been attached.

[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-cgwave0674](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-cgwave0674)

In addition, NICE is currently in the process of updating its Public Health guidance on skin cancer prevention: information, resources and environmental changes (PH32).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NICE webpage [NICE webpage.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-24/HL774>

## Social Mobility

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review procurement processes to penalise companies which are failing to recruit bright working-class candidates, according to the recent report by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. [HL781]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Wider socio-economic criteria can be taken into account at tender evaluation stage if they relate directly to the subject matter of a contract from the point of view of the contracting authority.



## Syria

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the last three financial years, what proportion of United Kingdom aid and emergency relief has been spent on the cantons of Afrin, Kobane and Jazira, in Syria. [HL847]

**Baroness Verma:** Between February 2012 and the end of financial year 2014/15 DFID has provided £315 million to implementing partners delivering humanitarian aid and assistance to the most vulnerable people in Syria. This support has been provided on the basis of where needs were greatest and in line with the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality. For the protection of beneficiaries and our partners working in areas of active conflict, we do not break down spending allocations in Syria beyond the national level.

### Syria: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures the United Kingdom is taking in the UN Security Council to give effect to the statement by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 25 June that "There can be no impunity; we must hunt these people down, and Syria should be referred to the International Criminal Court" (HL Deb, col 1663). [HL961]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Last year the UK co-sponsored a UN Security Council resolution to refer all those responsible for war-crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, regardless of affiliation, to the International Criminal Court. This was an opportunity for the world to stand up for justice for the Syrian people. Russia and China chose to veto this resolution.

We have a long-standing commitment to accountability for human rights violations and abuses - this will not alter. We continue to support the UN Commission of Inquiry's investigations into human rights violations and abuses in Syria. In partnership with other donor countries, we have funded the collection of documentary evidence so that in the future those responsible for heinous acts will be held to account.

### Syria: International Assistance

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the UN acts to deliver securely aid to Syria for longer periods of time, and to ensure that such aid reaches more civilians in need, in accordance with UN Security Council Regulations 2165 and 2191. [HL959]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK co-sponsored Security Council Resolutions 2165 and 2191, enabling the UN to deliver cross-border aid without the consent of the Syrian regime. We continue to call on all sides to the conflict to

ensure free, unimpeded access for neutral and impartial humanitarian agencies to provide vital assistance to those in need. We worked hard to mobilise funding from other donors ahead of the third Kuwait Pledging Conference in March, which raised \$3.6 billion, and we work alongside the UN to maintain momentum on fundraising longer-term. We also provide long term funding to our partners so they can plan ahead, and encourage on other donors to do the same.

### Syria: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the countries neighbouring Syria to ensure that borders remain open to refugees fleeing conflict and persecution; how many refugees are currently living in those countries; and what further assistance they plan to give those countries to help them deal with refugees. [HL960]

**Baroness Verma:** Syria's neighbours have been generous in welcoming huge numbers of refugees, but tighter border restrictions are making it increasingly difficult for people to leave Syria. We hold regular discussions with host governments on this issue, and support UN refugee agencies UNHCR and UNRWA in their advocacy. There are over 3.9 million Syrian refugees in the region, including over 1.7 million in Turkey, over 1.1 million in Lebanon, and over 629,000 in Jordan. There are also 560,000 Palestinian refugees registered in Syria and thousands more in neighbouring countries, including many who have fled Syria. Whilst addressing the immediate needs of refugees and vulnerable members of host communities, UK aid is also supporting their longer term resilience and stability through funding to Lebanese and Jordanian municipalities for the running of essential public services, such as education.

### Travel Restrictions: Israel

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with European partners on the case for banning European Union entry to Israeli settlers convicted of violence. [HL881]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There are currently no plans for European or domestic legislation to issue a blanket ban on Israeli settlers convicted of violence from entering the European Union.

The Home Office is responsible for entry clearance into the UK. Since 2005 the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has excluded a number of Jewish settlers from the UK on the basis of extremism.

## United Arab Emirates: Human Rights

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the United Arab Emirates concerning claims of human rights violations and contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [HL889]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our bilateral relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) allows us to discuss a broad range of issues, and where we do have concerns we make these clear to the Emirati authorities. The UAE are not a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but they are a member of the UN Human Rights Council.

## United Arab Emirates: Political Prisoners

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have raised concerns with the United Arab Emirates about allegations by Amnesty International of the torture of political prisoners in the United Arab Emirates. [HL956]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of the allegations made by Amnesty International. The British Government's policy is clear – we do not participate in, solicit, encourage or condone the use of torture or mistreatment for any purpose. Our bilateral relationship with the United Arab Emirates allows us to discuss a broad range of issues, including human rights. Where we have concerns we make these clear to Emirati authorities.

## United Arab Emirates: Travel Restrictions

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether concerns have been raised with the United Arab Emirates regarding travel bans imposed on relatives of political prisoners. [HL890]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our bilateral relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) allows us to discuss a broad range of issues, and where we do have concerns we make these clear to the Emirati authorities. The UAE are not a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but they are a member of the UN Human Rights Council. We have not raised travel bans with the UAE government.

## Water Companies

*Asked by Lord Oxburgh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk of cross-subsidy issues in the deregulated water marketplace that would make the market unfair for new entrants. [HL827]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government is committed to ensuring that there is a level playing field in

the new retail market in order to make it attractive for new entrants and deliver the best deals for customers. The Water Act 2014 included provisions prohibiting discrimination between a wholesale water appointee and its retail arm; cross-subsidy would normally be seen as a form of discrimination.

Parties within the Open Water programme (the cross-sector programme responsible for implementing the new market for non-household retail services) are using a number of tools to ensure a fair and level playing field for all market participants.

Ofwat has set separate price caps for household and non-household customers and for wholesale and retail services in the 2014 Price Review. This stops cross-subsidy between household and non-household customers and between the wholesale and retail parts of companies' businesses.

Ofwat is also proposing licence conditions for new retail licensees that prohibit discrimination and cross-subsidy. These will mirror conditions that already exist in the licences of water and sewerage undertakers.

Open Water Markets Ltd (the body currently representing all market participants) has developed detailed rules or 'codes' that require all interactions within the market between wholesalers and retailers to follow a common approach. This is designed to ensure a level playing field, principally on non-price issues.

Underpinning these new arrangements there is also an existing framework of competition law at both a UK and European level which prohibits discrimination by an incumbent in favour of one retailer over another, for example by offering preferential terms or prices or engaging in other anti-competitive behaviour. Ofwat has powers to investigate and fine companies up to 10% of their revenues where it finds such activity has occurred.

## Welfare State: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of there being no agreement to recent proposals on welfare reform in Northern Ireland, what alternative measures are being considered to implement welfare reform in Northern Ireland. [HL1011]

**Lord Dunlop:** The full implementation of the Stormont House Agreement offers the best way to resolve the current welfare reform impasse and build a brighter, more secure future for Northern Ireland. The Government will do what is necessary to implement our obligations under the Agreement and expects the Northern Ireland Executive parties to do the same.

## World Food Programme

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take to avoid the World Food Programme running out of funds for its food vouchers for refugees in Jordan and elsewhere. [HL1031]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has been at the forefront of the Syria crisis response and has provided the World Food Programme with £164 million for use in Syria and the region to date, with provision for a further £23 million this year. The UK cannot however support the crisis alone, and other donors must step up and come good on their aid pledges.

Securing enough food is just one of several priority needs for Syrian refugees. In Jordan, the UK is helping refugees in a way that allows them to prioritise how they meet their daily needs by supporting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' unconditional cash programme.

# Written Answers

Thursday, 9 July 2015

## Brixton Prison

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much the number of prison officers at HMP Brixton has been reduced as a percentage since May 2010. [HL769]

**Lord Faulks:** Information on the change in the number of full time equivalent band 3 to 5 prison officers in Brixton between 31 May 2010 and 31 March 2015 is shown in the table below.

*Table: Number of Full Time Equivalent Officers in Brixton by Officer Grade, 31 May 2010 - 31 March 2015*

Officer Grade	31 May 2010	31 March 2015	% Change
Band 3-5 Officers	210	140	-33

Brixton was re-rolled from a Category B local prison to a Cat C Resettlement prison in July 2012. Resettlement prisons operate differently to local prisons and require fewer staff, therefore the staffing requirements in Brixton reduced when it was re-rolled.

Further savings were made when Brixton went through the New Ways of Working staffing model. The staffing levels are in line with a national benchmark for a Category C prison.

All figures in the above table have been rounded to the nearest 10, with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. As with all HR databases, extracts are taken at a fixed point in time, to ensure consistency of reporting. The database itself is dynamic however, and where updates to the database are made subsequent to the taking of the extract, these updates will not be reflected in figures produced by the extract. For this reason, HR data are unlikely to be precisely accurate, and to present unrounded figures would be to overstate the accuracy of the figures. Rounding to 10 accurately depicts the level of certainty that is held with these figures.

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many days on average prisoners at HMP Brixton spend outside their cells. [HL820]

**Lord Faulks:** Every prisoner will have a period out of the cell each day. The actual amount will depend on whether the prisoner is fully engaging in the regime; his level on the Incentive and Earned Privilege (IEP) Scheme (a prisoner on the basic level will have less time out of the cell but if attending work will get a minimum of 9.25 hours); and, whether they are subject to any disciplinary action. Enhanced Category C offenders will get an

additional session out during the evening so will get 11.25 hours out of cell.

A Standard Category C prisoner engaging in the regime could expect to be out of their cell for an average of 10.25 hours each weekday and Category D prisoners 12.5 hours. At weekends this would be 7.5 hours for both categories.

Weather permitting all prisoners are entitled to a minimum of 30 minutes in the outdoors every day.

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many assaults on staff were recorded at HMP Brixton in each year since 2010. [HL821]

**Lord Faulks:** The recorded number of assaults on staff in HMP Brixton in each of the calendar years 2010 to 2014 are as follows:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
HMP Brixton	41	49	46	12	11

NOMS is committed to running safe establishments and is working hard to reduce levels of violence in prisons. Violence of any kind in prison is wholly unacceptable and we treat any assault extremely seriously. We have introduced a new protocol between NOMS, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Police that will ensure that when there are serious assaults on prison staff, the perpetrators will be prosecuted unless there is a good reason not to do so.

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the safety of prisoners at HMP Brixton. [HL822]

**Lord Faulks:** Prisoners are risk assessed before being allocated to HMP Brixton. On arrival each prisoner will have their cell sharing risk assessment reviewed before they are allocated to a cell. For any prisoner arriving who is subject to self-harm, monitoring procedures will be reviewed.

All incidents within the prison are monitored and recorded. Violent incidents are monitored by time, location and the cause, if known. Concern about individual prisoners or the stability of any unit will be reported by an intelligence report. These are monitored daily by the Duty Governor, and Brixton is required to report stability levels to the Regional office on a weekly basis. Self-harm issues and violent incidents are considered by the Head of Safety and by the monthly safer custody meeting. This meeting reviews any serious incident of self-harm or death in custody.

The Health & Safety manager is responsible for monitoring H&S issues and there is a monthly H&S meeting chaired by a Senior Manager.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons report on the safety of Prisons, and the NOMS Internal Audit team audit safer custody procedures.



## Care Quality Commission

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the motion passed by the British Medical Association to the effect that the Care Quality Commission is not fit for purpose. [HL877]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care providers in England and monitors, inspects and regulates services to make sure health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate high-quality care and encourage care services to improve.

Effective regulation by CQC is vital in ensuring the public received care of the highest standard.

The new system of CQC inspections give the public clear information on the quality of their local general practice (GP) services. Underpinned by recent legislative changes, the CQC's inspections include specialist inspectors, clinical and other experts and people with experience of care. Every CQC inspection results in a rating on a scale from outstanding to inadequate against five key domains. Far from not being fit for purpose, the CQC is providing an objective judgement on the quality and safety of GP practices.

The CQC's inspections of GP practices have found that one in seven are not delivering the care that patients have a right to expect. These findings are crucial in identifying areas for improvement in those surgeries that are not delivering the high standards of care that people deserve.

## College of Social Work

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they did not respond to the request for financial support from the College of Social Work. [HL875]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government was approached by the College of Social Work (the College) in March to discuss their financial situation for 2015-16 and beyond. As a result the College initiated an internal review of its functions and business model. The subsequent report demonstrated that even with the proposed level of Government funding, the College would be running at a loss. The Government has contributed £8.2 million to the college since 2009.

The financial health of an organisation is a key factor in the decision to award Government Grant funding. In line with HM Treasury rules ( *Managing Public Money* ), the Department would not continue to provide Grant funding to any organisation that is deemed to be financially unsustainable. Any funding provided in 2015-16 is to ensure an orderly transfer of its Government funded work to other bodies.

## Dermatology

Asked by *Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to act on the recommendation by the independent investigation into the loss of dermatology specialist services at the Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust that Health Education England consider increasing the number of consultant dermatologists. [HL919]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In response to the independent report, Health Education East Midlands has led on the development of a local action plan aimed at the preservation and development of dermatology services in Nottingham. Health Education East Midlands facilitated a meeting on 15 June 2015 of dermatology consultants and nurses from Nottingham University Hospital and Circle Nottingham. This was a productive meeting and considered the best approach to working arrangements which would provide a good quality service for patients and training opportunities for supporting and developing consultants.

It is locally recognised that there is a need for an expansion of dermatology training numbers. Health Education East Midlands will input into the investment and workforce plans developed annually by Health Education England (HEE).

There have been no meetings between the Government and HEE about the independent report.

Asked by *Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Health Education England about the independent report into the loss of dermatology specialist services at the Nottingham University Hospital Trust. [HL920]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In response to the independent report, Health Education East Midlands has led on the development of a local action plan aimed at the preservation and development of dermatology services in Nottingham. Health Education East Midlands facilitated a meeting on 15 June 2015 of dermatology consultants and nurses from Nottingham University Hospital and Circle Nottingham. This was a productive meeting and considered the best approach to working arrangements which would provide a good quality service for patients and training opportunities for supporting and developing consultants.

It is locally recognised that there is a need for an expansion of dermatology training numbers. Health Education East Midlands will input into the investment and workforce plans developed annually by Health Education England (HEE).

There have been no meetings between the Government and HEE about the independent report.

## Diabetes: Depressive Illnesses

Asked by *Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what emotional and psychological support is available for people with both diabetes and depression. [HL967]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance, *Diabetes in adults quality standard*, sets out that people with diabetes should be assessed for psychological problems which should then be managed appropriately.

Talking therapies, provided through the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme, are increasing access to appropriate, evidence based services for people suffering from depression and other mental health problems.

## Eating Disorders

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to reduce waiting times for people seeking treatment for eating disorders. [HL945]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Autumn Statement 2014 announced increased funding of £150 million over the next five years to improve services for children and young people with mental health problems in England, placing a particular emphasis on eating disorders.

NHS England is leading work to develop new access and waiting time standards for eating disorder services. It is anticipated the new standards will be introduced from 1 April 2016.

## Employment Tribunals Service: Fees and Charges

Asked by *Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to appoint an independent expert person or body to evaluate the impact of employment tribunal fees on access to justice for people of limited means. [HL856]

Asked by *Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the terms of reference of the proposed review into employment tribunal fees with regard to avoiding any appearance of bias. [HL857]

Asked by *Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the proposed review into employment tribunal fees will evaluate the impact of the scheme on weak and unmeritorious claims. [HL858]

Asked by *Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proposed review into employment tribunal fees will

evaluate the impact of the scheme on strong and meritorious claims. [HL859]

**Lord Faulks:** This review will be carried out internally by the Government. There are no plans either to appoint an independent expert or to review the terms of reference. The review will consider all relevant factors and we intend to announce the outcome later in the year.

## European Fund for Strategic Investments

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the implications for the United Kingdom of the establishment of the European Fund for Strategic Investment; and whether the financing of the scheme will lead to increased United Kingdom contributions to the European Union budget. [HL936]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The regulation is clear that the establishment of the European Fund for Strategic Investments is fully consistent with the terms of the multiannual financial framework, as secured by the Prime Minister in 2013 which delivered a real terms cut to the seven-year EU budget for the first time.

## Freedom of Information

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend the rules regarding freedom of information. [HL771]

**Lord Faulks:** It is vital that we ensure that the advice that civil servants give to Ministers of whatever Government is protected so that civil servants can speak candidly and offer advice to ensure that Ministers do not make mistakes. There has been a worrying tendency in our courts and elsewhere to erode the protections for that safe space for policy advice. There is no contradiction between making sure that we give civil servants the protection they deserve and also ensuring that the data—for example, the amount a Government Department spends—is more transparent than ever.

## Government Departments

Asked by *Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the number of inquiries from the public being addressed to (1) HM Revenue and Customs, (2) the Home Office, (3) the Ministry of Justice, (4) the Department for Work and Pensions, and (5) the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, has changed over the last decade, and whether the provision of staff to attend to them has changed proportionately. [HL898]

Asked by *Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, given the importance they place on the public's access to information, what formula they use to gauge the

number of officials they need to have on duty at the main inquiry points of (1) HM Revenue and Customs, (2) the Home Office, (3) the Ministry of Justice, (4) the Department for Work and Pensions, and (5) the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, to ensure that a call gets individual attention within (a) five, (b) 10, and (c) 20 minutes. [HL899]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The information requested is not held centrally.

Detailed information on the staffing and performance of individual Government Departments is contained in their Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

### Hepatitis: Drugs

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that NHS England provides patients with hepatitis C access to new drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence without delay, and to ensure that NHS England continues to assess new technologies based on cost-effectiveness rather than affordability. [HL972]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Commissioners are legally required to fund drugs and treatments recommended in National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) technology appraisal guidance.

In the absence of guidance from NICE, it is for commissioners, including NHS England, to make funding decisions based on the available evidence.

Commissioners are required to have in place clear and transparent arrangements for local decision making and for considering individual funding requests taking into account patients' clinical circumstances.

### Immigrants: Infectious Diseases

*Asked by Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether records are kept on the proportion of new arrivals at immigration centres who have communicable diseases. [HL970]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Healthcare in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) in England is commissioned by NHS England.

Each of the IRCs has a primary healthcare service provided on site. The range of healthcare provision typically available includes initial health screening and risk assessment, including routine treatment of evident infection and active case finding for diseases commonly found among detainees including pulmonary tuberculosis, blood-borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections (if indicated by the initial assessment).

IRCs currently operate under the Detention Centre Rules and Operating Standards for the purposes of health screening and access to a general practitioner (GP) targets for initial healthcare screening and assessment which means all detainees to be seen by a nurse for an initial health assessment within 2 hours of admission and to be seen by a GP within 24 hours of admission (which may vary on assessment by competent nurse). Any health problems identified, tests or treatments prescribed and their outcomes are recorded on computerised health informatics systems in IRCs (e.g. SystemOne) and information can be shared between prisons and IRCs.

IRCs, like prisons, are required to notify Public Health England Centres' Health Protection Teams of cases or outbreaks of reportable diseases. This information is collated at national level by the Health & Justice Team.

### Innovative Medicines and Medical Technology Review

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what opportunities will be available to participate in the Accelerated Access Review announced in November 2014 as "The Innovative Medicines and Medical Technology Review" for (1) the public and patient groups, (2) medical charities, (3) academics, (4) researchers, and (5) other interested parties; and when they expect it to report. [HL983]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In order to inform his recommendations, the independent chair of the Accelerated Access Review, Sir Hugh Taylor, will be seeking views from a variety of stakeholder groups, including patients and their carers, medical charities, academics and researchers, as well as industry, the National Health Service and key arm's length bodies such as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and NHS England. We have agreed a systematic engagement approach for these groups to ensure they all have the opportunity to input. A workshop involving representation from all these stakeholder groups was held on 2 July, and the review team is asking umbrella organisations and trade bodies to support it in continuing to reach a wide audience by holding a series of engagement events throughout the summer; these events are currently being planned. The review's website is also being developed to include a crowdsourcing platform to allow these groups, and the wider public, to participate.

We expect the report of the Accelerated Access review to be submitted by the end of the year.

### Liver Diseases

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when Public Health England's programme of work on liver disease will be published. [HL971]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public Health England's liver disease framework will be published in autumn 2015.

### Mental Health Services

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who is responsible for the implementation of the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat; what procedures are in place if action plans are insufficient; and who is responsible for improving the quality of action plans that are judged to be insufficient. [HL946]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The implementation of Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat action plans is a matter for local areas, each of which has signed a declaration stating that local police, health, local government and other partners will be jointly responsible for improving crisis care for people with mental health needs in their areas.

By May this year, every area in England had published a local crisis care concordat action plan. Before publication, these were each reviewed jointly by the Department and the mental health charity Mind, to make sure that plans were of sufficient quality. In particular, the Department expected plans to address the specific requirements for crisis services set out in NHS England's The Forward View Into Action: Planning for 2015/16. The Department and Mind worked closely with local areas to help them make refinements and improvements to their draft plans before publication. These action plans are all considered subject to continual review and improvement, and Mind is currently working with local areas to follow up the suggestions for even further improvements that were made at the time of publication.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria NHS England uses to determine whether a clinical commissioning group mental health transformation plan is acceptable; and who is accountable for ensuring the delivery of such transformation plans. [HL947]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Local Transformation Plans were proposed in *Future in Mind* (March 2015). The aim of these plans is to bring together local commissioners from the National Health Service, local authorities and schools, and have them clearly set out how they will make progress on child and adolescent mental health. NHS England and the Department are working with partners jointly to produce national guidance to support the development of local transformation plans. The expectation is that NHS England will publish the guidance in early July. Clinical networks have been working locally to support joint planning. NHS England and partners will be developing further resources and support over the summer which will be available both to clinical commissioning groups and partner organisations to build on their initial plans in the medium and long term to achieve the ambition set out in *Future in Mind*.

In the interim, NHS England has written to all clinical commissioning groups encouraging them to work with their partners from across the NHS, public health, local authority, youth justice and education sector. This letter states that a bespoke assurance process will be developed for 2015-16, with integration within the mainstream NHS planning guidance process from 2016-17 onwards.

### Mental Health Services: Finance

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the outturn funding figure for mental health services in 2014-15; and what is the forecast for 2015-16. [HL948]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The outturn figures for mental health funding in 2014-15 are not available.

### Ministry of Justice: Cost Effectiveness

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the breakdown of the extra £249 million savings in the Ministry of Justice's budget announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [HL818]

**Lord Faulks:** The Ministry is committed to playing its part in the government's deficit reduction plans and delivering significant savings for the taxpayer. Following the Chancellor's request to find additional in-year savings, we have put together a package that will enable us to drive efficiencies across the department. These savings will reduce the cost of justice to the taxpayer whilst creating a justice system that reflects the needs of its users.

### Myeloma

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the National Institute of Health Research Technology Assessment programme to publish initial findings from its assessment of the benefits of antibiotic prophylaxis and its effect on healthcare associated infections in myeloma patients. [HL994]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This trial is led by the University of Birmingham. The project is recruiting ahead of schedule and expects to reach its target of 800 in the near future. The target was to do so by the end of November 2015. Publication of initial findings is expected in 2017.

### NHS Foundation Trusts: Private Finance Initiative

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS foundation trusts have uncompleted Private Finance Initiative schemes (1) under £100 million capital, and



(2) over £100 million capital, as at the end of 2014–15; and how many of each ended 2014–15 with a financial deficit. [HL912]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** ‘Uncompleted’ Private Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes are those which are under construction ie they have not yet become operational. Two NHS foundation trusts have uncompleted PFI schemes, both over £100 million (capital value). One of these trusts had a financial deficit at the end of 2014-15 financial year.

### Nurses: Training

Asked by **Baroness McDonagh**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many nursing training places were available in each year since 2000. [HL953]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The following table shows the number of pre-registration nursing places (degree and diploma courses) that were available for each year since 2000.

Year	Nurse training places
2000-01	19,460
2001-02	20,668
2002-03	21,949
2003-04	23,553
2004-05	24,956
2005-06	24,520
2006-07	22,964
2007-08	21,569
2008-09	21,732
2009-10	21,337
2010-11	20,327
2011-12	18,069
2012-13	17,546
2013-14	18,056
2014-15	19,206
2015-16	20,033

*Source:* Data provided to the Department of Health by the commissioners of pre-registration training

In December 2014, Health Education England published their Workforce Plan for England which includes their planned Education & Training Commissions for 2015-16.

### Pancreatic Cancer: Tomography

Asked by **Lord Aberdare**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all pancreatic cancer patients have access to a clinical nurse specialist. [HL962]

Asked by **Lord Aberdare**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to increase the capacity of imaging services available to pancreatic cancer patients across the National Health Service, including computerised tomography scans. [HL963]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has a published service specification for pancreatic cancer which clearly defines what it expects to be in place for providers to offer evidence-based, safe and effective pancreatic cancer services. This service specification has been developed by specialised clinicians, commissioners, expert patients and public health representatives to describe core and developmental service standards.

Patients being treated at cancer units should have access to an upper gastrointestinal cancer nurse. All district general hospitals should have such a person in post. If the patient is transferred to a cancer centre they should then have access to a pancreatic nurse specialist. This person should see every patient and become their key worker.

Patients with suspected pancreatic cancer are usually first investigated by an ultrasound scan. If this shows biliary dilatation, or anything else suspicious, the patient should then be sent for a pancreas protocol computerised tomography scan which is the best investigation for identifying pancreatic cancer.

Increasing the capacity of diagnostic and imaging services is clearly recognised as a priority for the National Health Service and it is has been raised as a key issue by the independent Cancer Taskforce, as well as by the Cancer Waiting Times Taskforce. We expect a new cancer strategy to be published this summer which will set out the strategy for the system for the next five years and will include consideration of the whole cancer pathway, including the capacity of diagnostic services.

In addition, NHS England is testing various approaches to new models of care which could potentially deliver improved access to diagnostic services for cancer patients, including those with pancreatic cancer.

### Police National Computer

Asked by **Lord Marlesford**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what access the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has to the Police National Computer; and which other charities or voluntary bodies have similar access. [HL745]

**Lord Bates:** The RSPCA has access to the Police National Computer (PNC) via the ACRO Criminal Records Office. ACRO provide a bureau service on behalf of a number of non-police prosecuting agencies.

The only charity that has direct access to the PNC is the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

## Police: Cameras

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police officers in England and Wales they expect to be equipped with body-worn camera technology by the end of 2016. [I] [HL832]

**Lord Bates:** PCCs and chief officers make the decisions on what technology is procured and how it is used by officers at a local level. It is not for the Home Office to set targets or expectations. It is right that PCCs and their forces are free to invest in technology that aligns to local priorities and addresses the specific challenges they face. The majority of police forces are either already using Body Worn Video (BWV) on a day-to-day basis, or are in the process of rolling this technology out to their officers. The Home Office does not hold information as to how many officers are equipped with BWV. As part of the 2014/15 Police Innovation Fund (PIF), the Home Office awarded a total of £4m to eight bids relating to the roll-out of BWV. We supported the Police ICT Company to bring these eight bids together, with Nottinghamshire Police developing a BWV procurement framework, which is now available to all forces. Other forces either using, or considering the use of, the framework include: Merseyside, North Wales, Bedfordshire, Hampshire and the MPS. The value of PIF bids for BWV for 2013/14 was £1,567,625. Police forces also procure BWV outside of the Police Innovation Fund as part of their own digitisation programmes.

## Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the consequences of increasing disproportionality of black and minority ethnic young people in HM Prisons for future social cohesion. [HL923]

**Lord Faulks:** The government is committed to making sure the criminal justice system is fair and just and recognises that continued work is needed to understand the experience of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) young people in the criminal justice system.

The Youth Justice Board is working with a wide range of organisations, including youth offending teams, to address the over-representation of BAME young people in the justice system.

## Probation

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are recording victim liaison referrals from the Community Rehabilitation Companies to the National Probation Service. [HL817]

**Lord Faulks:** The National Offender Management Service HQ has asked Victim Liaison Units in the

National Probation Service to provide details of the number of victim liaison referrals which they receive from Community Rehabilitation Companies.

## Revenue and Customs

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the recent closure of the Euston and Lambeth office of HM Revenue and Customs, how many centres remain in (1) London, and (2) the United Kingdom as a whole, where a member of the public can obtain a face-to-face meeting with a revenue official. [HL896]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HMRC currently have no walk in centres in any part of the United Kingdom.

Following public consultation, from June 2014, HMRC introduced a new service for customers who need extra help to get their taxes and entitlements right. This replaced the network of walk-in Enquiry Centres. The service can be accessed in a number of different ways and detailed information can be found on Gov.UK.

Where a face-to-face meeting is most appropriate, a new team of mobile advisers will arrange to meet our customers at one of the 336 convenient locations in the community throughout the country, or at their home if a mobility difficulty exists.

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether large numbers of the public are unable to get through to HM Revenue and Customs by telephone to obtain help with their tax inquiries; and, if so, what steps they are taking to address this. [HL897]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) accepts that its performance was inconsistent during 2014-15 and it has recently outlined actions taken to improve customer service. These include recruitment of additional staff and investment in new technology.

HMRC has allocated £45 million, supporting the recruitment of an additional 3,000 customer service staff to answer calls and deal with customer correspondence. The department is also moving around 2,000 additional people from other parts of HMRC temporarily into customer service roles to support the tax credits peak.

Details of HMRC telephony performance, including average waiting time, is published quarterly on GOV.UK.

## Social Workers

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the quality of social workers. [HL876]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government is committed to continuing the existing social work reform programme. This includes taking forward work from Professor David Croisdale-Appleby and Professor Sir

Martin Narey's reviews of social work education (published in 2013).

In support of developing the social work profession, the Government is currently in the process of establishing "Teaching Partnerships" which are intended to give employers a much stronger say in what is taught on social work courses. Teaching Partnerships will also ensure social workers have the most up to date skills needed to provide support to the most vulnerable in our society.

Further investment is also being made in the area of support and delivery of social work entry and induction programmes - Frontline, Step Up, Think Ahead and the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment. These programmes are designed to attract the best graduates into social work and giving them access to high quality training.

### **Syria: Armed Conflict**

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what military or logistical assistance they plan to give the Kurdish fighters of the People's Protection Units defending Kobani; and whether they now plan to join the United States in mounting aerial bombardment of Daesh military targets in Syria. [HL965]

**Earl Howe:** Whilst the UK has not given specific military or logistic assistance to the fighters of People's Protection Units in Kobane, the UK is a major contributor to the wider global coalition working to counter ISIL

across Iraq and Syria, which has assisted the Kurdish force to liberate and defend the area.

Whilst UK intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft have been deployed over Syria, the Government has made it clear that it would seek further Parliamentary approval before UK aircraft conducted air strikes in Syria, unless there was a critical British interest at stake or a need to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe.

### **UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they decided not to nominate a United Kingdom candidate for the UN Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. [HL790]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK strongly supports the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) against Women and it is committed to advancing women's rights. We are fully committed to the CEDAW process and are fully engaged with the UN and the Committee. We regularly consider nominating a UK national for election to the Committee, but have not yet done so under this present government. UK nationals are well represented on other UN treaty monitoring bodies, such as the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## Written Answers

Monday, 13 July 2015

### Alcoholic Drinks

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that alcohol strategy is best administered by member states or the European Union, in the light of their agreement to a proposal at the European Health Council on 19 June that the European Union should adopt its own strategy on the subject. [HL935]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public health is primarily the responsibility of Member States. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union gives the EU a role to support Member States in this area. The Government sees this as a useful role.

In seeking a new EU alcohol strategy to replace the current one, we are not calling for new competences for the EU, nor for new legislation, but for greater coherence in whatever the EU does now and some flexibility to allow effective national policies. There are, for example, aspects of a national alcohol strategy that cannot be pursued without change at EU level. This is consistent with our stance on EU reform.

The House of Lords European Union Committee published its report on a new EU Alcohol Strategy on 6 March 2015 (8<sup>th</sup> Report of Session 2014-15). The Government will respond to the Committee's recommendations in due course.

### Banks: Iceland

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Deighton on 29 August 2013 (HLWA387), what amounts the Treasury has recovered following the collapse of the Icelandic banks Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd, Heritable Bank Plc and Icesave (Landsbaki h.f), and the compensation paid; how much remains to be recovered; how much of that has been written off as unrecoverable, and for what reasons. [HL931]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** In total, £8.64 billion was paid out by the Treasury to compensate UK retail depositors of the Icelandic banks Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd (KSF), Heritable Bank Plc and Landsbanki (Icesave). The Treasury has recovered £7.71 billion to date. The Government expects to make a full recovery of the outstanding funds from the three estates.

### Basic Skills: Young People

Asked by *Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to better support young adults at or below average literacy and numeracy levels. [HL929]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Literacy and numeracy are the foundation for all achievement in education and critical for work and everyday life. We have set a clear expectation that having a good level of English and maths should be the norm.

Learners who did not achieve a Level 2 in English and maths by the age of 16 are now required to continue to study those subjects post-16 and from September all 16-19 full-time students starting their study programme who have a grade D GCSE or equivalent in these subjects must be enrolled on a GCSE or approved IGCSE qualification in maths and/ or English.

We have embedded English and maths within our core programmes for young people. Our Traineeships programme for young people puts English and maths at its core, alongside work preparation and work experience. All apprentices without level 2 qualifications in English and Maths are now required to work towards and take them.

We fully fund all adults to achieve their first English and maths GCSE as well as any other qualifications which will help them find and sustain employment.

We are improving qualifications to ensure they are relevant and robust. We have reformed English and maths GCSEs and are reviewing Functional Skills. We have invested over £30m to ensure that the Further Education workforce has the skills it needs to teach these subjects to a high level.

### BBC: Midlands

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the BBC regarding its levels of investment in the Midlands. [HL949]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the BBC about the reduction in programme-making at the Mailbox in Birmingham. [HL950]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** No such discussions have taken place. However these very issues were discussed by the Minister for Culture in a Westminster Hall debate on 23 June this year. The Secretary of State will be announcing the process for Charter Review in due course, but the level of investment in the Midlands or elsewhere is ultimately a matter for the BBC.



### **British Nationality: English Language**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 30 June (HL705), whether the competitive procurement exercise that secured two Concession Service Providers of English language testing in the United Kingdom, and one for overseas, was subject to an open tender process; and if not, what was the nature of the competitive procurement process, and how many providers were invited to tender. [HL1091]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office advertised the tender opportunity using a contract notice on the TED (Tenders Electronic Daily - the online version of the 'Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union', dedicated to European public procurement). The Home Office followed the principles of the Open Procedure. There were 22 providers who were invited to tender.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish the report of the independent review into the provision of English language testing. [HL1093]

**Lord Bates:** There are no plans to publish the independent review into the provision of English Language testing.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the quality of examination centres used by the International English Language Testing System and Trinity College London for English language tests used for applications for citizenship. [HL704]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office has improved its business requirements for the quality of examination centres under the new Concession Agreements by assessing the Service Provider solutions which were evaluated in accordance with the business requirements.

The Concession Agreements were awarded to those Service Providers that were able to meet those business requirements.

Before they began, Service Providers were required to meet a pre-check process to ensure the quality of the examination centres were delivered.

The Home Office has introduced a robust contract management process to ensure that the Service Providers continue to provide quality examination centres during the life of the Concession Agreement.

### **Burma: Political Prisoners**

*Asked by Baroness Goudie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the British Ambassador to Burma has met relatives and

representatives of political prisoners during 2015. [HL1054]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcome the release of thousands of political prisoners under the current Burmese government. However, we remain concerned by the continued arrests, detentions and sentencing of political activists, with an estimated minimum of 163 remaining behind bars at the end of May 2015, and a further 442 awaiting trial following arrests throughout 2014 and early 2015.

Our Ambassador and other officials from our Embassy in Rangoon are in regular contact with civil society groups representing political prisoners in Burma. They also talk to former political prisoners, including a meeting last week between the Ambassador and a former prisoner, and we continue to raise our concerns with the Government of Burma at the highest levels. At Ministerial level, the then Minister of State at the Home Office, the right hon. Lynne Featherstone, raised the issue of political prisoners directly with Minister for the President's Office, U Soe Thane, during her visit to Burma in January.

### **Burma: Sanctions**

*Asked by Baroness Goudie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what sanctions are in place against Burma. [HL1052]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The EU currently has sanctions in place on Burma. These measures include an arms embargo prohibiting the sale, supply, transfer or export of equipment which might be used for internal repression, whether or not originating in the Union, to any natural or legal person, entity or body in, or for use in Burma. The embargo also prohibits the provision of financing and technical assistance related to military activities, arms and related material, and equipment which might be used for internal repression. The EU recently renewed these measures until 30 April 2016. Countries outside the EU may have their own sanctions measures in place on Burma.

### **Burma: Sexual Offences**

*Asked by Baroness Goudie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on which occasions ministers have raised the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict with ministers of the government of Burma. [HL1053]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcomed the Burmese government's endorsement of the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and attendance at the Global Summit in June 2014. But since the government endorsed the declaration, their implementation of the commitments contained within it has been limited and sexual violence remains a major problem in Burma.

The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), discussed sexual violence with Deputy Foreign Minister U Thant Kyaw on 13 June last year when, following considerable lobbying from the UK, U Thant Kyaw attended the Global Summit in London and endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. Most recently, this was raised in January when the then Minister of State at the Home Office, the right hon. Lynne Featherstone, visited Burma in her role as UK Champion for Tackling Violence Against Women. During her visit she discussed the issue with senior members of the Burmese government, including Ministers of the President's Office, U Soe Thane and U Aung Min, and also with Deputy Foreign Minister U Thant Kyaw.

### Burma: War Crimes

*Asked by Baroness Goudie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has raised with the President of Burma concerns regarding evidence of war crimes committed by the Burmese Home Affairs Minister. [[HL1077](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has not raised this particular issue with the President of Burma. While Burma has undergone a remarkable period of reform since the current government took power in 2011, we remain extremely concerned by allegations of historic human rights violations by the Burmese military. The UK is a strong supporter of the principle that there should be no impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes. Any judgement on whether specific international crimes have occurred is a matter for international judicial decision rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies. There are a number of different models for moving on from conflict and ending impunity, and it is for the people of Burma, through their political representatives, to decide on the best model for their country.

### Charities

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Wallace of Saltaire on 23 June 2014 (HL216), how many charities shared in the £5.9 billion of government and NHS funding, and which charities those were. [[HL937](#)]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### Chechnya: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking in the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to ensure that Russia implements the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights on Chechnya; and how many of those rulings remain unimplemented. [[HL1131](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK intervenes in every debate on the Chechnya cases in the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. In conjunction with other Member States, we have submitted written questions on specific actions Russia has taken to implement judgements on Chechnya. We have raised the cases bilaterally with the Russian delegation in Strasbourg, pressing for full implementation. We are also regularly briefed on the Chechnya cases by human rights non-governmental organisations in Strasbourg, London and Moscow. We will continue to use the Committee of Ministers as a key forum for encouraging Russia to fully implement key judgements relating to the North Caucasus – a vital step to ending the climate of impunity in the region. The Council of Europe's website holds further information on the status of Russia's implementation of European Court of Human Rights judgements on Chechnya, together with details of all actions taken by the Committee of Ministers in their supervision of these judgements.

### Civil Servants: Training

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce co-ordinated training for civil servants at all levels in the central, devolved and regional governments and major government agencies, in order to improve how different branches of government collaborate. [[HL939](#)]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** All civil servants across UK have access to e-learning, online resources and classroom courses via Civil Service Learning. These allow civil servants at all levels in central, devolved and regional governments and major government agencies, to work and learn together.

In addition, for senior leaders, there are several academies within Government such as the Commissioning Academy and the Major Projects Leadership Academy, which bring together leaders from across the public sector and support their collaboration.

### Climate Change

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what their plans are to fight climate change. [[HL1123](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a target for the UK to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80%, based on 1990 levels. This followed advice from the Committee on Climate Change who deemed that 80% was a fair share from the UK to an international effort to limit global warming to 2 degrees.

Our policies are designed to tackle climate change and make the transition to a low carbon economy. This includes:

- Helping consumers and businesses to save money on their energy bills
- Making homes more energy efficient
- Helping consumers to take control of their energy use with smart meters
- Decarbonising the power sector in the most cost effective way

### College of Social Work

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the closure of the College of Social Work on the quality of social workers. [HL874]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government recognises the need for a strong professional body for social work, both in terms of promoting the vital work that social workers do and to deliver the high standards for the profession that both users of social work services and the general public expect and deserve.

While the College of Social Work (the college) has made some progress in driving up standards, they have not been able to deliver the improvements at the pace and to the standard required. Out of 90,000 social workers in England, only 16,000 have chosen to become members of the College and of those only about 1,000 are active members.

The Government remains committed to supporting the social work profession and will engage with key stakeholders to continue to improve the quality of social work.

### Conflict Pool

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much they increased the resources of the Conflict Pool over the most recent spending review period. [HL1049]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Conflict Pool, which was succeeded by the Conflict Stability and Security Fund from Financial Year 15/16, was funded from a Treasury settlement which was separate from and additional to departmental budgets and was administered jointly by the Ministry of Defence, Department for International Development and Foreign and Commonwealth Office for conflict prevention and mitigation work. At the last spending review in June 2014 the overall allocation increased from £664 million for

2013/14 to £683 million for 2014/15. Details of Conflict Pool allocations were made in the House of Lords on 24 June 2014 by the former Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi), (WS107).

A Written Ministerial Statement about the Conflict Stability and Security was published on 12 March 2015 by the then Minister for Government Policy in the Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the member for West Dorset (Mr Letwin), which was repeated in the House of Lords by Lord Wallace of Saltaire, (HLWS379).

### Conflict, Stability and Security Fund

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have made to ensure that their Conflict, Stability and Security Fund provides adequate and effective support for both their responsibility to protect and their commitments to preventing atrocities. [HL989]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) provides direct funding to both the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and the joint UN office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect. This funding assists these organisations in their work to consolidate the concept of the Responsibility to Protect by continuing to build the institutional architecture to prevent mass atrocity crimes and to strengthen the capacity of countries, regional and sub-regional organisations and civil society to protect populations. In addition, the CSSF funds a wide range of activities regionally that, while not always explicitly labelled as atrocity prevention, nonetheless contribute to the prevention of atrocities. These include projects on preventing sexual violence, reducing intergroup tensions, strengthening justice systems and the rule of law, security sector reform, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration.

### Crimes against Humanity

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have made to ensure that early warning systems and country analysis include indicators of genocide and crimes against humanity, and that there is sufficient interdepartmental co-operation to achieve this. [HL988]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government produces an annual internal risk report on fragile states called Countries at Risk of Instability (CRI). The report is used to help policy makers prioritise countries for Government engagement and ensure that policy responses are best placed to tackle evolving instability risks. As part of the CRI process, indicators that highlight a higher risk of mass atrocities occurring are used, such as levels of internal state repression, levels of inter-communal

factionalism and the type of regime a country operates. The reports indicator set reflects best practice from many similar non-governmental organisations and partner governments approaches. Data is collected from a wide range of sources, including academia and Government subject matter expertise. The report is produced by the Cabinet Office and coordinates input from all relevant government departments and agencies.

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to review the readiness of the United Kingdom to respond to crimes of atrocity and developing threats of genocide and other crimes against humanity anywhere in the world. [HL990]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government's global network of embassies, strong international partnerships, and early warning mechanisms give the UK significant insight into emerging threats. The UK remains committed to the Responsibility to Protect and seeks to respond to developing threats of atrocity crimes or genocide including through prevention projects, sanctions regimes or support for justice systems. Our seat on the UN Security Council also means we swiftly engage where a threat of such crimes emerges. Where prevention has failed, it is the international community's responsibility to take collective action, through diplomatic, humanitarian and other means. Where necessary, the UN Security Council should be ready to authorise coercive measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

### **Crown Lands and Estates**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Crown Estate is the property of the reigning monarch; whether a majority of the income from the Estate is used in the interest of taxpayers; and what is the amount by which taxpayers benefited in the tax year 2014–15. [HL932]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Crown Estate belongs to the reigning monarch 'in right of The Crown', that is, it is owned by the monarch for the duration of their reign, by virtue of their accession to the throne. But it is not the private property of the monarch - it cannot be sold by the monarch, nor do revenues from it belong to the monarch. The revenue surplus from the Estate is paid to the Consolidated fund. For 2014-15, this was £285.1million.

### **Data Protection**

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help people protect their personal data. [HL927]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government takes the protection of personal data very seriously and is committed to making

sure that the Information Commissioner has sufficient powers to ensure that organisations handle personal data appropriately and in accordance with the principles in the Data Protection Act 1998.

Over the last six months a number of steps have been taken to strengthen the Information Commissioner's powers; including:

- Extending the Information Commissioner's powers of compulsory audit to public sector NHS providers.
- Commencing section 56 of the Data Protection Act (DPA). This makes it a criminal offence for a person to require another person to use their subject access rights in the DPA to obtain and provide certain records as a condition of employment, or for providing a service, unless the relevant record is required by law or where it is justified in the public interest.
- Making it easier for the Information Commissioner to take action against companies that breach the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations by making nuisance calls.

### **Domestic Violence**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the factors contributing to reported increasing levels of domestic violence; and what action they propose to take to tackle and reduce such incidents. [HL922]

**Lord Bates:** The Government welcomes the fact that more victims of domestic abuse have the confidence to report this hideous crime. The prevalence of domestic abuse has remained flat since 2007/8 with an estimated 2.1 million victims of domestic abuse in the last year (data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales). The Government has driven improvements in the criminal justice system's response to domestic abuse resulting in a rise in police referrals, prosecutions and convictions for this terrible crime.

This Government is committed to ensuring that the police have the tools they need to tackle domestic violence and abuse and improve the protection available to victims. We have introduced Domestic Violence Protection Orders and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme to help break the cycle of abuse and we have introduced a new offence to criminalise coercive and controlling behaviour as part of the Serious Crime Act 2015. Following the report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in March 2014 criticising the police response to domestic abuse, every police force now has an action plan in place to improve how they police domestic abuse.

### **Employment and Support Allowance**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they have responded to the ruling of the Information



Commissioner regarding the publication of statistics on deaths related to Employment and Support Allowance benefit; and when they intend to publish this data. [HL871]

**Lord Freud:** The Department has lodged an appeal with the First Tier Tribunal against the Information Commissioner's decision notice of 30 April 2015.

The statistics the Department intend to publish will be pre-announced on the GOV.UK website.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, when they publish the statistics on the number of recipients of Employment and Support Allowance benefit who died between November 2011 and May 2014 who had been found fit for work or told they could move towards getting work, whether these figures will be in a form that will allow comparisons with previous statistics. [HL872]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, when they publish the statistics on the number of recipients of Employment and Support Allowance benefit who died between November 2011 and May 2014, whether they will be published in the same format as those published in 2012, and if not, why not. [HL873]

**Lord Freud:** The format of any publication is a matter for the Head of Profession of Statistics who ensures the required standards are followed. The publication is still in development and the final format has yet to be determined.

### Employment: Females

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Country-Specific Recommendations prepared by the European Commission, which found that there are too few women engaged in full-time work in the United Kingdom. [HL933]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government takes note of the Commission's findings and recommendations. Latest Labour Market Statistics showed female employment in the UK is at its highest ever rate (68.6%), which makes it the 5<sup>th</sup> highest female employment rate in the EU.

The Government is committed to helping working women and families. In the last Parliament legislation was enacted which enables eligible working parents to share up to 50 weeks of leave and up to 37 weeks of pay where the mother ends her maternity leave and/or her maternity pay early so that she can opt into the new Shared Parental Leave and Pay system with the child's father or her partner. All employees who have 26 weeks continuous service with their employer in the UK also now have the right to request flexible working. These measures enable

eligible employees to better balance work with other commitments, including childcare.

The UK Government is also providing women and families with additional childcare support:

- Currently funding 15 hours a week of free childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds, and for the 40% most disadvantaged 2 year olds.

- Committing to giving working parents of 3 and 4 year olds 30 hours of free childcare a week, with implementation starting in some areas in September 2016.

- Providing support for childcare costs of people on lower incomes, up to 70% of costs under the childcare element on working tax credits, which will rise to 85% from April 2016 under Universal Credit.

- Introducing Tax Free Childcare which will provide up to 1.8 million families across the UK with up to £2,000 of childcare support per year, per child.

### Eritrea: Emigration

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed with the government of Eritrea the case for seeking to relieve the current levels of migration across the Mediterranean by closing the borders in Eritrea. [HL958]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Addressing irregular migration requires a comprehensive plan that includes disrupting criminal trafficking and smuggling networks, and working with source countries to address the factors that cause migrants to leave their homes in the first place through developmental aid, addressing human rights abuses and tackling conflict.

We remain deeply concerned by the high levels of irregular migration from Eritrea and have stepped up our bilateral dialogue on this issue. Our dialogue has not included discussion of closing Eritrea's borders.

### Eritrea: Human Rights

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what response they have made to the recent report by the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea, in particular its findings regarding the failure of the rule of law, and the incidence of persecution, torture, forced labour and sexual enslavement of women, taking place within a "climate of impunity". [HL957]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We recognise the important work of the Commission of Inquiry and we share its concerns regarding human rights in Eritrea, in particular widespread arbitrary detention and shortcomings in the rule of law and respect for fundamental freedoms. We regret the Government of Eritrea's failure to receive the Commission in Asmara, which compelled the Commission in its report to rely on

witnesses who are outside the country and whose testimony may have been based on first-hand experience of Eritrea some time ago.

Eritrea continues to fall short of its international human rights obligations. We have called on Eritrea to honour these obligations through discussions under the UN Universal Periodic Review as well as the EU Article 8 Dialogue. We note that Eritrea has taken some positive steps in engaging with the international community on human rights, including the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in September 2014. We now call on the Government of Eritrea to follow through on these commitments with concrete action to strengthen the rule of law and to improve the human rights situation on the ground.

### Higher Education: Regulation

*Asked by Baroness Nye*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to review the higher education regulatory framework. [HL1038]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government keeps the higher education regulatory framework under review to ensure it continues to support a high quality higher education sector.

### Hinkley Point C Power Station

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the legal challenge by the government of Austria against the use of United Kingdom subsidies for the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station will delay the project. [HL1188]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government is confident that the European Commission's State aid decision on Hinkley Point C is legally robust and has no reason to believe that Austria has submitted a challenge that has any merit or would delay the project.

### Illegal Immigrants

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proportion of illegal migrants living in the United Kingdom who entered the United Kingdom on a visa. [HL1081]

**Lord Bates:** There are no government estimates on the number of illegal migrants currently living in the UK who entered the country on a visa. Any such estimation would be extremely difficult and there would be considerable uncertainty around it. Instead of producing such uncertain estimates, Her Majesty's Government is focusing on making it harder for people to live in the UK illegally and has introduced exit checks, which over time, will improve the ability to identify individuals who have overstayed.

### Illegal Immigrants: France

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when was the last time a Home Office Minister sat in a lorry cab, originating from the United Kingdom, driving through the port of Calais and observed first-hand the practical realities lorry drivers are experiencing. [HL913]

**Lord Bates:** There is regular Ministerial and official level contact with the haulage sector and their trade bodies, which provides clear insight of the experience of hauliers using the Channel ports. The Minister for Immigration recently hosted a series of round table discussions with industry to discuss the current situation in Northern France and how we can work better to address the challenges. The round tables focused on three key areas: the challenges facing the UK haulage sector; international engagement; and disruption to food supply businesses. The sessions were well attended by industry and international partners. We have a significant programme of work flowing from these sessions, much of which will involve close working with the haulage sector

### Immigration Controls: France

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by Lord Bates on 24 June (HL Deb, col 1591-3), how much they, the government of France, and the operator of the Channel Tunnel and terminal paid respectively towards the installation of fencing around parts of Calais and roads approaching the terminal, the provision of scanners and detection technology, and to the ongoing operating costs of these measures, including dog searches. [HL830]

**Lord Bates:** Port perimeter fencing installed in the autumn of 2014 and the current work to fence the Port approach road have been financed from the UK/France Joint Fund - established in September 2014 - including £12m from the UK Government. Border Force and the French Authorities meet their respective operating costs. On 2 July, the Home Secretary and the French Interior Minister reaffirmed the determination of both countries to strengthen and complete their joint strategy to deal with this common challenge, including by increasing the intervention fund to secure access to the Channel Tunnel.

In addition, the UK has invested £2 million to detect people hiding in lorries by upgrading vehicle scanning equipment with the latest technology; and a further £1million to increase the number of sniffer dogs stationed at Calais and other ports. The Government has also strengthened physical security further by investing nearly £200,000 in perimeter detection security cameras.

### Infectious Diseases

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research is being supported by Public Health England and the

Animal and Plant Health Agency into the global health and economic security threats posed by pandemics caused by emerging zoonoses and coronaviruses. [HL900]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The United Kingdom has robust systems in place to detect, assess and respond to infectious disease threats of both natural and deliberate origin. This was tested during the assessment of the application of the Global Health Security Agenda Assessment Tool and was considered to be an exemplar of good practice. These systems are particularly strong across Public Health England (PHE) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for emerging zoonotic threats, and the UK has been seen as one of the world leaders in putting One Health into action. Zoonotic diseases are included within the Government's National Risk Register as high risk and needing cross Government action to reduce the threat, mitigate the risk and respond to cases/outbreaks.

PHE undertakes a varied programme of research into infectious agents and medical tools required to detect, diagnose, recognise, and respond to outbreaks of infectious disease. PHE collaborates with academia on modelling threats posed by emerging zoonoses and assess the roles of cross-immunity and seasonal influenza vaccination on the emergence of pandemic strains. During the recent Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa, PHE conducted research on the design and assessment of containment equipment for safe diagnostics in West Africa; improving diagnosis, understanding pathogenesis, and assessing treatment/prevention approaches for Ebola virus disease in animal models and human clinical trials. This capability is and can be applied to all pathogens, including those which are zoonotic.

APHA is engaged in a number of research projects on the subject of zoonotic pathogens with pandemic potential. This includes: the rapid detection of coronaviruses, studies into the ability of H5N1 avian influenza viruses to infect, adapt and become transmissible in mammalian species and research into risks and pathways for the introduction of Chinese-origin H7N9 avian influenza virus into United Kingdom and European poultry. APHA is also engaged in various research projects with international and external collaborators, including European consortiums assessing new and emerging diseases.

### **Libya: Diplomatic Service**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government where the British Ambassador to Libya is currently based. [HL1129]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Ambassador to Libya is currently based in Tunis.

### **Ministers' Private Offices**

*Asked by Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which members of the Cabinet have established an extended ministerial office; and what are the names, skills and backgrounds of the staff recruited to serve in each. [HL916]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** No Extended Ministerial Offices have been established, but a number are being considered.

### **Mobile Phones: Fees and Charges**

*Asked by Lord Bowness*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they supported the decision of the Council of the European Union to postpone the implementation of the European Commission's proposal to abolish roaming charges by 2015 until 2018; and, if so, why. [HL938]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** UK has consistently pushed for faster reductions to roaming charges in the EU, leading to their abolition. I am therefore pleased that, on 29 June, the European Council, Parliament and Commission reached agreement on the Telecoms Single Market Package.

As a result, from June 2017 British visitors will no longer be charged extra to use their mobile phones anywhere in the EU. From June 2016 until the abolition of roaming charges, the amount providers can charge for roaming will be about 25% of current roaming tariffs for calls and data.

The UK has been central to shaping these negotiations, which will result in real benefits for UK consumers, demonstrating that the UK can achieve positive change in the EU when we work with determination with other Member States and the EU institutions.

### **MRSA**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to protect public health following the discovery of a strain of MRSA in pork products sold in British supermarkets, which is linked to the overuse of powerful antibiotics in intensive farm production. [HL878]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Livestock-associated methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (LA-MRSA) has been found worldwide and is not the same as the MRSA strains that normally cause healthcare-associated infections. If meat is stored, handled and prepared properly, the risk to people is very low and there are no known cases of people contracting LA-MRSA from eating meat.

The annual progress report and implementation plan for the UK five-year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy includes the measures on animal health to be taken over

the next four years to promote the responsible use of antibiotics. This is attached and available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-report-on-the-uk-five-year-amr-strategy-2014>

Regarding LA-MRSA specifically, there are a number of initiatives to reduce the risk, for example, Public Health England regularly reminds diagnostic laboratories of the need for continued vigilance and ensuring that MRSA isolates are submitted for further tests if there may be an association with farming. In addition, Defra and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate are leading a review of options for increased surveillance, which will be proportionate to the low public health risk. Defra is also considering additional guidance for farmers on how to reduce the risk of importing LA-MRSA into their farm. Furthermore Defra have previously worked with the National Pig Association and recommend that anyone importing breeding pigs and semen to Britain should have them screened for MRSA before importation.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

AMR Strategy [20141211 UK AMR annual report 2014 final (2).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-29/HL878>

## Muslim Brotherhood Review

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bridges of Headley on 22 June (HL433), what progress they have made in setting a timetable for the publication of the Muslim Brotherhood Review. [HL884]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government continues work to finalise the Counter Extremism Strategy, and intends to publish both it and the main findings of the Muslim Brotherhood Review this year.

## Northern Ireland Government

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in discussions with political parties in Northern Ireland on dealing with the past. [HL952]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland held a series of bilateral meetings with all the five parties in the Executive in recent weeks. She also hosted a Stormont House Agreement implementation review meeting with party leaders on 25 June 2015. Following this meeting, an implementation progress report has been published:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/6-month-progress-report-for-stormont-house-agreement>

The Stormont House Agreement must be delivered in full. The Government continues to make progress on delivering its responsibilities, including bringing forward

legislation in the autumn to establish new bodies to deal with the past – the Historical Investigations Unit, the Independent Commission for Information Retrieval and the Oral History Archive.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

SHA Implementation Progress Report  
[STORMONT\_HOUSE\_AGREEMENT\_PROGRESS\_REPORT\_25\_June\_2015.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-30/HL952>

## Railway Track

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many miles of new railway line they estimate will have been laid in the United Kingdom by 2020. [HL1127]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Her Majesty's Government is not able to make an estimate of the amount of new railway line to be laid by 2020. However, the Government is supporting £38billion of Network Rail spend from 2014/15 to 2018/19 and this includes £13billion on enhancements and £12billion on renewing life expired parts of the network.

## Railways: Electrification

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria were used for setting the priorities for improving the Great Western rail line, Midland Main Line and TransPennine rail line announced on 24 June; and what were the individual scores for each scheme. [HL867]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In the case of the Midland Main Line, the desired passenger benefits can be delivered in the near term through the capacity improvements already planned for Control Period 5. Electrification is paused pending Sir Peter Hendy's proposals on re-planning the delivery of enhancements.

In the case of North Trans Pennine Electrification east of Stalybridge a temporary pause pending Sir Peter's proposals will allow Network Rail to deliver wider development work in the region that will enable delivery of our more ambitious plans for the North.

We are prioritising the electrification of the Great Western Line as the new IEP trains on order will deliver significant benefits to passengers. They will benefit from shorter journey times, better reliability, improved comfort and an increase in the number of seats in the morning peak into London Paddington.

## Railways: Wales

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Network Rail has been given authority to undertake the next



stage of work on the South Wales Valleys line electrification following the agreement with the Welsh Government on funding in November 2014. [HL973]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Secretary of State for Transport announced on 25 June 2015 that Great Western was a top priority for delivery. We are committed to electrifying the Great Western Swansea to Cardiff main line and are contributing £125mn to the Welsh Government's Valley Lines electrification scheme. The delivery of the Welsh Valley Line Electrification scheme is a matter for the Welsh Government.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what stage in Network Rail's Governance for Railway Investment Projects planning process the plans to electrify the South Wales Valleys line have reached. [HL974]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Secretary of State for Transport announced on 25 June 2015 that Great Western was a top priority for delivery. We are committed to electrifying the Great Western Swansea to Cardiff main line and are contributing £125mn to the Welsh Government's Valley Lines electrification scheme. The delivery of the Welsh Valley Line Electrification scheme is a matter for the Welsh Government.

### Refugees: Mediterranean Sea

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why only five United Kingdom immigration workers were initially sent to assist the EU mission tackling migration in the Mediterranean. [HL893]

**Lord Bates:** Operation Triton, the EU's mission in the Mediterranean, has been co-ordinated by Frontex since its inception in November 2014. This limits our ability to support its activities as the UK is not a participant in the Frontex Regulation. The UK is able to support Frontex activities in an advisory capacity, although our seconded officers do not have the legal powers or protections afforded to officers from the Schengen countries. Frontex request resource from Member States, based on its assessment of the needs of its operations. The UK has responded positively to all requests from Frontex for UK support for their 2015 maritime operations in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean. Before the recent intensification in the EU response, Frontex had limited their request to the supply of five officers. Following the extraordinary European Council meeting on Migration in April, Frontex's budget and assets were increased for its operations in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean. In response, the UK was able to offer additional debriefers and screeners as well as HMS Bulwark and two cutters for search and rescue activities in Triton's increased operational area. In addition, the UK has provided significant support through other EU agencies. In particular, the UK has contributed more resource than any other Member State to practical efforts coordinated by the

European Asylum Support Office (EASO), totalling over 1,000 days over the last three years in support of EU efforts in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Cyprus. Further to this, up to 90 officers, from a number of UK agencies, will be deployed in the UK, the Mediterranean and Africa as part of the Organised Immigration Crime Task Force to pursue and disrupt the organised crime groups profiting from the people smuggling trade. The taskforce will exploit every opportunity at source, in transit countries and in Europe to tackle the gangs' criminal operations and better protect the UK from this threat.

### Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to replace benefit sanctions with community service, for those who are unemployed, disabled or in chronic bad health. [HL1119]

**Lord Freud:** There are no current plans to replace benefit sanctions with community service.

### South Sudan

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the adequate funding of the UN Humanitarian Air Service in South Sudan in order to facilitate access to hard-to-reach areas in the rainy season. [HL870]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK is the second largest bilateral donor to the humanitarian response in South Sudan, contributing more than £230m since the start of the crisis (including £60m to the regional response for South Sudanese refugees). This includes funding to the UN Humanitarian Air Service.

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are plans to increase funding for multi-year programmes focusing on resilience in South Sudan, in place of short-term projects. [HL887]

**Baroness Verma:** DFID has been providing multi-year resilience programming in South Sudan since 2012. Plans to increase this support with a new multi-year resilience programme are under consideration.

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to contribute to appeals for humanitarian assistance for South Sudan; and, if so, by how much. [HL888]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK is the second largest bilateral donor to the humanitarian response in South Sudan. In 2014, the UK committed £132.5m to the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan and a further £58.9 million to support South Sudanese refugees in the region. On 16 June 2015, the UK announced an additional

£40million in support of the humanitarian response in South Sudan.

### South Sudan: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on women of ongoing conflict in South Sudan. [HL869]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Accurate assessments are hard to come by, due to the limitations of access. However, we remain deeply concerned by the impact on women of the ongoing conflict. Figures provided by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) show that 55% of those who have fled to neighbouring countries since December 2013 have been female. In addition, according to various humanitarian Gender-Based Violence (GBV) assessments, women and girls in the conflict-affected areas have experienced multiple forms of GBV. Particularly disturbingly, the latest Human Rights Report published by the UN Mission in South Sudan on 30 June also reported extensive testimony of rape in conflict areas, particularly in Unity State, where at least 79 women are believed to have been subjected to sexual violence. I highlighted my deep concern at these reports on social media. Together with its international partners, including the UN, US, EU and Norway, the UK continues to urge the parties to negotiate a resolution to the conflict.

### South Wales Railway Line: Electrification

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current estimate of the timescale for completing the individual stages of the work electrifying the rail line to Swansea from London. [HL917]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As the Prime Minister stated on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015, this Government is committed to the electrification of Great Western line from Swansea to Cardiff and on to London.

The Secretary of State for Transport announced on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 that Great Western was his top priority for delivery. The Secretary of State also described some of the challenges Network Rail is facing. That is why he has asked the new chair of Network Rail to put forward proposals for replanning the enhancement programme. The chair is due to report to the Secretary of State in the Autumn and it would be wrong to pre-empt the outcome of this report.

### St Helena: Airports

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the planned opening date of St Helena Airport. [HL902]

**Baroness Verma:** The airport scheduled to open for commercial flights from the end of February 2016,

subject to completion of the remaining works and to meeting all regulatory requirements. An official opening ceremony is planned for later that year.

### State Retirement Pensions

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the latest estimate of the percentage of pensioners who will receive the full amount of the flat-rate State Pension from April 2016. [HL903]

**Baroness Altmann:** Nearly 90% of people reaching State Pension age in 2016/17 would have the full rate of the new State Pension, or more, if we include the amount of additional State Pension they opted out of or were opted out of when contracted out of SERPS or State Second Pension (S2P) (additional pension).

The percentage of pensioners reaching State Pension age in 2016/17 estimated to receive the full amount of the new State Pension directly from the state is around 37%. By 2020 this percentage will reach around 50% and by 2035 around 84%. Most people who contracted out of SERPS or S2P were required, as a condition of contracting out, to accrue an alternative private pension. This replaced the additional State Pension, which they were contracted-out of.

This reflects the fact that when contracted out they have either paid National Insurance Contributions at a lower rate, or some of the National Insurance contributions they paid were used to contribute to a private pension instead of the additional State Pension. They paid lower National Insurance into the National Insurance system, which reflected the fact that they were contributing to a private pension instead.

### Strategic Defence and Security Review

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to integrate their commitments on women, peace and security into the next Strategic Defence and Security Review; and whether they plan to consult on this matter. [HL908]

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to include training on protection of civilians and how to respond to survivors of sexual violence in the next Strategic Defence and Security Review; and whether they plan to consult on this matter. [HL909]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government is committed to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), including responses to conflict related sexual violence. This commitment was demonstrated by the launch in December 2014 of the UK Implementation Plan to accompany our National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS and my appointment in June by the Prime Minister, my

right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), as his Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict. The UK is also a strong advocate internationally for the protection of civilians in conflict, including ensuring that protection of civilians is integrated across both humanitarian and development work. All these agendas span multiple strands of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). The Cabinet Office is leading the consultation process for the SDSR, and will look to engage with our key allies, industry, academics, and a range of other interested parties.

## Sudan

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what changes there will be in the United Kingdom's relationship with the government of Sudan following elections judged by the Troika as unrepresentative of the will of the Sudanese people. [HL866]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Together with troika partners, the British Government has been clear in its assessment that Sudan's recent elections cannot be considered a credible expression of the will of the Sudanese people. We remain committed to supporting those Sudanese people who wish to peacefully advance a comprehensive and legitimate political process towards ending the conflicts and towards long-term stability in Sudan. To this end, we will continue to engage with the Government of Sudan, not least to raise our concerns around the ongoing conflicts and their impact, as well as migration and human rights, among other issues.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the international community's strategy for Sudan, its coherence, and the resources for supporting it. [HL868]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Whilst there is no formally agreed international strategy on Sudan, we work closely with likeminded partners in the Troika (the US and Norway) and the EU and to pursue a coherent approach. This is reflected in public statements such as those issued by the Troika and the EU during Sudan's recent elections. The international community, including the UK, continues to invest significant resources in supporting and protecting the people of Sudan, for example through the African Union-UN Hybrid Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur. In addition, the UK is a leading humanitarian donor in Sudan, with the majority of the Department for International Development's £47 million programme in 2015-16 focussed on the provision of humanitarian assistance.

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what investigations have taken place following the aerial

bombardments and attacks on civilians in Golo, in Jebel Marra district in Central Darfur, since January. [HL886]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) continues to follow the fighting in the Jebel Marra region. This is reflected in recent reports of the Secretary General on Darfur, which note reports of aerial bombardments in villages north of Golo in January 2015 as well as troop movements around Golo during March. However, UNAMID's ability to fully investigate has been hampered by access restrictions – an issue that the UK has raised repeatedly in the UN Security Council and with the Government of Sudan.

## Sudan: Rape

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to urge the UN Security Council to recommend that the International Criminal Court opens a specific investigation into the situation in the town of Tabit, North Darfur, following allegations that members of the Sudanese armed forces raped more than 220 girls and women on 31 October and 1 November 2014. [HL885]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The situation in Darfur has already been referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC) by the UN Security Council under UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005). As the prosecutor's investigation is still ongoing, it could encompass any new allegations, including Tabit. However, such a decision would be for the Office of the Prosecutor of the Court to take. The UK remains a strong supporter of the ICC and continues to call on the Government of Sudan to allow the UN unfettered access to Tabit to carry out a full and independent investigation.

## Trees: Imports

*Asked by Lord Framlingham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 23 June (HL368), how many young trees were imported for non-forest reproductive purposes, as monitored through the statutory notification schemes administered by the Animal and Plant Health Agency, in the planting seasons 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15. [HL979]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The data provided relates to all tree notifications received regarding imports under the statutory notification scheme, administered by the Animal and Plant Health Agency. This data combines the number of notifications from the start of the scheme in January 2013. These notifications cover the species elm, oak, ash, pine, plane and sweet chestnut from the dates they were added to the statutory notification scheme.

No notifications were received for ash, as movement restrictions have been in place since 2012 due to ash dieback.

This data does not distinguish whether a tree is young or not. Notification of age is not a requirement under the scheme and is therefore not recorded.

In summary, 3548 notifications were received covering approximately 1.6 million trees.

<i>Tree species</i>	<i>Ulmus (Elm)</i>	<i>Quercus (Oak)</i>	<i>Pinus (Pine)</i>	<i>Plantanus (Plane)</i>	<i>Castanea (Sweet Chestnut)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Notifications	77	2,371	778	188	134	3,548
Trees	8,802	1,117,696	424,948	10,983	35,158	1,597,587

### UN Mission in Darfur

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make representations at the UN Security Council for renewing the mandate for UNAMID to remain in Darfur, and for enhancing its capacity for civilian protection. [HL865]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK led recent Security Council negotiations on the renewal of the UN–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)'s mandate. We are pleased that the mandate was renewed with a unanimous vote on 29 June. In the resolution, the Security Council emphasised that the Mission must continue to focus on its strategic priorities, including Protection of Civilians. After the vote, the UK Permanent Representative to the UN, Matthew Rycroft, made an Explanation of Vote statement that is attached to this answer.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Explanation of Vote statement [Lords PQ 865 Explanation of Vote.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-29/HL865>

### Universities: Freedom of Expression

*Asked by Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for promoting freedom of speech in universities in the United Kingdom. [HL955]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The promotion of freedom of speech in universities is a legal obligation under the Education (No2) Act 1986, and is fully supported by the Government, alongside protecting staff and students from

being drawn into terrorism or violence and from being exposed to racial or religious hatred.

### Visas: Sports Competitors

*Asked by Baroness Doocey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether visas intended for sports people have been used to traffic children from Africa into the United Kingdom. [HL976]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office continually monitors all routes where there is a suspected risk of abuse.

*Asked by Baroness Doocey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have had any discussions with the Premier League and the Football Association about the issue of child trafficking to the United Kingdom using visas intended for sports people. [HL977]

**Lord Bates:** We have regular discussions with sporting bodies to ensure that immigration routes are being used as intended and not being used for abuse by either sponsors or migrants. Where we have evidence that immigration routes are being used to facilitate trafficking we take a robust response.

*Asked by Baroness Doocey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many victims of trafficking, if any, have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism having entered the United Kingdom at any time on a visa intended for sports people. [HL978]

**Lord Bates:** We are unable to provide the information requested as it would require a manual review of all referrals and associated records going back to 2009, which would only be achievable at a disproportionate cost.



## Written Answers

Tuesday, 14 July 2015

### Amyloidosis

Asked by **Lord Willis of Knaresborough**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on setting up a study to image amyloid deposition in systemic amyloidosis using hybrid positron emission tomography-magnetic resonance imaging; where the study is located; how many patients have been recruited; when the study is expected to complete its initial work; and where the results will be published. [HL993]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This is a single centre study at University College London Hospital. It has now been set up and one patient has been recruited and scanned. The current planned date for end of recruitment is 1 October 2016. It is anticipated that the data will be analysed and submitted for publication in a peer reviewed journal within a year of the end of recruitment.

Asked by **Lord Willis of Knaresborough**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place in the Library of the House any publications resulting from the phase 3 clinical trials approved for the potential treatment of systemic amyloidosis or multiple myeloma; and what is the National Institute of Health Research's assessment of progress in these areas. [HL995]

Asked by **Lord Willis of Knaresborough**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are currently any trials for systemic amyloidosis in humans being conducted by the National Institute of Health Research charities or the commercial sector. [HL996]

Asked by **Lord Willis of Knaresborough**

To ask Her Majesty's Government which of the four phase 2 or 3 clinical trials for systemic amyloidosis approved since 2004 are still ongoing; and whether any of the trials have produced sufficient positive outcomes to encourage commercial development. [HL997]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There are four trials for systemic amyloidosis that are designated as 'ongoing' in the United Kingdom. These are being conducted by two commercial sponsors, Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc and A.T. Development Switzerland Sarl (two studies), and one non-commercial sponsor, European Myeloma Network.

Clinical trial sponsors are required to publish a summary of their trial results to the EU Clinical Trials Register within one year of their trial completing. At that point, these results will become publically available on the EU Clinical Trials Register

The Department of Health, which funds the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), is a member of the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI). NCRI Clinical Studies Groups (CSGs) bring together clinicians, scientists, statisticians and lay representatives to coordinate development of a strategic portfolio of trials within their field. All CSGs interact with clinical research networks, funders (including NIHR) and researchers to develop studies aimed at improving outcomes for patients. The Haematological Oncology CSG has a Myeloma Subgroup and its 2013-14 annual report that includes an assessment of progress in these areas is attached and available on the NCRI website at:

<http://csg.ncri.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/NCRI-Haem-Onc-CSG-Annual-Report-2013-14.pdf>.

We cannot comment on commercial considerations. When the results are known, the commercial potential of these trial's products will be a matter for the respective trial sponsors.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

2013-14 Annual Report [NCRI-Haem-Onc-CSG-Annual-Report-2013-14.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-01/HL995>

### Civil Servants: Training

Asked by **Lord Hunt of Chesterton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the co-ordination of training of United Kingdom civil servants with those in European Union and European Economic Area countries. [HL940]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Civil Service HR co-ordinates training to provide for UK Civil Servants working in, or who need a working knowledge of, the EU and European Economic Area countries.

### Congenital Abnormalities

Asked by **Lord Rooker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the latest information they have regarding high risk groups suffering neural tube defects at birth. [HL1000]

Asked by **Lord Rooker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the take-up of advice given on National Health Service websites about preventing spina bifida is currently monitored. [HL1001]

Asked by **Lord Rooker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many live births where the child was diagnosed with spina bifida, hydrocephalus or anencephaly there have been in each of the past five years. [HL1002]

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the postcodes of mothers of babies born with congenital abnormalities are yet available on the British Isles Network of Congenital Anomaly Registers. [HL1003]

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for health equality of their current policy regarding the prevention of neural tube defect-affected pregnancies. [HL1004]

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any independent scientific advisory committee has been commissioned to study the causes and consequences of neural tube defect-affected pregnancies. [HL1005]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Information on high risk groups suffering neural tube defects at birth is not collected centrally.

There are no current mechanisms in place for monitoring the take-up of advice given on the NHS Choices website about preventing spina bifida.

The British Isles Network of Congenital Anomaly Registers (BINOCAR) collects information about the mother and child, including postcode of residence, mother's age, pregnancy length, pregnancy outcome, when and how the anomaly was identified and the details of each anomaly.

Information on congenital abnormalities including spina bifida, hydrocephalus and anencephaly is collected by the British Isles Network of Congenital Anomaly Registers. Data is currently available for 2009–2012.

The following table shows the number of live births for years 2009–2012

*Number of cases, birth prevalence (per 10,000 total births) and 95% CIs according to congenital anomaly subgroup; six BINOCAR registers (coverage: 36% of births in England and Wales): 2009–2012 – Live Births*

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Congenital anomaly				
Spina bifida	31	53	34	44
Hydrocephalus	48	85	72	84
Anencephalus and similar	4	4	1	6

In line with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines, health professionals use appropriate opportunities to advise all women who may become pregnant that they can most easily reduce the risk of having a baby with a neural tube defect by taking folic acid supplements. This information is also available on the NHS Choices website.

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) was, however, commissioned to provide advice to government on the impact of folic acid fortification to improve the folate status of women and therefore reduce the number of pregnancies affected by neural tube defects. This built on previous advice from SACN's predecessor the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy in 2000. The Government is currently considering the recommendations that SACN made alongside other information sources, including the latest folate status data and expects to make an announcement on this in due course.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the population of England to be covered by the National Congenital Anomaly and Rare Disease Registration Service. [HL1044]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The current plan for expansion of the Congenital Anomalies and Rare Disease Registration Service aims to achieve national coverage by April 2016, subject to review in the context of the forthcoming spending review.

## Crime

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the levels of hate crime in the United Kingdom; and what assessment they have made of the implications of such crimes for community cohesion. [HL1226]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is committed to providing robust and transparent data on hate crime. We have seen significant improvements to hate crime data including the inclusion of hate crime in National Crime Statistics and the Crime Survey of England and Wales.

The Government funds the National Community Tension Team which analyses hate crime, together with a wide range of information from local police areas and international events. They produce 'Operation Element' reports weekly to inform targeted threat assessments which inform the decisions of local managers. At times of increased tension this analysis will be boosted to produce more regular or detailed products. This process has been enhanced by national Information Sharing Agreements which allow for the mutual transfer of anonymous hate crime data with some civil society organisations.

As well as the need to reduce the harm caused to victims, we recognise such crimes also have an effect on broader communities and can lead to community tension if not addressed early. In order to address these issues all relevant Ministers are represented on a cross-Government Hate Crime Programme which includes criminal justice agencies and an Independent Advisory Group made up of victims, advocates and academics.

## Diabetes: Depressive Illnesses

Asked by *Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the annual cost of diabetes-related depression to the National Health Service. [HL968]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department has not made any estimate of the annual cost of diabetes-related depression to the National Health Service.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has estimated that approximately 15–25% of people with chronic physical health problems, such as diabetes, also meet diagnostic criteria for depression. This is reflected in NICE's *Diabetes in adults quality standard*, which sets out that people with diabetes should be assessed for psychological problems which should then be managed appropriately. A copy is attached.

## Drugs: Exports

Asked by *Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any United Kingdom pharmaceutical companies diverting the supply of drugs from the United Kingdom to overseas markets to take advantage of the strength of sterling. [HL1010]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government is aware of the parallel trade in medicines within the European Union, which is permitted under European legislation. The strong pound sterling makes it much less attractive for these traders to export from the United Kingdom to other member states and the export of medicines has therefore decreased in recent years.

## Employment: Autism

Asked by *Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts they are making to raise awareness of employing people with autism. [HL984]

Asked by *Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that organisations in the private sector employ people with autism. [HL985]

**Baroness Altmann:** The Government is acting to raise awareness regarding employment of people with autism and to support people on the autism spectrum to take up employment. For example,

The Government's Disability Confident campaign works with employers at a national and local level to help them to understand the benefits of employing disabled people, and promote good practice in recruitment and employment of disabled people, including people with autism.

DWP has worked in close partnership with the Hidden Impairment National Group (HING), a national network

of disabled people, medical professionals/ academics and disability specific organisations to produce an 'Uncovering Hidden Impairments' toolkit. This resource supports organisations in both the private and public sectors to confidently recruit and retain talented individuals with hidden impairment conditions.

The Department for Education is funding *Ambitious about Autism* (2015-16) to explore innovative ways of supporting young people with Autism to make the transition from school to further education, and the *Autism Education Trust* (2015-16) to promote the availability of training on Autism to schools, early years and further education staff, and to revise national standards for Autism provision and a competency framework for those who work with children with Autism.

Government has supported the development by NIACE of an employer toolkit that includes information to help employers to understand the benefits of employing apprentices with disabilities, and to access support.

We are currently working with Autism charities to build an autism network across DWP Jobcentre Plus Offices to ensure we can provide the best possible service to those with autism.

We have worked with Community Service Volunteers to introduce the Job-Shadowing Work Placement Initiative for young disabled people. The first tranche was very successful with 65% of young people having autistic spectrum conditions

The Government's Autism Strategy, and the updated Statutory Guidance published in March 2015, sets out in detail how Government will support the autism agenda nationally.

## Foreign Investment in UK: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent steps they have taken to encourage inward investment in Northern Ireland. [HL951]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Government works closely with the Executive to attract inward investment to Northern Ireland. The Economic Pact, 'Building a Prosperous and United Community' delivered a Northern Ireland International Investment Conference at which the Prime Minister made the keynote address; the first ever joint UK-Irish trade mission with ministers from London, Belfast and Dublin; and corporation tax legislation which completed its Parliamentary stages and became law just before the General Election.

## Former Prime Ministers: Security

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 25 June (HL714), why information about the cost of security protection for former Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers

could compromise the security of the individuals concerned; and whether such security protection extends to when they are abroad. [HL1110]

**Lord Bates:** I refer to my previous written answer: disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of and affect the security of the individuals concerned. Disclosing such details would not only reveal tactical policing decisions, but would compromise the safety of those arrangements since it would enable those wishing to circumvent them to form an assessment of the level of policing and protection being provided. Decisions about the protective security of former Prime Ministers abroad are made by the Cabinet Office chaired, Royal and Ministerial Visits Committee for Overseas Travel.

### Gibraltar: Spain

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incursions into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters by Spanish vessels there were in June. [HL1103]

**Earl Howe:** In June 2015, there were 45 unlawful incursions by Spanish State vessels into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW). The Royal Navy challenges all unlawful incursions. The United Kingdom also makes diplomatic protests to Spain in respect of these unlawful incursions, which are in violation of international law. These unlawful incursions are violations of, rather than threats to, UK sovereignty over BGTW.

### Homelessness: Children

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the implications for the education, health and well-being of children in homeless families; and what actions they propose to take to reduce the number of children in homeless families in bed and breakfast accommodation. [HL921]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Placing families in temporary accommodation avoids a homelessness crisis and means no child will end up on the streets. However, the Government has been clear that placing families with children in bed and breakfast accommodation for longer than 6 weeks is both unacceptable and unlawful and we recognise the disruption this can have on children. Authorities must by law consider the impact any change in the location of accommodation will have on a household such as proximity to education and medical facilities. A small number of authorities (5%) account for 80% of cases where the 6 week limit is exceeded. The use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families with children is less than a third of the peak it was in 2002.

We provided funding to authorities so they could test innovative and sustainable approaches that would tackle this issue. The lessons learned have been disseminated to other authorities across the country.

Households leaving temporary accommodation now spend on average 7 months less than they did in 2010.

### Housing: Fires

*Asked by Baroness Greengross*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of older people involved in house fires with an electrical source of ignition in England and Wales in the last five years for which figures are available. [HL1202]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Department has policy responsibility for England only.

The following table shows the number of casualties aged 65 years old and over who were involved in dwelling fires attended by fire and rescue services in England, where there was reported to have been an electrical power source involved in ignition of the fire. There was incomplete data for 2009/10 so this has not been included:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Casualties aged 65 and over</i>
2010/11	1,116
2011/12	1,132
2012/13	1,062
2013/14	949

Casualties include fatalities, hospital admissions, and cases where first aid was administered or precautionary checks recommended. The ages of people involved are only reported when they are casualties, and so we do not hold information on the total number of fires involving older people.

An electrical source of ignition has been interpreted as where the power source involved in the fire was reported as being electricity, although these figures will include incidents where the cause of the fire was not necessarily a direct result of the electrical source – for example, including careless handling, placing articles too close to appliances, and cooking.

Data are as reported on the Incident Recording System (IRS) by fire and rescue authorities. 2009/10 was the first year of the IRS and totals are slightly underreported.

### Illegal Immigrants

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to tighten control of illegal immigration, in particular in the light of recent events at Calais. [HL1078]

**Lord Bates:** The Government is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and effective border. This includes a rigorous system of checks upon arrival. The Home Secretary and French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve set out a number of commitments in a joint declaration, on 20 September 2014, to tackle problems at



the port of Calais. This included £12 million from the UK Government to help reinforce security.

We continue to work with the French Government to implement the practical solutions that have been agreed. On 2 July, the Home Secretary and the French Interior Minister reaffirmed the determination of both countries to strengthen and complete their joint strategy to deal with this common challenge, including by increasing the intervention fund to secure access to the Channel Tunnel. We are also addressing the factors that pull illegal immigration to the UK, through the Immigration Act 2014. The Act puts the law firmly on the side of those who respect it, not those who break it. It does this by stopping migrants using public services to which they are not entitled, reducing the pull factors which encourage people to come to the UK for the wrong reasons, and making it easier to remove people who should not be here.

The UK is also playing a leading role in pushing for comprehensive, long-term action through the EU and the UN to tackle the causes of illegal immigration and the organised trafficking gangs behind it, as well as increasing support and protection for those who need it in North and East Africa. Above all, we need to break the link between getting on a boat and achieving residence in Europe.

### Immigrants: Tuberculosis

*Asked by Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether latent tuberculosis infection screening is incorporated into routine medical checks at immigration centres. [HL969]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** People admitted to immigration removal centres (IRCs) are not currently screened for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). However, a national partnership agreement between Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE), NHS England and Public Health England (PHE) published in April 2015 committed all three organisations to work together to improve the pro-active detection, surveillance and management of infectious diseases in IRCs and improve capability to detect and respond to outbreaks and incidents. A copy of the 'Partnership Agreement between Home Office Immigration Enforcement, NHS England & Public Health England' is available at the following link and is attached.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/04/hoie-partnership-final.pdf>.

A working group on LTBI among detainees in IRCs is being established this summer by PHE (health and justice, travel and migrant health and tuberculosis (TB) sections) to explore these issues. This work will contribute to the overarching joint PHE and NHS five year TB strategy for England which was published in January 2015. A copy of 'Collaborative Tuberculosis Strategy for England, 2015-2020' is available at the following link and is attached.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collaborative-tuberculosis-strategy-for-england>.

Included among several identified areas for priority action are: tackling TB in under-served populations (including migrants and those in secure and detained settings) and systematic implementation of new entrant LTBI screening.

PHE will work to provide expert advice to NHS England and HOIE on how to implement LTBI screening in IRCs once this work has been completed.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Collaborative Tuberculosis Strategy for England  
[Collaborative\_TB\_Strategy\_for\_England\_2015\_2020\_.pdf]

Partnership agreement [hoie-partnership-final.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-30/HL969>

### Immigration Rules

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what documentation a non-European Union citizen resident in another EU country requires in order to (1) enter, and (2) reside in, the United Kingdom. [HL1075]

**Lord Bates:** A non-EU citizen who is not a family member of an EU citizen is required to present a valid national passport or other document which satisfactorily establishes identity and nationality and where required by the Immigration Rules additionally a UK visa or evidence of Leave to Remain in order to enter and reside in the UK.

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what documentation a non-European Union citizen who is resident in another EU country, and is a family member of an EU citizen, requires to (1) enter, and (2) reside in, the United Kingdom. [HL1076]

**Lord Bates:** A non-EU citizen who is a family member of an EU citizen is required to present a valid national passport or other document which satisfactorily establishes identity and nationality along with evidence of their right to enter and reside in the UK as required by the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006.

### Licensing Laws

*Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the decision taken in February not to allow local councils to set their own local alcohol licensing fees as provided for in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. [HL1056]

**Lord Bates:** The Government's position is the same as that set out in the response to the consultation on locally

set fees, published on 26th February of this year. The Local Government Association is taking forward work to provide better evidence of licensing authority's costs. The Government will review whether to implement locally-set licensing fees when the necessary evidence is available.

### Life Peers: Public Appointments

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to (1) refrain from making any new recommendations for new peerages for Liberal Democrats, and (2) make recommendations for new peerages for UKIP; and if not, why not. [HL954]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** I refer the noble Lord to my written answer of 23 June 2015 (HL371, HL372, HL373 and HL509), which I attach for ease of reference. Appointments remain a matter for the Prime Minister, who has committed to keeping party peers under review.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL371, HL372, HL373, HL509 [HL371, HL372, HL373, HL509.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-30/HL954>

### Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of mental health resources and support currently available to young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. [HL1061]

*Asked by Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts they are making to address the lack of access to mental health services for young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. [HL1064]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department has not made an assessment of the level of mental health resources and support currently available to young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. Commissioners and providers of NHS services are required to ensure that the services they commission or provide operate in such a way to meet the needs of diverse groups, including people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

The Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Taskforce considered the mental health needs of all children and young people. As part of this work, a specific group was set up to look at the needs of vulnerable groups and inequalities. A report from this group was published alongside the *Future in mind* report.

The Department is commissioning a new prevalence survey for children and young people's mental health. We

anticipate that the new survey will report on ethnicity, which would provide us with more up-to-date information on the mental health needs of children and young people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups.

Difficulties may arise preventing access to mental health services by members of some communities due to the stigma attached to mental illness among those communities. We believe that Time to Change, a joint anti-stigma campaign led by Mind and Rethink, is addressing this issue and we are considering how best to help.

*Asked by Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to make additional resources available to mental health services in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, and if so, what resources they will make available. [HL1062]

*Asked by Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of early intervention and preventative mental health services and the extent to which these are used by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. [HL1063]

*Asked by Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the Ethnic Inequality and Mental Health Consultation by Lankelly Chase Foundation, what efforts they are making to address the dissatisfaction felt within the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic mental health sector with the Government's lack of commitment to address ethnic inequalities in mental health. [HL1065]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Everyone should be able to access mental health services according to need. However, we know that there are inequalities in the access to mental health services. For example, older adults, men, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and those who are Deaf are not accessing services in the numbers predicted by prevalence studies. The National Health Service is leading on work on equality of access. We are listening to people with experience of mental health within BAME communities and continuing to make the changes needed to ensure equality throughout mental health services.

There are no plans to make additional resources available for mental health services in BAME communities. However, planning requirements for 2015-2016 require clinical commissioning groups to invest additionally in mental health in line with the growth in their overall funding allocation, which should benefit all communities.

In July 2014, the Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health published guidance for commissioners of mental health services for those from black and minority ethnic communities which is attached and can be found at the following link:

<http://www.jcpmh.info/wp-content/uploads/jcpmh-bme-guide.pdf>

The Department has been working with NHS England and commissioners to disseminate this guidance which describes what 'good' mental health services for people from BAME communities look like.

One of the key priorities of the work in updating the *Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice*, which was published in January 2015, was to eliminate discrimination, including for people from BAME communities. The Department's published Equality Analysis *Equality for all: Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice* sets out a range of additional guidance that has been included aiming to address concerns raised by BAME stakeholders and others.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Joint Commissioning Panel - Mental Health guidance [Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health BME Guidance.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-02/HL1062>

## Military Aid

Asked by *Lord Craig of Radley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 1 July (HL754), what marginal cost amounts will be credited to the defence budget for providing such humanitarian assistance in Sierra Leone, Nepal and the Mediterranean; and, in each case, what percentage of the total cost of this assistance to the defence budget those marginal costs represent. [HL1117]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence has received £28.8 million for the marginal costs associated with providing humanitarian assistance in Sierra Leone. While costs are still being refined, the Ministry of Defence expects to receive up to £5 million for marginal costs incurred in support to the Nepal earthquake relief, and up to £11 million for costs associated with the deployment of HMS Bulwark and Merlin helicopters to the Mediterranean for search and rescue activities.

As there is a standing arrangement for the Ministry of Defence to recover the marginal costs associated with support to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, the total costs are not available.

## Monitor: Employment Agencies

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many agency staff Monitor has used since 2010; and at what cost. [HL1094]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Monitor use agency staff to temporarily fill administrative and clerical roles according to the business needs of the organisation, providing cover for vacancy, holiday and sickness.

The table below shows Monitor's approximate average headcount for agency staff between 2010-11 and 2014-15. The total cost over this period was £1.564 million including VAT.

To note, there is some discrepancy in the data as collection methodology changed in 2011, when it started to be collected monthly.

*Figures for headcount and spend on agency staff:*

	Average Headcount	Cost, £000 incl VAT
2010-11	5.5	160**
2011-12	8	235**
2012-13	13	385*
2013-14	12.5	418
2014-15	10.5	366
Sum	50	1,564
Average	10	313

\* Extrapolation of full year position from incomplete data

\*\* Extrapolation based on trends

## NHS England

Asked by *Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what specific role NHS England has in supporting Clinical Commissioning Groups; and what plans, if any, they have to change this role. [HL1206]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) commission the majority of NHS services in England. As such, NHS England is responsible for ensuring that every CCG can access excellent affordable commissioning support services. Its principal vehicles for delivering this are through the Lead Provider Framework for commissioning support which enables CCGs to draw down a range of support services from nine high quality providers and through the oversight of NHS Commissioning Support Units, which NHS England hosts.

NHS England also has a statutory duty to produce commissioning guidance, which CCGs must have regard to, and continues to promote good commissioning through its CCG assurance framework.

NHS England continues to review its support of CCGs to ensure they are well supported organisations. There are no immediate plans to change this offer.

## Pancreatic Cancer: Diagnosis

Asked by *Lord Aberdare*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the number, and (2) the proportion, of pancreatic cancer patients whose diagnosis is made following an emergency admission;

and how those figures compare with patients of other cancer types. [HL964]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Routes to Diagnosis study defines a methodology by which the route the patient follows to the point of diagnosis can be categorised, in order to examine demographic, organisational, service and personal reasons for delayed diagnosis.

Administrative Hospital Episode Statistics data are combined with cancer waiting times data, data from the cancer screening programmes and cancer registration data from the National Cancer Data Repository.

Using these datasets every case of cancer registered in England which was diagnosed in 2006-2010 is categorised into one of eight 'Routes to Diagnosis'.

The methodology is described in detail in the British Journal of Cancer article *Routes to Diagnosis for cancer - Determining the patient journey using multiple routine datasets*, which can be found at the following link and is also attached.

<http://www.nature.com/bjc/journal/v107/n8/full/bjc2012408a.html>

Emergency presentations are defined as "an emergency route via A&E, emergency GP referral, emergency transfer, emergency admission or attendance." More detail can be found in the attached technical document.

Data on all malignant neoplasms (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) and pancreatic cancer was taken from the "Routes to diagnosis 2006-2010 workbook (a)" – this can also be found in the attached article.

The Emergency Presentation Route is the principle route to diagnosis for patients with pancreatic cancer. This reflects the lack of easily recognisable symptoms of early disease, with advanced disease often presenting with the acute onset of jaundice.

The percentage of emergency presentations ranges from 3% for melanoma to 63% for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

*Table 1: Percentage of diagnoses by emergency presentation route, England, persons, 2006-2010*

	<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>Number of cases by emergency presentation route</i>	<i>Percentage by emergency presentation route</i>
	<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>(b/a)x100</i>
All malignant neoplasms (excl. non-melanoma skin cancer)	1,272,584	291,391	23%
Pancreas	34,012	16,460	48%

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Routes to Diagnosis for cancer [Routes to diagnosis for cancer.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-30/HL964>

## Pharmacy

*Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether NHS England has recently received any reports of interruptions in the supply of drugs from United Kingdom pharmaceutical companies to United Kingdom pharmacies. [HL1009]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In the United Kingdom, responsibility for the security of supply of medicines lies with the Department of Health, rather than NHS England. The Department receives reports from the pharmaceutical industry about issues which may potentially interrupt the supply of drugs that may affect United Kingdom pharmacies on a regular basis. We work closely with pharmaceutical companies, NHS England and clinicians in order to mitigate the impact of any shortages on patient care.

## Rescue Services: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Rogan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 30 June (HL756), in each of the years 2010 to 2014, on how many occasions an air-rescue helicopter was flown from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland to aid civil authorities. [HL1106]

**Lord Dunlop:** The number of taskings of helicopters from the Republic of Ireland to assist HM Coastguard both in maritime and inland incidents in Northern Ireland in each of the years 2010 to 2014 is shown below:

2010	10
2011	48
2012	41
2013	36
2014	26

*Asked by Lord Rogan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 30 June (HL755), in each of the years 2010 to 2014, on how many occasions an air-rescue helicopter was flown from the mainland to Northern Ireland to aid civil authorities. [HL1107]

**Lord Dunlop:** The number of taskings of helicopters from Great Britain to assist HM Coastguard both in maritime and inland incidents in Northern Ireland in each of the years 2010 to 2014 is shown below:



2010	2
2011	14
2012	8
2013	13
2014	14

### Roads: Damage

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 25 June (HL579), whether the currently used methods of calculating road wear are subject to adjustment to account for roads that are structurally unsound, vehicles that are unevenly or excessively loaded, vehicles that exceed speed limits, and inclines, roundabouts and other road features. [HL1172]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The methods for calculating road wear on the Strategic Road Network take account of the cumulative effects of vehicle loading and speeds. The most important factor is vehicle loading. Road inclines, roundabouts and other road features are not explicitly taken into account, but the overall approach is based on much empirical evidence from national and international sources, which shows how pavements wear in real life conditions.

The change to the mix of traffic is regularly monitored to adjust the wear factor. It is supplemented by monitoring vehicle axle loads at sample spots on the network, such as roads near port entries, freight distribution centres and weigh-in-motion sites. Current design and maintenance standards have enabled development of long life pavements on most of the network, requiring no substantial structural work so long as the road surface is replaced at appropriate points. Current road condition survey programme and maintenance strategies aim to ensure that there is no structurally unsound road pavement.

### Saudi Arabia: Yemen

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support the United Kingdom is providing to the government of Saudi Arabia in its military campaign in Yemen. [HL1125]

**Earl Howe:** We are not participating directly in Saudi-led military operations in Yemen, but we are providing technical support, precision-guided weapons and exchanging information with the Saudi Arabian armed forces through pre-existing arrangements.

In addition to the personnel who continue to provide support for equipment supplied, we have a small number of liaison personnel in Saudi and coalition air and maritime headquarters. This includes personnel in the

Maritime Coalition Coordination Centre in the region supporting the delivery of humanitarian aid into Yemen.

### Small Businesses: Audit

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data they used to estimate the savings made from enabling small businesses to decide whether their accounts need to be audited. [HL1015]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Data on company size and audit fees was sourced from the "FAME" database, Bureau van Dijk. The data was used for both of the final impact assessments approved by the Regulatory Policy Committee in the last Parliament on changes to the law to enable more companies to decide whether or not their accounts need to be audited.

The impact assessment on the audit changes (including for small businesses) in the Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts and Audit Exemptions and Change of Accounting Framework) Regulations 2012 is available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2301/impacts/2014/286>

The impact assessment on all the changes in the Companies, Partnerships and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2015 is available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/980/impacts/2014/424>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Audit Changes [ukia\_20140286\_en.pdf]

Changes in the Companies. Partnerships and groups [ukia\_20140424\_en.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-01/HL1015>

### Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential risks in the United Kingdom to (1) public health, (2) public finances, and (3) small businesses, from the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP); and whether they are considering any opt-outs from TTIP for any sectors likely to be damaged by the agreement. [HL1133]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** The Prime Minister, the European Commission and the US government have all confirmed that the EU-US Free Trade Agreement will pose no threat to the provision of key UK public services, such as NHS healthcare, and EU countries will be free to decide how they run their public health systems. The agreement could, however, benefit the UK economy by up to £10 billion a year in the long run, and should

therefore benefit the public finances as well as businesses and workers. Small businesses in particular will benefit from removing unnecessary barriers to trade.

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what legislation will have to be put before Parliament to give effect to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in the United Kingdom. [HL1134]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** The EU-US Free Trade Agreement is expected to be a mixed agreement to which the UK will individually be a party. In that case before it can come fully into force, it will be subject to agreement by each Member State. In the UK this does not require legislation, instead Parliament will receive the complete draft text of the agreement and can scrutinise it through debates in both Houses. We will not know for certain whether any implementing legislation will be necessary until the agreement is closer to completion.

## Vitamin B12

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to find an alternative and reliable test to assess the vitamin B12 status of the population; and what level of false high results the current test provides. [HL1032]

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review how pernicious anaemia and other symptoms of vitamin B12 deficiency in the United Kingdom population are diagnosed and treated, particularly taking into account the neurological and mental health impact of any failure to diagnose quickly and accurately; and, if not, why not. [HL1033]

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that a reliable test to assess the vitamin B12 status of the United Kingdom population is made available as a means to prevent serious and irreversible neurological damage before any mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid is introduced. [HL1034]

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the frequency at which patients with pernicious anaemia require vitamin B12 replacement therapy by injection; whether they have any evidence that patients are purchasing additional supplies from unregulated sources; and whether they will review current guidance. [HL1035]

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have assessed the social and economic costs of misdiagnosis

or late diagnosis of pernicious anaemia and other vitamin B12 deficiencies; and, if so, what they consider them to be. [HL1036]

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to replace the current test for human vitamin B12 status with the Active B12 (holotranscobalamin) test; and if not, why not. [HL1042]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The diagnosis and treatment of pernicious anaemia, the result of a vitamin B12 (cobalamin) deficiency, is well established and reported in the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) guidance document, *Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of Cobalamin and Folate disorders*, which was updated in May 2014. A copy of the BCSH guidance document is attached.

The BCSH operates independently of the Department and NHS England and produces evidence based guidelines for both clinical and laboratory haematologists on the diagnosis and treatment of haematological disease, drawing on the advice of expert consultants and clinical scientists practicing in the United Kingdom. It would be for the BCSH, not the Department, to consider whether any adjustments to current best practice, in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with pernicious anaemia were needed, including whether any new or additional tests were appropriate.

The BCSH guidance sets out that cobalamin status is the recommended first line diagnostic test. The Department has no data relating to false positive results in relation to the test. The guidance also states that clinical picture is the most important factor in assessing the significance of the test results.

When anaemia is diagnosed, most patients respond well to treatment through quarterly intramuscular injection of vitamin B12. Whilst some patients with pernicious anaemia might prefer to have more frequent injections, or for other forms of vitamin B12 to be self-administered, these are matters for individual patients to discuss with their general practitioners.

Although the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is currently reviewing claims made by some clinics that are administering vitamins and minerals intravenously for nutritional therapy purposes, the agency has not encountered any clinics making claims to treat pernicious anaemia. In addition, the Department does not have any information regarding patients purchasing additional supplies of B12 from unregulated sources.

Regarding the mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition recommended a number of measures to ensure monitoring and surveillance of the impact of fortification of flour, should it be implemented. This included appropriate systems to monitor any potential adverse effects, including cancer and a review of the evidence on benefits and postulated risks after five years. The National Diet and Nutrition Survey monitors folate intakes and the most

recent data, which was published earlier this year, will be carefully considered alongside other information sources before any decision is made on mandatory fortification.

The Department has made no assessment of the social and economic costs of misdiagnosis or late diagnosis of pernicious anaemia and other vitamin B12 deficiencies.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

BSCH Guidance [colbalaamin and folate disorders.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-01/HL1032>

# Written Answers

Wednesday, 15 July 2015

## Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have paid compensation to the next of kin of the Afghan interpreters killed, or to those who were disabled, while working for the United Kingdom armed forces in Afghanistan. [[HL1185](#)]

**Earl Howe:** We are grateful to all locally-employed staff working for the United Kingdom Armed Forces who have contributed to the success of our operations in Afghanistan. There are arrangements in place to compensate all those who have suffered significant injury during the course of their employment and the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and whilst working with us in Afghanistan.

## Africa: Refugees

Asked by *Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 17 June (HL214), what was the outcome of the meetings to discuss irregular migration at the African Union Summit in June. [[HL1132](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** At the African Union (AU) Summit in June the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge), discussed tackling irregular migration with a number of African ministers as well as the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security. He made clear our desire to work with African partners on a comprehensive solution to the migration crisis. The Summit Declaration reaffirmed the commitment by African governments to addressing irregular migration, including combating human trafficking and people smuggling.

The British Government will now work closely with EU and AU partners ahead of the Valletta Summit in November to develop proposals for action to disrupt smuggling and trafficking networks; strengthen cooperation on returns; and address the root causes of migration.

## Agriculture

Asked by *The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the economic value of the agricultural sector to the economy; and how many jobs it provides. [[HL1124](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In 2014 the contribution to the economy of UK agriculture, as measured by gross value added at basic price, was £9.2 billion.

The number of people employed on agricultural holdings in the UK on 1st June 2014 was 181,000. This includes salaried managers, regular and casual workers.

An additional 294,000 self-employed principal farmers also worked on agricultural holdings in the UK, giving a total of 476,000 or 1.43% of the total UK workforce.

*Table 1: The number of people working on farms in the UK June 2014*

	<i>Number of people ('000 head)</i>
Salaried managers, regular and casual workers	181
Principal farmers, partners, directors and spouses	294
Total number of people working on farms	476

## Bahrain: Military Bases

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether basing United Kingdom warships in Bahrain is compatible with that country's human rights record. [[HL1244](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has had a naval presence in Bahrain since the 1950s which has supported naval patrols operating in and around the Gulf. Under a new arrangement signed in December 2014 by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), the UK and Bahrain agreed to working together to enhance the existing facilities at the port. This arrangement is fully in accordance with the UK's international human rights obligations, which the Government takes extremely seriously.

The UK greatly values its partnership with Bahrain on regional security issues, which forms an important part of our wider bilateral relationship with the Government of Bahrain. In addition, we are providing a range of technical assistance to support the Government of Bahrain in its reform programme, aimed at strengthening human rights and the rule of law.

## Bangladesh: Females

Asked by *Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are ensuring that pledges made at the Girl Summit 2014 by other countries, and in particular Bangladesh, are being met. [[HL1099](#)]

**Baroness Verma:** The Girl Summit, co-hosted with UNICEF in London in July 2014, secured over 180 commitments, including 43 governments. We are working with UNICEF to follow up with governments and other participants on progress since the Summit. A summary of



these achievements will be available for the anniversary of the Summit.

Over the last year the UK Government has also been working with UN partners, civil society and national Governments, including the Government of Bangladesh, to support countries to implement these commitments. Bangladesh held its own Girl Summit in October 2014, are making legal revisions to the 1929 Child Marriage Restraint Act and finalising the National Plan of Action for Ending Child Marriage.

### **British Nationality: English Language**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 30 June (HL705), how many organisations tendered in the competitive procurement exercise that secured two Concession Service Providers of English language testing in the United Kingdom, and one overseas. [HL1092]

**Lord Bates:** Four organisations tendered for the Secure English Language Testing competitive procurement exercise.

### **Burma: Internally Displaced People**

*Asked by Baroness Goudie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UN and international aid agencies face any restrictions by the government of Burma in delivering aid to internally displaced people in areas of Burma not under government control. [HL1055]

**Baroness Verma:** UN and international agencies have reported restrictions on delivering aid to internally displaced people in areas of Burma not under government control in Kachin State. Aid is reaching those in need and the UK is one of the largest donors having allocated over £17 million for humanitarian assistance for internally displaced persons (IDP) in Kachin and Northern Shan States, including in non-government controlled areas since 2012. The UK regularly presses the government on the need to ensure aid reaches those in need. On 8-11 June a DFID team visited Kachin, including non-government controlled areas and raised humanitarian access with the Chief Minister for Kachin.

### **Business: Regulation**

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data they used to estimate the announced savings of £10 billion for businesses over the last four years as a result of cutting red tape. [HL1013]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Ninth Statement of New Regulation, published December 2014, lists all regulation and deregulation in scope of One-in, One-out and One-in, Two-out. These are the measures used in the analysis of net savings for business. They add up to £2.2bn annual

ongoing savings, or £10bn when measured cumulatively over the Parliament.

The calculations for the value of each individual measure is set out in the published Impact Assessment associated with that measure, and validated by the independent Regulatory Policy Committee.

### **China: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of suffering within the Uyghur communities and the pressure put on Muslims in China during the month of Ramadan. [HL1141]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Although freedom of religion or belief is guaranteed under the Chinese constitution, we remain concerned about restrictions to this right. We continue to be concerned about the treatment of Muslims, in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in particular, including restrictions on the celebration of Ramadan and Islamic dress. We regularly raise our concerns with the Chinese authorities.

China is bound, as a member of the UN Human Rights Council, to respect the international commitments to which it is a party, including those related to freedom of religion or belief. Freedom of religion or belief remains one of this Government's core human rights priorities and we continue to support its development globally.

### **Conflict Prevention**

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of recent events in Tunisia, what re-appraisal they have made of their strategy to take on board the lessons of the Arab spring, set out in the Building Stability Overseas Strategy, with regard to (1) early warning, (2) rapid crisis prevention and response, and (3) investing in upstream prevention. [HL1046]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Early warning systems and policies aimed at building stability overseas are continually under review to enable the British Government to respond more rapidly and more effectively to new cases of conflict and instability.

Upstream prevention remains at the heart of the Government's approach to fragile and unstable countries and regions. UK conflict funding for 2015/16 for the Middle East/North Africa region was increased substantially to respond to conflict drivers in the region.

Government work in the Middle East and North Africa includes programmes on countering violent extremism, strengthening border management, and improving the effectiveness of our partner's domestic counter-terrorism work.

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of development aid was spent on the Building Stability Overseas Strategy in 2014-15. [HL1047]

**Baroness Verma:** UK development assistance contributes to delivering the Building Stability Overseas Strategy by tackling the short and long-term drivers of instability, supporting stronger and more legitimate institutions and societies, helping to meet basic needs and create opportunities for social and economic development for all, including women and girls. In 2013, 43% of UK Official Development Assistance was spent in Fragile and Conflict Affected States (FCAS), where the need to build stability is most pressing. Examples of DFID programmes:

- In Nigeria, the Stability and Reconciliation Programme (£38m, 2011-2016), aims to reduce incidence and impact of violent conflict.

- DFID's support to the multi-donor Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) (£256.8m 2014-17) helps the Afghan government to provide basic services, and thus improve confidence in its ability to meet Afghan people's expectations.

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what changes they have made to their list of prioritised countries where (1) risks were perceived to be high, (2) United Kingdom interests were most at stake, and (3) it was known the United Kingdom could have most impact, since the Building Stability Overseas Strategy was published in July 2011. [HL1050]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There have been many changes since the establishment of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy in 2010 as the process of determining priorities is dynamic to reflect global realities.

The National Security Council has agreed a range of country and regional strategies, and annually agrees funding allocations under the Conflict Stability and Security Fund.

This prioritisation process takes into account risks of instability, UK interests and the potential impact of activities. Beyond the annual exercise, allocations and priority countries are continually under review to enable the Government to respond more effectively to new cases of conflict and instability.

### Council Tax Benefits

*Asked by Baroness King of Bow*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 6 November 2014 (HL2301) and 9 March 2015 (HL5056), whether they will now publish the detailed terms of reference for the independent review of the impact of the abolition of Council Tax Benefit; and who has been appointed to undertake that review. [HL1155]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The timetable, coverage, process for data collection and detailed terms of reference for the review will be agreed and published in due course.

### Cybercrime

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that police forces are properly trained to respond to cybercrime. [HL1286]

**Lord Bates:** Cyber attacks, including cyber crime, are a Tier One threat to national security, and the Government is investing £860 million over five years through the National Cyber Security Programme (NCSP) to respond. Of this, over 10% is being invested in building law enforcement capabilities to tackle cyber crime. This has been used to build capability at the national, regional, and local level. NCSP funding is being used to train officers in the National Cyber Crime Unit within the National Crime Agency (NCA), and cyber teams within each of the Regional Organised Crime Units so that officers are able to investigate the most serious cases of cyber crime. Over 3,500 NCA officers have completed Digital Awareness training, as part of equipping the next generation of highly skilled digital detectives.

We are also delivering training in cyber crime to officers in local police forces. The College of Policing has designed four training modules on cyber crime aimed at police officers and staff, on cyber, digital and social media. Since they were rolled out in 2013, over 150,000 of these modules have been completed. The College and police forces have also been delivering a classroom-based course to police investigators, which gives them the understanding of how to exploit intelligence and evidential opportunities offered by technology, social networking and communications data.

### Dental Services: Fees and Charges

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the Which? investigation that found that prospective NHS dental patients are being forced to pay a deposit before being allowed to book an appointment. [HL1221]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Patients may not be charged a deposit for National Health Service care. NHS dental charges are specified in regulations and may only be levied once a course of treatment has begun. Asking for a deposit or any other advance payment before the course of treatment has begun is a breach of contract. The Department expects NHS England, which is responsible for commissioning NHS dental services, to act appropriately where there is evidence that patients have been mischarged.

### Egypt: Capital Punishment

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Egypt about the number of death sentences issued in

that country since July 2013; and what responses, if any, they have received. [HL1242]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** It is the long-standing policy of the British Government to oppose the death penalty in all circumstances. We have regularly raised our concerns about the death sentences issued in Egypt at both Ministerial and official level. On 17 May the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised our concerns with the Egyptian Ambassador in London over the sentencing to death of former President Morsi and more than 100 others, and made a press statement on the matter. On 2 April the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), raised his strong concern with the Egyptian Foreign Minister over death sentences imposed on 529 people, and on 28 April he made a press statement expressing deep concern that a further 683 people had been sentenced to death by the same court. In May the Foreign Secretary raised his concerns again with the Egyptian Foreign Minister in London.

In our conversations with the Egyptian government we have emphasised that it is vital that any judicial decisions are objective, transparent and in accordance with the law. We are aware that there are further stages in the legal processes and that retrials have been ordered in some of the cases. We continue to follow these cases closely and remain in contact with the Egyptian authorities.

### Electoral Register

*Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to increase electoral registration across the United Kingdom. [HL1012]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Over £14 million has been invested over the last two financial years to support activities aimed at increasing the levels of voter registration, including in the run up to the General Election. Online registration has made registering to vote more accessible than ever before with over three quarters of the 9.6 million applications to date under Individual Electoral Registration being made online. The Electoral Commission has published its analysis of the electoral registers used for elections on 7 May which shows that over 400,000 more entries were on these registers when compared to the last registers before IER, published in February/March 2014.

### European Central Bank

*Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much exposure the European Central Bank has to Greece; and what is the current value of its equity and reserves. [HL1008]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The European Central Bank's (ECB) exposure to Greece is limited: approximately €27 billion of Greece's estimated €317 billion debt is owed to the European Central Bank.

In January 2015, the capital of the ECB coming from the national central banks of all EU Member States (i.e. its equity) amounted to €10.8 billion.

In May 2015, the ECB's reserve assets and other foreign currency assets amounted to €68.8 billion Euros.

### Females: Equality

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are following up the Girl Summit 2014 in order to counter early marriage and Female Genital Mutilation; and how they plan to ensure that there is continued global momentum on those issues. [HL1098]

**Baroness Verma:** We are delighted that the Girl Summit has accelerated international momentum on ending FGM and Child, Early and Forced Marriage. We have already seen follow-up events take place in Uganda, Bangladesh and Ethiopia and the African Union plan to host a Girl Summit later this year. Since the 2014 Girl Summit, the Department for International Development has focused on delivering the UK Government's commitment to supporting an end to FGM and Child, Early and Forced Marriage globally, through its £35million programme on ending FGM and the recently launched £36million programme to accelerate action to end Child marriage.

Domestically, a number of measures have been taken to strengthen the law on FGM through the Serious Crime Act, £1.6million has been committed for the next stage of the Department of Health's FGM prevention programme, and an FGM Unit has been established and commenced a programme of outreach.

### Food: Procurement

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage companies based in the United Kingdom to source produce from local suppliers. [HL1121]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Decisions about food sourcing must be taken by individual businesses. However, last year the Government published the 'Plan for Public Procurement of Food and Catering Services', through which the public sector demonstrates leadership in the better procurement of local and sustainable food. The Plan also helps suppliers of British grown and processed produce to take advantage of opportunities to supply the public sector. Several companies are adopting this approach across their wider operations.

In addition, we are putting in place an ambitious 25 year plan to promote and grow our world-leading food

and farming industry, encouraging enterprise and boosting productivity at each stage of the food chain.

### Food: Waste

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to increase infrastructure and research to stop food waste in the United Kingdom and in developing countries. [HL1160]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the Government is working with food manufacturers and retailers in the UK to meet targets to reduce food waste from households and the grocery supply chain under the Courtauld Commitment. There has been a 15% (1.3 million tonnes) reduction in household food waste since 2007 and signatories reported a reduction of 7.4% in food supply chain waste between 2010 and 2012. The third phase of the Courtauld Commitment targets a further 1.1 million tonnes of food and packaging waste reduction by the end of this year.

The Love Food Hate Waste programme helps UK households to reduce food waste and save money through awareness raising and consumer advice. There is also an agreement with the hospitality sector with targets to prevent and manage food waste in restaurants, pubs and canteens. All of WRAP's work is informed by extensive research into the quantities and drivers of food waste within these key sectors.

The UK is supporting the work of the G20 to reduce food losses and waste (FLW) in developed and developing countries, including the development of an Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems. As a part of this initiative, the UK supports the action on international organisations (led by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the International Food Policy Research Institute) to set up a technical platform which will build on existing activities to promote sharing of knowledge and best practice, and seek to better coordinate actions by international organisations to reduce FLW in developing countries.

### Gaza

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 3 July (HL710), what progress has been made in discussions with the Israeli Defence Force Military Advocate General about ensuring accountability for the killing of four Palestinian children on the beach in Gaza in July 2014. [HL1178]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not raised this specific issue since 17 June when our Ambassador in Tel Aviv met the Israeli Military Advocate General during which this incident was discussed. We note Israel's Military Advocate General's decision to close the Investigation File for this incident.

### Gaza: Islamic State

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the governments of Egypt and Israel regarding the activity of ISIL in Gaza. [HL1181]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has a regular dialogue with Egypt and Israel on the threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the region. The most recent discussions were with senior officials in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Security Council on 2 July. During these meetings, activities of groups identifying with ISIL in Gaza were discussed, as well as their alleged collusion with Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis in the Sinai area.

### Gibraltar: Spain

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations have been made to the government of Spain since 1 June regarding infringements of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. [HL1104]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** From 1 June to 8 July, the British Government has sent five diplomatic protests by Note Verbale to the Government of Spain concerning 55 unlawful incursions by Spanish State vessels into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. On 3 July, the Government protested at a senior level in Madrid following the unlawful incursion by a Spanish survey vessel, which struck a Royal Navy vessel with its probe. This incursion was also protested by Note Verbale.

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a probe dropped by a Spanish survey vessel acting illegally in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters hit a Royal Navy patrol vessel on 3 July; and if so, what action they plan to take, in the light of reports that there were 173 incursions by Spanish vessels into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters in June. [HL1166]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I can confirm that during an unlawful incursion by a Spanish State survey vessel into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) on 3 July, the vessel's probe struck a Royal Navy vessel as it deployed. The British Government protested immediately to the Spanish government at a senior level, making clear that it was unacceptable. It was fortunate that no-one was hurt and no serious damage was done. As I made clear in my answer to HL1104, there have been 55 unlawful incursions from 1 June to 8 July. We protested these through 5 diplomatic notes.

### Greece: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Radice*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of British tourists visiting Greece each year. [HL1254]



**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We estimate that there are approximately two million British visitors to Greece each year.

### Home Office: Public Appointments

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies by the Home Office. [HL1300]

**Lord Bates:** Listed below are current chair appointments to non-departmental public bodies made by the Home Office and announced in line with the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments (April 2012):

William (Bill) Griffiths – Disclosure and Barring Service

Margaret Beels – Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Christopher Spencer – Independent Family Returns Panel

Professor Sir David Metcalf – Migration Advisory Committee

Elizabeth France – Security Industry Authority

Professor Leslie Iverson – Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

John Landers – Animals in Science Committee

Professor Dame Shirley Pearce – College of Policing

Dame Ann Owers – Independent Police Complaints Commission

Chris Hughes – National DNA Database Ethics Group

David Lebrecht – Police and National Crime Agency Remuneration Review Body

Jonathan Hoyle – Technical Advisory Board

Home Office public appointments are usually announced via the department's GOV.UK website or, in some instances, via the appointing body's website

### Homelessness: Young People

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research Estimating the scale of youth homelessness in the UK; and what steps they are taking to increase young people's access to affordable housing. [HL1173]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government remains committed to preventing youth homelessness and notes with interest the research that improves understanding of the issue. We are taking specific action in England to support young homeless people into stable accommodation, education and employment.

We have invested £14 million to enable Crisis to support 10,000 vulnerable single people into privately rented tenancies, of which 41 projects are specifically

targeted at young people. Our Fair Chance Fund payment by results scheme aims to support 1,600 vulnerable homeless 18-25 year olds into accommodation, education and employment, backed by £15 million. In addition, £40 million is being shared among Platform for Life, a low rent shared accommodation programme to help young homeless people with low needs have a stable base for work and study; and the Homelessness Change Programme, to improve the physical and mental health outcomes for rough sleepers. We have also implemented the 'Youth Accommodation Pathway', a delivery model that supports young people to remain in the family home where it is safe to do so and offers tailored support for those who cannot.

Alongside this, nearly 186,000 affordable homes were delivered between 2011 to 2015 exceeding target by almost 16,000. This Government will ensure 275,000 new affordable homes are delivered between 2015 and 2020.

### Homosexuality: Convictions

*Asked by Lord Sharkey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Conservative Party manifesto pledges to introduce legislation to pardon those men, now deceased, who were historically convicted of gross indecency even though they would be innocent of any crime today, whether they intend such legislation to extend a pardon to those men similarly convicted but still living who may apply for a "disregard" under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, and if not, why not; and whether they accept that there is a difference between a "pardon" and a "disregard", and if so, what it is. [HL1037]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government was elected with a manifesto commitment to introduce a new law to pardon those who suffered from convictions similar to Alan Turing's, and who cannot correct the injustice themselves through the "disregard" process. Details of the policy have not yet been formulated and Ministers will be discussing their plans and making announcements in due course

There is a clear difference between a pardon and a disregard. A pardon is legally neutral in effect and does not affect any conviction, caution or sentence, though it may remove the "pains and penalties" which resulted from these. The effect of a disregard is that all successful applicants will be treated "for all purposes in law" as though the conviction had never occurred and need not disclose it for any purpose. Official records relating to the conviction held by prescribed organisations will be deleted or, where appropriate, annotated to this effect as soon as possible after the grant of a disregard.

### Housing: Fires

*Asked by Baroness Greengross*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to reduce the number of elderly people

involved in domestic fires, and what consideration they have given to the case for awareness campaigns for older people on domestic electrical safety. [[HL1203](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Department's Fire Kills campaign, run in close partnership with fire and rescue authorities, promotes a range of fire safety messages to the public and especially to those most vulnerable to fire, including older people. Although accidental fire deaths in the home in 2013/14 were at an historic low level, over half of fatalities were aged 65 or over.

Recent campaigns have targeted older people, as well as encouraged others to look out for the safety of older neighbours, friends and family. Fire Kills and Electrical Safety First have a longstanding and close partnership to promote electrical fire safety messages, including through the annual Electrical Fire Safety Week, which runs in November each year. The Department continues to explore with other relevant agencies how to expand this element of the Fire Kills programme

In addition, the Department is funding the Royal College of General Practitioners to develop with the Chief Fire Officers' Association an e-learning tool for GPs to help them consider the risk from fire to their patients. This will help GPs to better identify those at particular risk from fire and to refer them to the local fire and rescue service for tailored fire safety advice, and, if necessary, equipment.

We very much welcome the Chief Fire Officers' Association current work with NHS England and on behalf of fire and rescue authorities in England which is designed to improve the availability of data about those aged 65 and over and support a more targeted local approach.

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether immigration detention is an area where they could make savings. [[HL1182](#)]

**Lord Bates:** Home Office expenditure is kept under constant review. Savings are already being made from the detention estate, by using competition to achieve best value for money and quality of custodial services.

### **Israel: Palestinians**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel concerning the recent report that private land intended to be used for buffer zones is being used for Israeli land reserves and settlement agriculture. [[HL1180](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised the specific report referred to, the British Government has repeatedly condemned settlement

announcements, and we will continue to call on the Israeli authorities to cease all settlement building as required under international law.

Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv raised the issue of settlements with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on 16 June, and again with the Israeli Cabinet Secretary and National Security Advisor on the 21 June.

### **Libya: Armed Conflict**

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the involvement of British Libyans in the overthrowing of Colonel Gaddafi's government; and if so, how many were involved; and how many of them were prosecuted. [[HL1143](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not made any assessment of involvement of British Libyans in the overthrowing of Colonel Gaddafi.

### **Living Wage**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide tax incentives to firms and employers paying the living wage to all their workers. [[HL1120](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government wants to move from a low wage, high tax, high welfare society to a higher wage, lower tax, lower welfare society. As the Chancellor announced at the Summer Budget, a new National Living Wage (NLW) will be introduced from April 2016. This will apply to all people over the age of 25, and will directly benefit 2¾ million people.

At the same time, the government is increasing the employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) employment allowance from £2000 to £3000. This will reduce the costs of employment for businesses and charities and will mean that a business can employ four people full time on NLW and pay no employer NICs.

### **Lobbying: Registration**

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on implementing the Statutory Register of Lobbyists, including the numbers now registered, the budget, and the number of meetings recorded. [[HL1024](#)]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The statutory register of consultant lobbyists was opened by the independent Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists at the end of March and the outstanding provisions of the Transparency of Lobbying Act were commenced on 1 April 2015.

There are currently 84 registered businesses. Consultant Lobbyists will be prohibited from lobbying unless they have registered so we expect more to join during the course of the year. The Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists is engaged with the industry to ensure that those who are

required to join the register are aware of their obligation to do so.

The Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists 2015/2016 business plan has been published on gov.uk. I have attached a copy for ease.

Details about ministerial meetings are published separately on gov.uk.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Business Plan 2015-2016 [ORCL\_Business\_Plan\_2015-16.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-01/HL1024>

### **Middle East and North Africa: Foreign Investment**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions, if any, they are having with the governments of Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia about increasing the flow of inward investment to those countries, and in particular about the possible positive influence of investment guarantees and assurances about the repatriation of profits. [HL1186]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have regular discussions with all three countries over the importance of increasing inward investment into their economies, and strengthening the business environment. In Lebanon, the UK funded 'Tech Hub' is helping to attract greater investment in the knowledge and technology sector. In Jordan, we are working with the government, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on a range of projects to help improve the business environment. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised the importance of creating the right conditions for foreign investment in Tunisia during his visit in May. The Tunisian government is currently drafting a new investment code, and the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement signed between our two countries in 1989 remains in force.

Lebanon, Tunisia, and Jordan all provide assurances about repatriation of profits.

### **Middle East: Armed Conflict**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of civilian casualties resulting from Allied bombing of ISIL targets in Iraq and Syria. [HL1130]

**Earl Howe:** We are not aware of any incidents of civilian casualties as a result of UK strike activity over Iraq. Our overriding concern in conducting such strikes is to protect innocent civilians from the terrorists we would wish to target. Therefore, we take every possible measure

to avoid any civilian casualties. If at any time civilian casualties were thought to have occurred, any estimates of numbers would be a matter for the coalition.

### **Midland Main Railway Line: Electrification**

*Asked by Lord Shutt of Greetland*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Patrick McLoughlin, on 25 June (HC Deb, cols 1067–8), how long the pause is expected to last before the Midland Main Line railway route is electrified. [HL1019]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Electrification of the Midland Main Line is paused pending receipt of Sir Peter Hendy's proposals for replanning the enhancements programme.

### **NATO**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative and UN Security Council Resolution 1325 remain priority work areas for the United Kingdom delegation to NATO. [HL1101]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has successfully ensured the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) and UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 is firmly on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) agenda with broad support from other NATO Allies. Earlier this year, our efforts helped create detailed NATO guidelines on the prevention of and response to conflict related sexual and gender based violence. These guidelines will be integrated into the education, training, operational planning, conduct of operations and evaluation of NATO led operations, as appropriate. Their overall aim is to reduce the risk of conflict related sexual violence and improve response measures that take protection needs into consideration. We support the work of the NATO Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security in implementing the NATO Policy and Action Plan. We will continue to take opportunities to promote PSVI and UNSCR 1325 in NATO as and when they arise.

### **Nurses: Migrant Workers**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of whether new immigration rules will exacerbate the shortage of nurses in the United Kingdom and cost the NHS tens of millions in recruitment. [HL892]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office published a full impact assessment on the changes to Tier 2 settlement rules when they were laid before Parliament on 15 March 2012. The impact assessment is available on the gov.uk website at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/117957/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117957/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf).

The Department of Health take the issue of nursing recruitment seriously and have prioritised and invested in front-line staff, so there are over 8,600 more nurses on NHS wards than there were in 2010. Health Education England's workforce plan for England for 2015-16 forecasts that, following further increases in the number of training commissions, the proposed levels for nurse training will deliver over 23,000 more nurses by 2019.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Copy of Impact assessment [impact-assessment-tier2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-29/HL892>

### Primary Education: Assessments

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they plan to include in the baseline assessment of children starting primary school being trialled in September. [HL1212]

**Lord Nash:** The reception baseline is designed to assess children's knowledge and understanding in areas typical for children at the start of reception, such as recognising letters and counting numbers.

The final list of three approved reception baselines was published on 1 July 2015. The approved baselines offer different approaches, formats and styles, including computer-based assessments and teacher assessments similar to that already used by teachers and early years practitioners. Schools are able to choose their preferred reception baseline, with first use in September 2015.

The reception baseline is being introduced to support a new progress measure for accountability purposes. It will capture the starting point from which progress will be measured up to a child's key stage 2 results. This approach would enable us, from 2022, to recognise the excellent work of schools in the first three years of a child's time at school, as the reception baseline will help schools to show the progress pupils make from the moment they start school.

In the autumn term of 2015/16 we will be conducting both a comparability study of the three reception baselines and a quality assurance study to help inform future decision-making about the reception baseline.

### Raif Badawi

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 11 June (HL Deb, col 890), what evidence they have regarding the level of popular support in Saudi Arabia for the sentence passed on Raif Badawi. [HL1264]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** It is clear from social media that there is considerable, though not universal, support in Saudi Arabia for the sentence imposed on Raif Badawi. More broadly, a substantial proportion of the Saudi population hold conservative views and support the implementation of Shariah law. We continue to raise our concerns with the Saudi Arabian authorities about Raif Badawi's case and wider human rights issues.

### Railways: North of England

*Asked by Lord Shutt of Greetland*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Patrick McLoughlin, on 25 June (HC Deb, cols 1067-8), how long the pause is expected to last before the TransPennine rail line is electrified. [HL1020]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Electrification of the TransPennine line east of Stalybridge is paused pending receipt of Sir Peter Hendy's re-planning proposals this autumn.

*Asked by Lord Shutt of Greetland*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why their policy to pause rail electrification was not reflected in the debate in the House on 17 June on transport in the north of England in the context of the Minister's comment on the relationship between electrification and Government's northern powerhouse aspirations. [HL1021]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The delay to Transpennine electrification was already known, and therefore I didn't specifically mention the delay in my opening. As it was in the public domain, several Lords referenced the delay in their speeches. I acknowledged the concerns about the delay in my closing speech and have written to the Lords in more detail to address their concerns.

*Asked by Lord Shutt of Greetland*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Patrick McLoughlin, on 25 June (HC Deb, col 1068) about Network Rail in respect of the trans-Pennine route that "current work on electrification will be paused because we need to be much more ambitious for that route", whether their plans for electrification are to be combined with their ambitions for High Speed 3; and, if so, when they expect electrification to take place. [HL1022]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Electrification of the NorthTranspennine line east of Stalybridge is paused pending receipt of Sir Peter Hendy's re-planning proposals this autumn. This is a pause, not a stop, to ensure that it happens at the right time to deliver the most benefit. The government's enhancements programme is ambitious and stretching and it needs to be re-planned to ensure it remains deliverable and affordable. The replan



should take into consideration the plans for the Northern Powerhouse / TransNorth to ensure that we are delivering the best solution overall.

### Recall of MPs Act 2015

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the secondary legislation for the Recall of MPs Act 2015 will be published and laid before both Houses of Parliament for debate. [HL1023]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We expect to lay regulations putting in place the detailed rules before both Houses when they return from summer recess.

### Refugees: Syria

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts they are making to inform Syrian refugees with relatives in the United Kingdom about the possibility of applying for admission to the United Kingdom for family reunion. [HL1184]

**Lord Bates:** Recognised refugees and those granted Humanitarian Protection in the UK are advised about family reunion provisions as part of the information they receive with the decision on their asylum claim. Details on how to apply are also available on Gov.uk. The UK also operates the Mandate refugee scheme which provides a resettlement route for individual refugees who have been recognised by UNHCR and have close family ties with the UK. The UK is only able to consider resettlement applications from refugees who have been referred to us by UNHCR.

### Regulation

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what savings have been made by efforts to reduce the cost of regulation over the last Parliament, broken down by each specific regulation. [HL1014]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Ninth Statement of New Regulation, published December 2014, lists all regulation and deregulation in scope of One-in, One-out and One-in, Two-out. These are the measures used in the analysis of net savings for business. They add up to £2.2bn annual ongoing savings, or £10bn when measured cumulatively over the Parliament.

The calculations for the value of each individual measure is set out in the published Impact Assessment associated with that measure, and validated by the independent Regulatory Policy Committee.

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which regulations they included in their analysis of reducing the costs of regulation over the last Parliament. [HL1016]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Ninth Statement of New Regulation, published December 2014, lists all regulation and deregulation in scope of One-in, One-out and One-in, Two-out. These are the measures used in the analysis of net savings for business. They add up to £2.2bn annual ongoing savings, or £10bn when measured cumulatively over the Parliament.

The calculations for the value of each individual measure is set out in the published Impact Assessment associated with that measure, and validated by the independent Regulatory Policy Committee.

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the internal process for calculating regulatory savings; and which individuals, by job title, are involved. [HL1017]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** For each new regulation or deregulation, the costs and savings to business are calculated and presented in the form of an Impact Assessment. These are completed by policy officials within each Department, working with government economists.

Each Impact Assessment is scrutinised by the independent Regulatory Policy Committee, who are responsible for validating the assessment of the costs and savings to business. Further information on the Committee can be found on the gov.uk website.

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the role of the Office for Budget Responsibility is in verifying claims on regulatory savings. [HL1018]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Office for Budget Responsibility has no role in verifying claims on regulatory savings. Under the provisions of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act, the Government will publish a target in respect of the economic impact on business activities of qualifying regulatory provisions which come into force or cease to be in force during the Parliament.

### Russia: Baltic States

*Asked by Lord Balfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision of the Russian Prosecutor General's office, following a request by members of the Russian Parliament, to examine whether the Soviet Union acted legally when it recognised the Baltic states' independence in 1991. [HL1071]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of the request made by two members of the Russian Parliament that this matter be examined, and understand that the Russian Prosecutor-General's office is obliged to do so. We do not assess that there will be any practical consequences of this process; the independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is clearly established. The

UK never recognised the annexation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union.

### **Saudi Arabia: Nuclear Power**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 3 July (HL718), whether they intend to apply the same conditions under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) framework to Saudi Arabia as those applied to Iran, which is also a signatory of the NPT. [HL1112]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** All non-nuclear weapon States party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including Saudi Arabia and Iran, have an obligation not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, and to enter into a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to enable international verification of the fulfilment of this obligation. The UK continues to encourage all those States that have not yet done so to bring into force an Additional Protocol to their Safeguards Agreement to give the IAEA additional information on their nuclear programmes and expanded powers of access to their nuclear activities.

### **Sovereignty: Scotland**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bridges of Headley on 29 June (HL523), why they have ruled out holding a referendum in England on the maintenance of the union with Scotland; whether they have any plans to review their policy; and if so, when. [HL975]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government will do it all it can to maintain the integrity of the United Kingdom, and the institutions which underpin it. While no part of the UK should be forced to remain in or leave the UK against its wishes, in last year's referendum people in Scotland voted to remain in the UK and both the UK and Scottish Governments have committed to respect the result in the Edinburgh Agreement. Therefore we have no plans to hold another referendum on this issue.

### **Teachers: Training**

*Asked by Baroness Sharp of Guildford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish their assessment of the impact on universities and schools of the new guidance for postgraduate teacher training issued by the National College of Teaching and Leadership. [HL1201]

**Lord Nash:** The recruitment control numbers for postgraduate initial teacher training will be published by the National College for Teaching and Leadership before the UCAS teacher training portal opens for applications.

### **Tunisia: Terrorism**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how the United Kingdom can help Tunisia prevent the flow of militants and terrorists from Libya to Tunisia. [HL1187]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is working closely with the Tunisian government and international partners to strengthen Tunisia's border with Libya. We are planning to deliver border security training to Tunisian Forces on the Libyan border later this year. We have also funded community engagement programmes to improve the Tunisian security forces' engagement with border communities to help reduce illegal border crossings. The UK is working with the Tunisians and international partners on what more we can do to support Tunisia in the aftermath of the Sousse attack.

### **Turkey: LGBT People**

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 7 July (HL987), whether they plan to make representations to the government of Turkey specifically about the use of water cannon and tear gas on participants of gay pride celebrations in Istanbul on 28 June; if so, what representations they will make and when; and if not, why not. [HL1195]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We raised the use of water cannon and tear gas during the 28 June Gay Pride March in Istanbul in discussions with the Turkish Embassy in London on 9 July. Our Consul General in Istanbul attended the Gay Pride March on 28 June and tweeted live comments and pictures of the event.

We regularly discuss human rights with the Government of Turkey and encourage the Turkish authorities to respond proportionately to public gatherings in line with its European Convention on Human Rights obligations and other human rights commitments.

### **Wildlife**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to set up a commission or expert committee to consider all aspects of the re-wilding of parts of the United Kingdom with former indigenous species. [HL1030]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** There are no plans to set up an expert body or group to look specifically at the re-introduction of former native species in England.

Natural England considers individual applications for licences to reintroduce formerly native species in England. Such matters in the rest of the UK are for the devolved authorities to consider.

## Written Answers

Thursday, 16 July 2015

### Arab Partnership Participation Fund

Asked by *Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much they have expanded the Arab Partnership Participation Fund in order to support political and economic reform in the Middle East and North Africa since 2011; to which countries the funds were allocated; and how much was allocated in each case. [HL1048]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Arab Partnership was created in 2010 as a part of the Government's response to the Arab Spring. This initiative comprised two parts; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office-led Arab Partnership Participation Fund (APPF) and the Department for International Development-led Arab Partnership Economic Facility (APEF). Since 2011 APPF and APEF programmes have channelled £166m to projects across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to support the development of legitimate and inclusive institutions (including civil society, parliaments, media and judiciaries) to improve governance and enable inclusive economic growth and reform.

The APPF was launched in the Financial Year (FY) 2011-2 and provided funding worth £5,195,304. In FY 2014-5 it provided £10,512,791. The total funding from FY 2011-12 up to and including FY 2014-15 was £42,803,007. It was distributed as follows:

Algeria	£3,798,631
Bahrain	£227,021
Egypt	£5,644,406
Iraq	£1,417,916
Jordan	£3,286,270
Kuwait	£130,155
Lebanon	£917,622
Libya	£4,458,601
Mauritania	£215,552
Morocco	£3,386,058
Oman	£255,144
OPT	£625,551
Regional	£9,595,633
Syria	£584,961
Tunisia	£8,180,151
UAE	£7355

Admin	£71,980
Total	£42,803,007

For FY 2015-6, the APPF will allocate £6m of funding to countries not currently receiving Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) funding, including Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and a small proportion of non-Official Development Assistance funding available for projects in Gulf States (£150k). The CSSF allocation to the MENA region for FY 2015-16 currently stands at £136.5m.

### Armed Forces Covenant: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 6 July (HL852), why no representatives of the Northern Ireland Executive take part in the decision making process for the allocation of the £35 million fund. [HL1296]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the then Minister for Defence Personnel, Veterans and Welfare (Anna Soubry) to the right hon. Member for Lagan Valley (Mr Donaldson) on 26 January 2015 to Question 221491.

The invitation to join the Covenant Reference Group remains open and if the Northern Ireland Executive wishes to accept, an invitation will also be extended to sit on the decision panel for future Covenant funding.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Armed Forces Covenant Reference Group [HL 1296 Hansard Extract 26 January 2015.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-09/HL1296>

### Armed Forces: Cadets

Asked by *Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cadet units are attached to state schools in Scotland. [HL1278]

**Lord Dunlop:** The local Army Brigade (51st Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Scotland) has established a 'Linked Detachment Programme' which aims to extend the cadet experience into State Schools using the Army Cadet Force's syllabus. Currently, there are 11 training groups in 6 schools totalling nearly 150 pupils. They are based at:

- Govan High School (2 groups totalling 22 pupils);
- Broxburn Academy (3 groups totalling 37 pupils);
- Lasswade High School (2 groups totalling 25 pupils);
- Hawick High School (2 groups totalling 25 pupils);
- Viewforth Academy (1 group of 16 pupils);
- Kirkcaldy High School (1 group of 16 pupils).

## Asylum: Detainees

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the fast-track detention system. [HL1079]

**Lord Bates:** The Government's position on DFT was set out in the Written Ministerial Statement laid on 2 July:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150702/wmstext/150702m0001.htm>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

WMS - 2nd July [Home Department WMS - 2nd July.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-06/HL1079>

## Care Proceedings: Immigrants

Asked by *Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied migrant children appeared in the family courts in relation to care proceedings in 2014. [HL1246]

**Lord Faulks:** Information on the number of unaccompanied migrant children who appeared in the family courts in relation to care proceedings is not collected centrally.

## China: Religious Freedom

Asked by *Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of alleged breaches of international law in China regarding the freedom of religion and freedom to worship without being harassed. [HL1142]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain concerned by the human rights situation in China, not least all restrictions to freedom of religion or belief.

As a member of the UN Human Rights Council, China is bound to respect the international commitments to which it is a party. As such, we consistently call on China to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – we last did so at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in April.

We continue to raise areas where we assess China's actions are not in line with either its international human rights commitments or its own constitution. We highlight these, and our broader range of concerns, in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy. We also make representations in international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council.

## Conflict Prevention

Asked by *Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what revisions they have made in the six-monthly review of Countries

at Risk of Instability since the publication of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy in 2011. [HL1051]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Countries at Risk of Instability (CRI) report is a classified assessment and we do not make public the revisions made in any reviews. We now produce the CRI report on an annual basis to align the CRI with the annual review of Conflict Security Stability Fund spending and since 2011 have undertaken four reviews. The methodology is regularly reviewed to improve the accuracy of the report.

## Congenital Abnormalities

Asked by *Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the United Kingdom compares with other European Union member states in respect of the number of pregnancies affected by neural tube defects. [HL1043]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The prevalence of neural tube defects in live births, fetal deaths (over 20 weeks' gestation) and terminations of pregnancy for fetal anomaly between 2007 and 2011 in the British Isles Network of Congenital Anomaly Registers, registers (covering 36% of the births in England and Wales) was 11.9 per 10,000 births.

In European Surveillance of Congenital Anomalies registries the prevalence rates range from 4.4 per 10,000 births to 21.6 per 10,000. Differences in total prevalence rates over time or between regions may reflect a number of factors including genetic and environmental differences.

We are not aware that any Ministers have attended any formal meetings with countries outside the European union member states where policies on reducing the number of neural tube affected pregnancies have been discussed.

Asked by *Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions ministers have had with countries outside the European Union regarding policies and actions to reduce the number of neural tube defect-affected pregnancies. [HL1045]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The prevalence of neural tube defects in live births, fetal deaths (over 20 weeks' gestation) and terminations of pregnancy for fetal anomaly between 2007 and 2011 in the British Isles Network of Congenital Anomaly Registers, registers (covering 36% of the births in England and Wales) was 11.9 per 10,000 births.

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We are not aware that any Ministers have attended any formal meetings with countries outside the European



union member states where policies on reducing the number of neural tube affected pregnancies have been discussed.

### Crimes of Violence: Females

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to appoint an International Violence Against Women Champion. [HL1097]

**Baroness Verma:** The Secretary of State for International Development and I, champion this issue every day as part of the department's broader plan to improve the prospects of women and girls overseas. Gender is mainstreamed across all DFID programmes and we are proud of the impact the department has achieved in tackling violence against women and girls, not least through the 2014 Girl Summit which focused on eradicating Female Genital Mutilation and Early and Forced Child Marriage.

### Data Protection

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the amount which the Information Commissioner's Office can spend on data protection activities in the current financial year has been calculated. [HL1066]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in respect of data protection activities in the current year by the Information Commissioner's Office, how much has been spent and how much is still available to spend. [HL1067]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been, and are being, taken by the Information Commissioner's Office to ensure that there is no underspend of income allocated for data protection activities by the end of the current financial year, and to ensure that the available income is used for data protection activities rather than being remitted to the Consolidated Fund. [HL1068]

**Lord Faulks:** The Information Commissioner's Office's (ICO) data protection activities are funded by fees from organisations that process personal data. The amount available to spend each year is dependent on the number of organisations that notify with the ICO but is currently profiled to be £18.5M in 2015/16. The ICO has spent £4.7M on data protection activities in the first quarter of 2015/16. Any money collected but not spent by the ICO is remitted to the Consolidated Fund. The ICO did not remit any data protection income to the Consolidated Fund in 2014/15 and there is a similar expectation for 2015/16.

### Electric Vehicles

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many charging points for electric vehicles there are across the United Kingdom; and whether they have any proposals for increasing this number. [HL1122]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has supported installation of 60,756 chargepoints for plug-in vehicles, including those for domestic use, in the last 10 years. A significant number of chargepoints are being installed without Government funding. Data on all public chargepoints is collected in the National Charge Point Registry.

This Government is aiming for almost every car and van to be a zero emission vehicle by 2050, and we have pledged £500 million over the next five years to achieve this. Further details of this investment will be announced in due course. The Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme is currently funding domestic chargepoints for ultra low emission vehicle motorists.

### English Votes for English Laws

*Asked by Baroness Andrews*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Acts of Parliament passed since 1985 would have fallen into the category of a law which affects England alone, as set out in the statement by the Leader of the House of Commons on 2 July; and what percentage of the total number of laws passed since 1985 this represents. [HL1057]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** The Government has not performed a retrospective assessment of the application of the proposed new rules, as to do so would rely upon past devolution settlements. In applying the rules in future, the certification of Bills introduced would be a matter for the Speaker of the House of Commons.

### Gaza: International Assistance

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the money pledged to Gaza for aid and reconstruction by donors at the Cairo conference in October 2014 has so far been received. [HL1179]

**Baroness Verma:** According to the World Bank, as of May 15th 2015, 27.5% of the pledges made at the Cairo conference in October 2014 had been disbursed. The UK pledged £20 million in early recovery assistance at the conference. We have disbursed over 80% of the pledge and the remaining will be disbursed this financial year, focussing largely on getting businesses back to work.

## Illegal Immigrants: France

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what practical support is being given in Calais to lorry drivers. [HL915]

**Lord Bates:** Border Force provides advice, guidance and an online checklist for haulage companies on how to secure their vehicle. To help avoid penalties and improve security, companies can also apply for Border Force Accreditation. There are assorted translations available.

Border Force have provided hauliers and drivers with both emergency and non emergency numbers to use in Northern France. These numbers have been shared with the Road Haulage Association, The Freight Traffic Association and others.

Companies can take positive measures to improve vehicle security against clandestine activity and avoid penalties by following the codes of practice and applying for Border Force Accreditation. Sign up is simple and can be completed following instructions online at gov.uk

The Border Force Accreditation scheme enables hauliers to demonstrate their commitment to improving the physical security of their vehicle. To be part of the scheme traders need to ensure they have undertaken thorough checks of their vehicles at each step of their journey and have employed sufficient preventative security measures to reduce the risk of being breached. There has been a significant increase in the number of companies joining the scheme.

Provisions for imposing penalties on individuals or companies are including in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (Section 32). The provisions are underpinned by two codes of practice, details of which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/secure-your-vehicle-to-help-stop-illegal-immigration>. Drivers and owners can object against the penalty and provide further evidence and there is also an appeal to County Court available, all details of both are provided when a penalty is imposed.

Following a Ministerial summit with key representatives from the haulage and food transport industries the summit in March, we have been taking forward a programme of work to develop our partnership with the haulage sector, including: engaging with international partners such as the European Commission and European trade bodies; and encouraging better information exchange between industry and law enforcement.

As part of this ongoing work, Immigration Minister James Brokenshire hosted a series of round table discussions with industry to discuss what more can be done to improve vehicle security and reduce the clandestine threat to the haulage sector.

The Government is providing funding to bolster the security and infrastructure of ports in Northern France and Belgium. This includes investment in ports in Northern France and Belgium to improve security and

infrastructure and traffic fluidity with a revised port layout with £12 million committed by the UK under the Joint Declaration with France announced in September 2014. This fund has been used to reinforce security at the juxtaposed ports including installation of fencing around the Calais port and the approach road. There are plans to improve security at Coquelles Eurotunnel site including installing National Barrier Asset fencing which will be installed at Coquelles during July to help reinforce port security.

On 14 July the Home Secretary announced in Parliament the creation of a new secure zone at the port of Calais for UK bound lorries. This will provide a secure waiting area for 230 vehicles - the equivalent of removing a two-and-a-half mile queue from the approaching road. This should transform protection for lorries and their drivers removing them from the open road where they can become targets for migrants attempting to board their vehicles.

## Immigration: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unresolved (1) asylum, and (2) immigration, cases there have been in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland since May 2010. [HL1287]

**Lord Bates:** The number of outstanding asylum claims recorded as associated with each Northern Ireland parliamentary constituency can be found in in the attached table 1. The figures that have been provided relate to main applicants who have made an asylum claim between 1 May 2010 and 31 March 2015 whose claim was recorded as unresolved where an individual is either awaiting an initial decision on their claim, in the appeal process or considered to be a failed asylum seeker.

The number of outstanding immigration cases recorded as associated with each Northern Ireland parliamentary constituency can be found in the attached table 2. The figures that have been provided relate to main applicants who have made an immigration application between 1 May 2010 and 31 March 2015, whose application was recorded as unresolved where an initial decision had not been served or was made after 31 March 2015.

The data has been compiled using a breakdown of the latest published statistics, by identifying the latest valid postcode on the Case Information Database (CID). For Northern Ireland postcodes, this was then matched to the ONS Postcode database to associate it with a parliamentary constituency and local authority as far as possible. This postcode is the most recently recorded postcode for correspondence purposes and may not be represent the applicant's of place of residence or be the same postcode provided at the time of applying. For example, this may be the solicitor or immigration advisor of the applicant. For data protection purposes, cohorts of fewer than 10 people have been indicated with a \*.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table 1 and Table 2 - Outstanding Cliams [TABLE 1 + TABLE 2.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-09/HL1287>

## Large Goods Vehicles

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 6 July (HL782), what assessment they have made of the case for taking steps prior to their consultation (1) to modify the design of heavy goods vehicles by making side guards, mirrors and other proximity devices mandatory, and (2) to ban heavy goods vehicles, particularly lorries used in construction, from city centres at peak times. [HL1169]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport has prepared an assessment of the costs and benefits of fitting side guards and a front mirror above the windscreen to currently exempt vehicles, and this is subject to the clearance process. Side guards are already required on the majority of new vehicles, and a front mirror on vehicles registered from 26 January 2007.

There are no current plans for mandatory proximity devices to detect cyclists alongside heavy vehicles. A full assessment of their effectiveness will be needed before reaching a decision to require such systems.

We have no proposals to ban systematically heavy goods vehicles from city centres at peak times. Local authorities have powers under Sections 1 & 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to make Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). These powers can be used to exclude HGVs either generally or at specified times from roads for which they are considered to be unsuitable. It is up to each local authority to balance the need for restrictions against their impact on residents, the local economy and environmental factors.

## Libya

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the situation in Libya. [HL836]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK welcomes the initialling of a political agreement on 11 July to establish a Government of National Accord for Libya, by most of

the parties to the Libyan talks. We are grateful to UN Special Representative Secretary General Leon, and neighbouring countries and regional partners for their role in achieving the agreement, and to Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the dialogue. We call on the General National Congress to join the agreement and play a vital role in shaping a new constitution and parliament for Libya.

The agreement to establish a Government of National Accord for Libya is an important first step to restoring peace and stability in Libya. There is much to be done. The Libyan people have suffered gravely from the conflict. Infrastructure has been seriously damaged while the depletion of state resources threatens the Libyan economy. The UK remains committed to supporting Libya on its path towards peace and prosperity, and stand prepared to provide assistance to rebuild the country and tackle the growing threat of terrorism in both Libya and neighbouring countries.

## Meteor Missiles: Procurement

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Meteor BVRAAMs have been ordered; and what is the delivery schedule for those missiles. [HL1279]

**Earl Howe:** Deliveries of Meteor BVRAAM commenced for all buying nations, including the United Kingdom, in December 2013 following successful qualification of the missile design. Current plans will see this continue until 2020. I am withholding information about the quantities of missiles ordered as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces and also relations between the United Kingdom and other states.

## Military Bases: Leuchars

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what grades of accommodation, houses and barracks are currently at the military base at Leuchars, Fife; what upgrades to the accommodation are planned and by when; and what preparations have been made concerning improvements to health, dentistry and education services for those stationed at Leuchars. [HL1253]

**Earl Howe:** The Standard for Condition (SfC) of the military accommodation at Leuchars is shown in the following table:

	<i>S1fC</i>	<i>S2fC</i>	<i>S3fC</i>	<i>S4fC</i>	<i>Unrecorded</i>	<i>Total</i>
Service Family Accommodation (SFA)	533	7	0	0	5	545
Single Living Accommodation (SLA)	0	184	477	163	0	824

Given the good condition of the Service Family Accommodation (SFA) at Leuchars, there are no plans for any improvement works.

Works are due to commence at the end of this year to improve and refurbish Single Living Accommodation (SLA) at Leuchars. The work will consist of upgrading and re-configuring rooms.

The Department has been working with NHS Fife and Defence Primary Healthcare Scotland and Northern Ireland to ensure that the required medical facilities are in place at Leuchars Station. Regular meetings to ensure all parties understand the requirements and issues associated with the transition have also taken place. Representatives also visited the units in Germany to reassure people about the level of services available when they moved.

New medical posts have been created at Leuchars Station and the practice is also preparing to accredit as a GP training practice in order to provide an effective service.

The Ministry of Defence has provided around £1.2 million through its Education Support Fund to Fife Council since 2011. Fife Council has guaranteed that every child of primary and secondary school age will be allocated a school place.

### Namibia: Germany

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Germany regarding compensation for the descendants of the Herero and Nama people killed by German colonial troops in German South-West Africa in 1904–08. [HL1309]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government has not made representations to the Government of Germany on this matter.

### Nuclear Reactors: Safety

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the concerns expressed by the French nuclear safety authority regarding the safety of the European Pressurised Reactor in France; and what action they are taking based on this assessment, in the light of plans to install such reactors at Hinkley Point. [HL1353]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The UK has a robust regulatory system and any nuclear reactor used in the UK must meet our rigorous safety, security and environmental standards. Government is aware of the issues in relation to the EPR at Flamanville and we continue to monitor the situation. The planned EPR at Hinkley Point C is subject to the UK regulatory regime. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) is responsible for safety regulation of the UK industry and remains appropriately engaged with

the French nuclear regulator with regard to the issue at Flamanville. The ONR has said that they expect learning from the EPR under construction at Flamanville to be taken into account in the manufacture of components intended for the planned new reactor at Hinkley Point C.

### Nuclear Submarines

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there has been any decision on the storage of nuclear reactor compartments from the growing number of decommissioned nuclear submarines in United Kingdom ports; and when those submarines will be broken up. [HL1240]

**Earl Howe:** A public consultation about the location of an interim store for intermediate level radioactive waste removed from decommissioned nuclear submarines concluded on 20 February 2015. The Ministry of Defence expects to announce the site location during 2016.

A submarine at Rosyth will undergo initial dismantling, to demonstrate and refine the process. The first stage is removal of low level radioactive waste, which is planned for 2016, subject to approval from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

### Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that overseas students continue to consider studying in the United Kingdom. [HL1082]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** study here. The Government promotes study in the UK through the Britain is GREAT marketing campaign and through the British Council, which promotes UK education in over 100 countries, connecting millions of people with the United Kingdom.

The Government also has major education agreements with overseas partners. Key programmes include the UK-China Partners in Education Programme, the UK-India Education Research Initiative and engagement in Brazil's 'Science without Borders' scholarship scheme. It has also tripled funding (to £48m) in 2014/15 for Chevening scholarships for international students with leadership potential.

Government also supports student exchange, such as through the Erasmus Scheme, which enables international students to take short placements in the UK and British students to gain valuable overseas experience.

### Police: Biometrics

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 2 March (HL5118), whether the review of the framework within which the police use and retain custody images has been



completed; if not, why not; and if so, what advice they have circulated to police forces. [HL1344]

**Lord Bates:** The review is not completed and therefore no advice has been circulated to the Forces. It is very important that the issues identified by the review are properly tested with operational decision makers, so as to appropriately balance the protection of personal data and privacy with the public protection benefits and the operational need.

Due to the complexity of the issues raised in the evidence gathering stage and the number of important stakeholders, we now do not expect to complete the review and recommendations before September 2015.

### Public Expenditure: Scotland

*Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish the new fiscal framework agreed with the Scottish Government. [HL1266]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Deputy First Minister met on 8 June where they agreed that they would aim to conclude negotiations on the fiscal framework that will underpin the financial provisions of the Scotland Bill by the autumn, in tandem to the timetable for the Bill.

### Railways: Strikes

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they indemnify train operators in any way in respect of strikes called by trade unions so that operators are more likely to resist unreasonable demands. [HL1234]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Secretary of State for Transport has a provision in franchise agreements that does allow him, at his absolute discretion, to ameliorate the net losses of train operators due to industrial action.

### Regulation

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which third parties are contracted to verify regulatory savings, and in each case, which savings they verified. [HL1040]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Under the provisions of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 (the Act), the Government must appoint an independent body to verify assessments economic impact on business activities within 12 months of the start of the Parliament.

The independent verification body has not yet been formally appointed, but its appointment will be announced shortly.

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the last Parliament, which regulations were introduced and which were removed, listed by the clusters of which

two were removed for each regulation introduced. [HL1041]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The calculation of One-in, Two-out was based on finding £2 of deregulatory savings for every £1 of new regulatory costs, rather than by counting the number of regulations introduced or removed. The details of the costs and savings found are set out in the Ninth Statement of New Regulation, which is available from the gov.uk website.

### Renewable Energy: EU Law

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the European Union Renewable Energy Directive in each year since it came into force. [HL1283]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given in the House of Commons by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate to the hon. Member for Greenwich and Woolwich on 8 July 2015 to Question 4982:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-30/4982/>

### Rolling Stock: Procurement

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 7 July (HL Deb, col 93–4), whether they consider that local government is capable of assessing the financial and associated risks that go with entering into leasing deals concerning new rolling stock. [HL1233]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Some local authorities already have such expertise and have successfully procured rolling stock in the past. If an authority were looking to do so for the first time then there are a number of expert advisors it could look to, and the Department for Transport would be happy to engage with local authorities to discuss rolling stock leasing.

### Sellafield

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to improve the security of the nuclear waste currently stored at Sellafield; and what arrangements are in place to monitor progress, efficiency and value for money. [HL1269]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Security of nuclear waste and Sellafield is a high priority for the Government. However the Government does not comment on security at nuclear sites. Expenditure on security is subject to the same processes and rules as other public expenditure.

## Shared Spaces

*Asked by Lord Holmes of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report on shared space Accidents by Design, whether they are considering an immediate moratorium on all existing shared spaces until an impact assessment has been undertaken. [HL1161]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is not considering a moratorium on shared space schemes. It is entirely a matter for each local authority to decide what type of traffic management scheme is needed for the roads that they are responsible for, be this shared space or another type of scheme.

## Slavery

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the guidance to businesses on what to include within their slavery and trafficking statements will be published. [HL1058]

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the passing of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, when the secondary legislation setting the turnover threshold for businesses will be laid before Parliament. [HL1059]

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the passing of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, what progress has been made on plans to set up a central website on which businesses can lodge their slavery and trafficking statements. [HL1060]

**Lord Bates:** The transparency in supply chains consultation ended on 7 May 2015, and we received 181 responses. We are considering those responses carefully and will publish the Government's response shortly. The statutory guidance will be developed in consultation with business partners during summer 2015 and published to coincide with commencement of the provision which we expect to be later this year. Responses to the consultation included suggestions on the development of a central website to hold the slavery and trafficking statements and we are exploring options for delivering this.

## Syria: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for changing the emphasis in aid for Syrian refugees from relief towards empowerment and sustainable human and economic development. [HL1243]

**Baroness Verma:** While humanitarian aid is still needed to respond to the Syria crisis, the protracted nature of the Syria crisis means that this must be complemented by longer term support for the empowerment and human and economic development of Syrian refugees. The UK is leading by example by shifting the emphasis of UK aid from short term emergency relief to longer term approaches, including by providing multi-year funding commitments to our partners, and encouraging other donors to do the same. A good example of this is UK support for education under the No Lost Generation Initiative.

## Written Answers

Friday, 17 July 2015

### China: Religious Freedom

Asked by *Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the persecution of the various religious communities in China. [HL1140]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain concerned by all restrictions to freedom of religion or belief in China. Whilst Article 36 of the Chinese Constitution specifies that 'Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief', only five religions are officially recognised, and practice is subject to restrictions.

We regularly raise our concerns with the Chinese authorities, and did so in detail during the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in April. We highlight our concerns in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Report on Human Rights. Our concerns are also raised in international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council.

We regard freedom of thought, conscience and belief as a fundamental human right and will continue to raise our concerns as part of our broader relationship with China.

### Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the rules regarding the Civil Nuclear Constabulary's inclusion in provisions for extended jurisdiction or mutual aid, in the light of the one-third reduction in the Ministry of Defence Police and changes in the number of armed police available for anti-terrorist operations across the United Kingdom. [HL1290]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** I refer my noble Friend to the answer I gave him on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Official Report, col 178.

However, we keep this area under general review and this may be considered in the future.

### Fuel Poverty: Older People

Asked by *Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are currently taking to reduce fuel poverty among older people; and what further steps they plan to take. [HL1284]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Government is fully committed to tackling fuel poverty, including meeting a new 2030 target now enshrined in law.

In Policies such as the Warm Home Discount and the Energy Company Obligation continue to deliver vital support to millions of low income and vulnerable homes each year, with households in receipt of Pension Credit being eligible for assistance under both policies.

The Government will be guided by the fuel poverty strategy published in March 2015, which sets out a clear policy of working towards improving energy efficiency standards across the English housing stock, including in the homes of the fuel poor.

### Islamic State: Flags

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions there have been as a result of displaying the ISIL flag in the United Kingdom. [HL1128]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Proscription is an important means of disrupting terrorist organisations in the UK. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) also known as The Islamic State of Iraq al-Sham (ISIS) was proscribed as a terrorist organization in the UK with effect from 20 June 2014.

Section 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 provides that a person commits an offence if he, in a public place, wears an item of clothing or wears, carries or displays article in such a way or in such circumstances as to arouse reasonable suspicion that he is a member or supporter of a proscribed organisation. Flags would come within the definition of "article". This is a summary only offence carrying a maximum of six months imprisonment or a fine.

To date there have been no prosecutions in England and Wales as a result of displaying a flag in such a way or in such circumstances as to arouse reasonable suspicion that the person displaying it is a member or supporter of ISIL. A black flag of the type associated with ISIL has featured in a number of prosecutions of individuals for more serious terrorist offences.

### Nuclear Power

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 8 July (HL Deb, col 177–180) concerning the annual cost of £3 billion of storing and protecting the United Kingdom's civil nuclear legacy, whether they will provide details of such costs; and whether they are taken into account when stating the cost per megawatt hour of electricity from nuclear power stations. [HL1389]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The £3 billion per year figure relates to the management of the UK's civil nuclear liability and arises from historic and current nuclear operations. Sellafield, the UK's largest, most complex and challenging site, accounts for £1.9 billion per year of this cost. The best estimate for clean-up costs for the UK's earliest nuclear sites over a 100 year plus programme is

set out in the Nuclear Provision which together with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) anticipated costs and expenditure, budget and lifetime financials per site, is made publicly available via the NDA's website ([www.nda.gov.uk](http://www.nda.gov.uk)).

Operators of new nuclear power stations are required by law to make prudent provision for their decommissioning, waste management and waste disposal costs. These costs are taken into account in the cost per MWh of electricity generated by new nuclear power stations.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Nuclear-provision-explaining-the-costs [nuclear-provision-explaining-the-cost-of-Britains-nuclear-clean-up-2015.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-13/HL1389>

### **West Midlands Police**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the admission by West Midlands Police that in 2010 they

withheld a report on child rape, abuse and exploitation, what steps they plan to take to ensure that every police officer and official involved is investigated and criminal charges brought where appropriate. [HL1026]

**Lord Bates:** On 3 March 2015, the previous government published a report on Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation which set out the government's national policy response to the failures we have seen in towns, such as Rotherham, Manchester, Oxford and elsewhere, where children were let down by the very people who were responsible for protecting them. The report set out a comprehensive set of reforms to tackle child sexual exploitation.

The Government is also making improvements to the police complaints and disciplinary systems to ensure that officers are held to account for their behaviour in a manner that is fair and transparent for the public.

The withholding of a report on child rape, abuse and exploitation is a matter for the Chief Officer of West Midlands Police and the local Police & Crime Commissioner.



## Written Answers

Monday, 20 July 2015

### Arms Trade: Israel

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to change their policy on selling arms to Israel in line with the policy not to sell arms where they might be used for external aggression or internal repression. [HL1418]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** The Government announced the outcome of a review of export licensing for Israel on 14 July 2014.

As a result of the review the Government will now assess all export licence applications for Israel, as for all destinations, against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. Criterion 2 states that the Government "will not grant a licence if there is a clear risk that the items might be used for internal repression"; Criterion 4 states that the Government "will not grant a licence if there is a clear risk that the intended recipient would use the items aggressively against another country, or to assert by force a territorial claim".

### BBC Monitoring: Finance

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to protect the funding presently available for the BBC Monitoring Service in the light of the reduction in the BBC's overall funding. [HL1105]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government has published a BBC Charter Review consultation paper, seeking views on all aspects of the BBC, including its funding. A copy of this document has been deposited in the libraries of both Houses, and it is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/bbc-charter-review-public-consultation>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

BBC Charter Review: Public consultation 2015 [DCMS BBC Charter Review\_AW (1) (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-06/HL1105>

### Carbon Emissions

Asked by *Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to increase the contribution made by thermal heating and other low-carbon heat technologies, and by building regulations, to the fulfilment of their 2020 carbon emissions reductions target, and to sustained reductions beyond 2020. [HL1270]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The main policy to support the uptake of low-carbon heat technologies is the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). The RHI is a financial incentive scheme, designed to bridge the gap between the cost of fossil fuel heat sources and renewable heat alternatives. The 2014 projections suggested that in 2020 the RHI would account for 5% of the total reduction in emissions delivered by policies.

The RHI budget for 2015-16 is £430million. Budget for future years are the subject of the Spending Review

### Child Sexual Abuse Independent Panel Inquiry

Asked by *Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the terms of reference of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse have been settled; whether the Inquiry will take place under the Inquiries Act 2005; and whether any time limits have been determined for the Inquiry to produce a report. [HL1073]

**Lord Bates:** On Thursday 12 March 2015, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse was set up with statutory powers under the 2005 Inquiries Act. The Terms of Reference were published on the same date and are attached.

The Terms of Reference set out that the Inquiry must produce regular reports and an interim report by the end of 2018.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Terms of reference [Terms of Reference.doc]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-06/HL1073>

### Civil Servants: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many civil servants employed through the Northern Ireland graduate fast-track scheme between 1 June 2010 and 1 June 2015 were educated at (1) private, and (2) state, schools. [HL1320]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Northern Ireland graduate fast track scheme is run by the Northern Ireland Civil Service. The Government does not hold information relating to the Northern Ireland fast track scheme.

### Constituencies

Asked by *Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for changing the process by which constituency boundaries are redrawn. [HL1194]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies (PVSC) Act 2011 provides for

the number of constituencies to be reduced from 650 to 600 and the Government remains committed to equalising the size of constituencies in order to make votes of more equal value. The Government will outline its plans for constituency boundaries when it responds to the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee's report, *What next on the redrawing of parliamentary constituency boundaries?*

### Copyright

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 6 July (HL934) concerning the proposal by the European Parliament for restrictions on photographs or video footage of public buildings, whether they have the power of veto over such draft legislation; and if so, whether they plan to use their veto in this instance. [HL1113]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** On the 9<sup>th</sup> July, the EU Parliament considered a non-legislative own initiative report from the Legal Affairs Committee (JURI) on EU copyright reform, and voted against proposals to restrict individuals' freedom to photograph or film buildings or statues located in public places.

### Counter-terrorism: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their proposed counter-extremism legislation will apply to Northern Ireland and dissident republicans. [HL1319]

**Lord Bates:** The Counter-Extremism Bill will introduce new powers to tackle all forms of extremism, including Banning Orders to outlaw extremist groups and Extremism Disruption Orders to restrict the harmful activity of extremist individuals.

We are considering the territorial extent of the proposed Bill, which will be introduced to Parliament in due course.

### Data Protection

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each of the last six years for which figures are available, how much income was received by the Information Commissioner's Office in respect of its data protection activities; how much of that was spent on such activities; and how much was remitted to the Consolidated Fund. [HL1083]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Information Commissioner's Office will be entitled to spend on data protection activities in the next financial year; and how that figure will be affected if the

Information Commissioner's Office registration fee income increases. [HL1084]

**Lord Faulks:** The Information Commissioner's Office's (ICO) income from data protection fees and the corresponding amount remitted to the Consolidated Fund for the last six years is set out in the table below:

Year	Data Protection Fee Income (£'000)	Amount remitted to the Consolidated fund (£'000)
2014/15	17,519	0
2013/14	16,528	781
2012/13	16,055	359
2011/12	15,484	446
2010/11	14,965	505
2009/10	13,192	0

The amount available to spend each year on data protection activities is dependent on the number of organisations that notify with the ICO. Income for 2015/16 is currently profiled to be £18.5M.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps, including review, audit or other assessment, have been taken by (1) the Ministry of Justice, (2) the Information Commissioner's Office, and (3) any external auditors and advisers, to ensure that every data controller that processes personal information has (a) registered with the Information Commissioner, if required to, (b) paid the correct registration fee in accordance with the tiered structure, and (c) not processed any personal data if it has not registered. [HL1085]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many data controllers were registered with the Information Commissioner's Office on the most recent date for which figures are available; what income was generated from those organisations' registration fees; and what is their estimate of the annual and total income lost by non-registration. [HL1087]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of data controllers who ought to have registered with the Information Commissioner's Office but have not done so; and what steps have been and will be taken by (1) the Information Commissioner's Office, and (2) the Ministry of Justice, to secure compliance with the statutory obligation to register. [HL1088]

**Lord Faulks:** The Data Protection Act 1998 requires every data controller who is processing personal information to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) unless they are exempt. The ICO's website sets out the criteria for notification and provides guidance on the level of fee organisations should

be paying. The ICO have also made it easier for organisations to notify and pay the fee by introducing online payments.

At the end of 2014/15 there were 409,000 data controllers registered with the ICO which generated a total income of £17,519,000.

It is for data controllers to seek registration; the ICO periodically reminds organisations of the requirement to notify.

## Defence

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide a full breakdown of the costs included in (1) this year's, and (2) 2011–12's, calculation of the total percentage of gross domestic product spent on defence. [HL1238]

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what areas of cost are included in this year's calculation of the percentage of gross domestic product spent on defence that were not included in the calculation for 2011–12. [HL1239]

**Earl Howe:** As with other NATO allies, from time to time we update our approach to ensure we are categorising defence spending fully in accordance with NATO guidelines, seeking to capture all spending contributing to delivering the defence of the United Kingdom. Our 2011-12 NATO return was £36.6 billion. This included the Ministry of Defence budget, the cost of operations, and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme but did not reflect all UK defence spending. Our 2015-16 NATO return of £39 billion also included Ministry of Defence-generated income which directly funds defence activity, elements of the Government's cyber security spending, parts of the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund relating to peacekeeping, war pensions and pension payments to retired MOD civil servants.

## Department for Education: Public Appointments

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies by the Department for Education. [HL1301]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education has made three such appointments. The Rt Hon Alan Milburn was appointed as chair of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, Dr Patricia Rice was appointed as chair of the School Teachers' Review Body and Anne Longfield was appointed as the Children's Commissioner.

## Department for Transport: Public Appointments

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies by the Department for Transport. [HL1312]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The table below list the chairs of 'Executive' and 'Advisory' non-departmental bodies (NDPBs) which are appointed by the Department for Transport.

NDPBs	Chair
British Transport Police Authority	Millie Banerjee
Directed Operated Railways Ltd	Doug Sutherland
High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd	Sir David Higgins
Transport Focus	Jeff Halliwell
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	Keith Richards

## Deportation: China

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the petition initiated by the children of Chinese sailors deported from Liverpool after World War Two. [HL686]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they hold about the circumstances in which Chinese fathers who had been recruited to serve in British Merchant Navy Atlantic convoys were, in 1946, compulsorily repatriated, leaving their children; and whether they will place this information in the Library of the House. [HL687]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the false information given by government officials to the children of Chinese men compulsorily repatriated in 1946 that their fathers had been killed at sea or abandoned them, and the consequences for the children and their mothers; and whether the Home Secretary will agree to meet some of the surviving children. [HL688]

**Lord Bates:** No information is held by the Home Office. Surviving files were transferred to the National Archives in 1980; these are open to the public in class HO 213. The Noble Lord is invited to forward to the Home Office any additional information for officials to consider.

## Diabetes: Research

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much is currently being spent on research into Type 1 diabetes. [HL1205]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In 2014-15, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) spent £2.7 million on type 1 diabetes research through its research programmes, research centres and units, and research fellowships. Total spend by the NIHR on type 1 diabetes is higher than this figure because expenditure by the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) on specific diseases and topics cannot be separated from total CRN expenditure.

The Medical Research Council spent £3.3 million on type 1 diabetes in 2013-14. A figure for 2014-15 is not yet available.

## Economic Situation: Greece

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost to the public purse resulting from the economic crisis in Greece. [HL1126]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government has secured a deal that protects UK taxpayers from any risk from financing euro area bailouts now and in the future. This deal gives legal force to the commitment secured in 2010 that UK taxpayers would not be drawn into a euro area bailout. While Greece remains in the euro, its financial stability is the responsibility of the euro area.

## Elections: Voting Behaviour

*Asked by Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to undertake a consultation based on independent market research about whether people would be more likely to vote in elections if polling stations were open at weekends. [HL1189]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government currently has no plans to undertake such a consultation.

## Electoral Register: Fines

*Asked by Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether changes to the electoral registration process are needed to ensure that people are aware of the civil penalties for non-compliance with the registration process; and what proportion of Electoral Registration Officers use registration forms that inform people of these penalties. [HL1191]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** All Electoral Registration Officers are obliged by the Representation of the People Regulations 2001 to use the registration application forms

designed by the Electoral Commission and approved by Government Ministers. Applicants filling in these forms are required to make a declaration that they understand that failure to make an application when required to do so could result in a civil penalty being issued.

## European Union: Education

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Nash on 16 June (HL521) concerning schools' compliance with sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996, whether they are aware of campaigns by the European Commission to promote the European Union in primary and secondary schools; and how those educational establishments will provide a balanced treatment of the issue of United Kingdom membership of the European Union. [HL1437]

**Lord Nash:** The European Commission makes information about the European Union available to schools. European Union institutions have a policy of distributing publications only on demand. They do not send out unsolicited information. There are very few publications produced by EU institutions that are targeted towards schools.

Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996 requires schools to prevent political indoctrination and ensure the balanced treatment of political issues. How this is done is a matter for individual schools.

## Financial Services Compensation Scheme

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will explain why they agreed to a European directive tying the United Kingdom's bank deposit protection scheme to the euro-sterling value which has resulted in a £10,000 reduction in the level of protection for United Kingdom depositors from next year; and what action they intend to take to address this anomaly. [HL1108]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive (DGSD) updates existing EU legislation designed to harmonise the level of deposit protection provided across the European Economic Area (EEA).

This is necessary to ensure that depositors are entitled to the same level of protection wherever they deposit their money, and that UK firms are not competitively disadvantaged in relation to firms in other EEA jurisdictions.

As a result of the current strength of the pound in relation to the euro, it has been necessary for the Prudential Regulation Authority to review the sterling coverage limit. However, the Government has taken action to ensure that UK depositors are not exposed to a sudden reduction in the level of protection they receive.

HM Treasury has laid a statutory instrument to ensure that depositors who are currently entitled to £85,000 of



protection from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme will continue to be until 31 December 2015.

This will ensure that there is sufficient time available for depositors to be made aware of the changes, and to take such steps as they feel necessary to manage their financial affairs appropriately in light of this change.

### Folic Acid

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to reducing the use of folic supplementation by women of child-bearing age. [HL1114]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has not given consideration to reducing the use of folic acid supplementation by women of child-bearing age.

To reduce the risk of neural tube defect affected pregnancies, all women who could become pregnant are advised to take an additional 400µg/day folic acid as a medicinal or food supplement prior to conception and until the twelfth week of pregnancy.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any recent evidence that a folic acid deficiency in men may lead to birth defects in their offspring. [HL1115]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public Health England is not aware of any evidence to suggest that a folic acid deficiency in men may lead to birth defects in their offspring.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the serum folate levels in women of child-bearing age in the latest results of the National Diet and Nutrition Survey; and how these compare to the World Health Organisation thresholds. [HL1116]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Serum total folate concentrations were published in a National Diet and Nutrition Survey Supplementary Report on 20 March 2015, available at the following link and has also been attached.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-diet-and-nutrition-survey-supplementary-report-blood-folate>

For women of child bearing age (16 to 49 years) in the United Kingdom, mean serum total folate concentration was 20.0 nmol/L, 16.5% had concentrations below 10 nmol/L, the World Health Organization (WHO) threshold indicating biochemical folate deficiency.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Folate Report [NDNS\_Y1\_4\_Folate\_report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-06/HL1116>

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the serum total folate levels for women of child-bearing age shown in the latest National Diet and Nutrition Survey supplementary report vary between the constituent parts of the United Kingdom, and whether those levels are above or below the World Health Organisation thresholds. [HL1235]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** For women of child bearing age (16 to 49 years), mean serum total folate concentration was 17.4 nanomoles per litre (nmol/L) in Scotland, 18.8 nmol/L in Wales and 16.3 nmol/L in Northern Ireland. The proportion with concentrations below 10 nmol/L, the World Health Organization (WHO) threshold indicating biochemical folate deficiency was 24.4% in Scotland, 14.5% in Wales and 30.6% in Northern Ireland. In the United Kingdom as a whole, mean serum total folate concentration was 20.0 nmol/L, and 16.5% had concentrations below the WHO threshold.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place with the governments of Scotland and Wales regarding the information contained in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey supplementary report of 20 March. [HL1236]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Departmental officials meet regularly with their counterparts in Scotland and Wales and have discussed the results of the National Diet and Nutrition Survey as part of these ongoing communications.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what meetings ministers have had with industry in the light of the blood folate results published in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey supplementary report published on 20 March. [HL1275]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Ministers have had no meetings with industry with regards to the blood folate results published in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey.

### Freedom of Expression

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Faulks on 1 July (HL561), whether they plan to review extant Acts of Parliament to ensure that the right of freedom of expression is not being restricted. [HL1111]

**Lord Faulks:** Currently, there are no plans to review extant Acts of Parliament to ensure that the right of freedom of expression is not being restricted.

The Government will be bringing forward proposals for a Bill of Rights to protect fundamental human rights, but also prevent their abuse and restore some common sense to the system.

## Gender Recognition

Asked by **Baroness Barker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to ensure that the Health and Social Care Information Centre informs transsexual patients whose health data has been wrongly disclosed to third parties. [HL1089]

Asked by **Baroness Barker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the Health and Social Care Information Centre does not contravene section 22 of the Gender Recognition Act 2004. [HL1090]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) takes every precaution to ensure compliance with legislation and that identifiable data is not disclosed without a legal basis to do so. There are strict controls set out within the Data Protection Act that govern the disclosure of sensitive data.

In all scenarios involving patient's health data being wrongly disclosed, irrespective of the personal circumstances of a patient, HSCIC would seek to ensure appropriate reporting, investigations and corrective actions took place.

## Health Professions: Training

Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received from Monitor regarding the case for increasing training places for doctors and nurses since 2010. [HL1096]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department has not received any specific representations from Monitor regarding increasing the number of training places for doctors and nurses.

Health Education England (HEE) is responsible for workforce planning for the National Health Service and as part of that process liaise with all arms length bodies, including Monitor, individual healthcare providers and key stakeholders regards medical and non medical staffing requirements going forward.

The Department set up HEE to deliver a better health and healthcare workforce for England. HEE is responsible for ensuring a secure workforce supply for the future balancing need against demand, taking into account factors such as the age profile of the existing workforce, the impact of technology, and new drugs.

## Households

Asked by **Lord Green of Deddington**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the change in the number of households in the United Kingdom between 2010 and 2014 where (1) the Household Reference Person was born in the United Kingdom and (2) the Household Reference Person was not born in the United Kingdom. [HL1074]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [Lord Green Letter HL1074.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-06/HL1074>

## House of Lords: Parliamentary Procedure

Asked by **Lord Campbell-Savours**

To ask the Leader of the House whether the speaking rights of the second largest opposition party front bench in the House of Lords can be reallocated to the opposition party with the second highest votes cast at the last general election. [HL1135]

Asked by **Lord Campbell-Savours**

To ask the Leader of the House what rules apply, and what advice is sought, when a political party seeks to establish or assume front-bench speaking rights in the House of Lords; and when the rules were first established. [HL1136]

Asked by **Lord Campbell-Savours**

To ask the Leader of the House what cross-party discussions have taken place regarding the recognition of opposition front-bench speaking rights for Liberal Democrat spokesmen in the House of Lords. [HL1137]

Asked by **Lord Campbell-Savours**

To ask the Leader of the House whether UKIP Peers in the House of Lords are to be granted opposition front-bench speaking rights; and if not, why not. [HL1138]

Asked by **Lord Campbell-Savours**

To ask the Leader of the House whether the percentage of the vote cast for a political party at a general election is a consideration in deciding whether a political party is granted opposition front-bench speaking rights in the House of Lords. [HL1139]

Asked by **Lord Campbell-Savours**

To ask the Leader of the House on what basis a political party with 7.9 per cent of the national vote at a general election holds front bench status in the House of Lords. [HL1588]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** The second largest opposition party is neither formally defined nor given specific speaking rights by the Standing Orders of the House or the Companion to the Standing Orders. The Companion to Standing Orders does, however, set out several areas where the "opposition front benches" have the right to speak for longer than backbenchers or have rights to speak at specific points in proceedings.

Of the political parties represented in the House, only the Official Opposition and the Liberal Democrat group operate frontbenches of a size that permits them to shadow each Government department. It is for that reason that the definition of “opposition frontbenches” that applied in practice before the 2010 Parliament has been reverted to in this Parliament.

It remains open to any member who wishes to propose a change to current arrangements to make representations to me and/or make a submission to the Procedure Committee.

## Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether post-marketing surveillance has been conducted on the administration of (1) Gardasil, and (2) Cervarix; if so, by whom, over what period, and with what results; and if not, why not. [HL1162]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** All licensed medicines and vaccines, including Gardasil and Cervarix, are subject to post-marketing surveillance (also known as pharmacovigilance). Gardasil and Cervarix are authorised via the centralised procedure with the European Commission as Licensing Authority. The post-marketing surveillance for centrally authorised products is underpinned by European Legislation (Regulation (EU) No 1027/2012) which puts requirements on national competent authorities in member states, the European Medicines Agency and marketing authorisation holders to collect data on safety of medicines and vaccines, assess any new issues, take action to minimise risks and monitor the effectiveness of any action taken.

Gardasil and Cervarix have been subject to post-marketing surveillance since the time of marketing. Gardasil and Cervarix have a very good safety record, and surveillance shows they have contributed to a significant decrease in rates of infection with the two main cancer-causing human papillomaviruses. The United Kingdom programme is eventually expected to prevent hundreds of deaths from cervical cancer every year.

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government why the outcome of 75 per cent of reported serious adverse events arising from taking Cervarix is unknown, in the light of the fact that the vaccine has a black triangle warning on its packaging indicating that increased pharmacovigilance is required. [HL1163]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** As of 7 July 2015, adverse events with an unknown outcome make up 22% of the total number of serious suspected adverse events reported in association with Cervarix.

The Black Triangle Scheme for intensive monitoring of medicines ran for many years in the United Kingdom but was replaced by the European equivalent in 2012.

Cervarix was first authorised in September 2007. For the first two years of the Cervarix immunisation programme in the UK, to complement the Black Triangle Scheme, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) put in place an ‘enhanced’ safety monitoring strategy involving a multi-disciplinary team of scientists. Cumulative safety summaries were published on the MHRA website each week for the public to see.

The Black Triangle Scheme, when it was in place, intensively monitored new medicines to ensure that any new safety hazards were identified promptly. The Commission on Human Medicines and the MHRA encouraged the reporting of all suspected reactions to newer drugs and vaccines, which were denoted by an inverted black triangle symbol.

Every reporter to the Yellow Card scheme receives an acknowledgement which asks that any new information relating to the case be reported. Follow up procedures for Yellow Card reports are in place and are designed to ensure that relevant information is sought if this is missing from reports of serious reactions which could potentially be new signals. While in an ideal world full details would be obtained for every report, given there are over 750,000 reports on the database with around 30,000 new reports each year, it will never be possible to ensure all reports on the database are complete. There are a number of difficulties with achieving satisfactory follow up. Time pressure on potential reporters has been identified as one of the reasons for under-reporting adverse reactions through the Yellow Card Scheme. This issue also applies to requests for follow up information and therefore there is a need to be selective and focussed about the reports for which follow up information is requested.

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government why only 16.8 per cent of reports of serious adverse events relating to human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines under the Yellow Card Scheme have been followed up, according to the response by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to a freedom of information request on 25 June; how this compares to the percentage of yellow-card reports followed up for all vaccines; and whether they now plan to follow up all reported serious adverse events relating to HPV vaccines in order to ascertain recovery rates. [HL1164]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** A total of 2,624 spontaneous suspected serious adverse reaction reports (ADRs) with human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines have been reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) via the Yellow Card Scheme up to 7 July 2015.

To date more than eight million doses of HPV vaccine have been given in the United Kingdom since 2008, with close to 90% eligible teenagers vaccinated. The vast majority of suspected side effects reported so far relate to those we would expect with most types of vaccine; these

are most commonly dizziness, headache, nausea, sore arms, vomiting, general malaise, tiredness, fever, and rashes. These tend to be mild and transient. Many serious reports relate to immediate fainting, which is not necessarily a side effect of the vaccine but a response that any type of needle insertion can provoke in some people.

The following table provides a breakdown of UK suspected spontaneous ADRs received via the Yellow card Scheme in association with all vaccines on the immunisation schedule. The table provides the total number of reports, the total number of serious reports and the number of serious reports followed up.

UK suspected spontaneous ADRs received via the Yellow card Scheme in association with all vaccines on the immunisation schedule.

<i>Vaccine Brand</i>	<i>Total number of reports</i>	<i>Number of serious reports</i>	<i>Number of serious reports followed up</i>	<i>% of serious reports followed up*</i>
Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)	8,276	2,624	441	17%
Diphtheria,tetanus, pertussis, polio and <i>Haemophilus influenza</i> type b (DTaP/IPV/Hib)	1,382	713	103	14%
Tetanus, diphtheria and polio (Td/IPV)	1,152	671	95	14%
Diphtheria,tetanus, pertussis and polio (DTaP/IPV)	1,326	509	65	12%
Rotavirus (Rotarix)	452	283	70	25%
Pneumococcal disease (PCV)	1,611	882	85	10%
Meningococcal group C disease (Men C)	14,671	4,241	81	2%
Hib/Men C	285	155	23	15%
Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)	5,492	2,804	88	3%
Pneumococcal disease (PPV)	1,726	985	27	3%
Fluenz/ Fluenz Tetra	877	381	74	19%
Zostavax	646	408	105	26%
Influenza virus	5,745	3807	483	13%

\* Percentage provided to the nearest whole number

It should be noted that a Yellow Card report is not proof of a side effect occurring, but a suspicion by the reporter that the vaccine may have been the cause. Yellow Card data cannot be used as a reliable indicator of the frequency of suspected ADRs to vaccines or medicines. The level of ADR reporting may fluctuate between given

years due to a variety of reasons such as a medicine being new (reporting rates are generally higher when a product is first introduced), stimulated interest/publicity and variations in exposure to the medicine. Comparisons of ADR reporting rates would be an invalid estimate of relative vaccine safety.

Every reporter to the Yellow Card scheme receives an acknowledgement which asks that any new information relating to the case be reported. Follow up procedures for Yellow Card reports are in place and are designed to ensure that relevant information is sought if this is missing from reports of serious reactions which could potentially be new signals. While in an ideal world full details would be obtained for every report, given there are over 750,000 reports on the database with around 30,000 new reports each year, it will never be possible to ensure all reports on the database are complete. There are a number of difficulties with achieving satisfactory follow up. Time pressure on potential reporters has been identified as one of the reasons for under-reporting adverse reactions through the Yellow Card Scheme. This issue also applies to requests for follow up information and therefore there is a need to be selective and focussed about the reports for which follow up information is requested.

The HPV vaccine has a very good safety record, and surveillance shows it has contributed to a significant decrease in rates of infection with the two main cancer-causing human papillomaviruses. The UK programme is eventually expected to prevent hundreds of deaths from cervical cancer every year.

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 16 June (HL229), which indicated that 2,589 serious suspected adverse drug reactions to human papilloma virus vaccines had been reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as at 3 June, and the response by the MHRA to a freedom of information request on 25 June that 2,617 such reactions had been reported as at 24 June, what assessment they have made of the increase in reports over the course of one month. [HL1165]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My Answer of 16 June (HL229) confirmed a total of 2,598 serious suspected adverse reaction reports with human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines had been reported via the Yellow Card Scheme up to 3 June 2015.

In relation to the additional serious suspected adverse reaction reports received since 3 June 2015, this number is in line with the average number of such reports received per month since the start of the United Kingdom HPV vaccination program.

The safety of all vaccines, including HPV, remains under continual review and appropriate action will be taken if any important new risks are confirmed.



## Humanitarian Aid: Military Aid

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost of unreimbursed humanitarian assistance provided by the Ministry of Defence in each of the last five years. [HL1282]

**Earl Howe:** This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost; however, it is expected that all costs have been recovered since 2010.

The Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development have in place a memorandum of understanding which enables the MOD to recover the marginal costs associated with support to humanitarian assistance activities. On occasion, and as appropriate, military support costs have also been recovered from other funding sources such as the Deployed Military Activity Pool and other Government Departments.

## Illegal Immigrants

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many lorry drivers have been fined by United Kingdom authorities during the last 12 months for unintentionally having migrants in their vehicles; and how many migrants have been fined for illegally hiding in lorries coming into the United Kingdom. [HL914]

**Lord Bates:** Border Force has imposed 3,319 civil penalties so far, during the 2014/15 financial year. These penalties have been imposed on both hauliers and drivers.

Civil Penalties are not imposed on illegal migrants themselves who are handed to the French authorities for processing following detection by Border Force and its contractors. The Civil Penalty Scheme only allows for penalties to be levied on hauliers and drivers. Earlier this year Immigration Minister James Brokenshire held an inaugural summit to promote lorry security and tackle the impact of illegal immigration on the haulage security. The Minister has since hosted a series of roundtable events with haulier groups.

It is important that vehicles are secured properly to help mitigate the threat of illegal immigration. The UK provides clear guidance on lorry security under the Civil Penalty Codes of Practice which many responsible drivers and hauliers take steps to follow. This is also an international issue and it is vital we ensure drivers from across the other countries maintain the same standards as ours. In 2013/14 only 7% of fines issued were to British drivers. We need to ensure that the rest of the world's freight transport industry is keeping up with the UK. The UK is held up in Europe as a leading example of best practice and we need to get that message to our European and international counterparts.

On 14 July the Home Secretary announced in Parliament the creation of a new secure zone at the port of Calais for UK bound lorries. This will provide a secure

waiting area for 230 vehicles - the equivalent of removing a two-and-a-half mile queue from the approaching road. This should transform protection for lorries and their drivers - removing them from the open road where they can become targets for migrants attempting to board their vehicles.

## Immigrants: Children

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied migrant children appeared in courts and tribunals as either parties or witnesses in 2014. [HL1245]

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied migrant children appeared in appeal proceedings in 2014 against orders made. [HL1247]

**Lord Faulks:** There were 303 unaccompanied migrant children recorded as appellants in asylum cases in the Immigration and Asylum First Tier Tribunal in 2014. The database does not record whether the appellant actually attended a tribunal hearing, which may be held on case files but could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. HMCTS do not record whether witnesses are unaccompanied migrant children. Other courts and tribunals do not record whether a party or a witness in a case is an unaccompanied child migrant.

## Immigrants: Detainees

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to limit the time that an individual may be held in immigration detention; and whether they plan to take steps to ensure that people who have suffered rape, sexual assault or torture are never detained. [HL1183]

**Lord Bates:** It is not possible to detain indefinitely under Immigration powers. For detention to be lawful there must be a realistic prospect of removal in a reasonable timeframe. To highlight this, published statistics show the majority of people detained under immigration powers (63%) leave detention within 28 days, with the vast majority (93%) leaving detention within 4 months in 2014.

There are no plans to introduce a fixed time limit on immigration detention as what is a reasonable prospect of removal will be highly case specific. A fixed time limit may lead to the release of foreign national offenders even when deportation action is continuing. This House divided on the introduction of a fixed time limit during the passage of the Immigration Act 2014 and rejected such a limit by a majority of over 300.

Published policy on the use of immigration detention already states where there is independent evidence the individual is a victim of torture, that they should only be detained in very exceptional circumstances. This would

include people who had suffered rape or sexual assault as an instrument of torture. Individuals who have been identified by the competent authorities as victims of trafficking, who may have suffered rape or sexual assault as an aspect of or as a result of being trafficked, are also only detained in very exceptional circumstances.

### Imports: USA

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which categories of United States exports of goods to the United Kingdom are free of European Union tariff and non-tariff barriers; and what was the aggregate value of those exports in the last year for which figures are available. [HL1285]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** For US exports to the EU, around 31% of their agricultural product lines and 26% of non-agricultural product lines face no EU tariffs.

As official detailed measures of non-tariff barriers are not available it is not possible to estimate the value or categories of US exports to the UK that are free of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

### Improving Outcomes for Young Black and Muslim Men in the Criminal Justice System Review

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they are making to evaluate and respond to the findings and recommendations in the report of the Young Review Improving outcomes for young black and/or Muslim men in the Criminal Justice System ; when they plan to publish any responses; and in the light of that review, what immediate action they are taking. [HL1268]

**Lord Faulks:** The Young Review was commissioned independently of government but has been used to inform equality-related priorities in the Department. At its publication in December 2014, the report was welcomed by the Department and its principle recommendation – the establishment of an Advisory Group of experts to work with NOMS and the Ministry of Justice – was accepted. The Ministry of Justice and NOMS participate actively in the Young Review Advisory Group which is taking forward the further recommended developments.

### Large Goods Vehicles

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which agencies are responsible for the enforcement of lorry weight limits; and whether those agencies have sufficient resources to enforce those limits. [HL1433]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) is the government agency

responsible for the enforcement of Heavy Goods Vehicles and Passenger Carrying Vehicles use. This includes the enforcement of lorry weight limits. DVSA considers that it has sufficient resources to enable it to carry out this enforcement activity.

### Legal Aid Scheme: Immigrants

*Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each of the last four years, how much was paid through legal aid to legal professionals advising asylum seekers and immigrants who had been charged with offences. [HL1288]

**Lord Faulks:** The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) does not record the immigration or asylum status at any stage of the billing or application process for criminal legal aid.

### Medicine: Research

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for a global fund to support research into antibiotics, Ebola and other neglected diseases. [HL1159]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The global funding of research and development of new antibiotics is part of the Independent review announced by the Prime Minister in June 2014 and chaired by Lord O'Neill of Gatley. The review is analysing the economics underlying all stages of the research and development of new antimicrobials and will propose concrete actions to tackle these internationally. The final recommendations from the review will be published in summer 2016.

There are now 15 vaccines under development for Ebola across the world. The Department for International Development, in partnership with the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council, has supported the Phase 1 clinical trial of a vaccine candidate, and funded a number of other areas of Ebola research, through the Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises programme.

The United Kingdom is also providing over £10 million annually for research into neglected tropical diseases. This is through a range of initiatives, including development of new treatment and diagnostic products, as well as implementation research. Examples of products resulting from the research in recent years include the first ever rapid diagnostic test and the first new, improved treatment option for sleeping sickness.

### Mesothelioma: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the decision by the panel of the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) that the clinical benefits of pemetrexed as a maintenance treatment in patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-squamous non-small cell lung cancer,

and who had previously not progressed on chemotherapy with the combination of cisplatin and pemetrexed, were insufficient to justify retaining pemetrexed within the CDF, pemetrexed will be withdrawn as a treatment option for patients with mesothelioma. [HL1086]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that pemetrexed (Alimta) for maintenance treatment of stage IIIB/IV non-squamous non-small cell lung cancer after response to pemetrexed-containing first line therapy will be reviewed by the national Cancer Drug Fund (CDF) panel at its next meeting at the end of July 2015. It will remain on the national CDF list for that indication pending the outcome of that further review.

Pemetrexed remains available for those patients who meet the criteria set out in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's technology appraisal guidance on pemetrexed for the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma (TA135).

### **Military Bases: Catterick**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the accommodation at Catterick Garrison is en-suite. [HL1382]

**Earl Howe:** This information is not held centrally. The department is currently developing a robust Single Living Accommodation allocation and management system which will be available in 2016.

### **Monitor: Employment Agencies**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of Monitor's use of temporary staff to work with NHS Foundation Trusts on reducing agency staff costs as a model for the National Health Service. [HL1095]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This Government is determined to reduce expensive staffing agency costs in the National Health Service.

Monitor's project will look at how best to reduce this spend and enable the NHS to set up systems to deliver savings.

Spending on temporary staff in the NHS was £2.4 billion in 2013-14. In contrast, this initial work, led by Monitor, will cost £175,000 (excluding VAT) and could lead to substantive appointments being made to take the work forwards if required.

### **National Asset Management Agency**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the Irish Republic about the disclosures made in the Irish

Parliament concerning the sale of properties in Northern Ireland owned by the National Asset Management Agency; and what assessment they have made of the implications of these disclosures for political progress in Northern Ireland. [HL1174]

**Lord Dunlop:** The UK Government has had no discussions with the Irish Government about statements made in the Irish Parliament concerning the sale of properties in Northern Ireland owned by the National Asset Management Agency.

### **Plastics**

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they plan to take to reduce harmful plastic production and waste in the United Kingdom. [HL1306]

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what targets they have for the systematic reduction of harmful plastic production and waste in the United Kingdom. [HL1307]

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of which targets, incentives and disincentives are effective in reducing harmful plastic production and waste; and what actions they plan to take at (1) European Union, (2) Council of Europe, and (3) international, levels in order to effect such reductions. [HL1308]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Plastics play a vital role in most facets of our daily lives. The industry also contributes enormously to our transition to a green economy, particularly through the development and supply of low carbon products and solutions which help manufacturing sectors. Nevertheless, we recognise that the production and disposal of plastic presents challenges: plastics are long-lived in the natural environment and can cause damage when disposed of irresponsibly; and some chemical additives have the potential to be damaging to human health and the environment, during the life of the plastic product and when it is disposed of.

There is a strict limit on the levels of heavy metals permitted within plastic packaging, the plastic parts of electrical & electronic equipment and vehicles placed on both the UK market and the wider EU single market. In addition, the EU Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) provides the means to control the most dangerous chemicals. The use of a chemical substance, such as an additive in plastics, can be restricted if it presents an unacceptable risk. Alternatively, a hazardous substance may only be allowed in uses that are specifically authorised, either because the risk is adequately controlled or the socio-economic benefits of continued use outweigh the risks.

To reduce the environmental impact of single use plastic carrier bags we are requiring larger stores to

charge 5p for such bags from 5 October this year. The experience of other parts of the UK suggests that this could reduce usage from these stores by up to 80%. We also encourage packaging producers to use a minimum level of packaging, including plastic packaging. The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations require that packaging should not exceed what is needed to ensure that products are safe, hygienic and acceptable to the consumer. These Regulations are enforced by Trading Standards.

In addition, the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations place a legal obligation on businesses that make or use packaging to ensure that a proportion of the packaging they place on the market is recovered and recycled. The recycling target for plastic packaging waste placed on the market by businesses obligated under these regulations is 47% for 2015 rising to 52% in 2016 and 57% in 2017.

The Government is in the process of responding to the European Commission's consultations on the circular economy which will inform a package of proposals on resource efficiency and waste, and which are expected to be published by the end of this year.

### Political Parties: Finance

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask the Chairman of Committees how much Cranborne money will be given to (1) the Liberal Democrat Party, and (2) the Labour Party; and over what period of time. [[HL1376](#)]

**Lord Sewel:** The maximum amount of financial assistance available to opposition parties will be: £259,357 to the Liberal Democrat party in the period 8 May 2015 to 31 March 2016; and £577,871 to the Labour Party in the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. The amount given may be less, depending on claims.

For each subsequent year, the maximum amount for the previous year is increased by the percentage (if any) by which the retail prices index for the previous March has increased compared with the index for the March before that, and (if the resulting amount is not a whole number of pounds) rounded to the nearest pound. The full-year equivalents on which the calculation will be based are £288,525 for the Liberal Democrat party and the amount set out above for the Labour party.

Financial assistance is available to assist the Opposition, the second largest opposition party and the Convenor of the Cross-Bench Peers in carrying out their Parliamentary business.

### Prime Minister: Staff

*Asked by Lord Lawson of Blaby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff there were in the Prime Minister's office for each Prime Minister over the last 30 years. [[HL1102](#)]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The staffing numbers for the Prime Minister's Office are included in the overall Cabinet Office staff numbers which are available on gov.uk from 2011 onwards.

The information prior to this point is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate costs to be able to identify, analyse and provide this information before 2011.

### Prison Service

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many detached duty staff worked in each prison in each month of 2015. [[HL1214](#)]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which prisons contributed staff to detached duty in each month of 2015. [[HL1215](#)]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which prisons received the highest (1) number and (2) proportion of detached duty staff from another prison in each month of 2015. [[HL1216](#)]

**Lord Faulks:** The deployment of staff between prisons on detached duty is a regular and normal part of prison resourcing. It allows staff to be allocated from prisons with the capacity to provide them, to those where additional staffing is required. A large proportion of the capacity is typically available from prisons that are in the process of closure or going through a re-role.

The average weekly provision of staff that were received and contributed as part of the nationally co-ordinated detached duty scheme across public sector prisons are shown in the tables below. The information covers the period January to March 2015, which coincides with the latest published prison staffing data.

On average over the three month period (January to March 2013), less than 1% of staff were provided on detached duty.

The absolute amount of detached duty staffing contribution received by each establishment can be found in table 1 below. The establishment that received the highest proportion of staffing on detached duty in January and February 2015 was Elmley, where 2% and 7% of officer staffing in the prison was provided by detached duty in each month respectively. In March the highest proportion of officer staffing contributed by detached duty was at Aylesbury with 12% of the total.

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Rounding to 10 accurately depicts the level of certainty that is held with these figures. Values of 5 or fewer are denoted as '~'



Table 1. Average Monthly provision of staff received on detached duty to establishments in England & Wales January - March 2015

Establishment	Monthly Contribution		
	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Aylesbury	~	10	20
Bedford	~	~	~
Brinsford	~	~	10
Bullington	~	~	10
Chelmsford	~	10	10
Cookham Wood	~	~	10
Elmley	~	20	20
Feltham	~	~	10
Gartree	~	~	~
Glen Parva	~	~	~
Haverigg	~	~	~
High Down	~	10	20
Highpoint	~	~	~
Hull	~	~	~
Isis	~	10	10
Isle of Wight	~	~	~
Leeds	~	~	~
Leicester	~	~	~
Nottingham	~	10	10
Onley	~	~	~
Pentonville	~	~	~
Rochester	~	~	10
Swaleside	~	~	~
Wandsworth	~	~	~
Wayland	~	~	~
Werrington	~	~	~
Wetherby	~	10	10
Woodhill	~	10	20
Wormwood Scrubs	~	10	10
Total	30	100	210

Table 2. Average Monthly provision of staff contributed on detached duty to other establishments in England & Wales January - March 2015

Establishment	Monthly Contribution		
	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Aylesbury	~	~	~
Blantyre House	~	~	10
Bristol	~	~	~

Establishment	Monthly Contribution		
	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Brixton	~	~	~
Buckley Hall	~	~	~
Bure	~	~	10
Cardiff	~	~	~
Channings Wood	~	~	~
Dartmoor	~	~	~
Deerbolt	~	~	10
Dover	~	~	~
Downview	~	20	30
Durham	~	~	~
East Sutton Park	~	~	~
Eastwood Park	~	~	~
Exeter	~	~	~
Featherstone	~	~	~
Ford	~	~	~
Frankland	~	~	~
Full Sutton	~	~	~
Garth	~	~	~
Glen Parva	~	~	~
Guys Marsh	~	~	~
Hatfield	~	~	~
Hindley	~	10	20
Hollesley Bay	~	~	~
Holloway	~	~	~
Holme House	~	~	10
High Security Prisons	~	~	~
Isle of Wight	~	~	10
Kennet	~	~	~
Kirklevington	~	~	~
Kirklevington Grange	~	~	~
Lancaster Farms	~	~	~
Leeds	~	~	10
Leicester	~	~	~
Lewes	~	~	~

<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Monthly Contribution</i>		
	<i>Jan-15</i>	<i>Feb-15</i>	<i>Mar-15</i>
Littlehey	~	~	10
Liverpool	~	~	~
Long Lartin	~	~	~
Low Newton	~	~	~
Maidstone	~	~	~
Moorland	~	~	~
Morton Hall	~	~	~
New Hall	~	~	~
North Sea Camp	~	~	~
Norwich	~	~	10
Portland	~	~	~
Preston	~	~	10
Risley	~	~	~
Send	~	~	~
Stafford	~	~	~
Stocken	~	~	~
Stoke Heath	~	~	~
Sudbury	~	~	~
Swansea	~	~	~
The Mount	~	~	~
Thorn Cross	~	~	~
Wakefield	~	~	~
Wandsworth	~	~	~
Warren Hill	~	~	~
Wealstun	~	~	~
Wetherby	~	~	~
Whatton	~	~	~
Whitemoor	~	~	~
Winchester	~	~	~
Woodhill	~	~	~
Wymott	~	~	~
Total	30	100	210

### Public Bodies

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bridges of Headley on 16 June

(HL204) concerning non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies, whether they intend to (1) make further cost savings, and (2) reduce the number of agencies, in the period 2015 to 2020. [HL1109]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government is finalising the schedule for reviewing arm's-length bodies in this parliament. In the period 2010-15 the Government reduced the number of public bodies by a third, reducing administrative costs by over £2.6bn.

### Republic of Ireland

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 1 July (HL811) concerning the Belfast Agreement and human rights, what discussions they have had over the last five years with the government of the Republic of Ireland at ministerial and official levels; what was discussed; and what were the outcomes of those discussions. [HL1462]

**Lord Dunlop:** As has been explained previously to the Noble Lord, the UK and Irish Governments meet regularly at ministerial and official level to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. These include matters relating to the implementation of the Belfast Agreement.

### Slavery

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which locations have been chosen for piloting the recommended changes to the National Referral Mechanism referred to in the Modern Slavery Strategy. [HL1458]

**Lord Bates:** The recommendations of the National Referral Mechanism review will be piloted in the South West and West Yorkshire.

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the pilots testing changes to the National Referral Mechanism referred to in the Modern Slavery Strategy will begin and end; what mechanism is in place to evaluate the pilot; and when an evaluation report will be produced. [HL1459]

**Lord Bates:** The recommendations of the National Referral Mechanism review will be piloted for a year from this Summer. Pilots will be assessed by the Home Office Crime and Policing Analysis Unit which will report regularly to the National Referral Mechanism Pilot Steering Board and produce a final report at the end of the pilot period.

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) whether the National Referral Mechanism and the Victim Care Contract have been extended to provide support and assistance to all victims of modern slavery covered by

sections 1 and 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, as recommended by the National Referral Mechanism Review 2014; and (2) if so, what criteria are being used to determine whether an individual is a victim of modern slavery for the purposes of receiving such support. [HL1460]

**Lord Bates:** The National Referral Mechanism and Adult Victim Care Contract in respect of England and Wales will be extended to victims of modern slavery from 31 July. Discussions are ongoing with the Devolved Administrations to extend this provision across the whole of the UK.

An individual will be considered a victim of modern slavery where they meet the existing criteria for being a victim of trafficking, as set out in the Council of Europe Convention, or where they are a victim of slavery, servitude, or forced and compulsory labour, in line with the section 1 offence of the Modern Slavery Act, and in accordance with Article 4 of the Human Rights Convention.

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions are taking place with the devolved administrations to ensure consistent implementation of any proposed changes to the National Referral Mechanism referred to in the Modern Slavery Strategy. [HL1461]

**Lord Bates:** Officials from the Devolved Administrations have attended workshops to develop the pilot model and are in regular discussion with Home Office officials about the operation of the current NRM and potential changes following the review. Further discussions on options for extending the pilot model will be held as evaluation findings emerge over the coming year.

### Social Services: Apprentices

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to encourage young people to take up social care apprenticeships. [HL1158]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department is committed to supporting the social care apprenticeships programme. A recruitment and retention strategy launched by the Department in September 2014 focuses on apprenticeships and other innovative programmes to attract younger people into careers in adult social care. A copy is attached.

These include: the care ambassadors service supporting frontline care staff, to visit schools, colleges and job centres and inspire others; Sector Route-Way and Work Academy which provide experience of working in care, and develops skills; and the Traineeship initiative which is a training programme to provide young people with skills and work experience to find employment or progress onto an apprenticeship.

The Department's delivery partner, Skills for Care, has also produced guidance for social care employers on the employment of 16 – 18 year olds and is developing projects with local authorities to encourage recruitment of young people into apprenticeships in social care.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Recruitment and Retention Strategy [recruitment-and-retention-strategy-2014---2017.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-07/HL1158>

### Social Services: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of planned reductions in social care budgets for 2015–16 on local authorities and social care providers. [HL1298]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department monitors local authority budget data and expenditure on adult social care as routine. We will continue to work closely with local government and providers to understand current and future funding requirements to support decisions relating to the upcoming Spending Review.

This year, the Better Care Fund will provide £5.3 billion of investment in better integrated care, based on joint plans that have been developed locally and putting resources where the local NHS and social services think it is needed. Social care protection is a national condition of the Better Care Fund.

### Television: Internet

*Asked by Lord Inglewood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of when television will be delivered predominantly across the internet. [HL1072]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government has made no estimate of when this will happen.

### UK Membership of EU

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk that global corporations may delay investing in the United Kingdom because of uncertainty over the United Kingdom's European Union membership. [HL1349]

### Lord Maude of Horsham:

The United Kingdom continues to attract significant inward investment. As the Prime Minister made clear in his Bloomberg speech, the process of renegotiation and referendum is about providing the certainty and reform that business have asked for. The CBI and BCC have said that they support the reform agenda the PM is seeking to deliver.

**Welfare State***Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the open letter to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions published in the Tablet on 4 July. [HL1118]

**Lord Freud:** The Secretary of State received a letter from Ekklesia dated 3 July 2015, which was subsequently published online in the Tablet.

The Secretary of State has responded to this letter from Ekklesia.

It would not be appropriate for us to make public our response to this private correspondence.



## Written Answers

Tuesday, 21 July 2015

### Apprentices

Asked by **Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for the latest year for which figures are available, how many people in England aged (1) 16, (2) 17, (3) 18, (4) 19–21, (5) 22–24, and (6) 25 and over, started an apprenticeship; and for each age group, how many started engineering apprenticeships. [HL1196]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in 2013/14 by age for all apprenticeships and for the engineering and manufacturing sector subject area.

Age	All Apprenticeship Starts	Engineering and Manufacturing
16	25,500	6,900
17	39,000	8,500
18	55,100	10,800
19-21	101,000	15,500
22-24	58,100	7,000
25+	161,600	16,100
Total	440,400	64,800

Notes:

(1) The source is the Individualised Learner Record.

(2) Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.

### Apprentices: Engineering

Asked by **Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how decisions about allocating funding to engineering apprenticeships for those aged (1) 16–18, and (2) 19 and over, are made. [HL1198]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Apprenticeships are paid jobs with high quality training. The locations and sectors where apprenticeships are available are determined by employers offering opportunities and recruiting apprentices.

We are committed to 3 million apprenticeship starts during the next 5 years and we will work with employers, including in the engineering sector, to provide more apprenticeship opportunities, particularly for young people.

Through the Skills Funding Agency, the Government provides funding for training where employers hire an apprentice and currently fully funds apprenticeship training for 16 – 18 year olds and up to 50% of apprenticeship training for over 19s.

### Apprentices: Finance

Asked by **Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for the latest year for which figures are available, what is the total level of funding for apprenticeships in England available for those aged (1) 16–18, and (2) 19 and over; and for each age group, how much was allocated to engineering apprenticeships. [HL1197]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Funding responsibility for the Apprenticeship Programme is shared between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which funds adult apprenticeships and the Department for Education which funds 16-18 year olds. This is a demanded budget and not allocated to any particular sector, employers and providers are relied upon to work together to offer sufficient opportunities to meet local demand.

For the 2015/16 financial year, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will provide £770million to fund apprenticeships for those aged 19+ and the Department for Education will provide £776.5million to fund apprenticeships for those aged 16-18<sup>[1]</sup>.

[1] These figures do not include funding for the Employer Ownership Programme

### Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Asked by **Lord Browne of Belmont**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many service personnel (1) on operational development, and (2) in total, were garrisoned in Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are currently available. [HL1321]

**Earl Howe:** A total of 2,190 United Kingdom regular service personnel were stationed in Northern Ireland as at 1 April 2015. Further details, including a breakdown by service and by local authority area are published in our quarterly location statistics; the latest release can be found at the following address:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/428656/qls\\_apr15.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/428656/qls_apr15.pdf)

UK regular forces, including those based in Northern Ireland, are liable for overseas deployment. The numbers committed to operations constantly varies depending on levels of operational activity and the contribution from Service personnel stationed in Northern Ireland reflects this variability.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Quarterly Location Statistics [qls\_apr15.pdf HL1321.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-13/HL1321>

## Business: Females

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage corporations to sponsor women's football teams and other initiatives. [HL1156]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Women and Sport Advisory Board convened under the 2010-2015 coalition Government identified commercial investment in women's sport as one of the themes for wider consideration in its final report, published March 2015. This Government wishes to look more widely at how it can make sport financially sustainable, and women's sport, including women's football, forms part of this work. The Minister for Sport and Tourism held a round-table session with representatives from National Governing Bodies, media bodies, sponsorship agencies, brands and a consultancy specialising in data intelligence in order to discuss the issues further. The findings will feed into the forthcoming Sport Strategy.

## Cancer: Drugs

Asked by *Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how long the revised Cancer Drugs Fund list will be available for patients and clinicians to access. [HL1325]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government is committed to continuing to invest in the Cancer Drugs Fund.

Asked by *Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place, if any, with NHS England about (1) the levels of unmet need in rare cancers, and (2) incremental innovation in rare cancers' treatment, during the process of assessing medicines for inclusion on the Cancer Drugs Fund. [HL1326]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that the current scoring system within the Cancer Drugs Fund makes provision for rarer cancers and unmet need where there is no recognised treatment available for a specific cancer. The clinical impact of innovation is considered by the clinical panel as part of the prioritisation process.

## Charities

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to discuss with the Charity Commission the need for charities to include in their requests for donations the level of support they receive from the Government and other public bodies; the salaries paid to the Chief Executive Officer and other senior staff; and the number of full-time and part-time paid staff employed. [HL1392]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Ministers regularly meet with the Charity Commission to discuss the legal and regulatory framework for charities in England and Wales. Charities are already required to provide information relating to income sources, senior staff remuneration, and the number of employed staff in their annual accounts and trustees' annual reports. The accounts and reports of registered charities with an annual income of over £25,000 are publicly available from the Charity Commission at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

## Childbirth

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases there were involving the stillbirth, neonatal death or disability of a baby, or the disability of the mother or maternal death, in a singleton pregnancy by (1) hospital trust and (2) region, in each of the last 10 years; and what was the total cost of settling claims dealt with by the NHS arising from these cases. [HL1223]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The information requested has been provided by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHS LA). As the information is over a 10 year period it has been put into the attached spreadsheets, entitled:

- 1) Single pregnancy by Trust - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a single birth pregnancy received by hospital trust for NHS LA notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014
- 2) Single pregnancy by Region - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a single birth pregnancy received by region for NHSLA notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014
- 3) Multiple pregnancy by Region - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a multiple birth pregnancy received by region for NHSLA notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014
- 4) Multiple pregnancy by Cause - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a multiple birth pregnancy received by cause for NHSLA notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014
- 5) Multiple pregnancy by Trust - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a multiple birth pregnancy received by hospital trust for NHSLA Notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014

It should be noted that where there are less than five claims in a cohort against a trust, an asterisk has been used in the spreadsheets, as the disclosure of such information could breach an individual's confidentiality.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Spreadsheets workbook [Copy of  
Workbook\_HL122312241225.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-08/HL1223>

## Civil Partnerships: Siblings

Asked by *Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any proposals to enable two siblings to enter into a legally binding civil partnership. [HL1405]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government does not have any plans to amend the Civil Partnership Act 2004 to enable siblings to register as civil partners.

## Civil Service Learning

Asked by *Lord Norton of Louth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff are presently employed by Civil Service Learning; and, of these, how many teach on modules that address the role of Parliament and the constitutional relationship between Parliament and the executive. [HL1292]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** As at 30th June 2015, there were 72 staff members employed by Civil Service Learning. One staff member is responsible for learning that covers the role of Parliament and the constitutional relationship between Parliament and the executive.

## Congenital Abnormalities

Asked by *Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for introducing a Birth Defects Prevention Month and a Folic Acid Awareness Week, such as those that take place in the United States of America, and of the potential effects of such a step on public health and the economy. [HL1274]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government currently has no plans to introduce a folic acid awareness week or a Birth Defects Prevention Month.

In line with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines, women are advised to take an additional 400 micrograms of folic acid as a supplement, ideally from several weeks before conception until the 12th week of pregnancy, in order to reduce the risk of a neural tube defect affected pregnancy. The NICE guidelines, *Maternal and child nutrition*, are attached.

This information is also available on the NHS Choices website.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Maternal and Child Nutrition [guidance-maternal-and-child-nutrition-pdf.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-09/HL1274>

## Data Protection

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken and what steps they plan to take to increase the number of registrations with the Information Commissioner's Office; what estimate they have made of the consequential annual increase in income, and of the recovery of lost income from those who have not paid the required fee as data controllers; and what assessment they have made of current levels of fees. [HL1144]

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the financial incentive or disincentive for the Information Commissioner's Office to maximise the registration fee income it receives and recoup any registration fee income that has not been paid by data controllers in previous years. [HL1146]

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration the Information Commissioner's Office and the Ministry of Justice have given to ensuring that action is taken against all those who have not complied with their registration obligations; what weight the possible disadvantage to those who have paid their due fees is given in deciding whether to prosecute non-registration; and what assessment they have made of whether all those involved in the administration of justice are compliant. [HL1147]

**Lord Faulks:** The Data Protection Act 1998 requires every data controller who is processing personal information to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) unless they are exempt. Failure to do so is a criminal offence.

The ICO's website sets out the criteria for notification and provides guidance on the level of fee organisations should be paying. The ICO have also made it easier for organisations to notify and pay the fee by introducing online payments.

In 2014/15 the ICO brought eight prosecutions against organisations for non-notification and two prosecutions for wrong purposes.

The Ministry of Justice and the ICO are looking at the current funding model as part of negotiations on the proposed EU Data Protection Regulation.

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what budgetary provision the Information Commissioner's Office has made regarding its data protection activities for the next financial year. [HL1145]

**Lord Faulks:** The Information Commissioner's Office's (ICO) data protection activities are funded by fees from organisations that process personal data. The

amount available to spend each year is dependent on the number of organisations that notify with the ICO.

### Deaths in Custody Independent Review

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they are making to evaluate and respond to each of the recommendations in the report of the Harris Review Changing Prisons, Saving Lives; when they plan to publish any response; and in the light of that review, what immediate action they are taking. [HL1267]

**Lord Faulks:** Our prisons must punish those who break the law, but they should also be places of rehabilitation that can help rescue offenders from a life of crime.

The death of a young person whilst in prison custody, at a time when they can be at their most vulnerable, is a real tragedy. It is right that we look closely at any measures that could reduce such deaths.

The government will consider Lord Harris' recommendations very carefully and respond to the report in the autumn.

### Defence: Expenditure

*Asked by Lord Robertson of Port Ellen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether elements of defence-related intelligence have been added to the defence budget. [HL1456]

**Earl Howe:** No security and intelligence agency funding has been added to the defence budget, apart from routine transfers which are published in main and supplementary estimates.

The funding for the Defence Intelligence organisation remains funded from the defence budget.

As confirmed in the Summer Budget, the Government is committed to meeting the properly-measured NATO pledge to spend 2% of national income on defence every year of this decade. This will include public spending that supports the Ministry of Defence and the contribution made by the secret intelligence agencies.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Detainees

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo calling for the release of Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala. [HL1248]

**Earl of Courtown:** Officials from our Embassy in Kinshasa have twice lobbied the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) alongside other EU missions to raise our concerns about the ongoing detentions of Fred Bauma and Yves Makwambala. We continue to urge the DRC

government to act on the recommendations of its Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the arrests.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo regarding allegations of unlawful detention and acts of torture by the Congolese intelligence services against activists, political leaders and human rights campaigners following protests in January against the revision of the electoral law and demonstrations in March organised by LUCHA. [HL1249]

**Earl of Courtown:** We remain deeply concerned by the Congolese authorities' response to the civil unrest that affected Kinshasa and the wider Democratic Republic of Congo in January, and subsequent peaceful political activity. It is unacceptable to hold the arrested participants in detention for long periods without charge or due legal assistance. We are concerned by reports that their testimony was obtained under duress and that this may be used in legal proceedings against the activists.

In response, and together with other EU Missions, officials from our Embassy in Kinshasa twice lobbied the Congolese government to voice our concern at the arrest and detention without charge of the activists. Officials also joined other international observers in monitoring court hearings in this case and those of a number of other activists detained in recent months. Officials have stressed to the Congolese authorities that civil society organisations must be allowed to hold workshops on the democratic process without fear of arrest or reprisal, that all legal proceedings must fully respect the international standards of due process and that the right to peaceful demonstration and assembly must be upheld. Our concerns were set out in an EU Heads of Mission press statement issued on 11 February.

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo pressing for an independent, credible, and transparent investigation of the mass grave found in March in Maluka, supported by international investigators and experts. [HL1250]

**Earl of Courtown:** British Government officials have called upon Congolese judicial officials to properly investigate the mass grave containing over 400 bodies uncovered in Maluku in March.

We urge the Congolese authorities to work closely with international experts, including from the UN Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) and the UN Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and call on them to ensure that a transparent and credible investigation is



urgently undertaken. Officials have also encouraged the Congolese government to ensure a thorough response to the public complaint filed on 5 June by the families of 34 victims of disappeared persons.

On 10 April the EU delegation in Kinshasa made a press statement on behalf of all EU Heads of Mission in Kinshasa reiterating this call for justice.

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the call from Human Rights Watch for an exhumation of the mass grave at Maluka by an international team. [HL1251]

**Earl of Courtown:** British Government officials have called upon Congolese judicial officials to properly investigate the mass grave containing over 400 bodies uncovered in Maluku in March.

We urge the Congolese authorities to work closely with international experts, including from the UN Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) and the UN Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and call on them to ensure that a transparent and credible investigation is urgently undertaken. Officials have also encouraged the Congolese government to ensure a thorough response to the public complaint filed on 5 June by the families of 34 victims of disappeared persons.

On 10 April the EU delegation in Kinshasa made a press statement on behalf of all EU Heads of Mission in Kinshasa reiterating this call for justice.

### **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Assets**

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 6 July (HL719), what assessment they have made of the biodiversity and potential nature conservation value of freehold property identified as a prospective asset sale by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, its Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies. [HL1294]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** All sites that have been identified as surplus and appear on the list in question have undergone rigorous consultation prior to being declared surplus.

Where appropriate in-house conservation and biodiversity specialists are consulted before assets are formally declared surplus. This allows for any conservation or biodiversity value or potential to be identified and managed. This can include land being disposed with appropriate easements in place to protect the biodiversity of the asset.

### **Department for International Development: Public Appointments**

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies by the Department for International Development. [HL1314]

**Baroness Verma:** The Department for International Development publishes a list of persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies:

*The Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) -*

Dr Alison Evans, Chief Commissioner of ICAI

Commissioners:

Francesca Del Mese

Tina Fahm

Richard Gledhill

*The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) -*

Richard Middleton, Chair, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

Professor Graham Furniss OBE, FBA, Deputy Chair, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioners :

Professor Anne Anderson OBE Sandy Balfour Dr Nick Brown Richard Burge Anthony Cary CMG Professor David Cope Professor Brian Faragher Professor David Francis Sarah Laessig Dr Joanna Newman MBE Mark Robson Dr Mary Stiasny OBE Professor Jeff Waage OBE

### **Department for Work and Pensions: Public Appointments**

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies by the Department for Work and Pensions. [HL1313]

**Lord Freud:** As at 16 July 2015, the information requested is:

Ian Russell Disabled People's Employment Corporation (GB) Ltd. (formerly Remploy Ltd.)

Judith Hackitt Health and Safety Executive

Professor Keith Palmer Industrial Injuries Advisory Council

Otto Thoresen National Employment Savings Trust Corporation

Anthony Arter Pensions Ombudsman and Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman

Geoff Shanks (interim chair) The Pensions Advisory Service

Mark Boyle The Pensions Regulator

Paul Gray Social Security Advisory Committee

## Diabetes

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts are being made to ensure that those suffering from Type 1 diabetes (1) have comparable outcomes, and (2) have comparable routine care, to those with Type 2 diabetes. [HL1204]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There are clear guidelines in place on the management of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. The delivery of the recommended care processes and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence treatment targets for all people with diabetes are incentivised through the Quality and Outcomes Framework. Delivery of these are monitored through the National Diabetes Audits and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Outcome Indicator Set. In addition, the diabetes national public health profiles published by Public Health England supports general practitioners and CCGs to identify where improvement is needed.

The Department is developing plans to improve the outcomes of people with diabetes and will put forward our plans in due course.

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take in the next 12 months to ensure that those with Type 1 diabetes meet similar targets for the recommended care processes, and for treatment for blood glucose and cholesterol, as those with Type 2 diabetes. [HL1207]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There are clear guidelines in place on the management of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. The delivery of the recommended care processes and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence treatment targets for all people with diabetes are incentivised through the Quality and Outcomes Framework. Delivery of these are monitored through the National Diabetes Audits and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Outcome Indicator Set. In addition, the diabetes national public health profiles published by Public Health England supports general practitioners and CCGs to identify where improvement is needed.

The Department is developing plans to improve the outcomes of people with diabetes and will put forward our plans in due course.

## Electoral Register

*Asked by Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the advice of the Electoral Commission that the transition to individual electoral registration should not be brought forward from 1 December 2016. [HL1193]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government informed the House on 16 July of its plans to end the transition to Individual Electoral Registration in December 2015. The

Written Ministerial Statement can be found on [parliament.uk](http://parliament.uk).

## Electoral Register: Fines

*Asked by Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many civil penalties for non-compliance with the electoral registration process have been issued since the penalty system was introduced; and what steps they plan to take to increase awareness of such civil penalties. [HL1192]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Civil penalty notices are issued on a local basis by Electoral Registration Officers (EROs); there is no requirement for an ERO to inform the Government where this occurs, therefore no information is held centrally on the number of civil penalty notices issued. A civil penalty notice once issued may be cancelled at the ERO's discretion or if the person makes an application to register.

All Electoral Registration Officers are obliged by the Representation of the People Regulations 2001 to use the registration application forms designed by the Electoral Commission and approved by Government Ministers. Applicants filling in these forms are required to make a declaration that they understand that failure to make an application when required to do so could result in a civil penalty notice being issued.

## Electoral Register: Young People

*Asked by Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the proportion of people aged 18 on the electoral registers in (1) Northern Ireland, and (2) Great Britain; and what consideration they have given to bringing the electoral registration process in Great Britain into line with that in Northern Ireland by fully involving schools in the process. [HL1190]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The most recent analysis by the Electoral Commission of the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers in Northern Ireland (November 2012) and Great Britain (2014) suggests that 51% of 18-19 year olds in Northern Ireland were registered to vote, compared with 76.1% of 18-19 year olds in Great Britain.

Many Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in Great Britain already work with local schools and colleges in their area to identify and register young people.

## Exercise

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to ensure an increase in physical leisure activity among the population in order to tackle the rise in obesity among adults and children. [HL1227]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Tackling obesity is of great concern to this Government and tackling childhood

obesity is a major priority. Physical activity has an important role to play in weight management, and can bring important physical and mental health benefits, but there is no single solution to the problem.

While some progress has been made in recent years, there is much further to go. We will put forward our plans in due course.

## Exports

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding of the Office for Budget Responsibility that they will miss the target to increase exports to £1 trillion pounds by 2020 by £367 billion pounds. [HL1259]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** World trade growth has been revised down by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) in each year of the forecast from 2016. As a result, the OBR now expects a weaker outlook for UK export markets. As the UK is one of the most open economies in the world, external weakness, particularly in our biggest export markets in Europe, reduces demand for our exports. In addition the slowdown in world trade is expected to continue, resulting in the OBR forecasting a weaker outlook for UK export markets.

The £1 trillion figure was set to be ambitious, and it remains so. UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has more than doubled the number of businesses it helps on an annual basis since 2010, supported by extra resources. However, given the scale of the export challenge it is essential that the broad range of relevant government activity works effectively for all companies across multiple sectors and markets. That is why the government, in its Productivity Plan, has pledged to mobilise the whole of government behind exporting, working alongside a more effective UKTI and better export finance.

## Folic Acid

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were (1) the age distribution, and (2) gender distribution, of those from whom blood samples were taken for folate status analysis for the recent National Nutrition and Diet Survey supplementary report; and what was the distribution, by country, of places where samples were collected. [HL1276]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The blood folate results published in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey Supplementary Report on 20 March 2015 are based on 2,671 people across the United Kingdom who gave a blood sample. This survey is available at the following link and has also been attached.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-diet-and-nutrition-survey-supplementary-report-blood-folate>

Of the people giving a blood sample, 57 were aged 1.5-3 years, 270 were aged 4-10 years, 575 were aged 11-18 years, 1,401 were aged 19-64 years and 368 were aged 65 years or older. 1,214 samples were from males and 1,457 were from females.

656 samples were provided in Scotland, 288 in Wales, 360 in Northern Ireland and 1,367 in England.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Folate Report [NDNS\_Y1\_4\_Folate\_report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-09/HL1276>

## Food: Dietary Supplements

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staple foods in the United Kingdom are subject to mandatory fortification. [HL1341]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Wheat Flour (excluding wholemeal) is the only food commodity which is subject to a mandatory fortification requirement in the United Kingdom.

## Health Services and Social Services: Living Wage

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much additional funding they estimate the new national living wage will require (1) for the provision of publicly-funded adult social care, and (2) for the National Health Service, in the 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years. [HL1501]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The costs of introducing the Living Wage will depend on the profile for its full introduction, which has not yet been decided. Any costs will be considered as part of the forthcoming Spending Review.

## Health Services: Males

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which joint strategic needs assessments pay due regard to men's health issues. [HL1333]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has not made any assessment of the extent to which Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) pay regard to men's health issues.

JSNAs should assess the health and care needs of the entire local population, and offer a valuable opportunity to review how current local services support men's health services and help commissioners prioritise and commission services appropriately.

The Government has not highlighted or prioritised any specific groups or area of need over another as this would risk undermining the purpose of JSNAs as being objective, comprehensive and most importantly locally-owned assessments.

### Higher Education: Admissions

Asked by **Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students in England are studying (1) full-time undergraduate degrees, (2) foundation degrees, and (3) other undergraduate degrees; and of each group, how many students are studying at (a) universities, and (b) further education colleges. [HL1200]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Information derived by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on the distribution of undergraduate students taught at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Further Education Colleges (FECs) is provided in the table.

The figures in the table describe the position as at the 8 July 2015 and are subject to change. HEFCE will be publishing their final estimates in the Summer.

*Full-Person Equivalent of undergraduate students<sup>(1,2)</sup> on full-time courses by type of teaching institution*

*Higher Education and Further Education Institutions in England*

*Academic year 2013/14*

*Position as at 8 July 2015*

*Teaching Institution<sup>3</sup>*

	<i>Higher Education Institutions</i>	<i>Further Education Colleges<sup>(4,5)</sup></i>	<i>Total</i>
First degree	1,084,170	23,775	1,107,945
Foundation degree	14,205	30,895	45,100
Other undergraduate	18,925	12,600	31,525
Total Undergraduate	1,117,305	67,270	1,184,575

Source: HEFCE analysis of the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Student Record and the Skills Funding Agency's (SFA) Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

Table notes:

- Figures exclude undergraduate students taught at Alternative providers.
- Full Person Equivalent (FPEs) counts apportion students if they are studying more than one subject or at more than one teaching institution.
- Under franchising arrangements the teaching institution may differ from the registering institution.
- Figures for FECs refer to students participating in prescribed courses of Higher Education.
- HEFCE apply statistical methods to the registered population at Further Education Colleges in order to make sure that the population used is comparable to that returned by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.
- Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

### Higher Education: Part-time Education

Asked by **Lord Bradshaw**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 6 July (HL793), what assessment they have made of the decline in the number of undergraduates in the part-time sector between the academic years 2009–10 and 2013–14; and what specific proposals they have for encouraging part-time study as one means to address skills shortages in engineering. [HL1170]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** An assessment of trends in entry to part-time undergraduate courses was included in the Higher Education Funding Council for England's report "*Pressure from all sides: Economic and policy influences on part-time higher education*"

[http://www.hefce.ac.uk/media/hefce/content/pubs/2014/201408d/HEFE2014\\_08d.pdf](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/media/hefce/content/pubs/2014/201408d/HEFE2014_08d.pdf)

The Government recognises the importance of part-time undergraduate higher education and from 2015/16 has introduced a relaxation of the Equivalent and Lower Qualifications policy, to give financial support to those who are committed to retraining in engineering, technology and computer science. We have also committed to rolling out many more Degree Apprenticeships, allowing young people to combine a world-class degree with a world-class apprenticeship.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HEFCE Report [Economic and Policy influences.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-07/HL1170>

### Housing Benefit: Young People

Asked by **Lord Scriven**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on LGBT young people of the announcement in the Budget of the withdrawal of housing benefit from under-21 year-olds, in the light of the statistics from the Albert Kennedy Trust that indicate that 69 per cent of LGBT young people in that age group have had to leave their family home and cannot return due to issues surrounding coming out. [HL1241]

**Lord Freud:** To prevent young people slipping straight into a life on benefits, from April 2017 the Government will remove the automatic entitlement to housing support for new claims in Universal Credit from 18-21 year olds who are out of work. This will ensure young people in the benefits system face the same choices as young people who work and who may not be able to afford to leave home.

We will ensure that vulnerable young people who are in need of support for their housing needs continue to receive it. Government will consider the impact in line with our legal obligations as part of that process.



## Inheritance Tax: Siblings

*Asked by Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to extend inheritance tax relief to long-term cohabiting and codependent siblings. [HL1494]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government has no plans to change the inheritance tax treatment of long-term cohabiting and co-dependent siblings.

## Jobseeker's Allowance

*Asked by Baroness King of Bow*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place in the Library of the House a copy of the guidance issued to Jobcentre Plus staff regarding tailored conditionality for claimants applying for Jobseeker's Allowance while awaiting a mandatory reconsideration decision on their Employment and Support Allowance claim. [HL1152]

**Lord Freud:** The Jobcentre Plus guidance that covers this subject area is the: Labour Market Conditions Guide (availability and actively seeking work section); ESA to JSA Transitions Guide; and Claimant Commitment guidance. These will be placed in the Library of the House as requested.

It should be noted, however, that all Jobseeker's Allowance claimants should have their conditionality tailored to their individual personal circumstances regardless of their reasons for claiming.

## Jobseeker's Allowance: Disqualification

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the annual rate of sanctions applied to Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in each of the years from 2010 to 2014 inclusive, calculated by dividing the number of all those sanctioned in each year by the total number who claimed Jobseeker's Allowance in each year. [HL1272]

**Lord Freud:** The information is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

## Life Peers: Public Appointments

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons nominated for a peerage for each of the political parties have been referred to the House of Lords Appointments Commission since 30 March. [HL1148]

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what dates in 2015 the names of persons nominated for a peerage were first communicated to the House of Lords Appointments Commission. [HL1149]

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are still committed to greater proportionality in the appointment of members to the House of Lords; and if not, what consultations took place prior to their decision not to continue with this commitment. [HL1151]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** I refer the noble Lord to my written answer of 23 June 2015 (HL371, HL372, HL373 and HL509), which I attach for ease of reference.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL371, HL372, HL373, HL509 [HL371, HL372, HL373, HL509.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-07/HL1148>

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what dates since 30 March the House of Lords Appointments Commission has met to consider nominations for a peerage. [HL1150]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** The independent House of Lords Appointments Commission (HoLAC) accounts for its proceedings in its Annual Report and publishes minutes of Commission meetings on its website: <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/>

## Maternity Services

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases there were involving the stillbirth, neonatal death or disability of a baby, or the disability of the mother or maternal death, in a multiple pregnancy by (1) hospital trust, and (2) region, in each of the last 10 years; and what was the total cost of settling claims dealt with by the NHS arising from these cases. [HL1224]

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the causes of those maternity-related claims settled by the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [HL1225]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The information requested has been provided by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHS LA). As the information is over a 10 year period it has been put into the attached spreadsheets, entitled:

1) Single pregnancy by Trust - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a single birth pregnancy received by hospital trust for NHS LA notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014

2) Single pregnancy by Region - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a single birth pregnancy received by region for NHSLA notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014

3) Multiple pregnancy by Region - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a multiple birth

pregnancy received by region for NHSLA notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014

4) Multiple pregnancy by Cause - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a multiple birth pregnancy received by cause for NHSLA notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014

5) Multiple pregnancy by Trust - will show the number of obstetrics claims involving a multiple birth pregnancy received by hospital trust for NHSLA Notification years 04/05 to 13/14, as at 31/03/2014

It should be noted that where there are less than five claims in a cohort against a trust, an asterisk has been used in the spreadsheets, as the disclosure of such information could breach an individual's confidentiality.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Spreadsheets workbook [Copy of  
Workbook\_HL122312241225.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-08/HL1224>

### **Mental Health Services: Chinese**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a strategy has been developed for dealing with mental health problems arising in the United Kingdom' Chinese community. [HL1331]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No strategy has been developed for dealing specifically with mental health problems arising in the Chinese community. *No Health without mental health* is a cross-government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages which aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the population and keep people well; and improve outcomes for people with mental health problems through high-quality services that are equally accessible to all.

The 2015-16 Mandate to NHS England is clear that mental health should be given the same priority as physical health. The Mandate recognises NHS England's commitment to achieve parity of esteem, and thereby ensure mental health is treated as seriously as physical health.

With regard to service delivery, Improving Access to Psychological Therapy services which provide psychological therapies for the treatment of depression and anxiety disorders have seen a steady rise in the number of people from the Chinese community gaining access to treatment. Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, 1,612 Chinese people were referred for psychological therapies and 659 completed a course of treatment. Between 1 April 2014 and 31 December 2014, 1,392 Chinese people were referred for psychological therapies and 653 completed treatment. More comprehensive data including the numbers of people entering treatment and reaching recovery on completing treatment will be available from Quarter 1 2015 – 16 (1

April 15 – 30 June 15). The data will be published quarterly from October 2015.

### **Ministry of Defence: Public Expenditure**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent budget, how much extra money will be available to the Ministry of Defence in 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2018–19. [HL1413]

**Earl Howe:** The Summer Budget does not affect the Ministry of Defence's 2015-16 budget, which has been laid before Parliament.

The Ministry of Defence budget for 2016-17 and beyond will be determined in the Spending Review. The Chancellor confirmed in the Summer Budget that the Ministry of Defence's budget will rise by 0.5 per cent per year from 2016-17 to 2020-21. There will also be up to an additional £1.5 billion per year by 2020-21 made available to be allocated to the Armed Forces and security and intelligence agencies through the Strategic Defence and Security Review and Spending Review.

### **National Security**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the new National Security Strategy and supporting risk register will be completed, in order to inform the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review. [HL1289]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Work has begun on the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review, informed by the National Security Risk Assessment, and these will report by the end of the year.

### **Occupational Health**

*Asked by Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress is being made on the implementation of the Fit for Work scheme; and whether the pilot schemes have been successful. [HL1444]

**Lord Freud:** From 9 March 2015, roll-out of the assessment service commenced. By the end of Summer 2015 all GPs in England and Wales will be able to refer to the service.

Fit for Work Scotland assessment service went live on 30 January 2015. Roll-out to all remaining NHS Boards in Scotland was completed on 29 June 2015.

Evaluation of the pilots was published in June 2015 in the report, 'Evaluation of the 2010–13 Fit for Work Service pilots'.

### **Occupational Pensions**

*Asked by Baroness Greengross*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average sum held in the pension funds of people who

were enrolled in a pension scheme as part of the auto-enrolment process. [HL1497]

**Baroness Altmann:** The information is not available in the format requested.

Findings from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Wealth and Asset survey show that overall, the average (median) amount of wealth held in pensions not yet in payment was £33,000 in 2010/12. There is no breakdown available to show wealth held in funds created due to Automatic Enrolment.

DWP's annual official statistics on workplace pension participation found that in 2014, the annual total amount saved in workplace pensions by employees eligible for Automatic Enrolment was £80.3 billion, an increase of £6.6 billion from 2012.

### Overseas Students: Finance

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what alternatives are currently available to international students who are ineligible for undergraduate student finance. [HL1080]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Advice on alternative sources of funding for international students not eligible for UK Government support is provided on the Education UK website. The website lists a range of scholarships and funding schemes that are administered by the British Council as well as support available from individual UK HE institutions.

### Political Parties: Finance

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the limits in force for donations to political parties. [HL1263]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government is committed to continue to seek agreement on a comprehensive package of party funding reform.

### Pregnancy

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of pregnancies are unplanned; and what assessment they have made of the relationship between unplanned pregnancies and the high-risk period for folate levels and the closure of the neural tube at 27 days. [HL1175]

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average number of terminations of pregnancies affected by neural tube defects at the 20-week scan. [HL1176]

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have regarding the socio-economic groups to

which those deciding to terminate a neural tube defect-affected pregnancy after the 20-week scan belong. [HL1177]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There is no data routinely collected on whether a pregnancy is planned or unplanned. However, the third National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles estimated that 16.2% of pregnancies are unplanned with a further 29% categorised as ambivalent i.e. where the woman was neither actively planning or seeking to avoid a pregnancy.

No assessment has been made of the relationship between unplanned pregnancies and the high risk period for folate levels and the closure of the neural tube at 27 days gestation. In line with NICE guidance, women intending to become pregnant should be informed that dietary supplementation with folic acid, before conception and throughout the first 12 weeks, reduces the risk of having a baby with a neural tube defect.

The International Classification of Disease (10<sup>th</sup> edition) includes Anencephaly, Encephalocele and Spina Bifida as Neural Tube Defects. In 2014, 442 abortions were performed because of Neural Tube defects; 152 (34%) of these were performed at 20 weeks gestation or over.

Information on the socio-economic group for women having abortions is not collected centrally.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) singleton, and (2) multiple, pregnancies were dealt with in each (a) hospital trust, and (b) region, in each of the last 10 years. [HL1222]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** As the information requested is over a 10 year period, it has been provided in the attached tables.

We have provided a count of delivery episodes involving:

- (a) a singleton birth;
- (b) multiple births; or
- (c) an unknown number of babies born at the end of a single delivery episode.

The information is provided by hospital provider and government office region of treatment for the years 2004-05 to 2013-14.

Data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have had more than one episode of care within the same time period.

The footnotes should be referred to when interpreting the data.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Tables [Copy of HL1222 - Excel spreadsheet of figures.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-08/HL1222>

## Prisons: Construction

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what new additional capacity in the adult prison estate is (1) planned or (2) under construction; in which prisons; how many additional units will be created; and when each additional space will be ready for use. [HL1213]

**Lord Faulks:** This Government is committed to making further savings by closing old, inefficient prisons and building larger, modern and fit for purpose ones.

We have recently delivered 1,250 new places at four new house-blocks (at Peterborough, Parc, Thameside and The Mount prisons).

We are constructing a new 2,106 place prison for North Wales in Wrexham, to be opened in 2017. This will be a modern, purpose-built institution; safe, decent and secure and effective in helping prisoners deal with their offending and develop the work, education and life skills that they need to effectively rehabilitate.

We are committed to ensuring that there are enough places for offenders sentenced to custody by the courts. Decisions on the future size of the prison estate will reflect the current and projected prison population

## Privy Council

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to advise Her Majesty that an upper limit should be set on the size of the Privy Council. [HL1406]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** There are currently no plans to advise Her Majesty to set an upper limit on the size of the Privy Council.

Appointment to the Privy Council is for life, but only serving Government ministers have a role in advising on Privy Council matters. Therefore the majority of Counsellors play no part in the Privy Council's day-to-day business. Setting an upper limit could risk restricting essential new appointments, for example, in the event of a reshuffle or change of Government, as each member of the Cabinet must be a member of the Privy Council.

## Radioactive Waste

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they are making in their national survey to establish the most suitable, and least hazardous, geological sites for the long-term storage of nuclear waste. [HL1271]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** As one of the actions in the 2014 Implementing Geological Disposal White Paper, Radioactive Waste Management Limited (RWM) are carrying out a national geological screening exercise, based on existing geological information. This screening exercise will not target or select individual sites for development of a geological disposal facility (GDF). Its

purpose is to provide authoritative information that can be used in future discussions with communities thinking about possible GDF developments.

The process will involve two steps: guidance will be produced by RWM in 2015, which will be subject to expert review, by an Independent Review Panel established by the Geological Society, and public consultation. The final guidance will be applied during 2016, using the specialist expertise of the British Geological Survey. Outputs will be in the form of narratives describing characteristics of the geological environment across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the relevance of these characteristics to safety. There is a large range of potentially suitable geological environments in the UK, and no single 'most suitable' type of geological environment for a GDF. There are several programmes at an advanced stage in different parts of the world, focussing on different geological environments, each designed to be safe.

The Independent Review Panel held a public meeting with RWM on 23 June to discuss the draft screening guidance. This meeting was streamed live on YouTube and the draft guidance has been published on the web. RWM has given presentations to eleven Geological Society Regional Groups, and held six meetings with stakeholders, including Local Authority representatives and other members of the public who have expressed interest.

The public consultation on the draft screening guidance will take place in the autumn.

This work will support the process of formal engagement with communities interested in hosting a GDF, which will start in 2017. Current estimates are that it will take between 15 and 20 years to agree a site through the national siting process. After this, GDF construction should proceed from the 2030s, with disposal of radioactive waste in the facility starting from the 2040s.

## Senior Civil Servants: Training

*Asked by Lord Norton of Louth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of the Senior Civil Service have completed e-learning modules provided by Civil Service Learning since its inception in April 2011; and, of these, what proportion have completed modules that address the role of Parliament and the constitutional relationship between Parliament and the executive. [HL1293]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** 6,750 Senior Civil Servants have undertaken e-learning courses by Civil Service Learning since April 2011, of which 3.2% have been courses that address the role of Parliament and the constitutional relationship between Parliament and the executive. For externally recruited Senior Civil Servants Civil Service Learning has introduced a new corporate induction programme that includes sections on the role of Parliament.



## Sierra Leone: Ebola

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total cost to date of assistance to Sierra Leone to combat the Ebola outbreak; and how those costs have been allocated between departments. [HL1280]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has committed £427m to combat Ebola in West Africa, £373m for the ongoing crisis response and £54m for early recovery activities including infection prevention control and WASH facilities. The Secretary of State recently announced a further £240m package of support for Sierra Leone at the UN Secretary General's Conference in New York, however this will focus on long term recovery over the next 2 years.

DFID is leading the UK Government's response to the crisis and retains the budget for response activities, reimbursing other government departments including the Ministry of Defence, the NHS and Public Health England for any costs incurred. DFID has so far disbursed over £275 million to combat the outbreak.

## Skilled Workers: Recruitment

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the number of working adults aged 25 to 64 considering higher education in the next five years, what specific steps they propose to take to fill any skills gaps left by current workers engaging in higher education. [HL1171]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We want to equip people of all ages with the skills that employers need in order to be competitive and grow. In addition to initiatives such as the establishment of employer-led National Colleges we are expanding the number of apprenticeships providing opportunities for individuals to learn whilst also being in employment; helping to raise productivity and reduce skills gaps.

We are committed to 3m apprenticeship starts over the next 5 years and to delivering employer-led apprenticeship reforms, which are improving the quality of apprenticeships to provide the skills that employers need.

We will roll out many more degree apprenticeships, which combine a world-class degree with an apprenticeship. Higher and Degree Apprenticeships are widening access to the professions and providing the higher level technical skills employers need to improve productivity.

We have established National Colleges to help the UK develop the world-class technical skills needed to compete globally and to address high level skills gaps in key sectors of the economy. They will focus on Level 4 & 5 qualifications and deliver both Advanced and Higher Apprenticeships training, with progression for students up to postgraduate level. Expected to function on a par with Universities, they will be major centres of excellence with

international reputations, attracting students from across the country.

## Social Security Benefits

*Asked by Baroness King of Bow*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many, and what proportion of, households affected by the proposed reduction of the benefit cap to £23,000 per year receive (1) Employment and Support Allowance, and (2) Income Support. [HL1153]

**Lord Freud:** The Government set out its assessment of the impacts of the policies in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill on 20<sup>th</sup> July. The impact assessment is now available on Parliament's website, and a copy is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Impact Assessment [Impact Assessment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-07/HL1153>

## Social Services

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure provision of social care for non self-pay service users in the event of systemic failure in the social care market. [HL1299]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** It is important that there is a vibrant market of local care and support providers offering a choice of high quality services that are able to adapt over time to meet changing needs.

The Care Act introduces new duties on local authorities to promote their local market, with a particular focus on quality, diversity and sustainability. The Government recognises that local authorities' own commissioning is likely to be their most important tool for facilitating their markets. The Government has worked with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) to co-produce material to help local authorities promote their local markets and improve their own commissioning.

Ultimately, local authorities remain locally accountable for how their budgets are allocated, including spend on care and support. However, the Care Act is clear that prices agreed with care providers will have to reflect the new duties outlined above in relation to the promotion of sustainability of the overall market. The Government recently published statutory guidance setting out how local authorities should meet these new duties when commissioning, including the consideration of the actual costs of care and support when negotiating fee levels. A copy of the guidance is attached.

More widely, as in any market, provider exits and entries are inevitable. Where continuity of care is at risk because a provider's business has failed, local authorities must temporarily step in to ensure an individual's needs

continue to be met, including the needs of both those that are self- and state-funded. In order to help local authorities respond to potential situations where a provider is particularly large or geographically concentrated, and where an individual local authority may struggle to carry out this duty on its own, the Government has created a new market oversight function which will be carried out by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC will act to oversee the finance of specified providers with a view to providing local authorities with early warning of financial failure and to ensure effective contingency plans can be put in place.

The Government has also commissioned the ADASS to publish guidance for local authorities to assist them in developing contingency plans for managing provider failure which should be available by summer 2015.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Care Act Guidance [Care Act guidance.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-09/HL1299>

## Strategic Defence and Security Review

Asked by **Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations with Parliament and civil society have been arranged as a part of the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review. [HL1457]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Work has begun on the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review, and these will report by the end of the year. As part of this work, we will engage with a range of stakeholders, including Parliament, academics, industry, think tanks and non-governmental organisations.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to contribute thoughts via a dedicated page on gov.uk. Comments submitted will be considered as part of the wider SDSR and NSS processes and this page is due to go live in the next few weeks.

Asked by **Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the findings of the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review will be announced. [HL1479]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Work has begun on the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review, and these will report by the end of the year.

## Students: Grants

Asked by **Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost of (1) full, and (2) partial, maintenance grants for full-time undergraduate students in higher education in England

studying at (a) universities, and (b) further education colleges. [HL1199]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) publishes statistics according to the domicile of applicants rather than the country of study. Information on English domiciled applicants awarded Maintenance Grants for study at UK providers is published annually by SLC in the Statistical First Release ' *Student Support for Higher Education England* '.

<http://www.slc.co.uk/media/855703/slcsfr052014.pdf>

The amount awarded in Maintenance Grants to English domiciled applicants at publicly-funded providers in the UK by type of provider in the academic year 2013/14 has been provided in the table.

*Maintenance Grants <sup>(1)</sup> awarded <sup>(2)</sup> to English applicants by provider type <sup>(3)</sup>*

*Publicly-funded providers of Higher Education <sup>(4)</sup>*

*Academic year 2013/14*

*Amount awarded (£ million)*

<i>Provider type</i>	<i>Full Maintenance Grant</i>	<i>Partial Maintenance Grant</i>	<i>All Maintenance Grants</i>
Higher Education Institutions	1,124.8	221.0	1,345.8
Further Education Colleges	101.0	12.1	113.1
All publicly-funded providers	1,225.8	233.1	1,458.9

Source: Student Loans Company

Notes:

(1) Figures include Special Support Grants, which are payable in place of Maintenance Grants to vulnerable students who may otherwise have their DWP benefits reduced.

(2) Awards do not necessarily translate into payments. An awarded applicant will only receive payments once SLC have received confirmation from the student's provider that the student has been registered on the course.

(3) Provider name is the name of the parent institution to the main institution associated with a course as recorded in the SLC administrative system. A course may be held at a campus of the main institution or at a franchise location.

(4) In addition to the £1,458.9 million awarded in Maintenance Grants to applicants at publicly-funded providers, there was also £133.3 million awarded to applicants at Alternative Providers in 2013/14, however a breakdown of these awards by provider type is not readily available.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Statistical first release [slcsfr052014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-07/HL1199>

## Wandsworth Prison

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what percentage the number of prison officers at HMP Wandsworth has reduced since May 2010. [HL1381]

**Lord Faulks:** Information on the change in the number of full time equivalent band 3 to 5 prison officers in Wandsworth between 31 May 2010 and 31 March 2015 is shown in the table below.

Table: Number of Full Time Equivalent Officers in Wandsworth, 31 May 2010 - 31 March 2015

Officer Grade	31 May 2010	31 March 2015	% Change
Band 3-5 Officers	420	270	-35

All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. As with all HR databases, extracts are taken at a fixed point in time, to ensure consistency of reporting. The database itself is dynamic however, and where updates to the database are made subsequent to the taking of the extract, these updates will not be reflected in figures produced by the extract. For this reason, HR data are unlikely to be precisely accurate, and to present unrounded figures would be to overstate the accuracy of the figures. Rounding to 10 accurately depicts the level of certainty that is held with these figures.

Percentages are formed from unrounded parts prior to rounding. For this reason, percentages may not equal the calculated percentages of rounded figures.

Since 2010 Wandsworth has undergone benchmarking as part of the New Ways of Working Model. This has resulted in a number of roles (for example instructors, caterers and programme facilitators) previously carried out by prison officers being civilianised. In addition a vulnerable prisoners unit was re-rolled from Category B to Category C and a small number of dog handlers moved to regional control. The target staffing figure is in line with similar establishments.

## War Widows: Pensions

Asked by **Baroness Benjamin**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost of reinstating the pensions of war widows who lost their pensions when they remarried or chose to cohabit, and who have not had their pensions restored to them since the changes to pension entitlement in April 2015; and whether they have any plans to restore their pension entitlements. [HL1451]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Baroness to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans (Mark Lancaster), in the House of

Commons on 16 July 2015 to Question number 6874 to the hon. Member for Leeds North West (Greg Mulholland).

It has been the policy of successive governments that changes or improvements to all public service pension schemes should not be applied retrospectively.

Therefore, there are no plans to reinstate war widows' pensions for war widows who remarried between 1973 and 2005.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

War Widows: Pensions [Hansard Extract 16 July 2015 HL 1451.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-14/HL1451>

## Water Companies

Asked by **Lord Whitty**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the coming into force of the Water Act 2014, any work has been done to promote new entrants to the deregulated parts of the water supply sector. [HL1357]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Water Act 2014 will allow all 1.2 million businesses and other non-household customers in England to choose their supplier of water and wastewater retail services from April 2017. Retail services include things like billing and customer services.

The Open Water Programme, involving Government, Industry and Ofwat, is preparing for market opening and is in contact with a number of businesses which are considering entering the new retail market when it opens in April 2017. These prospective entrants are playing an important role in helping to shape delivery of the programme and ensure a level playing field for all participants in the market.

For additional detail, I refer the Noble Lord to my previous reply of 7 July 2015 asked by Lord Oxburgh [HL826] as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated number of new entrants expected in the deregulated water marketplace. [HL826]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: We expect the number of new entrants in the expanded Anglo-Scottish market for non-household retail services to grow over time ahead of the extension of choice to all non-household customers in English in April 2017.

At this point it is not possible to give a definitive number of new entrants likely to be in the market in April 2017. However, there are currently 12 new entrant companies who are licensed to operate in the existing retail market in England and there are 18 licensed providers in the Scottish retail market. Eight of these companies are currently licensed in both jurisdictions.

There are 18 water and sewerage undertakers some of whom have already established separate retail companies

and all of which will have the opportunity to exit from the non-household retail market at market opening which may also increase the number of entrants to the market.

The Open Water Programme, involving Government, Industry and Ofwat, is preparing for market opening and is in contact with a number of additional businesses that are considering entering the market. These prospective retailers are playing an important role in helping to shape delivery of the programme and ensure a level playing field for all participants in the market.

*Asked by Lord Whitty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether, following the coming into force of the Water Act 2014, income from regulated water markets has been used to set up new businesses in the deregulated sector. [HL1358]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In the 2014 Price Review, Ofwat has set separate price caps for household and non-household customers, together with wholesale and retail services. This stops cross-subsidy between household and non-household customers, and between the wholesale and retail parts of companies' businesses. Furthermore, regulated water undertakers are already subject to rigorous transfer pricing rules, requiring any new venture to be established at arms-length to the regulated business.

Ofwat is also proposing licence conditions for new retail licensees that prohibit discrimination and cross-subsidy. These will mirror conditions that already exist in the licences of water and sewerage undertakers.

For additional detail, I refer the Noble Lord to my previous reply of 6 July 2015, asked by Lord Moynihan, as follows:

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what criteria water company retail arms can use regulated money to take over the customer base of water companies that have exited the market place. [HL802]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government is committed to enabling exit for the non-household part of a statutory water and sewerage undertaker's retail business. Since the Water Act received Royal Assent in May 2014, we have been working with the water industry to develop the secondary legislation necessary to enable companies to exit at the opening of the new retail market in April 2017. We consulted on the proposed policy approach in December 2014 and will be publishing a further public consultation on the draft retail exits regulations shortly.

The Government has always been clear that exit must be voluntary. Our approach will enable each water and sewerage undertaker to decide whether or not they wish to exit the market for non-household retail services. Undertakers will also have the choice to continue to provide retail services to non-household customers within their area of appointment, under the existing licence of appointment. However, an undertaker can only exit to a retailer that holds one of the new Water Supply and Sewerage licences (WSSL). An undertaker cannot exit to

another undertaker because undertakers will not be eligible to hold one of the new retail licences. An undertaker could not, therefore, take a transfer of customers from outside of its area of appointment.

The only exception to this rule would be in the case of a merger between undertakers. To cover this eventuality, there is a special merger regime that explicitly considers the impact of the merger on Ofwat's ability to regulate effectively for customers and either prohibits mergers or seeks to extract remedies for customers from company shareholders to make up for any detriment. We assume that 'regulated money' refers to the revenue allowances that water undertakers are allowed to recover from customers under their price limits, most recently set by Ofwat in December. In this scenario it would not be possible for such 'regulated money' to be used to take over another water company except where that company had already outperformed the price settlement through efficiencies.

The companies holding one of the new 'retail' WSSL licences are expected to include both new entrants to the market that have no association with any existing water company; and 'associate licensees' that form part of an undertaker's wider group business but are nevertheless required to be established as a separate legal entity. These licenced retailers will operate in the competitive market and may therefore opt to use their own working capital to acquire customers through a transfer following an exit. In this scenario it would therefore similarly be impossible for 'regulated money' to be used to take over another water company's retail arm because these companies are not subject to price limits set by Ofwat through the price review process.

There are already requirements in the water and sewerage undertakers licence of appointment that ensure that all transactions with an associated licensee must be conducted on a fair and non-discriminatory basis and companies are subject to rigorous transfer pricing rules that ensure transactions are conducted on an arms' length basis. Ofwat's recently published consultation on the proposed form and content of the new retail licences for the expanded retail market proposes that similar requirements should also be placed on to holders of these new Water and Sewerage Supply Licences (the new retail licences). These checks and balances mean that it would not be possible for the retail arm of a water and sewerage undertaker to use regulated money to take over the customer base of water companies that have exited the market place.

## **Welfare Assistance Schemes: Finance**

*Asked by Baroness King of Bow*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make the planned further £74 million of funding available to upper tier local authorities for local welfare assistance schemes in 2016–17. [HL1154]

**Baroness Altmann:** Future arrangements for all local authority funding are a matter for the next Spending



Review period and Local Government Finance Settlement consultations, which are led by DCLG. The outcome of these discussions will be made clear at the appropriate time.

### **White Fish: Conservation**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action is being taken to prevent the disappearance of sea bass in the English Channel and North Sea due to overfishing. [HL1351]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Bass are in serious decline due to the combination of five consecutive years of poor reproduction (due to cold winters) and overfishing.

This year the UK Government has negotiated action at EU level to close the pelagic trawl spring fishery on spawning aggregations; introduce a recreational daily 3 fish bag limit; set monthly vessel catch limits across all commercial fishing gear categories; ban commercial fishing by EU vessels in waters around Ireland; and, increase the minimum conservation reference size for bass to 42cm, to come into force from 1 September.

Consideration will now be given to appropriate action for next year, to respond to the latest scientific advice, and to the development of regional multi-annual plans. Aligned with this work at EU and regional level the UK Government has initiated a high-level review of our current domestic management measures, particularly for protection of bass nursery areas.

### **Zimbabwe: Pensions**

*Asked by Lord Goodlad*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in any discussions they are having with the government of Zimbabwe on the subject of pensions

owed to former Rhodesian or Zimbabwean public servants. [HL1167]

**Earl of Courtown:** The British Government continues to remind the relevant authorities in Zimbabwe of their legal commitment to former employees of the Southern Rhodesia government. Following our most recent approach, the Government of Zimbabwe last wrote to us on 27 May. They explained that pension repayments remain affected by current financial constraints in Zimbabwe and the state of the wider economy. Nonetheless, at our prompting they committed to continuing to seek a solution.

*Asked by Lord Goodlad*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the fact that the government of Zimbabwe's obligation to pay the pensions owed to former Rhodesian or Zimbabwean public servants has not been fulfilled, what assessment they have made of their obligation to assist those former servants of the Crown; what assessment they have made of the case for making ex gratia payments to those former public servants without prejudice, either from development aid or other funds, in the light of the practice of protecting the pensions of officers employed on expatriate terms in other former dependent territories; and what, if any, assessment they have made of the cost of making such ex gratia payments. [HL1168]

**Earl of Courtown:** The UK's pension protection arrangements in Zimbabwe are confined to those officers who were recruited by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to serve in Southern Rhodesia on expatriate terms. For those recruited on expatriate terms, the UK provides direct pension support. We continue to be clear that the UK does not have legal or moral responsibility for Southern Rhodesian civil service pensions. This responsibility lies solely with the Government of Zimbabwe.

# Written Answers

Wednesday, 22 July 2015

## A1: Nottinghamshire

Asked by *Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 17 June (HL349), whether they have held an enquiry into what failures contributed to the significant problems encountered by Highways England in the A1 roadworks near Gamston Airport not being identified before work began; and what lessons have been learned for future projects. [HL1470]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Highways England, in line with the project management process, will review the project upon completion to establish the causes of any failures, including the failure to identify adverse ground conditions and contamination. Any lessons learnt from this stage of project completion will be factored into other projects. The scheme has highlighted the benefits of "pain and gain" contracts when there is uncertainty about some costs until work commences.

## Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Asked by *The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 8 July (HL831), whether, during the Cranfield Study, any reliable information on the concentration of organophosphates specifically during a visible fume event when the interior of an aircraft is filled with smoke was collected; and if not, what plans they have to arrange for such research to be conducted. [HL1265]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Cranfield study makes no mention of a visible fume event. However, in over 95% of the cabin air samples, no detectable amounts of Tri-ortho cresyl phosphate (TOCP) or other tri-cresyl phosphate (TCP) were found. The Department for Transport does not plan to undertake any additional research on this issue.

## Asylum: Bahrain

Asked by *Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Bahrainis have been granted asylum or other protection status in the United Kingdom since January 2011. [HL1339]

**Lord Bates:** There were 62 Bahraini nationals granted asylum or other form of protection in the UK from January 2011 to March 2015, based on initial decisions for main applicants.

The figure provided is published in the Immigration Statistics Release by the Home Office, in Table as\_01\_q

"Asylum applications and initial decisions for main applicants by country of nationality", available from the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on asylum applications and initial decisions within the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics January – March 2015 is available from the Library of the House.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table - PQ HL1339 [HL 1339 Background\_Table(2).xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-13/HL1339>

## Bakerloo Line

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the proposal to extend the Bakerloo line south from Elephant and Castle. [HL1579]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Mayor and Transport for London (TfL) are developing plans to extend the Bakerloo line south from Elephant and Castle.

TfL published a consultation on the principle of extending the line in autumn 2014. The results have been published on TfL's website.

During the consultation a number of alternative routes were also suggested, and TfL is reviewing these. This review will include an assessment of the costs and benefits of a number of different routes and a comparison against the original route options. TfL are likely to publish a further consultation on these route options later this year.

## BBC: Midlands

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the level of BBC investment in the Midlands will form part of the discussions about renewing the BBC Charter. [HL1217]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government has published a BBC Charter Review consultation paper, seeking views on all aspects of the BBC. A copy of this document has been deposited in the libraries of both Houses, and it is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/bbc-charter-review-public-consultation>

All aspects of the BBC, including investment in the Midlands, are going to be considered as part of the Charter Review.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

BBC Charter Review: Public consultation 2015 [DCMS BBC Charter Review\_AW (1) (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-08/HL1217>

## Breast Milk

*Asked by Baroness Taylor of Bolton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the scale of the sale of human breast milk and human breast milk products through (1) retail outlets, and (2) the internet. [HL1303]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The experience of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is that the sale of breast milk is centred on a reasonably small number of enterprises, selling direct to the final consumer on a limited scale. The FSA strongly advises against anyone purchasing and consuming human breast milk or products made from or containing human breast milk because such milk is unlikely to have been collected or stored hygienically and could be unsafe.

*Asked by Baroness Taylor of Bolton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many inspections by the Food Standards Agency or local authorities have been related to the sale of human breast milk and human breast milk products in the last year. [HL1304]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Food Standards Agency annually collects information from all local authorities on the number and type of inspections in manufacturers, caterers and retailers but the system used does not go into the level of detail which would allow us to identify the number of inspections related to the specific activity of selling human breast milk or its products.

*Asked by Baroness Taylor of Bolton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they are giving about the dangers of the purchase of human breast milk and human breast milk products. [HL1305]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Food Standards Agency strongly advises against anyone purchasing and consuming human breast milk or products made from or containing human breast milk because such milk is unlikely to have been collected or stored hygienically and could be unsafe.

## Business

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of interdependence between small and large businesses; and how they plan to support businesses of all sizes. [HL1157]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We recognise that many small businesses engage with larger businesses, forming a valuable part of their supply chains. Strong and robust supply chains are vital to the continued growth of the UK economy and there are a number of activities underway

across various sectors that seek to build capability and capacity in the supply chain, thereby supporting businesses and helping them to grow.

We are also clear that large companies should trade fairly with small suppliers and that is why we will shortly be consulting on proposals to establish a small business conciliation service to help small businesses resolve any disputes. For many small businesses, late payment of invoices is a particular concern and we have introduced a number of measures to help encourage larger businesses to pay on time. This includes a new reporting requirement on the UK's 15,000 largest companies from 2016) to shine a light on poor payment practices, and a strengthened Prompt Payment Code to introduce a maximum 60 day payment term and allow a Code Compliance Board to challenge grossly unfair payment practices. We will also be consulting on giving wider powers to representative bodies to challenge grossly unfair terms.

## Cancer: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria will be applied to select products for possible delisting from the Cancer Drugs Fund in July; and in particular what is the scoring system that will be used. [HL1322]

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they are reviewing the Cancer Drugs Fund list, given the January review; and whether any assessment has been made of the impact on patients of the frequency with which medicines on the Cancer Drugs Fund list are reviewed. [HL1323]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The criteria and scoring system for reviewing the current listed drugs within the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) is outlined in the published CDF Standard Operating Procedure which is available at: [www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/pe/cdf/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/pe/cdf/). These state that:

"Decisions will be based on the National Cancer Drugs Fund Prioritisation Tool in conjunction with an assessment of median drug cost per patient. This evaluation will be completed for each drug/indication under consideration and will result in an overall score based on a number of factors, including:

- o evidence of clinical benefit e.g. progression free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS)
- o quality of life (QOL)
- o toxicity
- o unmet need
- o median drug cost per patient

Drugs on the National CDF List will be subject to an affordability test within the overall CDF budget, being added or removed according to their relative aggregate score using the National Cancer Drugs Fund Prioritisation Tool of clinical benefit in conjunction with the assessment

of drug cost per patient. Drugs whose aggregate score is below the threshold applicable at the time will not be added/will be removed from the National CDF List.”

A copy is attached.

NHS England has advised that the Fund is re-prioritised on a regular basis so that the resources available are used to the best benefit of patients.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Cancer Drug Fund SOP [HL1322 HL1323 CDF SOP.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-13/HL1322>

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how much the Cancer Drugs Fund has overspent, in the light of the second review to remove treatments from the Cancer Drugs Fund list. [HL1324]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) overspent by £135.7 million (against a budget of £280 million) in 2014-15.

Reprioritisation of the national CDF list is necessary within 2015-16 to remain within the fixed budget allocated to the Fund, as stated within the CDF Standard Operating Procedures.

### **Castes: Discrimination**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 July (HL Deb, col 572), whether they plan to publish the result of their consideration of the caste duty, and the meaning and effect of the judgment in *Chandhok and Anor v Tirkey (Race Discrimination)* [2014] UKEAT 0190\_14\_1912. [HL1530]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** In my answers to Noble Lords’ questions on 15 July, I sought to make clear that we understand the Employment Appeal Tribunal judgment in *Chandhok and Anor v Tirkey* as providing an existing legal remedy for claims of caste-based discrimination. We will keep the House informed of further developments in our consideration of the effect of this judgment on the caste duty.

### **Channel Four Television**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what proposals they have discussed with Channel 4 about the possible relocation of its headquarters to Birmingham. [HL1218]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Department for Culture Media and Sport have not had any discussions with Channel 4 about the possibility of a re-location to Birmingham.

### **Children: Day Care**

*Asked by Lord True*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, for each financial year from 2015–16 to 2020—21, what are the estimated annual costs of providing (1) free childcare for two year-olds, (2) 15 hours of free childcare per week for three and four year-olds, and (3) 30 hours of free childcare per week for three and four year-olds of working parents. [HL1428]

**Lord Nash:** Allocations made to local authorities for 15 hours of free childcare per week for three- and four-year-olds totalled £2.2 billion in 2015-16. Allocations in 2015-16 for 15 hours of free childcare per week for disadvantaged two year-olds will be announced shortly.

The government is committed to raise the average hourly rate providers receive from the introduction of the new entitlement from 2017-18. The government is undertaking a review of childcare costs in order to set a new average hourly rate that is fair for providers and delivers value for money for the taxpayer.

Until this review is complete, it is not possible to estimate annual costs of providing free childcare for two year-olds, or 15 hours of free childcare per week for three- and four-year-olds after 2016.

### **Debts: Greece**

*Asked by Lord Radice*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is their estimate of the level of indebtedness of (1) the government of Greece, and (2) Greek businesses, to the United Kingdom Government and United Kingdom businesses. [HL1255]

**Lord O’Neill of Gatley:** The government has secured a deal that protects UK taxpayers from any risk from financing euro area bailouts now and in the future. This deal gives legal force to the commitment secured in 2010 that UK taxpayers would not be drawn into a euro area bailout.

As the Chancellor has stated, private sector exposures to Greek banks and the Greek economy are far lower than they were in 2012.

*Asked by Lord Radice*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the United Kingdom economy of a default in its international obligations by the government of Greece, and of a Greek exit from the euro. [HL1256]

**Lord O’Neill of Gatley:** The government has secured a deal that protects UK taxpayers from any risk from financing euro area bailouts now and in the future. This deal gives legal force to the commitment secured in 2010 that UK taxpayers would not be drawn into a euro area bailout. Under the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM) short term financing agreement



concluded on Friday 17 July, Greece's International Monetary Fund (IMF) arrears have also been cleared.

As the Chancellor has said, we should not underestimate the impact that a Greek exit from the euro area would have on the European economy – or the knock-on effects on the UK. But the economic plan we've pursued in Britain these last five years has increased our resilience – and we will take whatever further steps are needed to protect the UK from new risks to our economic security.

### Drugs: Crime

*Asked by Lord Blair of Boughton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to require the Director of Public Prosecutions to produce guidance as to the circumstances under which possession of a psychoactive substance amounts to a possible offence of supplying or offering to supply under clause 5 of the Psychoactive Substances Bill. [HL1490]

**Lord Bates:** Under section 10 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 it is the responsibility of the Director of Public Prosecutions to issue guidance for Crown Prosecutors. We have worked closely with a range of partners, including the Crown Prosecution Service, in the course of the drafting of the Psychoactive Substances Bill and will continue to do so to ensure that the Bill is effectively implemented.

### Exercise

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have for action to achieve the London 2012 Olympic Games objective of inspiring a generation to increase their participation in leisure, recreation and sporting activities. [HL1228]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Government is committed to helping people to get more active through sport, leisure and recreation. Over £1 billion is being invested in youth and community sport through Sport England over the five years to 2017 to help more people develop a sporting habit for life. There are now 1.4 million more people playing sport once a week than when we won the bid for the 2012 Games back in 2005.

In schools the Government is supporting the School Games to encourage competitive sport in and between schools. 19,000 schools have signed up to the School Games and over seven million young people have taken part in the Games since their inception in 2011/12. In addition the government has provided over £150m per year of ring-fenced funding to support PE and sport in primary schools, with funding going direct to every primary headteacher in England. Government has pledged to maintain this funding throughout the 2015-2020 Parliament.

Government and the Mayor of London launched "Moving More, Living More" in February 2014, setting out its intention to tackle physical inactivity as a part of the legacy from London 2012, including through sport and recreation. Public Health England's 'Everybody Active Every Day' report, providing guidance to local authorities and others on how to promote physical activity, was published last October.

The Government will be consulting on a new sports strategy over the summer and will publish the new approach later this year.

### Extracurricular Activities

*Asked by Lord Northbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that extra-curricular activities such as team games, art, music, drama and adventure challenges are encouraged and appropriately funded in schools. [HL1478]

**Lord Nash:** We have high aspirations for all children. To enable all young people to realise their potential we want schools to help ensure they are well-rounded, confident, resilient and happy. Schools must provide opportunities and encourage their pupils to develop a wider set of skills to help them not only exceed at school, but prepare them to go on to contribute positively to the economy and to society as fully engaged citizens.

Schools are a fantastic asset in local communities, and we are encouraging schools to extend their childcare offer to parents. We have simplified the rules and aligned staffing requirements for before/after school care and holiday provision. This makes it easier for schools to offer extra-curricular activities out of school hours.

As part of Ofsted school inspections, inspectors will consider how schools supplement the formal curriculum with extra-curricular opportunities for pupils to extend their knowledge and understanding and improve their skills in a range of artistic, creative and sporting activities.

Through the primary PE and sport premium, over £300 million of ring-fenced funding was paid direct to schools across academic years 2013/14 and 2014/15 to improve PE and sport. The Government has committed to continue this funding of £150 million a year until 2020. Independent research found that over 70% of schools used the funding to provide more extra-curricular activities and offer a wider range of sports. Schools also made changes to the costs of extra-curricular PE and sports – a third of these reduced the costs to attend, and a fifth made some clubs free to attend.

The department has invested over £460 million from 2012-2016 in a diverse portfolio of music and arts education programmes that are designed to improve access to the arts for all children regardless of their background and to develop talent across the country. This includes support for music education hubs which provides opportunities for children and young people to play in ensembles and develop singing strategies.

Over £450,000 has been provided to Debate Mate across three academic years to support their programme of after-school debate clubs. Debate Mate clubs are aimed at disadvantaged young people in years 5-10 and aim to encourage personal empowerment, increase academic achievement and develop life skills.

### Flour: Additives

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when planning started for the current consultation on a change in the Bread and Flour Regulations 1998 to allow unfortified flour to be used in certain circumstances; and whether the issue was raised during the 2013 Red Tape Challenge review of the Regulations. [HL1237]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The issue was considered during the 2013 Red Tape Challenge consultation, but an option to exempt flour used at lower levels was not supported by consultees at the time.

The current consultation was prompted by industry concern that new labelling rules introduced at the end of 2014, requiring those added fortificants to be labelled, would place producers at a disadvantage.

Supporting a world-leading UK food industry is a key priority for Government and it is committed to reducing red tape and helping business where it can without compromising public health.

The issue was raised prior to the 2013 decision and an option similar to what is now being proposed was included in the consultation but it was not supported by consultees at the time.

### Gaming Machines

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the research undertaken by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling into the social problems caused by fixed-odds betting terminals. [HL1485]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government remains committed to ensuring that people are protected from being harmed or exploited by gambling, and notes with interest any research relevant to that objective.

New legislation came into force to improve player protections on B2s (commonly referred to as 'fixed-odds betting terminals') in April, and the law was also changed to require planning applications to be submitted to local authorities for new betting shops.

We continue to monitor the effects of existing controls and if need be will take action if these controls are found to be insufficient.

### Gaza: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) single amputee, and (2) multiple amputee, children

require prosthetics as a result of being injured in Operation Protective Edge; what assessment they have made of the access Gazan children have to prosthetics and rehabilitation; and what assessment they have made of the cost of funding a single prosthetic limb for a child through to adulthood. [HL1419]

**Baroness Verma:** DFID does not routinely carry out such assessments. Following the conflict in Gaza, DFID provided £724,518 to a Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) project which provided support for trauma and plastic reconstructive surgery and essential medical equipment to Gaza hospitals.

MAP published a report on a mission carried out in August 2014 to make an assessment of needs and any immediate surgical work if required which can be read here: [http://www.map-uk.org/downloads/map-ideals-gaza-medical-report-august-2014-\(2\).pdf](http://www.map-uk.org/downloads/map-ideals-gaza-medical-report-august-2014-(2).pdf).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Assessment Mission of MAP, 9-14 August 2014 [Assessment Mission of MAP, Ideals Medical Team - East Jerusalem and Gaza 9 -14 August 2014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-14/HL1419>

### Heathrow Airport

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to direct Heathrow Airports Limited under section 25(1) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to provide short-term holding facilities in accordance with designs agreed for Terminals 3 and 4; and if so, when work on these facilities is expected to begin, and to be completed. [HL1465]

**Lord Bates:** We do not plan to issue a section 25 direction to Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) as HAL already provide accommodation for immigration holding room purposes. It has been agreed with HAL that the existing holding room accommodation will be upgraded to meet current requirements.

Refurbishment work at Terminal 3 is scheduled to begin on 1st December 2015 with a completion date of August 2016. Terminal 4 works are scheduled to begin on 15th December 2015 and be completed by June 2016.

### Humanitarian Aid: Military Aid

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much the Department for International Development has reimbursed the Ministry of Defence in respect of humanitarian assistance in each of the last five years. [HL1281]

**Baroness Verma:** The table below contains detail of all MOD reimbursement resulting from DFID requested support to crisis in the past five years. The costs shown

are marginal/additional costs in accordance with the agreed terms of the DFID – MOD memorandum of understanding and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) guidelines.

Year	Events	Cost
2010	Haiti Earthquake and Pakistan Floods	£1,234,936
2013	Philippines - super typhoon Haiyan	£8,950,281
2014	Iraq - air drops to Yazidis population on Mount Sinjar	£2,000,000
2014-15	Sierra Leone - ebola response	£28,800,000 (to date)

### Legal Aid Scheme

Asked by *Lord Temple-Morris*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been their spending in cash and real terms on legal aid in each of the last 10 years. [HL1257]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government's spending on Legal Aid in cash and real terms in each of the last 10 years is listed as follows:

*Total cash flows for legal aid, including administration costs of the agency and transfers to central funds*

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Total cash flows (£'000)	2,178,254	2,130,125	2,191,280	2,255,656	2,342,539
Real terms (£'000)	2,663,717	2,536,105	2,534,737	2,545,313	2,576,739
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Total cash flows (£'000)	2,329,054	2,229,748	2,160,578	1,969,502	1,730,890
Real terms (£'000)	2,492,913	2,344,660	2,235,836	1,996,940	1,730,890

\* Since 2013/14 the LAA has produced one set of accounts incorporating both legal aid fund and administration costs. Prior to that separate accounts were produced for the fund and administration.

\*The LAA took over responsibility for Central Funds in 2013/14 and before that it was included within the accounts of the Ministry of Justice, the time series above includes cash from both periods.

### Living Wage: Lone Parents

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the net financial effect on a lone parent working 16 hours a week of the new proposed living wage and the reductions in tax credits in 2016–17. [HL1258]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** By 2017-18, 8 out of 10 working households will be better off as a result of the personal allowance, living wage and welfare changes in this Budget. 17.7m households will benefit in total.

The effect on any given household will depend on their specific circumstances, such as precise housing costs.

Treasury analysis in the Budget document shows that an example lone parent, who is renting, and works 35 hours on the minimum wage, will see their net income increase by £1,550 by 2020-21 compared to 2015-16 in cash terms. This also represents an increase in real terms.

In order to help lone parents move into full time employment, the Chancellor of the Exchequer confirmed in the Summer Budget that from September 2017, free childcare entitlement will be doubled from 15 hours to 30 hours a week for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds, an entitlement worth around £5,000 a year.

### Local Government: Freemasonry

Asked by *Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have given to councils and local authorities regarding the registration of interests other than disclosable pecuniary interests, and in particular whether elected persons who are Freemasons should declare that fact as an interest. [HL1475]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** It is for individual local authorities in England to determine what non-pecuniary interests their members should register and disclose in accordance with their code of conduct. My Department has produced an illustrative code of conduct for local authorities, which advises that "you must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which your authority has decided should be included in the register or which you consider should be included if you are to fulfil your duty to act in conformity with the Seven Principles of Public Life".

The illustrative code of conduct (attached) is available on my Department's web site at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illustrative-text-for-local-code-of-conduct--2>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Illustrative code of conduct for LAs - DCLG [150722 Lord Marlesford HL1475 - attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-15/HL1475>

### London Bridge Station

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have they had with Network Rail and the train operating companies regarding the on-going disruption to services at London Bridge. [HL1601]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Hon Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, the Hon Member for Devizes (Claire Perry) chairs a weekly meeting of a taskforce comprising all of the relevant operators and Network Rail that is dedicated to improving

the reliability and performance of the railway for customers travelling in the South East, including London Bridge.

### **Military Aircraft**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fighter aircraft are fully operational and available for air defence of the United Kingdom. [HL1352]

**Earl Howe:** Typhoon aircraft are held at continuous ground readiness, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week at RAF Coningsby and RAF Lossiemouth, so that they can take off within minutes to protect UK sovereign airspace.

As at 16 July, there are 91 Typhoon aircraft in the Forward Available Fleet. The Forward Available Fleet comprises those aircraft that are serviceable and ready for operational deployment or training, together with aircraft that are short-term unserviceable. Short-term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or any other unforeseen rectification or technical inspection work that can arise on a day-to-day basis.

I am withholding the number of Typhoon aircraft held at continuous ground readiness as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice the defence of the United Kingdom.

### **Ministry of Justice: Public Appointments**

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies by the Ministry of Justice. [HL1302]

**Lord Faulks:** The Minister of State for Civil Justice, Ministry of Justice (Lord Faulks QC): Details of the Chairs of Ministry of Justice Non-Departmental Public Bodies have been lodged in the House library. These, and further details, are also available in a Cabinet Office publication, *Public Bodies 2014*, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-bodies-2014>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Public Bodies 2014 - Chairs [HL1302 - Annex A.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-09/HL1302>

### **National Curriculum Tests**

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools entered pupils for Key Stage 2 SATs in the academic year 2013–14; and how many opted to mark the scripts themselves. [HL1209]

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how schools' marking of their own Key Stage 2 scripts is moderated. [HL1210]

**Lord Nash:** In the academic year 2013-14, 15,509 schools entered pupils for the statutory key stage 2 tests in English and mathematics.

Schools did not have the option to mark scripts themselves. All scripts in all subjects were externally marked via the Standards and Testing Agency's external marking services provider.

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are in place to promote unannounced inspections of schools entering pupils for Key Stage 2 SATs for compliance with the required procedures for (1) the safe storage of test papers, (2) preventing the opening of those papers prior to the examination date, (3) ensuring proper invigilation of the SATs tests, and (4) preventing unauthorised concessions or assistance to pupils. [HL1211]

**Lord Nash:** The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) publishes the 'Assessment and Reporting Arrangements' at the start of each academic year, laying out the statutory responsibilities of schools and local authorities for the administration of key stage 2 tests.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to conduct monitoring visits to 10% of the schools participating in the key stage 2 national curriculum tests in their area. Monitoring visits are undertaken before, during and after the test period.

The STA provide local authorities and agencies responsible for conducting monitoring visits with details of any schools it feels should receive a monitoring visit based on information it holds. Within the sample of schools visited, monitoring visitors are required to observe the secure storage of the test materials, the administration of the tests and the collation and packaging of the pupils' completed scripts ready for dispatch for marking. Details of monitoring visits are recorded and any concerns about the security of the test materials or administration of the tests are investigated by STA. Results may be amended or annulled where evidence of maladministration is found.

Schools may seek permission for 'access arrangements' to support pupils with specific needs. Local authorities check permission has been given and evidence of need exists for any alterations to administration as part of the monitoring visit.

### **Nepal: Earthquakes**

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reasons the government of Nepal gave for declining to use RAF



Chinook helicopters deployed to Nepal for disaster relief. [HL1277]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK offered Chinook helicopters to help deliver urgent humanitarian aid to the most remote areas of Nepal, in response to a UN request on 25 April for help, issued on behalf of the Nepalese government.

In deciding not to accept the offer, the Government of Nepal cited technical reasons and referred to the existing helicopter capacity that was already in the country.

It was ultimately a decision for them to take on what equipment should be used during the relief effort.

### NHS: Migrant Workers

Asked by *Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many visas have been issued to (1) doctors, and (2) nurses, for employment in the National Health Service in each of the last 10 years. [HL1394]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office does not hold the information requested. The closest available data relates to Certificates of Sponsorship used in visa applications, and is given in the table below.

*Table cs\_03: Applicants for visas for work using sponsorship certificates: Human Health and Social Work Activities*

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Tier 2	2,915	1,565	1,586	2,114	3,121
Tier 5	1,024	1,196	1,020	1,182	1,290

Source: Immigration Statistics January-March 2015

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table - PQ HL1394 [PQHL1394 Table 15.07.15[1].docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-13/HL1394>

### Parades Commission

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to which section of government the Northern Ireland Parades Commission is accountable. [HL1507]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Parades Commission operates independently of Government in line with the provisions contained in the Public Processions (NI) Act 1998. The Commission is accountable to the courts for its operational decisions. The Commission is accountable to the Northern Ireland Office for the management of its resources.

### Pedicabs: Greater London

Asked by *Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to bring forward regulations on the control of rickshaws

in London, in particular regarding fares charged, roadworthiness of vehicles, and licensing requirements. [HL1498]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The recent Law Commission review of taxi and private hire vehicle services recommended bringing all vehicles that transport passengers for hire and reward, which would include rickshaws, into the scope of licensing.

The Government is currently considering the Law Commission's report and draft Bill in their entirety, and in line with the protocol that exists between Government and the Law Commission, will respond in due course.

### Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Asked by *Lord Northbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the sex and relationships education portion of the national curriculum focuses on sexual relationships and does not equally focus on relationships such as that between a mother and her young child, or relationships in the workplace. [HL1476]

**Lord Nash:** Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is a non-statutory subject that can encompass many areas of study, including the importance of healthy relationships and how to identify those relationships which are unhealthy. This applies to all the relationships that young people have with their friends, peers and families. We expect all schools to provide PSHE.

All maintained secondary schools are also required to provide sex and relationships education as part of the basic curriculum and must have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance, published in 2000. The guidance recognises that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside marriage and that pupils should learn the significance of different relationships as key building blocks of the wider society in order to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

### Playing Fields

Asked by *Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many playing fields have been disposed of for other use since 2005 in England; and what is the net change in the number of sport and leisure facilities in England in the past decade. [HL1230]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Information on playing fields that have been disposed of for other uses since 2005 is not available. Sport England does, however, monitor the number of planning applications concerning playing fields in its role as statutory consultee and objects where it believes local sports provision may be diminished.

Since 2004/2005, 10,901 concluded planning applications out of 11,422 have resulted in improved or safeguarded sports provision (95%).

Sport England has data on sports and leisure facility provision from 2010 onwards. Since 2010, there has been a net increase of 3,130 sport and leisure facilities in England.

### Police National Computer

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government from what date the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has had direct access to the Police National Computer and what records are kept about, and audit made of, their use of that facility. [HL1472]

**Lord Bates:** The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has had 'read only' access to the Police National Computer (PNC) since 9 January 2012.

Requests for direct access to the PNC are reviewed by the PNC Information Access Panel, which is chaired by the national policing lead for the PNC.

HMIC has the responsibility for the auditing of non-police prosecuting agencies with direct access to the PNC. PNC access and use by the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been audited by HMIC, who will shortly publish their report.

### Political Parties: Finance

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow British citizens living abroad to make donations for life to political parties in the United Kingdom. [HL1262]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We will publish a Bill in due course that will make these matters clear.

### Railways: Females

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support Women in Rail and to promote the rail industry as an attractive career choice for women. [HL1346]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport works closely with Women in Rail. Most recently I invited them to take part in a celebration of the National Women in Engineering Day on 23 June.

The Rail Supply Group, which is supported by both the Department for Transport and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, is developing a strategy this year for strengthening the UK rail supply chain including by ensuring it attracts the very best UK talent. To inform this work, Women in Rail is running a survey to establish the rail industry's male to female ratio, with a view to promoting the rail industry as the home of many fantastic career opportunities for both men and women.

Recent rail franchise competitions have encouraged bidders to set out plans for promoting diversity and

equality across the workforce and attracting and recruiting people who are new to the rail industry, particularly from under-represented groups.

### Railways: Finance

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the announcement that they intend to channel part of the Network Grant through passenger franchise operators, whether they intend to do the same for freight operating companies and open-access passenger companies. [I] [HL1317]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We currently have no plans to re-route Government support for rail infrastructure through freight or open access operators.

### Refugees: France

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to establish an interviewing point in or near Calais and to invite refugees to claim protection in Britain if they have a close family connection with this country or an urgent medical condition that can best be treated in the United Kingdom. [HL1336]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has no plans to enable illegal migrants in another EU Member State to claim asylum in the UK. EU Member States have a responsibility to register and process all asylum claims made on their territory and it is an accepted principle of international law that an asylum seeker should claim protection in the first safe country that they reach. Any genuine refugee in France should lodge a claim for protection there.

The Dublin Regulation contains family unity provisions which may result in the responsible State being that where an asylum seeker's close family members are legally present. If an asylum seeker is in France and can demonstrate they have close family members legally present in the UK, France may request that the UK agree to the transfer of responsibility for the asylum applicant under the Dublin Regulation.

We would not accept the transfer to the UK of an asylum seeker in France for the purposes of medical treatment. France is bound by the terms of the Reception Conditions Directive 2011/33/EU, which obliges participating Member States to ensure that applicants receive the necessary health care which shall include, at least, emergency care and essential treatment of illnesses and of serious mental disorders.

### Resettlement Units

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of offenders within three months of the end of their sentence are currently in resettlement prisons. [HL1327]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the usable operational capacity in each prison designated as a resettlement prison. [HL1328]

**Lord Faulks:** As at 26 June 2015, 95% of male and female offenders aged 18 and over with less than three months to serve were held in a designated resettlement prison.

It is not possible to provide the usable operational capacity of each resettlement prison, however the operational capacity of each resettlement prison as at 26 June 2015 is set out in the following table.

The Operational Capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by Deputy Directors of Custody on the basis of operational judgement and experience.

The useable operational capacity of the prison estate is the sum of all prisons' operational capacity, less 2,000 places. This is known as the operating margin which provides an allowance to reflect the constraints imposed by the need to provide separate accommodation for different classes of prisoners; i.e. by gender, age, security category, conviction status, single cell risk assessment and also geographical distribution. The operating margin is a measure that is applied to the estate as a whole and it is therefore not possible to provide the usable operational capacity for each prison.

*The Operational Capacity of Prisons in England and Wales on 26 June 2015*

<i>Prison</i>	<i>Operational Capacity</i>
Altcourse	1,093
Ashfield	400
Askham Grange	128
Bedford	506
Belmarsh	906
Birmingham	1,450
Blantyre House	0
Brinsford	455
Bristol	614
Brixton	798
Bronzefield	527
Bullingdon	1,114
Cardiff	820
Channings Wood	731
Chelmsford	745
Coldingley	519
Doncaster	1,145
Dovegate	1,133

<i>Prison</i>	<i>Operational Capacity</i>
Downview	0
Drake Hall	340
Durham	995
East Sutton Park	100
Eastwood Park	363
Elmley	1,175
Exeter	561
Featherstone	687
Feltham	594
Ford	524
Forest Bank	1,460
Foston Hall	345
Frankland	844
Glen Parva	728
Grendon	233
Guys Marsh	579
Hatfield	266
Haverigg	644
Hewell	1,279
High Down	1,163
Highpoint	1,300
Hindley	398
Hollesley Bay	424
Holloway	591
Holme House	1,210
Hull	1,044
Humber	1,026
Isis	622
Kennet	342
Kirkham	657
Kirklevington Grange	283
Lancaster Farms	549
Leeds	1,212
Leicester	411
Lewes	722
Leyhill	527
Lincoln	729
Liverpool	1,386
Low Newton	344
Manchester	1,286
Moorland	1,006
Mount, The	1,020

<i>Prison</i>	<i>Operational Capacity</i>
New Hall	425
North Sea Camp	420
Northumberland	1,348
Norwich	769
Nottingham	1,060
Oakwood	1,605
Onley	747
Parc	1,723
Pentonville	1,316
Peterborough (Female)	384
Peterborough (Male)	868
Portland	531
Preston	790
Ranby	1,098
Risley	1,095
Rochester	738
Send	282
Spring Hill	335
Standford Hill	464
Stoke Heath	782
Styal	485
Sudbury	600
Swansea	455
Thameside	1,080
Thorn Cross	381
Usk / Prescoed	273
Wandsworth	1,658
Wayland	1,015
Wealstun	833
Winchester	685
Woodhill	727
Wormwood Scrubs	1,279

**Note:** Blantyre House and Downview are currently out of use.

Prison population and capacity information for every prison in England and Wales, as well as the total population and useable operational capacity of the prison estate is published monthly on the Government website at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prison-population-statistics>

## River Thames: Bridges

*Asked by Lord Hanningfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made regarding the new Lower Thames Crossing. [HL1386]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In July 2014, the Secretary of State for Transport announced the next steps for delivering a new Lower Thames crossing. It is vital that the right location is chosen, which is why the final two options, Options A and C, are being assessed in detail. Work led by Highways England is currently underway to determine where and how best to tie in a new crossing to the existing road network. This work is expected to lead to public consultation on a proposed solution in late 2015 or early 2016.

## Scotland Bill

*Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 16 July (HL1266), whether they plan to take any stages of the Scotland Bill in the House of Lords before the fiscal framework has been agreed and published. [HL1552]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Government intends to progress the negotiations on the fiscal framework in parallel with the Scotland Bill. At their meeting on 7 July, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Deputy First Minister re-affirmed their aim to conclude negotiations on the fiscal framework by the autumn.

## Social Rented Housing

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the measures announced in the summer budget regarding social housing on the ability of local authorities and housing associations to build new housing on (1) brownfield sites, and (2) elsewhere. [HL1559]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government remains committed to delivering 275,000 new affordable homes by 2020. We are engaging with the social housing sector on the changes announced at Budget. This is a financially robust sector and we expect them to be able to manage these changes through efficiencies. There is a role for them in delivering the mix of housing supply this country needs, as we have already seen through the delivery of over 260,000 new affordable homes over the past five years.

## Social Services: Living Wage

*Asked by Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the announced National Living Wage from April 2016, what additional costs there will be in the next 12 months for social care providers. [HL1297]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The impact of the new National Living Wage on local authority finances will be considered during the Spending Review as part of an overall assessment of spending pressures on local authorities.



*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the additional costs to local authority budgets for adult social care incurred owing to payment of the national living wage will be regarded as a new burden on local authorities; and whether they plan to provide for any such additional costs in the annual local government financial settlement for 2016–17 and subsequent financial years. [HL1502]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The new burdens doctrine does not apply to policies which apply the same rules to local authorities and to private sector bodies, unless these have a disproportionate effect on local government. The impact on local government of the introduction of the National Living Wage will be considered during the Spending Review as part of an overall assessment of spending pressures.

## Sports

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost of participation in sports, and of the impact of such cost on the rates of participation of young people in sports. [HL1229]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Government remains committed to supporting young people's participation in sport and to ensuring that they can access sporting opportunities, regardless of their background. Sport England research shows that the most frequently stated reasons for young people doing more or less sport is not necessarily cost, but actually whether the 'offer' is right, injury/illness and also time-related pressures. Government is committed to ensuring that barriers to participation are broken down. Between 2012 and 2017 Sport England is investing almost £450 million to get more young people playing sport, with a focus on making sure that sport is delivered at the right place, at the right time and in the right style.

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the London 2012 Olympic sporting legacy for the country as a whole, and the value for money obtained from this spending in comparison to having spent the same amount on securing sporting participation for all children in all schools. [HL1231]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Participation in sport by children in schools is a key part of the sporting legacy from the 2012 Games. Since the 2013/14 academic year, a ring-fenced primary school sports fund of over £150m per year has been in place. This fund, the PE and School Sport Premium, is paid direct to every primary school headteacher in England and is ring-fenced. Government has committed to funding the PE and Primary School Sport premium throughout this Parliament. Two independent reports, by Ofsted and research company

NatCen, have found that the premium is being used effectively.

Another element of the sporting legacy from London 2012 is the School Games. The School Games were established in 2011 and consist of competition over four levels (intra-school, inter-school, county and national finals) for schoolchildren aged 5 to under-19. They were designed to build on the 2012 Games and enable every child to participate in competitive sport, including disabled children. 19,000 schools have signed up to the School Games and over 7,000,000 young people have taken part in the Games since their inception. School Games alumni are making their presence felt in elite sporting competition: 150 competitors in last year's Glasgow Commonwealth Games had previously competed at the School Games.

Other elements of the sporting legacy include:

- 1.4 million more people playing sport once a week than when we won the bid in 2005
- more than £1bn over 5 years invested in youth and community sport
- a 13% increase in funding for elite sport for the four years leading to Rio 2016 (a 7% increase for Olympic athletes and a 45% increase for Paralympians)
- more than 12,000 visits to schools and communities by 1,477 GB Olympic and Paralympic athletes since London 2012.

The sporting legacy benefits from London 2012 are being felt across England.

## Sunday Trading

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in formulating their plans to amend the law relating to Sunday trading, what consideration they gave to the prospective impact on employees and shoppers who do not have access to a car; and what assessment they made of (1) the case for improving public transport on Sundays to assist those without access to a car, and (2) the cost of doing so. [HL1232]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** As announced in the Budget, the Government is consulting on proposals to devolve powers on Sunday trading in England and Wales. As part of that consultation, the Government will be publishing its initial analysis. Employees and consumers are two of the key groups potentially affected by this policy and the Government will carefully consider the responses and any further evidence it receives to the consultation. This information will help shape the final proposals.

## Sunday Trading: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they expect their proposals for Sunday trading to be implemented on a London-wide basis. [HL1261]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** As announced in the Budget, the Government is consulting on proposals to devolve decision making on Sunday trading hours to a local level, for example, to elected metro mayors and/or Local Authorities, in England and Wales.

Providing local areas with more flexibility over shop opening hours would help our major cities, including London, to capitalise on the economic benefits of local growth as well as international tourism.

The outcome of the consultation will help shape the final proposals.

### Syria: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to take action similar to that taken by the government of Belgium in escorting over 200 Syrian Christians and Yazidis from Aleppo to Belgium. [HL1463]

**Lord Bates:** The UK has been at the forefront of the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria. We have pledged nearly £900 million, making us the second largest bilateral donor in the world after the USA. Our support has reached hundreds of thousands of people across Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. Since the crisis began we have granted protection to over 4,200 Syrian nationals and their dependants under our normal asylum rules.

We are also working closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to identify some of the most vulnerable displaced Syrians and bring them to the UK. The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme is helping those in the greatest need who cannot be supported effectively in the region by giving them protection and support in the UK – the scheme prioritises people requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of torture and violence, and women and children at risk.

However, we do not believe that a policy of arranging the evacuation or resettlement of particular groups of Syrians is the right response to the situation. Other countries may adopt slightly different approaches to the crisis; it is right that the international community should consider all available means to relieve the suffering of the Syrian people. But we believe we can make a greater impact and help more people through the provision of substantial humanitarian aid in the region and by working with international partners to end the conflict. We therefore have no additional plans to implement resettlement arrangements for specific groups of Syrians.

### Taxation

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of the amount of tax lost to the Exchequer through tax avoidance and evasion measures. [HL1260]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publish estimates of the tax gap in Measuring Tax Gaps each year. The 2014 edition <sup>[1]</sup> (published on 16 October 2014) presents a time series of tax gaps from 2005-06 to 2012-13.

Measuring Tax Gaps includes an illustrative breakdown of the tax gap by behaviour, including avoidance and evasion. In 2012-13 avoidance was estimated to cost the exchequer £3.1 billion, and evasion to cost £4.1 billion.

Since 2010-11 the percentage tax gap has stayed lower than at any point under the previous government, saving the country £4 billion. The figures in Measuring Tax Gaps show that there's still more work to do but our continued drive to tackle avoidance means that avoidance is down.

During the last Parliament, as a result of actions to tackle evasion, avoidance and non-compliance, HMRC will have secured £100 billion in additional compliance revenue. This includes more than £31 billion from big businesses and £1.2 billion extra from the UK's richest people.

The UK has one of the lowest tax gaps in the world but HMRC will continue to deploy its resources and skills to maintain the downward pressure that has proved so effective in recent years.

### Teachers: Training

*Asked by Baroness Sharp of Guildford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the new guidance for postgraduate teacher training issued by the National College of Teaching and Leadership on (1) the viability of subject courses at secondary level, and (2) future teacher supply in secondary subjects at national and regional level; whether they plan to publish a detailed assessment; and if so, when. [HL1208]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education uses the national Teacher Supply Model (TSM) to assess the need for initial teacher training (ITT) entrants each year. School Direct is an opportunity for schools in all areas to recruit and train the teachers that they need. For 2016/17, the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) listened to feedback from schools and universities and responded to recruitment challenges by moving to a more open approach which will provide School Direct lead schools and ITT providers with greater flexibility to respond to local conditions

The viability of individual courses at secondary level are down to a mixture of local and institutional circumstances, including the number of applicants and the degree to which ITT providers engage in School Direct in partnership with schools.

### Thames Water

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for dividing Thames Water

into two new companies, one with responsibility for the upper Thames area and one with responsibility for London and the lower Thames area. [HL1390]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The water industry in England and Wales was privatised in 1989, when the ten publicly-owned regional water authorities transferred their functions and assets to private water companies. There are currently 32 privately-owned water companies serving England and Wales, overseen by the independent economic regulator Ofwat.

As an appointed water and sewerage company, Thames Water's licence of appointment specifies a specific area of appointment. Water company licencing is a matter for Ofwat. The Government has therefore made no assessment of any such change in the company's structure.

### Tugboats: Hebrides

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any further assessment has been made of the regular availability of commercial tugs in the sea area of the Inner and Outer Hebrides following recent groundings; and whether they will reinstate a Coastguard Emergency Towing Vessel to cover this sea area. [HL1692]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government-funded Emergency Towing Vessel in Scotland provides coverage for both the Northern and Western Isles of Scotland. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is not aware of any occasions where a casualty vessel in need of a tow around the Western Isles has not been provided with a successful and effective towage service. No ship has grounded or sunk, nor has there been any pollution caused by a lack of an available tow.

The Government will continue to keep the need for a towing capability under review as part of its assessment of spending priorities.

### UK Border Force

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 7 July (HL941), what aerial surveillance capability the Border Agency operates separately from the Ministry of Defence; and what assessment they have made of whether civilian assets currently available will be available next year. [HL1355]

**Lord Bates:** We do not comment on specific operational matters that impact on national security. A variety of assets ensure the integrity of the UK border.

### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to renew the commitment made in 2010 by the Coalition Government to give due consideration to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child when making new policy and legislation, as recommended by the Joint Committee on Human Rights in its report *The UK's compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (8th Report, Session 2014–15, HL Paper 144). [HL1585]

**Lord Nash:** The government remains committed to giving due consideration to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) when developing new policy and legislation and the commitment given by the coalition government stands. We believe that embedding children's rights in government policy can strengthen services and improve outcomes for children. The rights set out in the UNCRC are secured through a range of different methods, including through legislation, guidance and requirements in various national minimum standards such as the 'Guide to the Children's Home Regulations including the quality standards' which is available in the attached document and at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/443634/Guide\\_to\\_the\\_Children\\_s\\_Homes\\_Regulations\\_including\\_the\\_quality\\_standards.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443634/Guide_to_the_Children_s_Homes_Regulations_including_the_quality_standards.pdf)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Guide to the Children's Home Regulations  
[Guide\_to\_the\_Children\_s\_Homes\_Regulations\_including\_the\_quality\_standards.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-16/HL1585>

### Unidentified Flying Objects

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of claims of new evidence from Colonel Charles Halt, whether they will confirm that United Kingdom radar operators tracked unidentified flying objects over Rendlesham Forest in December 1980; whether the 18 Ministry of Defence unexplained flying object files that have yet to be released to the public contain information about these radar reports; and whether the original radar tapes will be released to the public. [HL1550]

**Earl Howe:** All 18 files have been examined by officials and I can confirm that Rendlesham Forest is mentioned. However, this is only in relation to replies to parliamentary questions and responses to enquiries from members of the public advising that the Ministry of Defence could not confirm Colonel Halt's account.

None of the files contain radar reports or any type of tapes.

### Unpaid Work

Asked by **Lord Jopling**

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) whether they will list the categories of employed people who are not remunerated, including Ministers, who are exempted from the provisions of the minimum wage legislation, and (2) whether unpaid Ministers will qualify for the proposed living wage. [HL1252]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Certain exemptions to qualification to the National Minimum Wage apply through Part 6 (Exclusions) of the National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015[1]. The noble Lord will find a list of those exempted from the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 on the Gov.uk webpage <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage/who-gets-the-minimum-wage>.

Ministers are generally classified as 'office holders' who are neither workers nor employees, except where the individual also holds an employment contract with the same company or organisation that meets the criteria for [employees](#). Where a Minister meets this criteria and is classed as a worker under the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 ( <https://www.gov.uk/employment-status/worker> ), they will be entitled to the National Minimum Wage and the new National Living Wage once implemented in April 2016.

[1]

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/9780111127964/pdfs/ukdsi\\_9780111127964\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/9780111127964/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111127964_en.pdf)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Employment Status [Employment status.pdf.docx]

National Minimum Wage [National minimum wage.PDF.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-08/HL1252>

### Visas: Palestinians

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to relaxing visa restrictions for Palestinians in line with Israeli visa requirements. [HL1423]

**Lord Bates:** Nationals or citizens of Israel, who hold a full Israeli passport, do not require a visa to come to the UK as a visitor or for short-term study for less than six months. Holders of Palestinian travel documents require a visa to come to the UK for any purpose in the Immigration Rules.

The government regularly reviews the visa system. Visa regimes are imposed and removed on the basis of the risk that the country's citizens pose to the UK.

### Wandsworth Prison

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what facilities are available for prisoners at HMP Wandsworth to participate in acts of worship. [HL1383]

**Lord Faulks:** HMP Wandsworth is a large, diverse London prison catering for approximately 1620 men and comprising two units, a B-category local prison and a C-category resettlement unit. The religious affiliation of these prisoners is similarly diverse and is supported by a large multi-faith chaplaincy team. Recent HMIP inspections of the prison have given positive reports of chaplaincy provision and access to religious services.

The prison has a good range and quality of religious space that allows each faith group to meet regularly in suitable surroundings. These include a designated mosque, a church and two multi-faith chaplaincy rooms that are adaptable and used by the Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Orthodox and Jehovah Witness faith communities.

All prisoners are seen on arrival by the chaplaincy team and their religious affiliation ascertained. For the smaller faith groups, prisoners will be followed up by the individual chaplains and invited to a weekly time of worship. All faith groups have at least a minimum of one hour of weekly corporate worship and the offer of additional religious classes. For Christian and Muslim denominations, because of the substantial numbers involved, prisoners are asked to request whether they would like to attend a weekly time of worship.

### Water Companies

Asked by **Lord Whitty**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what factors were taken into account in setting the criteria for granting retail licences in the deregulated water retail market following the coming into force of the Water Act 2014. [HL1359]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Entrants to the new retail market will be required to hold one of the new Water Supply and Sewerage licences (WSSL). There are existing retail licences under the current regime, and the licence conditions and applications process for that regime are being built on to develop the new regime. Further information is available on Ofwat's website.

In June 2015, Ofwat consulted on the form of the new WSSL licences, and the proposed process for issuing them ('Licensing and policy issues in relation to the opening of the non-household retail market - a consultation'). The applications process for these licences will open from April 2016. Further information, and a copy of the consultation, is available on Ofwat's website.



# Written Answers

Monday, 7 September 2015

## Abortion

Asked by **Lord Rooker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the cost of terminations of pregnancies affected by neural tube defects in the latest period for which figures are available. [HL1542]

Asked by **Lord Rooker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the terminations of pregnancies affected by neural tube defects carried out in England in each of the past five years involved a patient whose home postcode was not in England. [HL1544]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Information about expenditure on abortions is not collected centrally.

The number of abortions carried out in England and Wales for pregnancies affected by neural tube defects for non-resident patients is given in the table below. The International Code of Diseases includes Q00 Anencephaly, Q01 Encephalocele and Q05 Spina Bifida as Neural Tube Defects.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
34	26	22	44	44

## Academies

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria will be used to assess the quality of new providers that take over schools that convert to academy status; and whether they plan to publish the criteria. [HL1830]

**Lord Nash:** To be approved as an academy sponsor, applicants go through a rigorous assessment process and are required to demonstrate that they have the skills and expertise to help under-performing schools improve rapidly. Outcomes of all applications are determined by the relevant Regional Schools Commissioner, advised by their Head Teacher Board of outstanding school leaders.

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have retained the right to consultation for foundation and voluntary schools that are subject to academy orders as a result of low education standards. [HL1831]

**Lord Nash:** The Education and Adoption Bill does not retain the requirement for consultation about whether a school should become an academy for foundation and voluntary schools that have a foundation and are subject to Academy orders as a result of having been judged Inadequate by Ofsted. We are, however, requiring that for such foundation and voluntary schools the Secretary of

State must consult on who she proposes should run the academy. This consultation must be with the trustees of the school, the foundation and, where the school has a religious character, the appropriate religious body.

For schools that have failed and been judged Inadequate by Ofsted, there should be no debate about whether transformation via academy conversion is needed and urgent action is required. But we also accept the importance of protecting the ethos of schools, and recognise that this is particularly important where the school has a religious character. We anticipate that all those concerned with foundation and voluntary schools, in particular Dioceses, will work closely with Regional Schools Commissioners to agree the best academy solutions for any of their schools that are failing.

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether in all circumstances warning notices will be issued to schools prior to an academy order being issued; and what is the estimated cost for a single school academy conversion. [HL1833]

**Lord Nash:** The Education and Adoption Bill proposes that swift action will be taken when a school is judged inadequate by Ofsted. Under the Bill an academy order would be made without first issuing a warning notice.

Where a school meets the new Education and Adoption Bill definition of coasting, it will automatically become eligible for intervention without the need for a warning notice. Becoming eligible for intervention in this way will not necessarily mean the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) will issue an academy order. Schools may have the capacity to improve and, where this is sufficient, they will be given the opportunity to demonstrate such improvement. Under the Bill, RSCs will be able to intervene where a coasting school does not have sufficient capacity to improve.

Some of these schools may require additional support and challenge, which RSCs can help to provide, for example from National Leaders of Education. Where necessary RSCs will also be able to progress academisation for these schools, bringing in new leadership where it is needed. In other cases of underperformance, the school may be issued with a warning notice. Where there is failure to comply with a warning notice an academy order may be made.

Costs vary according to type of project, and it would be very difficult to provide an average cost per academy based on total spent and number of academies opened.

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to give the Secretary of State the power to delegate decisions on academy orders to regional schools commissioners; and if so, whether this will be done by secondary legislation. [HL1834]

**Lord Nash:** It is not necessary to give the Secretary of State any power to delegate decisions on academy orders

to Regional Schools Commissioners (RSCs). RSCs already exercise the powers and duties of the Secretary of State. This will continue when, subject to the will of Parliament, the powers and duties in the Education and Adoption Bill take effect. For instance, RSCs will exercise the duty to make an Academy order in respect of any maintained school judged to be Inadequate by Ofsted.

### Accident and Emergency Departments

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the latest figures available for the number of people conveyed to Accident and Emergency departments by police officers. [HL1590]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not collected centrally. There is an ongoing national dialogue between the ambulance and police services to understand the nature of demand better and to develop a comprehensive and cross-service solution. Locally, services are putting in joint procedures to also address the issue.

*Asked by Lord Hughes of Woodside*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 16 July (HL Deb, col 686) regarding police ambulance support, what number of conveyances to Accident and Emergency departments 0.1 per cent represents. [HL1640]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** A Metropolitan Police (MPS) Freedom of Information revealed that they conveyed 931 patients to hospital in 2014. This makes up 0.1% of London Ambulance Service's (LAS) case load in the same year. MPS and LAS continue to work together to develop protocols for dealing with the issue.

### Afghanistan: Peace Negotiations

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support or advice they have offered to assist the peace talks between the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban, further to the meeting in Islamabad on 7 July. [HL1371]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We, along with our international partners in Afghanistan, share a common vision for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process to bring an end to many years of conflict. We welcome the talks on 7 July in Pakistan and will continue to work closely to provide what support we can to Afghanistan in their pursuit of a negotiated settlement.

### Africa and Middle East: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role they are playing in the European Union Regional Development and Protection Programme to support those countries supporting the majority of displaced refugees in the Middle East, North Africa and the Horn of Africa. [HL1441]

*Asked by Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support is being given to the proposal to establish a multi-purpose centre for migrants in Niger as set out in the Communication from the European Commission A European Agenda on Migration. [HL1442]

**Lord Bates:** The UK is on the Steering Committee of the Middle East Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) and in the implementing consortia for the Horn of Africa and North Africa RDPPs. We have committed £400,000 to the Middle East RDPP and have offered support to the Horn of Africa and North Africa programmes, the precise nature of which will be dictated by the needs of individual projects once these are developed. In the first instance we have offered to fund an expert to help the lead countries to scope and develop each programme.

The European Commission has proposed that a multi-purpose centre will be set up in Niger by the end of the year, as part of broader efforts to address migratory pressures on the EU at a key location on the western route to Libya. The centre will combine the provision of information on the risks of illegal migration and regional alternatives, support for those in need of protection, and assistance for those deciding to return home. The UK has joined an informal working group to make progress on this proposal, which remains at an early stage of development. Once more detail is known, we will consider what support we might offer.

### Africa: Tuberculosis

*Asked by Baroness Nye*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the proportion of HIV-related deaths in (1) Kenya, (2) Malawi, (3) Mozambique, (4) Nigeria and (5) Rwanda that are due to tuberculosis. [HL1541]

**Baroness Verma:** World Health Organisation (WHO) data shows that, in 2013, the proportion of deaths amongst people with HIV that were due to TB was as follows:

*Proportion of deaths amongst people with HIV that were due to TB in 2013*

Kenya	16%
Malawi	7%
Mozambique	46%
Nigeria	40%
Rwanda	10%

### Aggregates Levy

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the European Commission decision regarding exemption from the aggregates levy. [HL1708]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The European Commission concluded a State aid investigation into various Aggregates Levy exemptions on 23 March 2015. The Commission had originally approved all the levy exemptions in 2002, but were required to carry out a State aid investigation as a result of legal challenge. The Commission's decision found all the levy exemptions lawful except for part of the exemption for shale aggregate.

The Chancellor announced in his Summer Budget that all of the lawful exemptions would be reinstated from 1 August 2015.

The Commission have ordered recovery of State aid provided by the exemption for some types of shale aggregate. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) have recently written to potentially affected businesses. The government will continue to work with the industry to minimise the impact of recovery on affected businesses, and any businesses that are concerned should contact HMRC as soon as possible.

### Agriculture: Industrial Health and Safety

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fatalities and serious injuries there have been in the agriculture industry in each year from 1995 until 2014. [HL1843]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [HL1843 UKSA Reply.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-22/HL1843>

### Agriculture: Subsidies

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to challenge the imposition of a £642 million fine on the United Kingdom relating to the administration of Common Agricultural Policy farm payments; and whether in their negotiations for a return of powers to the United Kingdom they will include the removal of European Union powers to impose financial penalties on Member States. [HL1436]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** £642 million is the total cumulative value of disallowance penalties for the 2007-2013 Single Payment Scheme, a number of smaller 2007-13 CAP schemes, and pre-2007 predecessor schemes. Most of the disallowance related to early problems with the mapping system prior to 2010, but finally settled some years later, after the process of mediation had concluded.

Defra negotiates hard to reduce the level of disallowance initially proposed by the EU and is also working to reduce the risk of future disallowance by improving domestic systems and controls, and by arguing for a simplification of the current CAP. This includes pushing for a review of the EU's system for controls - the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) - to bring about a more pragmatic and proportionate approach to inspections, checks and penalties.

### Air Pollution

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have issued to pedestrians, cyclists and drivers in London and other major cities about the use of anti-pollution face masks. [HL1397]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No formal advice has been issued by Her Majesty's Government to pedestrians, cyclists and drivers in London or other major cities about the use of face masks.

### Aircraft Carriers: Unmanned Air Vehicles

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what capabilities the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers will have for launching and retrieving drones and other remotely piloted aircraft systems when they enter service with the Royal Navy; and what they are currently intended to be fitted with at that time. [HL1670]

**Earl Howe:** The Queen Elizabeth-class carriers have an extensive flight deck and hangar and engineering support facilities, which could be utilised to operate and sustain drones and other remotely piloted aircraft systems in the future.

The Royal Navy and Joint Forces Command continue to investigate maritime autonomous systems through the evaluation of Capability Concept Demonstrators.

## All Party Groups

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask the Chairman of Committees what role the House of Lords authorities had in agreeing the new rules for All-Party Parliamentary Groups issued by the House of Commons Committee on Standards to take effect at the start of the Parliament. [HL1219]

**Lord Sewel:** In June 2012 a working group established by the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Speaker reported on the operation and funding of all-party groups. The working group had three members of the House on it. It heard from the then chairman of the House of Lords Sub-Committee on Lords' Conduct; conducted an email survey of members of the House; and held a discussion meeting open to all members of the House.

Following the working group's report the House of Commons Committee on Standards began an inquiry into all-party groups, taking its first evidence in June 2013. In view of concern that the inquiry had yet to hear from any member of the Lords, in July 2013 the Lord Speaker wrote to the party whips and the Convenor of the Crossbench peers to alert them to the inquiry and the fact that members of the House of Lords were entitled to make submissions.

Shortly before the Standards Committee's report on All-Party Parliamentary Groups was published in November 2013 the chair of that committee wrote to the Lord Speaker alerting her to its emerging thinking and enclosing the new rules which that committee was proposing. The Committee's report, and the proposed new rules, were agreed by the House of Commons on 13 May 2014.

Since the House of Commons passed the first resolution regulating all-party groups in 1985, decisions on the rules for all-party groups have been for the House of Commons. The Register of All-Party Groups is maintained by the House of Commons Registrar and complaints of breach of the rules are investigated by the House of Commons Commissioner for Standards.

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask the Chairman of Committees what discussions have taken place between the House of Lords authorities and the Speaker of the House of Commons about the decision that only MPs can chair All-Party Parliamentary Groups. [HL1220]

**Lord Sewel:** No representations have been made by the House of Lords authorities to the Speaker of the House of Commons about the decision that only MPs can chair All-Party Parliamentary Groups. Since the House of Commons passed the first resolution regulating all-party groups in 1985, decisions on the rules for all-party groups have been for the House of Commons. The Register of All-Party Groups is maintained by the House of Commons Registrar and complaints of breach of the rules are investigated by the House of Commons Commissioner for Standards.

## Anaemia

Asked by *The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to address the problems associated with the late diagnosis of pernicious anaemia, in the light of the results of the survey published in the British Nursing Journal in April 2014. [HL1539]

Asked by *The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they propose to alert medical practitioners to the severe and irreversible nerve damage that can occur when pernicious anaemia is misdiagnosed. [HL1540]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** It is important that patients suffering from pernicious anaemia, the result of a vitamin B12 (cobalamin) deficiency, receive a prompt and appropriate diagnosis. Pernicious anaemia develops gradually, and can cause a range of symptoms, including fatigue, lethargy, feeling faint and headaches, which vary from patient to patient. Because of the gradual progression of the condition, the variety of symptoms, which are shared with a range of other conditions, diagnosis at early onset can be challenging.

To support the diagnosis of pernicious anaemia, the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) has published *Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of Cobalamin and Folate disorders*, which sets out that cobalamin status is the recommended first line diagnostic test. However, the guidance states that there is no gold standard test for the condition and makes it clear that the clinical picture of a patient is the most important factor in assessing the significance of the test results. This means clinicians should take into account all of the symptoms the patient is experiencing, their medical history, age and other relevant factors when considering the implications of a patient's cobalamin status. The BCSH guidance highlights the risk of neurological impairment if treatment is delayed.

The BCSH operates independently of Department and NHS England and produces evidence based guidelines for both clinical and laboratory haematologists on the diagnosis and treatment of haematological disease, drawing on the advice of expert consultants and clinical scientists practicing in the United Kingdom. It would be for the BCSH, not the Department, to consider whether any adjustments to current best practice in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with pernicious anaemia were needed, including whether any new or additional tests were appropriate. A copy of the BCSH guidance document has already been placed in the Library and is attached.

More general clinical guidance on the diagnosis and management of pernicious anaemia can also be found on the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Clinical Knowledge Summaries website. This is a freely accessible online resource that covers the causes, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of pernicious anaemia, as well as potential complications of the



condition. In addition to this, NHS Choices provides similar, though less technical, information on pernicious anaemia for the public.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

BCSH Guidelines pernicious anaemia [colbalamin and folate disorders.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-16/HL1539>

## Antidepressants

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prescriptions for antidepressants have been issued in each of the past thirty years; what was the annual cost to the National Health Service of those prescriptions; and what guidance is given to doctors and patients about the use of antidepressants, their subsequent withdrawal, and potential long-term effects. [HL1632]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Prescribing information is available from 1991; annual figures are provided from 1991 to 2014 for antidepressant prescription items dispensed and the net ingredient cost (NIC).

*The number of antidepressant prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England, as classified as antidepressant drugs in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.3, with the NIC – 1991 to 2014*

Year	Items (000's)	NIC (000's)
1991	8,953.9	£54,045.8
1992	9,914.3	£81,117.6
1993	10,776.7	£98,829.8
1994	11,816.4	£117,246.3
1995	13,227.1	£146,832.9
1996	14,960.6	£191,242.8
1997	16,822.6	£239,120.5
1998	18,424.5	£279,004.3
1999	20,108.1	£315,269.3
2000	22,021.8	£310,378.2
2001	24,342.7	£341,660.9
2002	26,329.4	£380,883.1
2003	27,658.0	£395,178.0
2004	28,995.5	£400,681.7
2005	29,389.9	£338,546.7
2006	31,038.0	£291,511.4
2007	33,839.6	£276,107.6
2008	35,960.5	£247,355.1
2009	39,140.5	£230,062.9
2010	42,788.0	£220,372.8

*The number of antidepressant prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England, as classified as antidepressant drugs in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.3, with the NIC – 1991 to 2014*

2011	46,677.8	£270,177.2
2012	50,167.2	£211,145.4
2013	53,326.6	£282,121.6
2014	57,147.9	£265,003.7

Source: Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system data provided by the Health and Social Care Information Centre

Note: The values for NIC have fluctuated over the years; reasons for this will include: the number of antidepressants available on the market, shifts in prescribing practice following national policy and guidance, and the expiry of patents for some medicines and increased use of lower priced generic alternatives. Price changes for generic medicines have strongly influenced the overall costs in recent years.

Medicines should only be prescribed when necessary and in all cases the benefit should be considered in relation to the risk involved. The options should be discussed carefully with the patient.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a range of clinical guidelines, relevant to the prescribing of anti-depressant medication.

Advice on the prescribing of anti-depressants is available in the BNF, which is made available free of charge to National Health Service prescribers. Best practice guidance may also be produced by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

In addition, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) ensures that the product information available to all doctors and patients contains authoritative and up to date essential information on how to prescribe antidepressants and on the benefits and risks of treatment, including the risk of withdrawal. In addition the MHRA issues updated advice as appropriate and communications to healthcare professionals via the letters to healthcare professionals, the MHRA website and also Drug Safety Update.

## Apprentices

Asked by **Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many, and what proportion of, (1) 16 year-olds, (2) 17 year-olds, (3) 18 year-olds, and (4) 19-24 year-olds, started on an apprenticeship in the areas of science, engineering, manufacturing and technology in (a) 2012–13, and (b) 2013–14. [HL1718]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Table 1 shows the number of young people starting apprenticeships in the 'Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies', 'Information and Communication Technology' and 'Science and

Mathematics' Sector Subject Areas in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

This information is not available as proportions of the population of each age group.

*Table 1: Number of Apprenticeship starts by 16,17, 18 and 19-24 year-olds in the Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, Information and Communication Technology and Science and Mathematics Sector Subject Areas in 2012/13 and 2013/14*

Sector Subject Area	Age	2012/13	2013/14
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	16	6,980	6,850
	17	7,570	8,470
	18	10,220	10,800
	19-24	20,950	22,530
Information and Communication Technology	16	940	720
	17	1,500	1,480
	18	2,490	2,830
	19-24	4,810	5,340
Science and Mathematics	16	10	30
	17	30	50
	18	90	110
	19-24	120	130
Total	16	7,900	7,600
	17	9,100	10,000
	18	12,800	13,700
	19-24	25,900	28,000

Notes:

- 1) The source is the Individualised Learner Record.
- 2) Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10, with the exception of totals which are rounded to the nearest hundred.
- 3) Age is based upon self-declaration by the learner and is defined as age at start of Apprenticeship.

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to create an apprenticeship scheme that focuses equally on increasing vocational on-the-job training and offering high quality study opportunities. [HL1723]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Over the next 5 years we will support 3 million new apprenticeships. We are developing a package of measures to achieve this growth by getting more employers to offer apprenticeships, so many more people can benefit from this valuable route to a great career. The Government is introducing a levy on larger UK employers to fund apprenticeship training. The levy will apply to larger employers and will support post-16 apprenticeships. Further details on the apprenticeships levy will be set out in the Spending Review.

Through our reforms, we are driving up the quality of apprenticeships to ensure that they fully meet employers' needs and have substantial, stretching on- and off-the-job

training with robust assessment procedures that ensure apprentices are fully competent in their occupation at the end of their training. We also insist that apprentices study English and maths to ensure they have the transferable skills needed to progress their career.

## Armed Forces: Muslims

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many service personnel in (1) the army, (2) the Royal Navy, and (3) the Royal Air Force, have declared themselves to be Muslim. [HL1689]

**Earl Howe:** Declaration of religion is a voluntary decision for each individual.

The number of UK regular service personnel in the Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM), the Army and the Royal Air Force who have declared themselves to be Muslim as at 1 April 2014 can be found in the table below:

Royal Navy/Royal Marines (RN/RM)	40
Army	510
Royal Air Force	40

Notes: 1 April 2014 is the latest published information available. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

## Armoured Fighting Vehicles

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government where in the United Kingdom the new General Dynamic UK Scout combat vehicle is built. [HL1749]

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the components of the new General Dynamic UK Scout combat vehicle are procured from United Kingdom manufacturers. [HL1750]

**Earl Howe:** Assembly, integration and testing for Scout specialist vehicles beyond the initial 100 vehicles will be conducted by General Dynamics Land Systems UK Ltd, in South Wales. Many of the vehicles' key sub-systems are designed and assembled in the UK, including the 40mm turret, the day night sensor systems, the enabling electronic system architecture and the advanced armour packs. Overall, 60 per cent by value of the work will be completed by UK manufacturers.

## Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, with regard to the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3 Regulations) 2015, they plan to publish (1) their

detailed assessment of the compatibility of the regulations with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; (2) the Public Sector Equality Duty statement; and (3) the detailed review methodology, as set out in the consultation letters. [HL1713]

**Lord Bates:** Asylum seekers, including dependants of asylum seekers, who are destitute are provided with accommodation and a cash allowance to cover their “essential living needs” - the legal test. The level of the allowance is kept under regular review.

The most recent review showed that the asylum support payments provided to larger household groups comfortably exceeded what is necessary to meet their essential living needs.

Along with accommodation, and free access to health care and education, the essential living needs covered by the asylum support rates are compatible with the UN Convention on the Rights of the child, and include nutrition, clothing and access to social, cultural and religious life.

In conducting the review, due regard was given the Public Sector Equality Duty and the assessment was that the reduced payments were still sufficient to meet those needs. The statement also sets out the methodology used in the review. A copy of the statement was recently provided on request to the House of Commons library.

The adequacy of the payment rates will be kept under review through the annual review cycle and in line with the statutory test to ensure that the right level of support is provided to asylum seekers and their families.

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they plan to publish the Public Sector Equality Duty statement prepared in respect of the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015. [HL1782]

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, regarding the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015, whether they decided not to prepare an Impact Assessment because they considered that reducing asylum support would have no impact on the voluntary and charitable sectors that assist asylum seekers; and if so, on what basis they reached that conclusion. [HL1783]

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether, in the light of their legal duty to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, they plan to publish their detailed assessment of the compatibility of the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015 with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [HL1784]

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, regarding the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015,

what support other than cash is received by a family of four asylum seekers in Sweden, as referred to in paragraph 7.7 of the Explanatory Memorandum. [HL1785]

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, regarding the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015, whether they plan to publish the letter sent to members of the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum referred to in paragraph 8.1 of the Explanatory Memorandum. [HL1786]

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, regarding the Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2015, laid before Parliament on 12 March and later withdrawn, what was the research conducted into the real cost of essential items referred to in paragraph 7.4 of the Explanatory Memorandum. [HL1787]

**Lord Bates:** Asylum seekers, including dependants of asylum seekers, who are destitute are provided with accommodation and a cash allowance to cover their “essential living needs” - the legal test. The level of the allowance is kept under regular review.

The most recent review showed that the asylum support payments provided to larger household groups comfortably exceeded what is necessary to meet essential living needs. The revised rates which will come into force in August are still sufficient to meet those needs. There should therefore be no impact on the voluntary sector.

In conducting the review, in addition to other sources of information, research was undertaken into the actual costs of particular essential items, including the cost of food stuffs, clothing, toiletries, household cleaning stuffs and non-prescription medication, as well as travel and communications.

In conducting the review, due regard was given the Public Sector Equality Duty and the assessment was that the reduced payments were still sufficient to meet those needs. The statement also sets out the methodology used in the review. A copy of the statement was recently provided on request to the House of Commons library. A copy of the letter to the members of the National Asylum Stakeholders Forum is also available on request.

Along with accommodation, and free access to health care and education, the essential living needs covered by the asylum support rates are compatible with the UN Convention on the Rights of the child, and include nutrition, clothing and access to social, cultural and religious life.

As a member of the European Union, the EU Directives on reception conditions for asylum seekers place Sweden under the same international obligations as the UK in respect of the provision of support to asylum seekers. Thus like the UK, Sweden provide accommodation and subsistence to those asylum seekers who are in need of such assistance.

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the basis of their assessment in the Explanatory Memorandum for the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015 that the current payment methodology by which additional cash payments are made for each child under the age of 18 "provides more than enough to cover the needs of individual children". [HL1796]

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish the results of discussions with members of the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum and of the coalition "Still Human Still Here", as referred to in the Explanatory Memorandum for the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015. [HL1797]

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why no transitional arrangements for families in receipt of asylum support have been put in place prior to the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015 coming into force. [HL1798]

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to communicate the change in the rate of asylum support due to take effect as a result of the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015 to recipients of that support. [HL1799]

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what sources of information other than data from the Office for National Statistics were used in identifying essential needs under the Asylum Support (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2015. [HL1800]

**Lord Bates:** Asylum seekers, including dependants of asylum seekers, who are destitute are provided with accommodation and a cash allowance to cover their "essential living needs" - the legal test. The level of the allowance is kept under regular review.

The most recent review of asylum support payments earlier this year looked at data spending on essential items by the lowest decile (10%) income group in the UK taken from the latest report from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) on Family Spending published on 2 December 2014. Other data from the study, specifically in relation to spending by households with children, was also reviewed. In addition, research was undertaken into the actual costs of particular essential items, including the cost of food stuffs, clothing, toiletries, household cleaning stuffs and non-prescription medication, as well as travel and communications.

Whilst the ONS data is useful in identifying levels of spending on particular items, it does not provide the definition of "essential living items". This is provided for

in international and domestic legislation, most notably the EU Reception Conditions Directive 2003, Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Nationality Act 1999 and the Asylum support Regulations 2000. In addition, guidance in respect of which specific items could be considered as essential was provided by Justice Popplewell in his 2014 judgement in respect of the Refugee Action challenge to the Asylum Support Rates.

The Government has no plans to publish minutes of meetings held with external partners or to share more widely papers provided by them which were considered in the review. Despite the planned reduction in the rate, the payments are still sufficient to meet the essential needs of asylum seekers and their families. Those affected were notified of the changes by letter, sent out on Thursday 16 July, which provided more than 3 weeks notice of the intended reduction in their payments.

The adequacy of the payment rates will be kept under review through the annual review cycle and in line with the statutory test to ensure that the right level of support is provided to asylum seekers and their families.

## Asylum: Detainees

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum applicants in the Detained Fast Track have been released from detention since 26 June who (1) were awaiting an initial decision; (2) had been refused but were awaiting an appeal hearing; (3) were awaiting an appeal determination; and (4) had exhausted all rights of appeal; and for each group, what information those applicants had been given regarding (a) the decision in R (Detention Action) v First-Tier Tribunal [2015] EWHC 1689; (b) the suspension of the Detained Fast Track; and (c) the redress available to them. [HL1625]

**Lord Bates:** Since 26 June 323 asylum claimants have been released from Detained Fast Track.

Of those claimants released, 61 claimants were awaiting a decision, 70 claimants had received a decision, but were awaiting an appeal and 131 claimants were appeal rights exhausted.

We did not provide any information to those claimants who were released from detention.

## Atrial Fibrillation

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of people with atrial fibrillation. [HL1729]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Atrial fibrillation (AF) is often asymptomatic and not always detected. As a result many people have undiagnosed AF. Estimates have been produced to quantify the size of the undetected problem.

According to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) the number of persons with atrial fibrillation in



England is 883,938, or 1.6% of the population (2013/14 data). A copy of the QOF data is attached.

Another estimate of AF is based on the study “Estimating the prevalence of atrial fibrillation in a general population using validated electronic health data”. According to these estimates, the number of persons with AF in England is 1,363,321, or 2.4% of the population (2013/14 data). This study implies that up to one third of AF cases are not reported. A copy of this study is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Estimating the Prevalence of Atrial Fibrillation [clep-5-475.pdf]

Quality & Outcomes Framework data [QOF AF prevalence (2).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-21/HL1729>

### Autism: Research

Asked by *Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how much funding they have committed to research into autism in each of the last five years. [HL1762]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. MRC expenditure on autism in each of the last five years is as follows:

Year	£m
2010/11	£2.4m
2011/12	£2.6m
2012/13	£2.8m
2013/14	£2.7m
2014/15	£2.8m

### Banks

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to weaken the ring-fence scheme separating retail and investment banks. [HL1722]

**Lord O’Neill of Gatley:** The Government has no plans to weaken the ring-fence legislation.

The ring-fencing of retail from wholesale/investment banking is central to the Government’s structural reforms of UK banks. Ring-fencing was a key recommendation of the Independent Commission on Banking (ICB), established in June 2010 and chaired by Sir John Vickers. Ring-fencing will insulate retail banking services (whose continuous provision is essential to financial stability and to the wider economy) from shocks originating elsewhere in the global financial system. It will also make ring-

fenced retail banks simpler and easier for the authorities to resolve should they or their wider corporate groups fail.

### Barclays

Asked by *Lord Tunncliffe*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether ministers have had any discussions with the Serious Fraud Office on a Deferred Prosecution Agreement with Barclays Bank regarding that bank’s rescue plan and fundraising in 2008; and if so, what was the nature of those discussions. [HL1842]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The Law Officers frequently meet representatives of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) to discuss a variety of issues. However, as was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government’s policy to provide details of all such meetings.

The *Protocol between the Attorney General and the Prosecuting Departments* sets out the relationship between the Attorney General and the SFO. This is published on the Gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protocol-between-the-attorney-general-and-prosecuting-departments>

### BBC

Asked by *Lord Soley*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the statement on the BBC by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 16 July, whether they plan to publish full details of the programme of public consultation proposed for the BBC; and how the public will be informed and advised about that programme. [HL1573]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The BBC Trust is planning a wide ranging programme of activity to engage the public. This will encompass a public consultation, separate and complementary to that launched by government. It will also include a seminar series that will be open to the public and programmes of research and online engagement. Information on these events will be included on the Charter Review area of the [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) website.

### BBC Monitoring: Finance

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have considered funding BBC Monitoring from the Conflict Pool or with new money available from the Intelligence Agencies. [HL1617]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government has published a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Charter Review consultation paper, seeking views on all aspects of the BBC, including its funding. A copy of this document has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses. The consultation has not reached the point where the specifics of funding for BBC Monitoring have been proposed.

## BBC: Royal Charters

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the appointments of the eight advisers on the renewal of the BBC's Charter conform with the seven principles of public life, in particular having regard to any conflicts of interest. [HL1527]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The BBC Charter Review Advisory Group has no legal status and no decision-making functions. It operates on a voluntary basis and members offer their time for free. These are not public appointments and therefore the Group is not set up under the Cabinet Office guidelines for public appointments.

Further details of the group can be found in a letter dated 27 July from to Baroness Greender following up from a debate on the 16 July on the BBC Charter Review. A copy of this letter has been deposited in the Library of the House.

## Belfast Agreement

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 20 July (HL1462) which concerned discussions with the government of the Republic of Ireland instigated under the Belfast Agreement, whether human rights in the United Kingdom and the Republic were part of those discussions, and if so, who took part in those discussions; and what were the outcomes. [HL1715]

**Earl of Courtown:** As has been explained previously to the Noble Lord, the UK and Irish Governments meet regularly at ministerial and official level to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. These include matters relating to the implementation of the Belfast Agreement.

## Bills: England

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of bills in each of the previous five Parliaments that affected England alone and had no implications for any of the other nations in the United Kingdom. [HL1727]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** The Government has not performed a retrospective assessment of bills introduced in previous Parliaments that affected England alone and had no implications for any other nations in the UK. Under the Government's proposals on English Votes for English Laws, the application of the proposed new rules to future legislation will be a matter for the Speaker of the House of Commons, considering both the application of the legislation and whether or not the matters in question are devolved. The Speaker will certify bills as a whole and also clauses and schedules within bills under this test.

The Government's proposals for English Votes for English Laws provide for certification of bills and clauses or schedules by the Speaker of the House of Commons based on the territorial application of the legislation and on the devolution settlement.

## British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar

*Asked by Baroness Nye*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding is provided each year for the British Chamber of Commerce in Burma. [HL1430]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Last year (2014/15) the British Chamber of Commerce in Burma received £70,400 of funding from UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and this year (2015/16) it will receive £102,400. It will deliver 130 company interventions in 2015/16. This funding is part of UKTI's Overseas Business Network Initiative, a change programme increasing the role of the private sector, including Chambers of Commerce and Business Groups, in providing support for UK exporters.

## British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who are the members of the United Kingdom delegation to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly; and to which political party each member is affiliated. [HL1690]

**Lord Dunlop:** Responsibility for appointing the United Kingdom delegation to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly lies with the Lords Speaker and the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The Government's understanding is that the United Kingdom delegation has not yet been appointed following the General Election.

## Broadband: South West

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the regional and national economic effects of the present rate of the roll-out of superfast broadband in Devon and Somerset. [HL1682]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Connecting Devon and Somerset Phase 1 broadband project is approximately half way through delivery of its target of providing superfast broadband coverage to 276,000 premises. In June 2015 Connecting Devon and Somerset entered into a further contract under Phase 2 of the broadband programme to provide coverage to a minimum of 4,659 premises in Exmoor and Dartmoor. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport published a study with analysis on the impact of superfast broadband in 2013. This is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-broadband-impact-study--2>

## Budget July 2015

Asked by *Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they changed the basis of the distributional analysis of the most recent budget presented in *Impact on Households* from that in previous such documents, and whether they plan to publish (1) the analysis on the same basis as hitherto, and (2) estimates up to 2019–20. [HL1384]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government published analysis of the impact of government policy across the income distribution alongside the Summer Budget. This set out a new approach to distributional analysis, abstracting from the level of government borrowing. Under the previous framework, a pound of extra borrowing would appear as a gain to households. But higher spending or lower taxes today would increase the deficit and the debt burden, with consequences for households in the future. The new analysis considers how policy decisions affect the share of tax and public spending paid by and received by households.

The analysis showed that decisions made by this government mean the poorest continue to receive the same share of public spending as they did in 2010–11, while the share of tax paid by the richest has increased.

Publishing analysis for 2017–18 reflects a compromise between including as much of the Summer Budget package as possible, and making as few assumptions as possible about changes in the wider economy into the future. By 2017–18 the majority of announced welfare measures have come into effect, as have most of the significant changes to the tax system. Analysis for 2016–17 would capture very few of the measures announced in the Summer Budget; analysis from 2018–19 onwards, would need to make substantial assumptions about changes in household incomes and inflation.

## Burma: Bell Pottinger Group

Asked by *Baroness Nye*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any United Kingdom Government officials or Ministers have met any representatives of Bell Pottinger regarding Burma. [HL1431]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Ambassador to Burma and the Director of UK Trade and Investment in Rangoon have met representatives from Bell Pottinger in the last year, in order to provide political and economic overviews of the country.

## Burma: Islam

Asked by *Baroness Nye*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have made of the assessment by the Burmese Muslim Association that the government of Burma is encouraging anti-Muslim activities in that country. [HL1432]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain extremely concerned by instances of religious intolerance in Burma, particularly as the November parliamentary elections approach. Specific concerns include the restriction on the Rohingya community, the rise of Buddhist nationalism, hate speech and anti-Muslim violence, and the introduction of potentially discriminatory faith-based legislation. We have raised our concerns in detail both bilaterally and in company with our partners in the EU and will continue to raise this issue in our dealings with the Burmese authorities, both in public and in private. We also work closely with civil society on these issues in Burma, particularly during our visits to Rakhine State, where the UK is one of the largest bilateral donors of humanitarian assistance.

## Burma: Rohingya

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that Rohingya Muslims are able to vote in the forthcoming election in Burma. [HL1450]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We continue to make clear to the Burmese authorities our concerns about the status and vulnerability of former white card holders, and the risk of the Rohingya being disenfranchised from the elections. We have stressed the need for a clear process to replace these documents, as well as a transparent, inclusive and consistent process in establishing the status of inhabitants of Rakhine State. Regardless of citizenship status, the human rights of all individuals in Rakhine must be fully respected. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), has made these very points to senior members of the Burmese government over the last few days during his visit there.

## Bus Services: Wheelchairs

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Transport for London about increasing the number of wheelchairs allowed on London buses at any one time. [HL1733]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There have been no formal discussions between the Department for Transport and Transport for London (TfL) about increasing the number of wheelchairs allowed on London Buses at any one time. However, TfL is encouraging vehicle manufacturers to maximise the space available within the designated wheelchair bay. This will make it easier for wheelchair users to move into the area and place themselves in the correct position – the back of the wheelchair against the back rest.

## Cabinet Office: Public Appointments

Asked by *Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-

departmental public bodies by the Cabinet Office. [HL1311]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The current chair appointments to non-departmental public bodies made by the Cabinet Office are listed below:

Baroness Browning Advisory Committee on Business Appointments

Lord Bew Committee on Standards in Public Life

Lord Kakkar House of Lords Appointments Commission

Dr Martin Read CBE Senior Salaries Review Body

Sir Peter Ainsworth Big Lottery Fund

Sir George Newman Security Vetting Appeals Panel

Sir David Normington GCB First Civil Service Commissioner

The Speaker of the House of Commons (ex officio) Boundary Commissions for England and Wales

In addition, the Cabinet Office publishes a list of chairs of non-departmental public bodies on Gov.uk as part of the *Public Bodies* series of reports. The most recent report is as of 31 March 2015. Public Bodies is an online publication ([gov.uk](http://gov.uk) and [data.gov](http://data.gov)) and a hard copy of each annual report is available in the Library of the House.

### Cancer: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton (HL777), why no assessment has been made of the impact of delisting from the Cancer Drugs Fund on the availability of cancer drugs in the United Kingdom. [HL1641]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton (HL776), what assessment they have made of the impact of the decision by NHS England to suspend the listing of new drugs on the Cancer Drugs Fund on patient access to new drugs being launched within the next six months. [HL1642]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when is the next opportunity that the Cancer Drugs Fund will accept new applications for review. [HL1644]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) is reprioritised on a regular basis so that the resources available are used to the best benefit for patients.

As part of this, NHS England has taken the decision not to consider new drugs for inclusion in the national CDF list at this time and has made no decision on when new applications to the Fund will next be considered.

Clinicians will continue to be able to apply for cancer drugs not on the national CDF list through the Individual Cancer Drugs Funding Request procedure.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any plans to extend the Cancer Drugs Fund beyond April 2016; and whether there are plans to consult on further changes to the Cancer Drugs Fund's Standard Operating Procedures in the event of the Cancer Drugs Fund being extended beyond April 2016. [HL1643]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This Government is committed to continuing to invest in the Fund. Proposals for evolving the Fund in a more sustainable way are under consideration. At its meeting on 23 July 2015 the NHS England Board agreed that these proposals will subject to public consultation later in 2015.

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether NHS patients will be able to access Nivolumab on the Cancer Drugs Fund while the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence concludes single technology appraisals of the drug for the treatment of melanoma, non-squamous lung cancer and squamous lung cancer. [HL1764]

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide alternative means of funding immunology treatments, while awaiting a decision by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence in the light of the suspension of new applications to the Cancer Drugs Fund. [HL1765]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In the absence of guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, it is for commissioners to make funding decisions on new drugs and treatments based on the available evidence.

### Cancer: Health Services

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the work of the Independent Taskforce developing the five-year action plan for cancer services has been paused. [HL1400]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The work of the independent Cancer Taskforce has not been paused. The taskforce's report, *Achieving World-Class Cancer Outcomes: A Strategy for England 2015-20*, was published on 19 July 2015 and the chairman of the Taskforce organised a Parliamentary briefing on 21 July which was attended by Members of both Houses.

A copy of the report is attached, and it can also be found at the following link:



[www.cancerresearchuk.org/sites/default/files/achieving\\_world-class\\_cancer\\_outcomes\\_-\\_a\\_strategy\\_for\\_england\\_2015-2020.pdf](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/sites/default/files/achieving_world-class_cancer_outcomes_-_a_strategy_for_england_2015-2020.pdf)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Achieving World-Class Cancer Outcomes [achieving\_world-class\_cancer\_outcomes\_-\_a\_strategy\_for\_england\_2015-2020.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-14/HL1400>

### **Carers: Living Wage**

*Asked by Baroness Hollins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what adjustments are anticipated to personalised budgets for vulnerable people in order to allow them to pay personal assistants and carers the proposed National Living Wage. [HL1788]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The impact of the new National Living Wage on local authority finances will be considered during the Spending Review as part of an overall assessment of spending pressures on local authorities.

### **Children: Poverty**

*Asked by Lord Tyler*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies Living Standards, Poverty and Inequality in the UK: 2015; and how they plan to respond to the findings that nearly 63 per cent of British children living in poverty are in working families. [HL1667]

**Baroness Altmann:**

The recent IFS report is positive about the Government's new approach to tackling the root causes of poverty: they said that "focusing on a broad range of inputs into life chances and causes of poverty is sensible." They also add that "family worklessness certainly is a sensible thing to track if one wants to reduce the prevalence of low living standards."

This Government knows that work remains the best route out of poverty. Research shows that around three-quarters of poor children in families that move into full employment exit poverty. We are committed to supporting parents to move into work, increase their earnings, and keep more of what they earn. Universal Credit, our investment in childcare and the introduction of the National Living Wage will all play an important part.

The Government also recognises that improving skills and progression is the key to making work pay. That is why under this Government we intend to create three million more apprenticeships over the next five years, and to help people move on to better jobs by improving qualifications and providing additional support through Jobcentre Plus.

### **Children: Protection**

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take in the light of the South Yorkshire - National Child Protection Inspection post inspection review, published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in July 2015, and its conclusions that "work has yet to translate into improved practice on the front line and some children have been left at risk of harm". [HL1743]

**Lord Bates:** Inspectors found that South Yorkshire Police have made child protection a priority and there have been improvements to the force's initial response when attending incidents involving children at risk. The force is developing new joint working arrangements and structures to improve consistency across its four districts. However South Yorkshire Police must take urgent action to protect children from harm by implementing Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's recommendations. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will continue to monitor South Yorkshire Police's approach to child protection.

We have prioritised child sexual abuse as a national threat to empower forces to maximise specialist skills and expertise to prevent offending and resolve cases. The Home Office provided an additional £10 million in 2015/16 to the National Crime Agency for the creation of additional specialist teams to tackle online child sexual exploitation. We have also made available £1.7 million to fund Operation Hydrant, which coordinates the handling of multiple historical child sexual abuse investigations specifically concerning institutions or persons of public prominence, and £1.5 million to support regional coordinators and analysts to oversee the implementation of the National Policing Plan for tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.

Additionally, the Home Office and Ministry of Justice announced an additional £7 million for victims services supporting survivors of sexual violence in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

### **China: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the circumstances surrounding the arrest of more than one hundred political activists and human rights lawyers in China on 11 July. [HL1378]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We pay close attention to the human rights situation in China, and are concerned by reports of the detention of a number of human rights lawyers since 9 July 2015. We believe that rule of law, good governance and a transparent legal system are vital underpinnings for stability and will continue to engage China on these issues.

We support the EU statement of 15 July, which said the detentions raised serious questions about China's

commitment to strengthening the rule of law and called for the release of all those detained for seeking to protect rights provided by the Chinese Constitution.

We have raised our concerns about the ongoing restrictions on civil society activity in China, including with the Chinese authorities during the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in April this year.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have, and what representations they have made, about the arrest in China of human rights lawyers, including Li Fangping, and Christian lawyers, including Li Heping and Zhang Kai. [HL1379]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned by reports of the detention of a number of human rights lawyers and activists since 9 July. We are also deeply concerned that many of those detained cannot be contacted.

We have regular discussions with the Chinese authorities, including on human rights and rule of law issues. We have raised our concerns about ongoing restrictions on civil society activity in China, including during the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in April. We support the EU statement of 15 July on these detentions.

### Civilian Stabilisation Group

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are currently on the Civilian Stabilisation Group list maintained by the Department for International Development, broken down by gender. [HL1820]

**Baroness Verma:** The Stabilisation Unit's Civilian Stabilisation Group (CSG) consists of over 1,350 individuals. We are committed to being an equal opportunity employer and welcome applications to the CSG from every background. We would need to carry out a manual search of each individual's profile to provide data broken down by gender, which would incur disproportionate cost.

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of the Civilian Stabilisation Group have been deployed in other countries in each of the last five years; and how many are currently deployed. [HL1821]

**Baroness Verma:** The Stabilisation Unit has deployed:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of CSG deployed</i>
2011	35
2012	48

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of CSG deployed</i>
2013	133
2014	114
2015	75

On 23 July 2015, 55 members of the Civilian Stabilisation Group were on deployment.

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding is currently allocated to the deployment of members of the Civilian Stabilisation Group. [HL1822]

**Baroness Verma:** Deployments are funded by the programmes they are supporting rather than as a standalone cost. This ensures deployments are directly tied to HMG objectives and can flex according to demand. The cost of maintaining the Civilian Stabilisation Group falls under the Stabilisation Unit's core budget, which for CSG training and management comes to £1,345,000 p.a.

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the Civilian Stabilisation Group in the light of emerging priorities and the anticipated agreement of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations in September 2015. [HL1823]

**Baroness Verma:** The Stabilisation Unit is conducting an internal review of the Civilian Stabilisation Group skillsets to ensure it meets HMG priorities, both now and in the future. To inform this work, wider multilateral and international aims for UK capability will be considered.

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any of the Civilian Stabilisation Group have experience of devolved administration within the United Kingdom. [HL1824]

**Baroness Verma:** The Stabilisation Unit's Civilian Stabilisation Group database does not provide the functionality to search for specific areas of an individual's career history that does not directly correlate to stabilisation. A manual search of each individual's profile would be required in order to provide this information and, as such, it would not be possible to obtain the information required without incurring a disproportionate cost.

### Clinical Commissioning Groups: Nurses

*Asked by Baroness Williams of Crosby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of, and how many, clinical commissioning groups have qualified nurses in senior executive positions on their governing bodies. [HL1752]

Asked by *Baroness Williams of Crosby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many clinical commissioning groups have no nurses on their governing bodies. [HL1753]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** As part of the National Commissioning Nurse Leaders Network, NHS England holds an active database which has information about all 209 clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and their senior commissioning nurses within those organisations.

NHS England has informed the Department that all 209 CCGs are showing as having a registered governing body nurse as required in the legislation.

### Coinage

Asked by *Lord Radice*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the weight of a newly minted 10 pence piece; what is the weight after it has been in circulation for several years; and what assessment they have made of the acceptance of new 10 pence pieces by coin-operated machines. [HL1677]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Since the introduction of a smaller version in 1992, newly minted ten pence pieces have had a weight of 6.5 grammes. This remained the case from January 2012, when the composition was changed from a cupronickel alloy to nickel-plated steel. The weight of a ten pence piece does not change materially over the course of its lifecycle.

The Royal Mint works closely with a number of trade associations and manufacturers of coin operated equipment on an ongoing basis, and consulted with them when determining the precise specification of the nickel-plated steel ten pence piece. Whilst no formal assessment of acceptance has been made, members and operators are all routinely encouraged to upgrade their equipment.

### Combined Authorities

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any areas or types of authorities that they would not consider being brought together to form a combined authority. [HL1600]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 provides that county councils and district councils may form combined authorities, subject to certain conditions, which the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill will, if enacted, modify. The 2009 Act does not provide for London Borough councils to form combined authorities and as I informed the House at Report stage on that Bill we are ready to continue discussion on what the most appropriate changes might be to provide the London governance needed for greater future devolution.

### Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Asked by *Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the issues of migration and conflict resolution will be on the agenda of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Malta in November. [HL1443]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The agenda for November's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) has yet to be announced by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the hosts, the Government of Malta. On 22 July in Valletta, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), discussed the agenda for the meeting with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Malta.

The UK is committed to strengthening the Commonwealth's focus on promoting democratic values and development. We are engaging with Maltese and other partners to ensure a successful CHOGM produces tangible outcomes that make best use of the Commonwealth's global networks.

### Conflict Resolution: Females

Asked by *Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contribution they are making to the UN High Level Review of Women, Peace and Security, and what proposals they have put forward to ensure an ambitious and effective outcome. [HL1595]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has been actively engaged in discussions in the run-up to the High Level Review, and submitted a paper to UN Women for their Global Study that will form the basis of the High Level Review of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. We also contributed to the EU paper for the Global Study. Officials are in the process of drawing up a list of ambitious UK commitments that will focus on several key areas where implementation to date has been most lacking, including women's participation, military/security services, financing, prevention and National Action Plans. These commitments will be announced at the High Level Review in October.

Asked by *Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is the designated lead on women, peace and security. [HL1597]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I am the dedicated Ministerial lead on Women, Peace and Security in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will represent the United Kingdom at the UN Security Council debate on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the UN High Level Review of Women, Peace and Security, in October 2015. [HL1626]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK will be represented at a senior level. A decision will be taken in due course.

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implementation by UN Member States of UN Security Council Resolution 1325; and what the United Kingdom's strategy is as the UN lead nation on this agenda. [HL1627]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Mission to the UN is in close contact with UN Women, who are supporting the coordination of the Global Study on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and related preparations for the High Level Review in October. The Global Study will make an assessment on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by UN Member States, and make recommendations to improve global implementation. The main findings of the Global Study will also be incorporated into the Secretary General's annual report on Women, Peace and Security, which we expect to be published around the same time as the Global Study. Officials, working closely with colleagues from the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, are developing a series of UK commitments to improve implementation of UNSCR 1325, which will focus on several key areas where implementation to date has been most lacking, including women's participation, military/security services, financing, prevention and National Action Plans. These commitments will be announced at the High Level Review in October, subject to Ministers' views on the proposals.

### **Congenital Abnormalities**

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each of the last five years for which figures are available, how many of the pregnancies affected by neural tube defects were second or subsequent pregnancies. [HL1543]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not collected centrally.

### **Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010**

*Asked by Lord Norton of Louth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance is given to members of the Senior Civil Service in furtherance of the provisions of section 3(6) of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act. [HL1291]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Section 3(6) of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act is a requirement of the Civil Service Code which is part of the terms and conditions of all civil servants.

### **Construction: Statistics**

*Asked by Lord Naseby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to ask the Office for National Statistics to review the validity of the input data for the construction industry statistical bulletin published in May, in the light of the recent amendments made to their findings. [HL1395]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have attached a copy of the Authority's response.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [UKSA HL1395.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-13/HL1395>

### **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the United Kingdom signed the Istanbul Protocol; and when they plan to ratify it. [HL1591]

**Lord Bates:** The previous Government signed the Istanbul Convention in June 2012. This Government remains committed to its ratification. The Government takes its international commitments very seriously and will only commit to such ratification when we are absolutely satisfied that we comply with all articles. The UK already complies with the vast majority of the articles through its comprehensive work to protect women and girls. However primary legislation is needed to comply with the extra-territorial jurisdiction provisions in Article 44 of the Convention before ratification.

### **Courts: Buildings**

*Asked by Baroness Ludford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many court buildings from the court estate were disposed of between May 2010 and June 2015 by (1) sale, or (2) rental; and how much money was raised in each case. [HL1532]

*Asked by Baroness Ludford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government for what purposes the money raised by disposing of court buildings since May 2010 has been used. [HL1533]



*Asked by Baroness Ludford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the money raised by disposing of court buildings by (1) sale, or (2) rental, to third parties since May 2010 has been reinvested in (a) the court estate, and (b) HM Courts & Tribunals Service generally. [HL1534]

*Asked by Baroness Ludford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how money raised by disposing of court buildings by (1) sale, or (2) rental, to third parties since May 2010 that was not directed into the court estate or otherwise into HM Courts & Tribunals Service has been used. [HL1535]

*Asked by Baroness Ludford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the maintenance costs between May 2010 and May 2015 for each of the 140 court buildings now identified for removal from the court estate by the Lord Chancellor. [HL1536]

*Asked by Baroness Ludford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated value of the court buildings that are scheduled to be removed from the court estate; and how they plan to use the funds raised through the sale or rental to third parties of those buildings. [HL1537]

**Lord Faulks:** Between May 2010 and June 2015 we sold 105 court buildings that were unsuitable for use and often underused. A further three court buildings have been transferred to the Avon and Somerset Police in which the MoJ still retains a financial interest. As at 30 June 2015 we generated £82.866m in capital receipts from the sale of 105 surplus court buildings. None of the surplus court buildings generated a rental income.

Capital receipts from the disposal of surplus property assets formed part of the capital budget for investment in the justice system.

The department is committed to disposing of surplus property assets expeditiously and reducing holding costs. The disposal of surplus property assets is, however, dependent on a number of factors e.g. market, potential future use, location and the fact that some are occupied in part by the police and local authorities which also make disposal difficult. There are temporary costs associated with making sure unused buildings are kept secure and protecting the fabric of the building as well as property rates payable to local councils. The maintenance costs between May 2010 and May 2015 for the courts which were closed under CERP can only be provided at disproportionate costs.

On 16 July 2015, HMCTS published a consultation on the provision of court and tribunal estate in England and Wales. The consultation puts forward proposals that aim to reduce surplus capacity by closing courts and tribunals that are unused or underused, or that are simply unsuitable for the services we need to provide from them. The

proposals aim to reduce the cost of the estate and reinvest the savings to provide better access to justice.

When disposing of surplus property assets, the Ministry of Justice will always seek to achieve the best available overall value for money for the taxpayer in accordance with government guidelines

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 16 July (HLWS108), what, if any, costs incurred on future improvements to courts proposed for closure will now be written off. [HL1699]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 16 July (HLWS108), what proportion of the savings made by reducing the cost of the court estate they plan to re-invest, and how they plan to do so. [HL1701]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 16 July (HLWS108), what criteria they will use to determine which civic and other public buildings can be used for hearings. [HL1702]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 16 July (HLWS108), how many redundancies they expect as a result of their proposals to reduce the cost of the court estate. [HL1703]

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 16 July (HLWS108), what assessment they have made of the time it will take citizens to reach their required court by public transport if the proposed changes to the court estate go ahead. [HL1704]

**Lord Faulks:** The consultation paper on the provision of court and tribunal estate in England and Wales will run for 12 weeks from 16 July 2015 until 8 October 2015.

Costs for any future improvements which might be written off, the proportion of any savings as a result of reducing the estate that might be re-invested, and the impact on staff are all subject to consultation. The consultation also asks for views on what types of alternative provision might be appropriate if any sites are closed, including whether civic and other public buildings could be used for hearings. No decisions will be made until every response has been considered carefully.

Information on travel times is included in each regional consultation paper.

## Creating an Open and Honest Reporting Culture in the NHS Independent Review

Asked by *Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish their response to their consultation on the implementation of the recommendations, principles and actions set out in the report of the Freedom to Speak Up review. [HL1546]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Her Majesty's Government's response to the Freedom to Speak Up consultation ( CM9113 ) was laid on Thursday 16 July 2015 and is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Learning Not Blaming [Learning\_not\_blaming\_acc.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-16/HL1546>

## David Haigh

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of the United Arab Emirates, and what replies they have received, concerning the imprisonment without charge of Mr David Haigh. [HL1629]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been providing consular assistance to Mr Haigh since his detention, and have discussed his case with the Emirati authorities. Due to the Data Protection Act we cannot share any further information about Mr Haigh without his express written permission.

## Defence Equipment: Procurement

Asked by *Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Ministry of Defence decided to adopt the SAE International specification for metal finishes; and what control they have retained over the specifications they use. [HL1529]

**Earl Howe:** UK Defence Standardization is responsible for maintaining a portfolio of defence-specific standards appropriately sized to meet defence needs and, where possible, will seek opportunities to rationalise that portfolio in the pursuit of more effective acquisition. The agreement with SAE International is consistent with this approach and in accordance with the Open Government Licence process.

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 21 July (HL1413), whether the planned 1 per cent growth of the equipment budget will be additional to the 0.5 per cent per year overall defence budget rise or included in it; and, if it is

included in the overall rise, what is the difference in monetary terms for the Ministry of Defence in the years 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20. [HL1751]

**Earl Howe:** The one per cent growth of the equipment budget is included within the 0.5 per cent increase in the overall defence budget. The defence budget for 2016-17 and beyond will be determined by the Spending Review.

## Defence: Expenditure

Asked by *Lord Robertson of Port Ellen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether additional categories of expenditure have been added to the defence budget which were not included in the defence budget in each of the last three financial years. [HL1455]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given to Questions HL1238 and HL1239 to the noble Lord, Lord West of Spithead on 20 July 2015.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL1455 - Hansard extract to HL1238 Lord West  
 [20150720\_Answer\_to HL1238\_Lord\_West.doc]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-14/HL1455>

## Defence: Exports

Asked by *Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether operational experience of the Ministry of Defence's air assets is being leveraged to assist companies based in the United Kingdom in export markets, and if so, how. [HL1802]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is fully committed to the Government's growth agenda and actively supports responsible defence exports, the value of which totalled £8.5 billion in 2014. Recognising that international customers often require more than just first-rate capabilities, the MOD works together with the UK's world-leading defence industry to offer products and services that leverage on the training, skills and experience of our Service personnel. This can include sharing lessons learned from using equipment on operations, particularly in the air sector where the RAF makes a vital contribution to both UK air defence and coalition operations around the world. In doing so, the unrivalled reputation enjoyed by our Armed Forces can provide the winning edge in an increasingly competitive global export market.

## Defence: Inflation

Asked by *Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of defence inflation over the next five years. [HL1804]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence does not produce future forecasts of defence inflation. Historic figures can be found in the 2013/14 Defence Inflation Estimate, attached here for convenience.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Defence Inflation Estimate  
[20150129\_Defence\_Inflation\_Statistical\_Notice-201314-O.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-22/HL1804>

### Dementia: Chinese

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a strategy has been developed for dealing with dementia in the United Kingdom's Chinese community. [HL1332]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** On 21 February 2015, the Prime Minister launched his new Challenge on Dementia 2020, which builds on the achievements of the Prime Minister's challenge on dementia 2012-2015. It sets out the vision for dementia care, support, awareness and research to be transformed by 2020.

Through the 2020 Challenge, we wish to see an increase in the proportion of people of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic origin with dementia who receive a diagnosis of dementia, enabled through greater use by health professionals of diagnostic tools that are linguistically or culturally appropriate and post-diagnosis support to meet the specific needs of local communities.

We will work with key stakeholders on developing the implementation plan for the 2020 Challenge to ensure that real and sustainable improvements are delivered for people with dementia, their carers and families.

### Democracy

Asked by *The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of measures other than the devolution of powers to enhance local democracy within Council of Europe member states; and what actions they have taken, or plan to take, to support such measures both in other Council of Europe member states and within the United Kingdom. [HL1837]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We and other member states have regular exchanges on democracy issues in the Council of Europe. Acting to strengthen democracy in the United Kingdom, and to support such measures in other member states, is a priority, as shown by the action of the Conservative-led Coalition Government to improve the transparency and openness of local authorities through the introduction of the Transparency Code. We have provided practical support to assist the Ukrainian Government in their decentralisation reforms, led by the visit of the former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities

and Local Government, my noble Friend Lord Ahmad, to Kiev in September 2014.

### Dental Services: Children

Asked by *Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what immediate action is planned to address waiting times, in particular in Manchester, for children whose dental condition requires hospital admission and clearance of their deciduous teeth under general anaesthetic. [HL1635]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government is seeking to address waiting times by reducing the number of children requiring admissions for clearance of their deciduous teeth and action is being taken by local commissioners and public health departments.

For instance, Greater Manchester advises that it is working with consultants in dental public health, public health commissioning, and oral health improvement teams in local authorities to develop oral health strategies. They intend to target delivery of care to areas of identified need according to the "National Dental Epidemiology Programme for England, oral health survey of five-year-old children 2012." A copy of the survey is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Oral Health Survey 5 year olds 2012 [HL 1655Oral Health 5yr old children 2012.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-20/HL1635>

### Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Public Appointments

Asked by *Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [HL1396]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The following table lists the Chairs of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs non-departmental public bodies:

Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment	Prof Rosemary Hails
Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board	Sir Peter Kendall
Consumer Council for Water	Alan Lovell
Environment Agency	Sir Philip Dillely
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Prof Chris Gilligan
Marine Management Organisation	Sir Bill Callaghan
Natural England	Andrew Sells

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew	Marcus Agius
Science Advisory Council	Prof Charles Godfray
Sea Fish Industry Authority	Elaine Hayes
Veterinary Products Committee	Prof William (Bill) Reilly

### Department of Health: Pay

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many chief executives of national government bodies sponsored by the Department of Health earn more than the Prime Minister. [HL1399]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We have defined "national government bodies sponsored by the Department of Health" as the Department's executive agencies and arm's length bodies. Of these bodies, 12 chief executives earn more than the Prime Minister's salary of £142,500.

### Department of Health: Public Appointments

Asked by *Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies by the Department of Health. [HL1310]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** A list of chairs of the Department's non-departmental public bodies is as follows:

<i>Organisation Chair</i>	
Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee	John Rees
Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards	William Worth
British Pharmacopoeia Commission	Kevin Taylor
Care Quality Commission	Michael Mire
Commission on Human Medicines	Stuart Ralston
Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment	David Lovell
Food Standards Agency	Tim Bennett
Health and Social Care Information Centre	Kingsley Manning
Health Education England	Keith Pearson
Health Research Authority	Jonathan Montgomery
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	Sally Cheshire
Human Tissue Authority	Sharmila Nebhrajani
Independent Reconfiguration Panel	Bernard Ribeiro
Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	Michael Rawlins

### *Organisation Chair*

Monitor	Joan Hanham
National Institute for Health & Care Excellence	David Haslam
NHS Blood and Transplant	John Pattullo
NHS Business Services Authority	Silla Maizey
NHS Commissioning Board	Malcolm Grant
NHS Litigation Authority	Ian Dilks
NHS Pay Review Body	Jerry Cope
NHS Pensions Board	Rachel Court
NHS Trust Development Authority	Peter Carr
Public Health England	David Heymann
Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration	Paul Curran
Standing Commission on Carers	David Croisdale-Appleby

Further details about appointments made to the Department of Health's public bodies are published routinely at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dh-non-executive-appointments>

### Derelict Land

Asked by *Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to ask local authorities to begin compiling registers of brownfield land suitable for housing in advance of it becoming a statutory requirement. [HL1558]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Registers will make information about suitable brownfield housing sites available to developers and local communities helping to support the Government's objectives of building more new homes on brownfield land. In advance of legislation requiring brownfield registers the Government will encourage local authorities to make this information available on a voluntary basis.

### Derelict Land: Planning Permission

Asked by *Lord Whitty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the definition of brownfield sites where planning permission will be automatic, as set out in Fixing the Foundations published on 9 July. [HL1361]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Legislation to grant permission in principle for residential development on suitable brownfield sites will be introduced in due course, which will define which brownfield sites are suitable and will set out the detail of how permission in principle will be granted. Permission in principle will only be granted where the site is suitable for housing which will provide



certainty to developers but will also ensure sites which may not be suitable continue to use the planning application process. We recognise the need to maintain important protections, for instance land with high environmental value.

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the automatic planning permission for land included on statutory registers of brownfield land suitable for housing in England under their proposed zonal system for brownfield land will be for outline permission only, or also for other matters such as (1) numbers and types of dwellings, (2) matters relating to access and highways layout, (3) other detailed matters such as design, drainage, landscaping and impact on the local highways network, (4) restrictions relating to development work on the site, and (5) Community Infrastructure Levy or section 106 contributions; and if the automatic permission is only for permission in principle, what will be the system for achieving permission in relation to these other matters. [HL1557]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Our proposal is to grant permission in principle for identified sites in a new statutory brownfield register. Technical details will then require further approval from the local planning authority. Further details on how the measure will work will be made available in the autumn.

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the inclusion of land on a statutory register of brownfield land suitable for housing in England will prevent the owner applying for planning permission for another use, and that permission being granted. [HL1560]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are committed to ensuring that suitable brownfield land is used as much as possible for the development of new homes and transparent information in local registers will support this objective. The inclusion of sites on brownfield registers will not prevent an applicant applying for planning permission to develop the site for any other use. The determination of planning applications is for local decision makers.

## Developing Countries: Sanitation

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to increase United Kingdom aid spending on water sanitation and hygiene on a regular incremental basis each year over this Parliament. [HL1503]

**Baroness Verma:** The Conservative Manifesto committed to help at least 60 million people to get access to clean water and sanitation by 2020, to stop terrible diseases. Exact allocations are to be determined following the Government-wide Spending Review and subsequent internal DFID processes.

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to introduce measures to maximise the impact of United Kingdom aid investment in water, sanitation and hygiene services (1) in health clinics, (2) in schools, (3) with respect to their strategy for the health of mothers, newborn babies and children, and (4) with respect to gender inequality. [HL1504]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK Government recognises the importance of promoting safe and reliable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in health centres and schools in developing countries to reduce environmental health risks. In health clinics adequate WASH is particularly important for the health of mothers, newborn babies and children, and this is recognised in DFID's health service programmes.

The availability of water and sanitation in schools contributed to cleaner, safer, and more conducive learning environments. This is particularly important for girls who must have privacy as well as safe, convenient, hygienic conditions during menstruation. Where DFID has supported WASH in schools, there is anecdotal evidence that girls school attendance and performance is enhanced. International figures for WASH access in schools are much worse than health facilities and DFID has responded in its programming globally. In Sierra Leone, for example, this has prompted DFID to fund the construction of WASH facilities in 200 schools and 120 community health centres, as part of the Post-Ebola response.

DFID has a statutory duty to ensure gender equality is a consideration across all of its work. This follows the International Development Gender Equality Act passed in May 2015.

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which developing countries they are working with other governments to deliver sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services. [HL1505]

**Baroness Verma:** In many countries the UK Government works with other donor governments to deliver sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services. In Mozambique, for example, we have supported a Government of Mozambique led fund which is also financed by Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland. We are a member of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership where we work with other governments to help set sector priorities. In other countries (Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) we work with partners such as UNICEF and non-governmental organisations who coordinate with other governments as appropriate. In all cases we coordinate with other donor governments in the developing countries where we work.

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to adopt and implement a dedicated sustainable development goal for water and sanitation, with targets for universal access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030. [HL1506]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK supports the inclusion of water and sanitation in the post-2015 agenda. We are pleased that the Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the Open Working Group includes a goal to 'ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all' which contains specific targets for drinking water and sanitation. We will continue to build on the work done so far on water, sanitation and hygiene as part of our efforts to finish the job on the current Millennium Development Goals and ensure that no-one is left behind.

In the last five years we have supported 62.9 million people, of whom 22.2 million were women, to access clean water, better sanitation or improved hygiene conditions through DFID's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes (exceeding DFID's commitment of 60 million).

## Devolution

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to respond to the report by the Constitution Committee published on 27 March, Inter-governmental relations in the United Kingdom. [HL1795]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Lords' Constitution Committee report on Intergovernmental Relations in the United Kingdom followed soon after a Plenary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee, at which the Heads of all four of the UK administrations agreed to begin work on a revised Memorandum of Understanding. As part of this process the administrations are considering the recommendations of the Silk and Smith Commissions, as well as other recent reports on intergovernmental relations including the Constitution Committee's report.

The process is continuing and will require careful consideration and discussion between all four administrations of the UK. We therefore do not know exactly how long this might take and should be cautious to avoid prejudging its conclusions. The four administrations will jointly set out the conclusions of this process in due course, and will of course keep the House updated of developments.

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which territories they regard as having government that is devolved from the United Kingdom Parliament. [HL1809]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each have legislatures and associated executives that exercise powers that have been devolved

from the UK Parliament. This is defined in primary legislation.

In England, there is also administrative devolution of powers, spending, and decision-making to local Councils, and through specific deals with Greater Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield and Cornwall.

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill aims to provide enabling legislation for these and further devolution deals. The Bill provides for the devolution of administrative powers and budgets, but does not include provision for the transfer of legislative capacity.

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of devolving powers as a means of improving local democracy within Council of Europe member states; and whether there are lessons they have drawn from devolution settlements in the other Council of Europe member states as regards plans for the further devolution of powers within the United Kingdom. [HL1836]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We and other member states have regular exchanges on democracy issues in the Council of Europe Steering Committee – the European Committee on Democracy and Governance – where, for example, in December 2014, the former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my noble Friend Lord Ahmad, provided an overview of the Northern Powerhouse and other devolution issues. In April 2015 Ministers from Armenia and Georgia and the Deputy State Secretary of Moldova also gave presentations on the process of decentralisation and territorial reform in their countries.

## Diabetes: Health Services

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the regional variations in people with Type 1 Diabetes meeting very few treatment targets; what proposals they have to remedy this; and over what timescale. [HL1407]

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons only 41 per cent of those with Type 1 Diabetes received the eight recommended care processes, compared with 62 per cent of those with Type 2 Diabetes. [HL1408]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Despite the overall improvement in the quality of NHS services for people with both type 1 and type 2 diabetes over recent years, variations in the delivery of management and care still remain.

We have taken action to address this through the publication of the Healthier Lives diabetes tool which can be found on the Public Health England website at the following address:

<http://healthierlives.phe.org.uk/>

This interactive tool provides information on the variation in the treatment of diabetes, including type 1, at a local level. In addition, as part of NHS England's ongoing assurance of clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), progress against the CCG outcome indicator set, which includes an indicator on delivery of the eight care processes, is reviewed.

Driving improvements in the management and care of people with diabetes, including reducing variation is of great concern to this Government. We will put forward our plans in due course.

### **Diplomatic Service: Parking Offences**

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Baroness Anelay of St Johns (HLWS116), what action they have been taking on the issue of unpaid parking fines incurred by diplomatic missions and international organisations to ensure fines are duly and regularly paid; and with what result. [HL1656]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has held meetings throughout the past year with a number of diplomatic missions and international organisations about outstanding parking fines and other debts. The subject of a mission's outstanding debts is also raised with all incoming Heads of Mission. In April this year FCO officials wrote to all diplomatic missions with unpaid parking fines over £500 to give them the opportunity to either pay the outstanding fines, or to dispute them with the creditors, before the publication of the details to Parliament. Subsequent payments of parking fines, including amounts waived by councils, totalled £214,154.

### **Diplomatic Service: Road Traffic Offences**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with embassies and high commissions in the United Kingdom about the payment of parking and other traffic fines. [HL1605]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has held meetings throughout the past year with a number of diplomatic missions about outstanding parking fines and other debts. The subject of a mission's outstanding debts is also raised with all incoming Heads of Mission.

In March and April this year FCO officials wrote to all diplomatic missions with unpaid parking fines over £500, and with unpaid London congestion charges over £100,000, to give them the opportunity to either pay the outstanding fines, or to dispute them with the creditors, before the publication of the details to Parliament. Subsequent payments of parking fines, including amounts waived by councils, totalled £214,154.

Details are reported annually to Parliament by way of Written Ministerial Statements (WMSs). The most recent WMSs were made on 16 July by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), which I repeated the same day in the House of Lords, (HLWS116 and HLWS119).

### **Diplomatic Service: Tolls**

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Baroness Anelay of St Johns (HLWS119), what action they have been taking on the issue of unpaid London Congestion Charge bills and fines incurred by diplomatic missions and international organisations, with what results, and when they expect a satisfactory agreement to be reached. [HL1655]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has held meetings throughout the past year with a number of diplomatic missions and international organisations about outstanding London Congestion Charge bills and fines, and other debts. The subject of a mission's outstanding debts is also raised with all incoming Heads of Mission.

In March this year FCO officials wrote to all diplomatic missions with unpaid London Congestion Charges over £100,000 requesting payment of the outstanding fines as a matter of priority and to give them the opportunity to pay the outstanding fines, or to dispute them with Transport for London (TfL), before we published the details.

Statistics provided by TfL show that the vast majority (around two thirds) of diplomatic missions pay Congestion Charges. Diplomatic missions which do not pay, claim that the Congestion Charge is a form of tax from which they should be exempt under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) 1961. The view of the Government is that there are no legal grounds to exempt diplomats and they are therefore expected to pay Congestion Charges. Officials from the FCO, the Department for Transport (DfT) and TfL continue work to identify a solution to the legal impasse with non-paying missions.

### **Driving: Licensing**

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the period of validity of checks on driving licences for the purposes of hiring cars has been extended from three days to three weeks; what assessment they have made of which is the better practice; and why the new procedure was adopted initially. [HL1754]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The validity period of the code for checking driving entitlement was extended from three days to three weeks following customer feedback. This suggested that the 72 hour validity period

would not be long enough, particularly for people on holiday. The change will be reviewed after three months.

While the validity period has been extended to 21 days, each code can still be used only once. Car hire companies or employers also need the last eight digits of the driver's licence number to be able to redeem the code. The code can also be cancelled by the driver at any time, which puts individual users in control of their information.

### Driving: Young People

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take to reduce road accidents and fatalities among 15 to 18 year-olds; what plans they have to introduce restrictions on carrying passengers for that age group; and what assessment they have made of the impact of such a restriction on road accidents and fatalities in that age group. [HL1840]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Britain has some of the safest roads in the world, and there were fewer deaths on British roads in 2013 than at any time since records began. However, we want to make our roads even safer and that is why this Government will be looking at the best ways to improve road safety during this Parliament and beyond. There is a difficult balance to strike between the safety and the freedom of our young people. We won't rule out any programme that safeguards young people, but at the moment we are focussing on technological and behavioural solutions.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

*Asked by Lord Patel of Bradford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the research published in July 2015 in *Addiction* on the payment by results drug recovery pilots, what advice they plan to issue to public health directorates on the commissioning of drug treatment services. [HL1717]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department of Health-funded independent evaluation of the drugs and alcohol recovery payment by results pilots programme has yielded several interim reports to date and is currently drawing to a conclusion. We will wait for this report to ensure that any advice is based upon the fullest and best available evidence.

The article published in *Addiction* is an early output from the evaluation, based on data collected during the first year of the drugs and alcohol recovery payment by results pilots programme. The final evaluation report, which is due in late August 2015, is expected to be published in late Autumn 2015 following an independent peer review process.

### East Anglia Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Hanningfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent any plans for the Norwich–Liverpool line, particularly in the Chelmsford area, have been affected by recent changes to Network Rail. [HL1387]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We do not envisage any changes to plans for the Norwich – Liverpool line.

### Eastman Dental Hospital

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the proposed relocation of the Eastman Dental Hospital, what steps are being taken to ensure the continuation of the specialised dental postgraduate training and research facilities currently offered. [HL1528]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We understand there are no plans to reduce the specialised dental postgraduate training and research currently offered as a consequence of the proposed move from the current site.

### Economic and Monetary Union

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the stability of the Eurozone. [HL1603]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Treasury continuously monitors global economic developments, including those in the euro area, and their impact on the UK as part of the normal process of policy development.

With approximately 40 per cent of our exports going to the euro area, it is in Britain's interest to see a stable euro area. The UK cannot be immune from difficulties in its largest trading partner.

For that reason, the Government welcomes the progress that has been made between Greece and the euro area. A deal has been reached which supports Greece in the short term and protects UK taxpayer interests.

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the United Kingdom's cumulative expenditure and exposure since 2008 in relation to efforts to support the euro and the economies of Greece, Portugal and Spain; and what is the legal base for that support under the EU Treaties. [HL1826]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government recently secured agreement that Member States who are not members of the single currency, including the UK, will not incur financial liabilities as a result of any future provision of Union financial assistance for the stability of the Eurozone.



UK contingent liabilities through loans guaranteed by the EU Budget are recorded in the annual accounts of the Consolidated Fund.

The latest accounts, published on the 22 July 2015, show a UK contingent liability to loans provided to Ireland and Portugal through the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM) of £5,299 million. This mechanism was established under Article 122(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

The UK has incurred no expenditure through the provision of these EU loans. Only in the event that a recipient fails to repay a loan would the EU Budget be called upon, to which the UK contributes.

Since this report, further short-term EFSM assistance has been provided to Greece as a technical bridge finance mechanism for further euro area support from the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). However, the Government secured legally-binding collateral arrangements which ensure no liability for UK taxpayers from this loan.

The UK is not a member of the euro area and therefore has no liability to the ESM, EFSF, or Greek Loan Facility. These were used to provide assistance to Spain, Cyprus and Greece.

In 2010, recognising our close economic and financial ties, the UK provided a bilateral loan to Ireland worth €3.2 billion under the Loans to Ireland Act 2010.

As a shareholder in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the UK has an exposure to its overall lending. The IMF is primarily a quota-based institution. The UK's quota subscription to the IMF is 10,738.5 million Special Drawing Rights, equivalent to £10,009 million at 31 March 2015. This accounts for 4.5 per cent of total quotas at the IMF.

### **Economic and Monetary Union: Greece**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential effect of a Greek exit from the euro on the United Kingdom economy; and what contingency plans have been made for that eventuality. [HL1651]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** As the Chancellor has said, we should not underestimate the impact that a Greek exit from the euro area would have on the European economy – or the knock-on effects on the UK. But the economic plan we have pursued in Britain these last five years has increased our resilience – and we will take whatever further steps are needed to protect the UK from new risks to our economic security. The Treasury continuously monitors global economic developments, including those in Greece, and their impact on the UK as part of the normal process of policy development.

The UK government stands ready to do whatever is necessary to protect and secure the British economy and financial system, and support businesses and individuals.

As you would expect, these contingency plans take into account a wide range of scenarios.

### **Egypt**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Egypt on behalf of Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed. [HL1719]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly raise the case of detained journalists, including Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed, in our conversations with the Egyptian government. Most recently, officials discussed this case with the Egyptian Ambassador in London on 22 July.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), made a press statement in February stating his concern that Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed remained in prison, and calling on the Egyptian authorities to review their sentences as a matter of urgency.

We will continue to urge the Government of Egypt to demonstrate its commitment to freedom of speech, including the right of journalists to operate without fear of prosecution. The UK has clearly stated that freedom of the press is fundamental to building a democratic society.

### **Electoral Register**

*Asked by Lord Whitty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, prior to the Electoral Commission embarking on a boundary review, they plan to publish a report setting out, constituency by constituency, (1) the number of people on the Electoral Roll for the 2010 General Election; (2) the number of people on the Electoral Roll for the 2015 General Election; and (3) the number of over eighteen year-olds of United Kingdom, Irish and qualifying Commonwealth nationality in the 2011 Census. [HL1356]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Electoral Statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics and can be found at [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk).

The Electoral Commission publishes data on the registers used for the UK Parliamentary elections in 2010 and 2015, which is available online.

The published ONS data based on the 2011 Census does not provide a constituency breakdown by age or nationality.

Boundary reviews are conducted by each of the four independent UK Boundary Commissions, in line with the rules set out in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, and the next boundary review is due to be completed by October 2018.

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what documents Commonwealth citizens without British nationality must produce for inspection in order to be included on the electoral register. [HL1636]

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what precautions are in place to prevent those who are present in the United Kingdom illegally from seeking inclusion on the electoral register as Commonwealth voters. [HL1637]

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what precautions are in place to prevent those who are legally present in the United Kingdom but are not Commonwealth citizens from seeking registration as Commonwealth citizens. [HL1638]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** All applicants registering to vote are asked to provide their name, National Insurance Number, and date of birth. This information is then matched against records held by the Department for Work and Pensions to establish the identity of the applicant. The provision of false information on an application to register to vote is a criminal offence under the Representation of the People Regulations, England & Wales 2001 and Representation of the People Regulations, Scotland 2001 which carries an unlimited fine in England & Wales, a fine of up to £5000 in Scotland, and/or a maximum prison sentence in both jurisdictions of up to 6 months.

Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) have a general duty under section 9A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to maintain a complete and accurate register of electors; where an ERO is not satisfied as to the accuracy of the information stated in a registration application, the ERO may require the applicant to supply further information in support of their application before making a determination. This could include requesting information on an applicant's nationality or immigration status and verifying that information with the Home Office.

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Commonwealth voters are distinguished from British citizens on the electoral register; and if so, how. [HL1639]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** All British, Irish, and qualifying Commonwealth citizens hold identical franchise rights therefore there is no marker on the electoral register to distinguish between electors who have registered as one of these nationalities.

*Asked by Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation there has been with (1) the Scottish Parliament, (2) the National Assembly for Wales, and (3) the Local Government Association, about plans to bring forward

full implementation of individual electoral registration in advance of elections in May 2016. [HL1680]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Ministers and officials have been liaising with the devolved administrations and local government over the implications of this decision for them, for some time.

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the accuracy and completeness of the United Kingdom electoral register. [HL1846]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** On 18 June the Electoral Commission published their analysis of the state of the electoral registers in Great Britain used for the General Election. The data collected for the report did not allow an estimate of the completeness and accuracy to be made.

The last full assessment of the completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in Great Britain was published in July 2014 and was based on the last household registers prior to the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER).

The next full assessment will be based on the first full IER registers once the transition has ended.

To ensure electors can have confidence in the accuracy and integrity of the electoral register, under IER applicants are asked to provide their National Insurance number and date of birth (or supporting documentation), so that Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) can verify that everyone on the register is who they say they are.

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the accuracy and completeness of the United Kingdom electoral register. [HL1848]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** On 16 July the Government announced as part of its decision to end the transition to IER in December 2015 that up to £3 million additional funding is being made available to Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in Great Britain to undertake extra registration activities to target the remaining carry forward electors on registers that are not individually registered.

This funding can be used by EROs to complement their annual canvass activities as they work to improve the completeness and accuracy of electoral registers ahead of December.

Over £14 million funding has been invested over the last two financial years to support the costs of activities to boost levels of voter registration in Great Britain. This included almost £10 million ahead of the elections on 7 May.

## **Electoral Register: Young People**

*Asked by Baroness Royall of Blaisdon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people aged 18 to 25 were registered to vote before (1) the

2010 general election, and (2) the 2015 general election. [HL1615]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [HL1615 UKSA reply.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-17/HL1615>

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the effectiveness of the school initiative in registering young people to vote in Northern Ireland. [HL1847]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government does not think there is compelling evidence of the effectiveness of the schools initiative. The most recent analysis by the Electoral Commission of the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers in Northern Ireland (November 2012) and Great Britain (2014) suggests that 51% of 18-19 year olds in Northern Ireland were registered to vote, compared with 76.1% of 18-19 year olds in Great Britain.

Electoral Registration Officers are best placed to determine what is appropriate or necessary in their area; many work with local schools and colleges to identify and register young people.

## Embryos

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many human embryos were experimented on or destroyed in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what are the cumulative figures since such procedures were made legal. [HL1524]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, as amended (1990 Act), provides that human embryos created by in vitro fertilisation that are not transferred to a patient cannot be allowed to develop beyond a maximum of 14 days. The 1990 Act also provides that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) cannot licence research using human embryos unless the research is necessary or desirable for the purposes specified in the Act and the use of embryos is necessary.

The HFEA has advised that the number of embryos allowed to perish in the last 12 months for which figures are available (1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014) is 174,316.

In relation to the number of embryos allowed to perish since the 1990 Act came into force, the figures are as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Embryos allowed to perish</i>
1990	6
1991	8,164
1992	23,035
1993	27,466
1994	32,176
1995	37,270
1996	47,808
1997	48,024
1998	57,427
1999	77,269
2000	85,938
2001	88,039
2002	96,377
2003	96,309
2004	98,348
2005	100,547
2006	108,080
2007	116,342
2008	112,050
2009	132,536
2010	155,557
2011	168,613
2012	166,631
2013	169,644
Total	2,053,656

This includes embryos that have been thawed and allowed to perish, either because they have reached the end of their permitted storage period or at the request of the patient, and those discarded in the course of treatment.

The HFEA does not hold data in its register of the number of embryos experimented upon.

## Employment: Autism

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the rate of full-time employment of adults with autism above the current level of 15 per cent. [HL1763]

**Baroness Altmann:** DWP produced an Autism action-plan in 2013 to support the improvement of service provision and increase work opportunities for people with autism.

DWP is a member of the Autism Programme Board and in response to the Think Autism strategy, we are working co-productively with a large number of stakeholders to implement a range of activities to support this remit - and

ensure that staff are providing the best possible support to people with autism when looking for work.

Promoting the employment of people with autism is also being taken forward as part of the Disability Confident campaign.

### **Employment: Disclosure of Information**

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to lay regulations implementing sections 148 and 149 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015; and what plans they have to propose changes to existing regulations to bring student nurses in the National Health Service within the scope of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. [[HL1545](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government intends to bring forward regulations to bring Section 148 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 into effect from April 2016, and Section 149 by December 2015 subject to Parliamentary approval.

The Protected Disclosures (Extension of Meaning of Worker) Order 2015 (SI 2015/491) came into effect on 6 April 2015, bringing student nurses and student midwives into the definition of 'worker' for the purposes of Section 43K of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

This change affects those student nurses and student midwives who undertake work experience as part of a course of education or training approved by, or under arrangements with, the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

In line with the recommendation set out in the Freedom to Speak Up review the Department of Health intends to bring forward further secondary legislation to extend the definition to include other healthcare students.

### **Employment: Females**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 3 July (HL933) concerning women's employment in the United Kingdom, whether they have informed the European Commission of the measures implemented by the United Kingdom to encourage women into work; and whether they will recommend that the European Commission should concentrate their efforts on the other 23 countries which have a lower percentage of women at work. [[HL1435](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government informs the European Commission of our employment policies, including female employment and measures to help working women and families, as part of the European Semester process and other engagement with Commission officials. In the area of employment, the Government's view is that the European Semester should focus on those areas that are most directly relevant to employment outcomes, such as the efficiency and functioning of labour markets and should encourage all Member States

to remove barriers to greater participation of women in the economy.

### **Engineering**

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 6 July (HL793), what assessment they have made of the compatibility of the measures with the figures set out by the Confederation of British Industry in their publication Gateway to Growth on education and skills. [[HL1434](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The CBI Gateway to Growth report contains a wide range of figures which underline the need for more higher-level technical skills, more STEM skills, more employers involved in apprenticeships and ensuring people are equipped with the skills that employers need.

The measures set out in my reply of 6 July are fully compatible with these needs. Our goal through apprenticeships and national colleges is to equip people with the skills, in many cases higher level technical skills, that employers need. We are committed to 3 million apprenticeship starts this parliament and are developing a comprehensive plan for growth, including more work with large employers and more support for small businesses. Our reforms are aimed at simplifying apprenticeships, increasing quality and putting employers at the heart of delivery and design so that they get people with the skills that they need. Our work on such things as 'Your-Life' campaign, Tomorrow's Engineers Week, STEM ambassadors in schools, improved careers advice and investment in HE teaching and facilities is designed to stimulate interest in STEM subjects and the careers that they lead to and ensure high quality learning for those that pursue them.

### **Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of the number of Equitable Life policy holders who have still to be contacted before the Equitable Life Payment Scheme closes. [[HL1707](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** At 31 May 2015, payments have been issued to around 87 per cent of eligible Equitable Life policyholders. Approximately 13 per cent of policyholders are therefore currently untraced and unpaid. This is already below the National Audit Office's 2003 prediction that 17-20 per cent would be left unpaid at the end of the Scheme.

The Scheme remains committed to tracing and paying as many eligible policyholders as it can before it closes. Strenuous efforts have been made to trace policyholders through advertising, electronic tracing methods, writing to last known addresses, and working with the Department



for Work and Pensions (DWP). As announced at Summer Budget, work is continuing with the DWP to trace unpaid policyholders due a payment of £50 or more, where sufficient details are held to enable the DWP tracing service to be used. This further tracing will be completed before the Scheme closes to new claims on 31 December 2015.

### **Eritrea: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 13 July (HL957), what responses they have received to date from the government of Eritrea to their call for it to follow through on its commitments with concrete action to strengthen the rule of law and to improve the human rights situation on the ground, by (1) correspondence, (2) meetings with officials of the Eritrean embassy, (3) representatives of the government of Eritrea in Eritrea or the United Kingdom, and (4) at the UN; and if no responses have yet been received, what they consider to be a reasonable delay in responding, and what action they plan to take in the absence of any response after that time. [HL1696]

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 13 July (HL957), what assessment they have made of what would be an acceptable programme of concrete action by the government of Eritrea to strengthen the rule of law and to improve the human rights situation in that country. [HL1697]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Eritrea has made some limited progress against its international commitments on human rights in 2015. This included the publication in May of new Civil, Penal, Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure Codes. The Government of Eritrea also hosted a visit by representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consider potential project work in the field of human rights in Eritrea. Government officials regularly meet with the Eritrean ministers and officials in London and Asmara to press the Government of Eritrea to address shortcomings on civil and political rights. Following the Universal Period Review (UPR) in 2014 Eritrea accepted 92 of the recommendations and has ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. We continue to push for implementation of the remaining UPR recommendations.

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 13 July (HL957), in the light of the findings of the UN Commission of Inquiry on human rights in Eritrea, what

discussions they have had, or plan to have, with (1) countries neighbouring Eritrea, (2) the African Union, (3) the European Union, and (4) the UN, about the impact of the number of Eritreans fleeing through the region; and what measures are being investigated jointly to alleviate the suffering of those refugees. [HL1698]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have an ongoing dialogue with regional partners on the impact of irregular migration from Eritrea and the Horn of Africa. Through the EU/African Union "Khartoum Process", the Government is working to develop, implement and resource concrete projects to reduce irregular migration as well as tackle human trafficking and smuggling from the Horn of Africa. The Department for International Development provides support for almost 600,000 refugees in Ethiopia, through a multi-year programme with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

EU and African partners will discuss further opportunities for cooperation ahead of the Valletta Summit on migration in November.

### **EU Action: Parliamentary Scrutiny**

*Asked by Lord Boswell of Aynho*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each government department, from January to June 2015, (1) on how many occasions the scrutiny reserve resolution in the House of Lords was overridden, (2) on how many occasions the scrutiny reserve resolution in the House of Commons was overridden, (3) in respect of how many documents an override occurred in (a) both Houses or (b) either House. [HL1633]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government strongly supports an effective Parliamentary scrutiny system and will always seek to avoid breaching the Scrutiny Reserve Resolution. Where this is not possible, the Government will continue to account for the circumstances of each override in writing to the Committees.

Between January to June 2015, 368 Explanatory Memoranda were submitted. Of the 90 overrides in this period, 73 (81 per cent) of overrides occurred after the dissolution of Parliament when one or both Houses were unable to carry out their scrutiny function. Of the 90 overrides across both Houses, 39 were on fast-moving EU restrictive measures including 11 measures to address the situation in Ukraine.

The figures requested are set out in the table below, which excludes reference to a Commission Communication on the Paris Protocol ('A Blueprint for tackling Global Climate Change beyond 2020') because discussion with the European Scrutiny Committee has not yet concluded whether this constitutes an override.

<i>Department</i>	<i>(1). House of Lords Override</i>	<i>(2). House of Commons override</i>	<i>(a). No. of overrides in both Houses</i>	<i>(b). Total no. of overrides</i>
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	46	47	42	51
HM Treasury	1	30	1	30
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	2	2	2	2
Ministry of Justice	3	3	3	3
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	1	1	1	1
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	0	1	0	1
Home Office	1	1	1	1
Department for Transport	0	1	0	1
Totals	54	86	50	90

### EU Budget: Contributions

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to renegotiate the funding of the European Union budget so that the United Kingdom's contribution does not increase as a result of economic success. [HL1391]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The EU budget mechanisms, which determine the UK's net contribution to the EU from 2014-20, were agreed in 2013, when the Prime Minister secured an historic real terms cut to expenditure and protected the rebate. This House approved that deal on 8 July 2015.

### EU Institutions

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average annual sum they have spent over the last three years sending ministers, civil servants and advisers to attend and return from EU meetings in Brussels and elsewhere, including the cost of travel and accommodation. [HL1825]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur a disproportionate cost.

Quarterly returns on Ministerial travel are published online. The Cabinet Office will publish in due course the latest updates to the returns.

### Falkland Islands: Armed Forces

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated annual cost to the public purse of maintaining the United Kingdom's military presence in the Falkland Islands. [HL1489]

**Earl Howe:** The total annual running cost of the garrison in the Falkland Islands (including infrastructure

costs) is around £85 million. In addition, as part of the Falkland Islands Defence Review, £180 million will be invested in improvements to the infrastructure over the next ten years.

### Falkland Islands: Population

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is (1) the current resident civilian population and (2) the current non-civilian population in the Falkland Islands; and what is their estimate of the annual number of visitors to the Falkland Islands. [HL1488]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The usual resident civilian population on the Falkland Islands is 2,931 (Falkland Islands Government Statistical Yearbook 2014). There are around 1,200 military and civilian personnel based at Royal Air Force (RAF) Mount Pleasant supporting a range of air, naval and land capabilities. Over the last 12 months there have been approximately 47,500 visitors to the Falkland Islands.

### Famine

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to respond to the latest report by the Famine Early Warning System, which highlights the risk of worsening food security. [HL1380]

**Baroness Verma:** The Department for International Development monitor the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) reports and updates on a weekly basis. We also contribute to improving the methodology used for these assessments. FEWS produce many reports and cover many regions and countries, although not all of the countries at risk. When the risk of a significant worsening food security situation is reported by FEWS or others, DFID engages in a dialogue with other governments and with our operational partners on the best possible early response.

In places where we have a comparative advantage, such as countries where we have offices and an on-going bilateral programme, we fund food security, livelihood and nutrition interventions.

In countries most often at risk we also run resilience and food security programmes aimed at making communities more robust to future deterioration in food security or shocks such as droughts, floods and other natural disasters.

## Females: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the economic contribution made by women of Black and Minority Ethnic background. [HL1767]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Women from black and minority ethnic backgrounds make a vital contribution to the country's economic growth, but too many women are still unable to fulfil their potential. This is why the Prime Minister announced that the Government aims to close the gender pay gap in a generation.

To create a fair society in which everyone is able to fully contribute, regardless of their gender, race or background, the Government is; introducing the living wage, extending the right to request flexible working to all employees, rolling out shared parental leaving and increasing the support available for childcare costs.

Business has a key role to play as well, which is why the Government is asking employers with over 250 employees to publish the difference between the pay of their male and female employees. We are currently consulting on how best to do this.

More widely, our 2020 Vision initiative sets out ambitious but realistic aspirations to help people from all our communities really thrive. We want to increase the number of people from black and ethnic minorities in higher education and work, particularly in the professions, by 20 per cent by 2020. We also want to see our BME communities producing 20% of new recruits for the police and the army by then.

## Females: Financial Services

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent remarks by the Minister for Women and Equalities, how they respond to the reports that only one in 10 fund managers is a woman. [HL1724]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are taking action to increase the numbers of women at senior levels in a wide range of roles and sectors. There are now no all-male boards in the FTSE 100. Women now account for 25.3% of FTSE 100 directors, which is up from 12.5% in February 2011.

We are working through the Women's Business Council (WBC) to drive this culture change, raising girls' aspirations through Your Life campaign and removing as many barriers as we can to enable women to thrive in their chosen careers.

The WBC focuses on supporting women to progress and fulfil their potential in the workplace including the female executive pipeline. Our policies are also supporting this – flexible working, introduction of shared parental leave and support to the costs of childcare.

Many companies are now committed to building the pipeline of female talent from the bottom up by setting measurable targets, helping to create more family friendly workplaces and addressing bias in hiring, promotion and talent identification. Through the WBC, we are engaging more men in this debate to be the champions of women in their organisation addressing issues such as these.

We want to see many more female role models working in all sectors to help attract a wider pool of female candidates, particularly in traditionally male dominated sectors, as well as the lessons from the Lord Davies review extend to all professions including the investment sector.

## FIFA

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Serious Fraud Office is currently investigating allegations of serious or complex fraud, bribery and corruption in the case of FIFA officials; and whether, in this context, they are actively and fully co-operating with American and Swiss law officers. [HL1776]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has not opened a criminal investigation into allegations relating to FIFA.

The SFO is keeping the matter under review, but it can open an investigation only if there is reasonable suspicion of serious or complex fraud which can be prosecuted in this country.

The SFO has been in contact with US and Swiss authorities. By international convention, we would not comment on what assistance, if any, is provided.

## Financial Services Compensation Scheme

*Asked by Lord Higgins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the compensation limit under the Deposit Guarantee Scheme has been reduced in line with a European directive that sets a limit in euros, despite the fact that the United Kingdom is not in the Eurozone; and whether they will take steps to ensure that United Kingdom citizens do not suffer as a result, if necessary by introducing a separate United Kingdom compensation scheme. [HL1731]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive (DGSD) updates existing legislation designed to harmonise the level of deposit protection provided across the European Economic Area (EEA), of which the UK is a part.

This is a single market measure to ensure that depositors are entitled to the same level of protection (equivalent to €100,000 per regulated firm, regardless of currency) wherever in the EEA they deposit their money; and that UK firms are not competitively disadvantaged in relation to firms in other EEA jurisdictions.

As a result of the current strength of the pound in relation to the euro, it has been necessary for the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) to revise the sterling coverage limit provided by the UK's deposit guarantee scheme, the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). However, the Government has taken action to ensure that UK depositors are not exposed to a sudden reduction in the level of protection they receive.

HM Treasury has laid a statutory instrument to ensure that depositors who are currently entitled to £85,000 of protection from the FSCS will continue to be until 31 December 2015, after which the new deposit coverage limit of £75,000 will come into effect.

This will ensure that there is sufficient time available for depositors to be made aware of the changes, and to take any necessary steps to manage their financial affairs appropriately in light of this change. It is estimated that 5 per cent of retail depositors are affected by this change.

### **Financial Services: Compensation**

*Asked by Lord Higgins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to the Deposit Guarantee Scheme, whether the principle of uberrima fides applies to state insurers within the European Union, as well as private insurers. [HL1732]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The principle of uberrima fides does not apply to the UK's Deposit Guarantee Scheme. Uberrima fides is a principle that applies to insurers and insurance contracts, but the Deposit Guarantee Scheme is not an insurance scheme and is not contractual. The duties of the Deposit Guarantee Scheme are set out in the EU Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive and the relevant UK legislation.

### **Financial Services: Overcharging**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have for ensuring that customers and retailers are not overcharged for any financial services. [HL1347]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government believes that consumers should be treated fairly. Consumers must be able to access clear and transparent information about the charges that may apply to the financial services they use.

The UK already has put in place a robust regulatory regime to protect consumers. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is empowered to act to ensure that financial markets work well so that consumers get a fair deal.

The Government introduced a cap on the cost of payday loans in January. All fees and charges that may be incurred in relation to a payday loan are covered by the cap. The Government has also given the FCA the power to cap the cost of all forms of consumer credit if it deems necessary to protect consumers.

New regulations will come into force in September 2016 to ensure all current account customers will have access to a standardised annual statement of fees and to ensure customers receive a Fee Information Document prior to choosing their bank account.

In April of this year, the Government helped to deliver Midata to enable customers for the first time to compare which bank is best for them based on how they use their personal current account.

On mortgages, the Chancellor announced in Autumn Statement 2014 that the Council of Mortgage Lenders and Which? would work together to improve the transparency of mortgage fees and make it easier for borrowers to choose the best mortgage deals. This project is due to report this summer and the Government expects most of the industry to have made the necessary changes by the end of the year.

The Government is also introducing measures to support retailers. The Interchange Fee Regulation will come into effect later this year and will cap fees which are charged to retailers by their banks for accepting debit and credit cards.

### **Flour: Dietary Supplements**

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any ministers have had discussions with ministers from other countries regarding the United Kingdom policy of mandatory fortification of flour with calcium, iron, niacin and thiamin. [HL1411]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Ministers have had no discussions with ministers from other countries regarding the United Kingdom policy of mandatory fortification of flour with calcium, iron, niacin and thiamin.

### **Flour: Folic Acid**

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any ministers have had discussions or other contact with health ministers in countries that operate a policy of mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid. [HL1410]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Ministers have had a range of discussions or other contact with health ministers in



countries that operate a policy of mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, when considering the issue of fortification of flour with folic acid, they plan to take into account the distinction between folic acid and methylfolate, and the gut's role in converting folic acid and food folate to methylfolate. [HL1483]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In its 2006 report 'Folate and Disease Prevention' the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition concluded that overall there was insufficient data in humans to assess the long term effects of exposure to unmetabolised folic acid as a result of the limited capacity of the gut to convert folic acid into methylfolate (or 5-methyl tetrahydrofolic acid).

### Folic Acid

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the result of the research commissioned by the Department of Health to explore new and innovative communication approaches that would be effective in raising awareness among women of the need to take folic acid supplements and in promoting behaviour change. [HL1342]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The commissioned research is one of the sources of information being considered to inform a decision on the best way to increase awareness among women of the importance of taking folic acid supplements. A decision will be announced in due course.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in establishing a laboratory in the United Kingdom able to conduct blood folate status analysis. [HL1343]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** An international expert workshop recommended in 2008 that blood folate analysis in the United Kingdom should move to mass spectrometry-based methods for both measures of blood folate used in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey; total serum folate and whole blood folate.

The Medical Research Council Human Nutrition Research unit have been setting up the mass-spectrometry method for total serum folate in their laboratories in Cambridge over the last few months, working closely with the leading international experts on folate analysis at the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in the United States.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the reasons for the delay in delivery of data regarding blood folate level results in the latest National Diet and

Nutrition Survey, and whether that delay added to the cost of the Survey. [HL1481]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Blood folate analyses in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) were carried out by the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) laboratories in the United States. The delay in delivery of results was due to the laboratory's quality control procedure identifying a problem with the analysis for whole blood folate which could not be resolved quickly. Scientists at the CDC identified and resolved the problem and all samples were reanalysed for whole blood folate during 2014. The delayed results were published on 20 March 2015.

The cost of resolving the analytical problem and reanalysing the blood samples was borne by the survey contractors. There was no additional cost to Government.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the research report *Preventions of Neural Tube Defects: A Cross Sectional Study of the Uptake of Folic Acid Supplementation in Nearly Half a Million Women*, published by PLS ONE in February 2014, which showed uptake of folic acid to be declining. [HL1684]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The report showed that the proportion of women taking folic acid supplements before pregnancy (as recommended) fell from 35% in 1999-2001 to 31% in 2011-12. We are currently considering this information alongside a range of other relevant studies to inform a decision on the best way to improve folic acid intake in women of child bearing age. In the meantime, we continue to encourage women to take a folic acid supplement from before they are pregnant to the 12th week of pregnancy, and include this in all appropriate public health messaging.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they measure the policy advice on taking folic acid supplements give to women planning a pregnancy by take-up, according to (1) socio-economic group, (2) ethnicity and (3) regional location. [HL1685]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department does not routinely collect the information requested.

The *Infant Feeding Survey 2010*, published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre in November 2012, found that most mothers (94%) reported that they took folic acid either before or during pregnancy. More than a third (37%) said they took folic acid before they were pregnant, increasing to 79% who reported taking it during the first three months of pregnancy, while 23% took it later on in pregnancy.

A copy of Chapter 11 of the *Infant Feeding Survey 2010* which relates to Folic Acid has been attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Chapter 11 Infant Feeding Survey 2010 [ifs-uk-2010-chap11-diet-supp-smok-drink.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-20/HL1685>

## Food: Hygiene

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list the local authorities that have not joined the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme operated by the Food Standards Agency. [HL1687]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is a Food Standards Agency (FSA)/local authority partnership initiative operating in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The only local authority across the three countries not operating the scheme is Rutland County Council.

The FSA continues to encourage the Council's participation so that its local businesses and local residents can benefit from the positive impact that the scheme is having elsewhere.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it remains their policy to support the mandatory display of the Food Standards Agency Food Hygiene Ratings once every local authority has joined the scheme. [HL1741]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has responsibility for the Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme. The FSA favours mandatory display at food outlets in England and is gathering evidence to support this, including monitoring the impact of legislation introduced in Wales in 2013 which makes it mandatory for businesses there to display their ratings. The Government will consider this evidence carefully once it is available.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to allow local authorities to charge for extra food hygiene inspections of food businesses that request an extra inspection following a poor score under the Food Standards Agency Food Hygiene Rating System. [HL1742]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Under the scheme operating in England and currently in Northern Ireland, food businesses requesting an extra re-rating inspection between planned inspections by the local authority are not charged. In Wales, where the scheme has a statutory underpinning, charges are made.

The Food Standards Agency is considering the introduction of charging in England for these extra requested re-rating inspections as part of the evidence gathering to support a case for mandatory display of ratings at food outlets.

## Food: Imports

*Asked by Baroness Byford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Food Standards Agency plays any part in the condemnation of food carried on heavy goods vehicles that are found to have carried unauthorised persons in the trailers. [HL1438]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Food Standards Agency receives notifications from the Border Force of potential contaminated food carried by goods vehicles and notifies the food business operator via their local authority. Under food law, in cases where contamination has potentially taken place, the decision as to whether foodstuffs are fit for consumption lies with the business operator, which is responsible for ensuring that any foodstuffs it places on the market are compliant with all relevant food safety and food hygiene legislation.

*Asked by Baroness Byford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the cost of condemning food carried in vehicles transporting unauthorised persons is met by the supplier, the importer, the seller or the insurer. [HL1439]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The cost of condemned food contaminated by unauthorised persons is a commercial issue for the parties involved.

*Asked by Baroness Byford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether statistics on the nature and value of food condemned because of contamination by unauthorised persons travelling on the importing vehicle are gathered by any government department or agency. [HL1440]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Statistics on the nature and value of food condemned are not gathered by any Government department or agency.

## Forced Marriage

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many British girls were sent abroad to marry in 2014. [HL1374]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Not all forced marriage cases are reported to the British Government's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), which makes it impossible to make an accurate assessment on how many British girls may have been sent abroad to marry.

British girls may be sent abroad to marry with their full consent in the form of an arranged marriage. If the girl does not have the right to say no this becomes a forced marriage. The UK is a world leader in tackling forced (and early) marriage. It is child abuse, domestic abuse and a form of violence against women and men and a serious abuse of human rights.

The FMU dealt with 1267 cases in 2014. 77% of cases dealt with by the FMU in 2014 involve an overseas element, which means the victim is at risk of, or has been, taken overseas.

The number of cases the FMU deals with does not represent the number of British girls (and boys) being sent overseas for a forced marriage, but the number of calls and emails initiating contact with the FMU about a victim or potential victim.

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of St Albans***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many underage British girls were sent abroad to marry in 2014. [[HL1375](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Not all forced marriage cases are reported to the British Government's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), which makes it impossible to make an accurate assessment on how many underage British girls may have been sent abroad to marry.

The UK is a world leader in tackling forced (and early) marriage. It is child abuse, domestic abuse and a form of violence against women and men and a serious abuse of human rights.

The FMU dealt with 1267 cases in 2014. 77% of cases dealt with by the FMU in 2014 involve an overseas element, which means the victim is at risk of, or has been, taken overseas.

In 22% of cases dealt with by the FMU in 2014 the victim was under 18 years old. The number of cases the FMU deals with does not represent the number of underage British girls (and boys) being sent overseas for a forced marriage, but the number of calls and emails initiating contact with the FMU about a victim or potential victim.

### **Forced Marriage Unit**

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of St Albans***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases the Forced Marriage Unit was involved in, or gave support and advice to, in 2014. [[HL1373](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) provides a range of support and assistance in cases where British nationals are at risk of forced marriage in the UK or overseas. In 2014, the FMU gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1267 cases.

### **Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Public Appointments**

*Asked by **Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list those persons appointed as chairs of non-departmental public bodies by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [[HL1315](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is responsible for the appointment of chairs to the following public bodies regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments:

Great Britain China Centre: Martin Davidson  
Marshall Aid Commemorative Commission: John Hughes  
Westminster Foundation for Democracy: Henry Bellingham (political nominee)  
Imperial War Museum: Sir Francis Richards

Appointments to the chairs of the following non-regulated bodies also fall under FCO's remit:

British Council Sir Vernon Ellis Wilton Park: Iain Ferguson

### **Forestry Commission**

*Asked by **Lord Greaves***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what land and property has been (1) disposed of, and (2) acquired, by the Forestry Commission since the publication of the report of the 2012 Independent Panel on Forestry. [[HL1621](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** From 4 July 2012 to 21 July 2015, two sites in the north of England totalling 0.12 hectares were disposed of as a result of property rationalisation. In the west of England 15.5 hectares of leasehold was surrendered. During the same period land acquired by, or gifted to, the Public Forest Estate was 79.56 hectares across four sites in central, east, west and southern England. This represents a net increase in PFE land for this period.

### **Forests**

*Asked by **Lord Greaves***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 16 June (HL298), which interested parties have been involved in the preparatory work on keeping public forests and woodlands in trust for the nation, in line with the 2012 Independent Panel on Forestry's recommendations. [[HL1619](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Since the publication of the Independent Panel on Forestry report in 2012, we have engaged with over 50 interested parties on a range of forestry related matters, primarily through their membership of the national Forestry Forum whose next meeting is scheduled for October. This engagement has included preparatory work to develop proposals to keep the forests in trust for the nation.

*Asked by **Lord Greaves***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 16 June (HL298), whether they intend to bring forward primary legislation concerning the forestry estate in the course of this Parliament; and if so, what is their expected timetable for doing so. [[HL1620](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We are fully committed to holding the public forest estate in trust for the nation. Preparatory work has taken place, with key interested parties being involved. We have not committed to bring forward primary legislation, although we have not ruled this out either. In the meantime, the estate will remain secure in the care of the Forestry Commission. I wish to reiterate that we have absolutely no plans to sell the public forest estate.

### Former Prime Ministers: Security

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 14 July (HL714) concerning the cost of security protection for former Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers, whether they will publish the total cost in 2014 to 2015 of security protection for all recipients. [HL1517]

**Lord Bates:** I refer to my previous written answers: disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

Disclosing such details would not only reveal tactical policing decisions, but would compromise the safety of those arrangements since it would enable those wishing to circumvent them to form an assessment of the level of policing and protection being provided.

### Fossil Fuels: Licensing

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent consultation on new standard rules for onshore oil and gas activities related to offering standardised permits to oil and gas companies, what assessment they have made of the safety of flaring which suggests that flow-testing, small-scale fracturing operations and acid washing should only take place 10 metres from any watercourse and 200 metres from the nearest residents. [HL1518]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The proposed standard rules do not cover the flaring of gas. If an operator wants to flare waste gas they will need to apply to the Environment Agency for a bespoke environmental permit.

The separation distances specified in the proposed standard rules relate to surface water, groundwater and European Designations. The Environment Agency considers that these distances provide effective protection.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what independent peer-reviewed scientific studies have been conducted on whether it is safe to carry out flow-testing, small-scale fracturing operations and acid washing 10 metres from any watercourse and 200 metres from the nearest residents. [HL1519]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Environment Agency has undertaken its own risk assessment and determined that the separation distances cited in the draft standard rules permits are safe for people and the environment. They have also consulted with both Natural England and Public Health England on the proposed rules, who are satisfied the distances are protective of human health and the environment.

Flow testing and acid washing occur at considerable depth underground and are low risk conventional techniques, which have been used by the oil and gas industry for many years. Any proposal for hydraulic fracturing would require a bespoke environmental permit.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the consultation on new standard rules relating to onshore oil and gas activities was held over the period of the General Election, in the light of the Consultation Principles, which state that consultations should not generally be launched during local or national election periods; whether they sought advice from the Propriety and Ethics team in the Cabinet Office prior to running the consultation, and if not, why not; and whether they now intend to rerun the consultation. [HL1520]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The consultation for the proposed standard rules was released on 23 March 2015, before the start of the pre-election period which began on 30 March. As such, permission was not required from the Propriety and Ethics team in the Cabinet Office and the consultation continued as normal. The consultation ran for the full 12 week period, until 15 June, five weeks after the election was held.

The Environment Agency is considering all responses to the consultation and will publish a full response.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for continuing to apply individual scrutiny to applications for permits for unconventional oil and gas exploration, in the light of the variation in the conditions of possible sites and the levels of public concern regarding unconventional oil and gas exploration projects. [HL1521]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Operators proposing to explore for oil and gas using hydraulic fracturing or flaring will continue to require bespoke environmental permits from the Environment Agency, which will be subject to a detailed site specific risk assessment and public consultation, with extra consultation for sites of high public interest.

### Fracking: Planning Permission

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent decisions by Lancashire County Council, whether they intend to change the system or the



guidance in relation to planning applications for hydraulic fracturing. [HL1555]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Due to the Secretary of State's role in the planning process we are unable to comment on specific planning cases. We will keep all aspects of the regulatory regime for shale gas, including the planning system, under review as the industry develops to ensure it is proportionate and fit for purpose.

### Future Large Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many A400M aircraft have been purchased for use by the United Kingdom's armed forces. [HL1561]

**Earl Howe:** There are currently five A400M Atlas aircraft in the UK fleet, with acceptance work on a further four being undertaken in the next three months.

*Asked by Lord Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many A400M aircraft they plan to purchase for use by the United Kingdom's armed forces. [HL1562]

**Earl Howe:** The United Kingdom has ordered 22 A400M Atlas aircraft which will be operated by the Royal Air Force.

*Asked by Lord Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have concerning the performance of the A400M aircraft during its proving tests. [HL1563]

**Earl Howe:** Airbus Defence and Space have conducted, and continue to undertake, flight trials using their own aircraft in support of the multinational A400M Atlas programme, and the results are shared with partner nations. The results of these trials are subject to independent surveillance by multinational airworthiness bodies, and have also formed the basis of the evidence scrutinised by the European Aviation Safety Agency prior to the decision to grant a type certificate to the aircraft, engine and propeller.

Trial activity is ongoing, and is an essential part of the continuing work to develop the advanced military capabilities of this new aircraft in accordance with agreed capability milestones.

*Asked by Lord Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in the United Kingdom are employed in the construction of parts for the A400M aircraft. [HL1564]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence does not collect this type of information. However, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has estimated that the supply chain for the A400M Atlas aircraft has created or secured work for some 8,000 people in the United Kingdom.

*Asked by Lord Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in Europe are employed in the construction of the A400M aircraft. [HL1565]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence does not collect this type of information; however, Airbus Defence and Space has estimated that the A400M ATLAS programme has created or secured work for some 40,000 people across Europe.

*Asked by Lord Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which governments have indicated that they will purchase the A400M aircraft. [HL1566]

**Earl Howe:** In addition to the six partner nations of Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom that are involved in the A400M Atlas programme, Luxembourg and Malaysia have also ordered Atlas aircraft.

With the support of partner nations, Airbus Defence and Space is exploring a range of export opportunities for the Atlas aircraft. However, as such matters are commercially sensitive, I cannot provide any details.

*Asked by Lord Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many A400M aircraft have so far been sold. [HL1598]

**Earl Howe:** A total of 174 A400M Atlas aircraft have been ordered by the six A400M partner nations (Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom), plus Luxembourg and Malaysia.

Of this total number, to date, some 16 aircraft have been delivered, with further deliveries expected to continue until at least 2022.

### Gambling: Greater London

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data, if any, is collected on the number of people with gambling addiction in London; and what were the total numbers in (1) 2010, (2) 2011, (3) 2012, (4) 2013 and (5) 2014. [HL1486]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Health and Social Care Information Centre does not collect information on the number of people with a gambling addiction.

The 2012 Health Survey for England did include a chapter on gambling which may be of interest although it does not give a count of people with a gambling addiction.

In 2012, for the first time, questions on gambling activity were included in the Health

Survey for England. The chapter presents estimates of participation in all forms of

gambling in the last year, followed by estimates of problem and at-risk gambling

according to two different measurement instruments, the Diagnostic and Statistic

Manual of Mental Disorders IV (DSM-IV) and the Problem Gambling Severity Index

(PGSI).

The introduction to the chapter states:

- In the last decade, the gambling landscape in Britain has changed significantly. This is evident with the rise of online gambling opportunities and also with the implementation of the UK Gambling Act 2005.

- Fully implemented in 2007, this legislation overhauled the way commercial gambling is regulated, licensed and advertised in the UK. In Britain, gambling is positioned as a legitimate recreational and leisure activity, with policy responsibility held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

- However, there is widespread recognition among policy makers, industry and health care professionals alike that, like alcohol consumption, some people who engage in gambling can experience harm.

A copy of the document 'Health Survey England 2012', Volume 1, Chapter 7 has been attached.

It is planned to repeat this chapter in the 2015 survey which is expected to be published towards the end of 2016.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Health Survey for England 2012 Chapter 7 [2012 Health Survey for England vol 1 chapter 7.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-15/HL1486>

## Gaming Machines

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reasons or independent research underpin the present £100 limit on betting on fixed-odds betting terminals. [HL1487]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** In setting stakes and prizes limits the Government takes into account advice from the Gambling Commission – as the Government's statutory advisor on gambling regulation – as well as available research and other evidence. The last review of stakes and prizes took place in 2013.

We are working with the Gambling Commission and industry to ensure that the new measures brought in earlier this year – including restrictions for the maximum unsupervised stake on B2 gaming machines (known as 'fixed-odds betting terminals') – are effectively evaluated.

If need be we will take action if these controls are found to be insufficient.

## Gaza: Armed Conflict

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government following the recent report by Medical Aid to Palestinians, what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning the death of Anas Qdieh. [HL1420]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, we are pressing Israel to demonstrate accountability for its actions during Operation Protective Edge. The Israeli Military Advocate General continues his investigations into specific incidents and complaints are filed on behalf of Palestinian residents in Gaza or by Israeli, Palestinian or international non-governmental organisations. The Israeli State Comptroller has also launched an investigation into military and political decision making processes during Operation Protective Edge. We will continue to follow these investigations closely.

## Gaza: Israel

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel concerning the orders and directives given by Colonel Ofer Winter during Operation Protective Edge. [HL1665]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have not had any discussions with the Israeli authorities over these specific orders, we are pressing Israel to demonstrate accountability for its actions during Operation Protective Edge (OPE). Officials held discussions with the Israeli Military Advocate General's office on 13 July and with the Israeli State Comptroller's office on 15 July where OPE was raised.

## Gibraltar: Spain

Asked by *Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether members of the Spanish Guardia Civil were present at the Queen's Birthday Parade in Gibraltar; whether those members wore their Spanish uniforms; and what assessment they have made of whether the Spanish Guardia Civil has facilitated incursions by Spanish vessels into the British waters at Gibraltar. [HL1567]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Representatives from local Spanish authorities, including the Guardia Civil, are invited to Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Parade every year. Two officers from the Guardia Civil attended this year's Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Parade and Garden Party in ceremonial dress. The officers paid full respect to the Colours of Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Gibraltar Regiment.

Guardia Civil vessels have been involved in unlawful incursions into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters around Gibraltar. Although unlawful incursions by Spanish state vessels are a violation of sovereignty, they have no legal impact. These incursions do not weaken or undermine the international legal basis for UK sovereignty over British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. We protest all unlawful incursions to the Spanish authorities.

### Government Departments: Assets

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 6 July (HL719), what disposal policies each Department applies to freehold property identified as a prospective asset sale that is of significant nature conservation value. [HL1295]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Core Defra holds a very limited number of sites with significant conservation value. None of these sites are under consideration for disposal. However, all assets are disposed in accordance with the policies set out in 'Managing Public Money'.

### Government Departments: Telephone Services

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 9 July (HL898), what training in communication skills is provided for the officials in (1) HM Revenue and Customs, (2) the Home Office, (3) the Ministry of Justice, (4) the Department for Work and Pensions, and (5) the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, who are responsible for helping members of the public who telephone with complaints or requests for information. [HL1653]

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 9 July (HL898), whether there are target times by which calls from members of the public are expected to receive attention when telephoning (1) HM Revenue and Customs, (2) the Home Office, (3) the Ministry of Justice, (4) the Department for Work and Pensions, and (5) the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. [HL1654]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** All new HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) telephony advisers receive two days of call handling soft skills training, prior to handling customer calls. Further call handling training is provided depending on the needs of the advisor.

The first escalation for complaints from an adviser is to a Team Leader. 80 per cent of complaints are successfully handled at this point.

HMRC's Personal Tax Operations has a specific team who deal with customer complaints received via telephone.

HMRC has a target of answering 80 per cent of all calls received.

Information regarding the training and performance on telephony issues for other Government Departments is not held centrally and should be obtained from the Departments concerned.

### Great Western Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to adding diesel motors to the Hitachi Inter City Express trains intended to operate on the Great Western lines from Paddington to Bristol and Swansea so that they can be used while the electrification of those lines is delayed. [HL1466]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Intercity Express Programme (IEP) bi-mode trains with diesel motors will be deployed on Great Western lines from 2017.

We expect Network Rail to deliver electrification projects within the timescales required for IEP delivery.

### Greece: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Radice*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the spending of British tourists going to Greece (1) in the United Kingdom and (2) in Greece. [HL1675]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** British nationals make around 2 million visits to Greece every year. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have data on the amount of money British tourists spend. The Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises estimate that British tourists spend on average 1000 Euros per visit. Based on Bank of Greece data, 740 Euros out of the 1000 Euros is retained in Greece. They do not provide figures or estimates for expenditure in the UK by British tourists going to Greece.

### Haematological Cancer

*Asked by Lord Stevenson of Balmacara*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report Destination Cure ; and whether they plan to support the calls for a stem cell donor for every person who needs one, a successful transplant for every blood cancer patient, and the right post-transplant care for every patient who needs it. [HL1574]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government remains committed to improving stem cell transplantation services and doing all we can to help those in need of a transplant to find a suitable donor.

Since 2011, the Department has provided our delivery partners, NHS Blood and Transplant and the Anthony Nolan (formerly the Anthony Nolan Trust), a total of £16 million in additional new funding to improve stem cell transplantation services in the United Kingdom. A further £3 million investment was announced in March 2015.

This funding has led to a tangible improvement in the availability of stem cells in the UK and the achievements include:

- i) More UK patients received a stem cell transplant in 2014 than ever before;
- ii) Over 60% of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) patients are now able to find a well matched donor compared to only 40% in 2010;
- iii) A single unified bone marrow donor registry has been created streamlining the provision of stem cells and reducing the time to provide cells from adult donors;
- iv) The proportion of patients receiving cord blood from UK donors has significantly increased; and

5. An increase in UK patients receiving a transplant from 802 in 2010/11 to 1060 in 2013/14. The increased use of UK-sourced stem cells has meant that more donors than ever are available to donate leading to a significant cost saving by reducing the need to import stem cells.

The report 'Destination Cure – arriving at a better future' from Anthony Nolan is a timely contribution to the debate on the future of this work.

## Health Services

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to assess the costs and benefits of the closure of the Health Gateway Hub. [HL1402]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment was made of the impact of closing the Health Gateway Hub on the use of project and programme assurance, and any consequential impact on good practice and governance. [HL1403]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Until, February 2015 the Department funded, free of charge to the receiving organisation, such reviews throughout the health system. This cost the Department in the region of £1 million in the last financial year. In light of the ongoing financial constraints and the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, in February this year the Department's Senior Leadership Team took the decision to cease providing such reviews free of charge. There has been no cost to the Department in closing the Health Gateway Hub.

In ceasing the funding for the provision of Gateways across the health system, the Department undertook a consultation exercise with those organisations that had made most use of the service to understand whether they

would still use the service on a self-paid for basis; whether they would be willing to co-ordinate such reviews themselves; or whether there was a need for a centralised co-ordination function for such reviews in the future. Responses to this consultation have been mixed with some organisations offering to provide their own co-ordination and others interested in pursuing a jointly co-ordinated model.

Gateway reviews continue to be used within the Department and it is also in consultation with its arms length bodies to understand the demand for a shared co-ordination function between those bodies. NHS England is currently considering the arrangements it may need to put in place to support business needs.

In the short term, the Department continues to provide a list of accredited reviewers to organisations that wish to undertake Gateway reviews in the future. However, it is for the individual organisations to co-ordinate and fund such reviews themselves.

## Health Services: Chinese

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to establish a national strategy for dealing with health issues amongst the United Kingdom's Chinese community. [HL1329]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the health needs of the United Kingdom's Chinese community. [HL1330]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There are no plans to establish a national strategy for dealing with health issues amongst the United Kingdom's Chinese communities and no assessment of their needs has been made at national level. The Government believes that local commissioners are best placed to assess and deal with the needs of their local populations.

## Heathrow Airport

*Asked by Lord True*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations, if any, they have received from the government of China or Chinese state agencies about the potential expansion of Heathrow Airport. [HL1424]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** To ensure our long term connectivity needs can be met, the previous Government established the independent Airports Commission to identify and recommend to Government options for maintaining this country's status as an international hub for aviation. Three options for expansion were shortlisted by the Commission for further examination.

I am not aware of Her Majesty's Government receiving any representations from the government of China or Chinese state agencies about the potential expansion of Heathrow Airport.



*Asked by Lord True*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations, if any, they have received from the government of Qatar or Qatari state agencies about the potential expansion of Heathrow Airport. [HL1425]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Airport expansion in the South East of England has been discussed by British and Qatari officials as part of wider exchanges on investment in the UK in the normal course of business. We have not had any formal representations from the State of Qatar on this issue.

*Asked by Lord True*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed the possible expansion of Heathrow with representatives of the government of China or Chinese state agencies in preparing for the state visit of the President of China in October. [HL1426]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** To ensure our long term connectivity needs can be met, the previous Government established the independent Airports Commission to identify and recommend to Government options for maintaining this country's status as an international hub for aviation. Three options for expansion were shortlisted by the Commission for further examination.

I am not aware of Her Majesty's Government receiving any representations from the government of China or Chinese state agencies about the potential expansion of Heathrow Airport.

## Hepatitis

*Asked by Lord Mancroft*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when NHS England's revised service specification for Hepatitis C networks is expected to be published. [HL1511]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Service Specification was published in June 2015. A copy is attached and is available at the following link:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/06/hep-c-cirrhosis-policy-statmnt-0615.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hepatitis C Service Specification [hep-c-cirrhosis-policy-statmnt-0615.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-15/HL1511>

## Hepatitis: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Mancroft*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the commitment in the Conservative Party manifesto to increase the use of new and cost-effective medicines applies to treatments approved by the National Institute

for Health and Care Excellence for Hepatitis C. [HL1510]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England extended access to new oral treatments for patients with hepatitis C and cirrhosis at the beginning of June 2015. A copy of the related policy can be found on the NHS England website and accessed via the following link:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/06/hep-c-cirrhosis-policy-statmnt-0615.pdf>

A copy of this document is also attached.

From 1 August this year, hepatitis C operational delivery networks will be in place across England to ensure that patients have access to treatment expertise via multi-disciplinary teams.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hepatitis C Policy Statement [HL1510 HL1514 library document.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-15/HL1510>

*Asked by Lord Mancroft*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what processes are in place to ensure that people living with Hepatitis C will be able to access new National Institute for Health and Care Excellence approved treatments from 31 July 2015. [HL1514]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England extended access to new oral treatments for patients with hepatitis C and cirrhosis at the beginning of June 2015. A copy of the related policy can be found on the NHS England website and accessed via the following link:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/06/hep-c-cirrhosis-policy-statmnt-0615.pdf>

A copy of this document is also attached.

From 1 August this year, hepatitis C operational delivery networks will be in place across England to ensure that patients have access to treatment expertise via multi-disciplinary teams.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hepatitis C Cirrhosis policy statement [HL1514 Hepatitis C Cirrhosis policy statement.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-15/HL1514>

*Asked by Lord Mancroft*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many meetings they have held with NHS England and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to discuss the appraisal and future availability of Hepatitis C medicines; and whether minutes of such discussions will be published. [HL1515]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** A number of meetings and discussions have taken place between Departmental officials, NHS England and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence about the appraisal and availability of drugs for the treatment of Hepatitis C. Not all of these were minuted and the Department has no plans to publish minutes for those that were.

### Hepatitis: Vaccination

*Asked by Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are committed to the introduction of a universal Hepatitis B vaccination programme, as recommended by the World Health Organisation, in order to support the international community's effort to control worldwide transmission of the disease. [HL1499]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK is fully committed to the introduction of Hepatitis B vaccination programmes, as recommended by the World Health Organisation, and funds these in developing countries through our investment in Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Gavi delivers life-saving vaccine programmes in 73 of the world's poorest countries. Gavi provides protection against Hepatitis B through the pentavalent vaccine, which has been introduced and scaled up in all 73 of these countries.

The UK is a firm and longstanding supporter of Gavi and as its largest donor will provide £1.44 billion from 2016 to 2020, which will save 1.4 million lives.

### HMS Queen Elizabeth: Military Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fixed wing aircraft will be on board HMS Queen Elizabeth when she comes into service. [HL1759]

**Earl Howe:** Our plans are to have an operational F35B squadron available when HMS Queen Elizabeth comes into service. The exact number of fixed wing aircraft embarked at any time will be dependent on the mission being undertaken.

### Hospitals

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will give details of all ministerial visits since 7 May to NHS hospitals between the hours of 9.00pm on a Friday and 9.00am on a Monday. [HL1686]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Secretary of State for Health and his Ministerial team have not undertaken any visits to National Health Service hospitals between the hours of 9:00pm on a Friday and 9:00am on a Monday.

Ministers visit many local services at weekends in their capacity as constituency Members of Parliament that are

not recorded as ministerial visits, including organisations involved in the delivery of health and social care.

### Human Trafficking: Mediterranean Sea

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many traffickers across the Mediterranean have been (1) apprehended, and (2) prosecuted, in the United Kingdom, or any other European Union member state, during (1) the last year, and (2) since such trafficking began. [HL1584]

**Lord Bates:** The information requested is not held centrally. Her Majesty's Government has established a dedicated law enforcement team to tackle organised immigration crime in the Mediterranean region. 90 officers will be deployed in the UK, Mediterranean and Africa to pursue and disrupt these callous organised crime groups profiting from the people-smuggling trade.

### Hungary: Serbia

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likely effects of construction of a fence by the government of Hungary along their border with Serbia on attempts at illegal immigration into the United Kingdom. [HL1683]

**Lord Bates:** We continue to monitor the migration situation from the Western Balkans closely, including the Hungarian Government's plans to respond to increased migrant flows by building a fence along its border with Serbia.

It is vital that all EU Member States ensure the full functioning of the external EU border. That is primarily the responsibility of the Member State concerned, although it is right that the EU and other Member States support those whose borders are under particular pressure. Member States also need to work jointly to address secondary movements of illegal migrants within the EU.

While it may help address the immediate situation, strengthening EU borders will not be sufficient to address current pressures. Instead, the EU must enhance joint efforts with third country partners, including the countries of the Western Balkans, to combat organised immigration crime, deter abuse of Member States' asylum systems, and address the root causes of illegal migration. That is what Her Majesty's Government is pressing all Member States to do.

### Ibrahim Sharif

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are making representations to the government of Bahrain about their responsibilities under international covenants that they have ratified, following the re-arrest of Ibrahim Sharif. [HL1338]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Ambassador in Bahrain has raised publicly his concern at the recent re-arrest of Ebrahim Sharif and urged the Bahraini authorities to ensure due process is followed. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), discussed human rights and political reform with the government of Bahrain during his visit for the UK-Bahrain Joint Working Group meeting in June. We will continue to encourage the Government of Bahrain to meet all of its human rights obligations and adhere to all conventions to which it is a party.

### Illegal Immigrants

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether illegal immigrants who have travelled to the United Kingdom from another EU member state and who seek asylum in the United Kingdom are refused entry and routinely returned to the EU member state from which they travelled. [HL1611]

**Lord Bates:** The Dublin Regulation is an important tool for maintaining the distinction between international protection and economic or other migration, reflecting the accepted principle of international law that those seeking international protection should seek asylum in the first safe country they reach.

If we have evidence that an asylum seeker is the responsibility of another European country we can, and will, seek to return them there under the Dublin Regulation. Similarly, if we have evidence that the person claiming asylum in the UK has already been granted international protection by another European country we will also seek to remove them to the country that granted protection. Over 12,000 migrants have been returned from the UK to another EU country since 2003.

### Illegal Immigrants: France

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal immigrants who have travelled from (1) France and (2) Holland have been detected and intercepted on arrival at United Kingdom ports or rail terminals in each month since January 2014. [HL1609]

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal immigrants who have been detected and intercepted on arrival in the United Kingdom from France during the last twelve months have been returned to France. [HL1610]

**Lord Bates:** To ensure the integrity and security of the UK border Her Majesty's Government does not comment on port specific statistics.

Figures are based on interceptions at arrivals in UK ports only. These figures do not include in-country finds (ie lorry drops etc) and the country of departure in some cases is claimed.

The figures quoted are management information, which is subject to internal quality checks and may be subject to change. Data on the number of illegal immigrants returned to France is not centrally held.

### Immigrants: Mediterranean Sea

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what evidence the Prime Minister's claim on 3 June that "the vast majority of people who are setting off into the Mediterranean are not asylum seekers" (HC Deb, col 583) is based. [HL1630]

**Lord Bates:** We believe the majority of those crossing the central Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy are more likely to be seeking a better way of life rather than fleeing persecution or conflict. Detailed analysis by Frontex, published in June, shows that West African migrants were the most prominent nationalities using this route for the period between January and March this year. 4,500 nationals of Gambia, Senegal, Mali or Nigeria were detected in the Central Mediterranean between January and March, while those from Syria, Eritrea and Somalia numbered approximately 3,000. EU asylum grant rates for 2014 show clearly that nationals of West African countries are far less likely to be granted asylum status. The size and composition of migrant flows can change markedly over time, given the large range of factors driving migration, and we keep these under regular review.

### Immigration Controls: Migrant Workers

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to revise the Tier 2 Shortage Occupation List in the light of the current exclusion of GPs and most categories of nurses from the list. [HL1734]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide advice by the end of the year on restricting Tier 2 to genuine skills shortages and highly specialist experts. The Government will await the MAC's findings before considering any further changes to the Shortage Occupation List.

Actuaries are not included on the Shortage Occupation List. The specialist jobs of informatician and bio-informatician, which share the same occupation code, are included. Only the most highly skilled chefs, earning £29,570 and with five or more years' experience, are included on the list. The MAC last reviewed these occupations in its February 2013 report, which can be read at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommended-shortage-occupation-lists-for-the-uk-and-scotland-full-review-with-sunset-clause-feb-2013>

The MAC last reviewed GPs and nurses in its February 2015 report, which can be read at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/partial-review-of-the-shortage-occupation-lists>.

The MAC recommended waiting until a Department of Health initiative to incentivise medical graduates to become GPs is evaluated, before adding GPs to the Shortage Occupation List. The MAC also recommended, based on the evidence it received, that nurses should not be added to the list. The Government accepted those recommendations. The evidence provided to the MAC by Government and other organisations is set out in its report.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why actuaries and chefs are included in the Tier 2 Shortage Occupation List but GPs and most categories of nurses are not. [HL1735]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide advice by the end of the year on restricting Tier 2 to genuine skills shortages and highly specialist experts. The Government will await the MAC's findings before considering any further changes to the Shortage Occupation List.

Actuaries are not included on the Shortage Occupation List. The specialist jobs of informatician and bio-informatician, which share the same occupation code, are included. Only the most highly skilled chefs, earning £29,570 and with five or more years' experience, are included on the list. The MAC last reviewed these occupations in its February 2013 report, which can be read at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommended-shortage-occupation-lists-for-the-uk-and-scotland-full-review-with-sunset-clause-feb-2013>

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The MAC recommended waiting until a Department of Health initiative to incentivise medical graduates to become GPs is evaluated, before adding GPs to the Shortage Occupation List. The MAC also recommended, based on the evidence it received, that nurses should not be added to the list. The Government accepted those recommendations. The evidence provided to the MAC by Government and other organisations is set out in its report.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how robust is the advice given to them by the Migration Advisory Committee concluding

that GPs and most categories of nurses should be excluded from the Tier 2 Shortage Occupation List. [HL1736]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide advice by the end of the year on restricting Tier 2 to genuine skills shortages and highly specialist experts. The Government will await the MAC's findings before considering any further changes to the Shortage Occupation List.

Actuaries are not included on the Shortage Occupation List. The specialist jobs of informatician and bio-informatician, which share the same occupation code, are included. Only the most highly skilled chefs, earning £29,570 and with five or more years' experience, are included on the list. The MAC last reviewed these occupations in its February 2013 report, which can be read at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommended-shortage-occupation-lists-for-the-uk-and-scotland-full-review-with-sunset-clause-feb-2013>

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The MAC recommended waiting until a Department of Health initiative to incentivise medical graduates to become GPs is evaluated, before adding GPs to the Shortage Occupation List. The MAC also recommended, based on the evidence it received, that nurses should not be added to the list. The Government accepted those recommendations. The evidence provided to the MAC by Government and other organisations is set out in its report.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they gave to the Migration Advisory Committee before it reached its conclusion that GPs and most categories of nurses should be excluded from the Tier 2 Shortage Occupation List. [HL1737]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide advice by the end of the year on restricting Tier 2 to genuine skills shortages and highly specialist experts. The Government will await the MAC's findings before considering any further changes to the Shortage Occupation List.

Actuaries are not included on the Shortage Occupation List. The specialist jobs of informatician and bio-informatician, which share the same occupation code, are included. Only the most highly skilled chefs, earning £29,570 and with five or more years' experience, are included on the list. The MAC last reviewed these occupations in its February 2013 report, which can be read at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommended-shortage-occupation-lists-for-the-uk-and-scotland-full-review-with-sunset-clause-feb-2013>



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The MAC recommended waiting until a Department of Health initiative to incentivise medical graduates to become GPs is evaluated, before adding GPs to the Shortage Occupation List. The MAC also recommended, based on the evidence it received, that nurses should not be added to the list. The Government accepted those recommendations. The evidence provided to the MAC by Government and other organisations is set out in its report.

### Immigration Officers: Dover Port

*Asked by Lord Northbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigration officers were on duty on 21 July at the port of Dover; and what assessment they have made of whether that number was adequate. [HL1716]

**Lord Bates:** Her Majesty's Government does not comment on port specific deployment numbers. Border Force deployed additional resources to combat the increase in opportunistic migrant activity. The UK Immigration controls for the Dover – Calais, Dover – Dunkirk routes are located in Calais.

### Immigration Rules

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish the full consolidated Immigration Rules in their current amended form. [HL1531]

**Lord Bates:** The full consolidated Immigration Rules in their current amended form are already published on GOV.UK.

### India

*Asked by Lord Singh of Wimbledon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the statement in 2014 by the Indian Home Minister describing the 1984 killings of Sikhs in India as genocide, whether they are pushing, or plan to push, for an international inquiry. [HL1657]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The tragic losses of lives during the anti-Sikh riots of 1984 remain a source of deep pain to Sikhs everywhere around the world. We recognise the deep scars that this has left and the understandably strong feelings that exist to this day. We are aware of reports of the Indian Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, referring to the anti-Sikh riots as genocide. Any inquiry is a matter for the Indian government.

### Insurance Companies: Competition

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of whether the United Kingdom insurance markets are promoting competition and the best price for customers. [HL1554]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government fully recognises the importance of promoting competition in insurance markets so that customers can get the best price possible. That is why we have given the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) an objective to promote effective competition in the interest of consumers. The FCA regulates the conduct of financial markets so that they work well and consumers get a fair deal.

We have also created the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to oversee competition in markets including the insurance industry. The CMA promote competition for the benefit of consumers, both within and outside the UK and their aim is to make markets work well for consumers, businesses and the economy.

### Iran

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that there is an agenda within Europe and Saudi Arabia for engaging with Iran with respect to conflict resolution in the Middle East. [HL1509]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Like our EU partners, we continue to have serious concerns about Iran's role in parts of the Middle East such as Syria and Yemen, and its support to militant groups such as Hizballah and Hamas. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), most recently spoke to President Rouhani about these issues on 16 July. He also spoke to King Salman of Saudi Arabia about the issues on the same day. As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), said on 15 July, the recent nuclear agreement with Iran has the potential to change the dynamics in the region in a positive way. We will continue to encourage Iran to re-align its approach in support of the international community's efforts, in particular in confronting the challenge of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and resolving the crises in Yemen and Syria. We have also encouraged the Gulf Co-operation Council to strengthen its dialogue with Iran.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the nuclear agreement with Iran, what plans they have for securing European interests in Iran. [HL1508]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Since President Rouhani's election in 2013, we have been exploring the

scope for improving our bilateral relations with Iran, on a step by step basis. Last week's nuclear agreement between the E3+3 and Iran offers the potential to take this further. It is a robust and verifiable deal which addresses our, and the EU's, proliferation concerns. When Iran has implemented its commitments under the deal, the international community will lift some of its sanctions, delivering significant economic and financial benefits, and offering the potential to expand trade and investment between the EU and Iran. The UK and other EU partners continue to have other serious concerns about Iranian policy, for example its approach to terrorism and respect for human rights; these are unchanged with the deal.

### **Iran: Nuclear Weapons**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of recent talks, what assessment they have made of whether Iran's aspirations to produce a nuclear weapon have ceased. [HL1350]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, finalised on 14 July, Iran agreed that it will never seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons, and agreed to a far reaching set of measures to ensure that it will not be able to do so, including verifiable limits to its stockpiles of fissile material, numbers of centrifuges, nuclear research and development, and a re-design of its heavy water reactor at Arak. Having reached this important agreement, our focus and that of our E3+3 partners will now be on swift and full implementation to ensure that Iran abides by this and other commitments, and that a nuclear weapon remains beyond Iran's reach.

### **Iraq Committee of Inquiry**

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the Prime Minister's letter to Sir John Chilcot on 17 June, what steps have been taken to arrange a meeting between him and the Cabinet Secretary to discuss the progress of the Chilcot Inquiry; and on what date arrangements for such a meeting were made. [HL1364]

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the Prime Minister's letter to Sir John Chilcot on 17 June, when the Prime Minister expects to receive information from Sir John Chilcot regarding his timescale for the urgent completion of the Inquiry. [HL1365]

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the Prime Minister's letter to Sir John Chilcot on 17 June, what further steps they are taking to ascertain when the Maxwellisation process of the Chilcot Inquiry is to be completed. [HL1366]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** A meeting between Sir Jeremy Heywood and Sir John Chilcot took place in early July. It was a constructive discussion in accordance with the Prime Minister's letter, during which Sir John and Sir Jeremy discussed the additional assistance the Inquiry will wish to call upon in its closing stages and agreed some steps that can be taken now to assist the inquiry in its work. Sir John has confirmed it is his intention to provide the Prime Minister with a timetable for completion of the Inquiry's work once the Maxwellisation process, a confidential process between individuals and the Inquiry, is complete.

### **Iraq: Military Aid**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to integrate training on sexual violence and gender issues into all training given by British forces to the Peshmerga in Iraq. [I] [HL1592]

**Earl Howe:** Protection of Civilian (PoC) training is now integrated into all of the training courses delivered to Peshmerga troops by UK training teams. This includes training on sexual violence and gender issues.

UK trainers have also delivered training to coalition partners' training teams within the Building Partner Capacity site at Erbil. This includes German, Norwegian, and Italian trainers. All UK trainers deployed to Iraq are now trained to deliver PoC training prior to leaving the UK.

### **Islamic State**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Prime Minister's commitment to work with the US to destroy IS, what their strategy is for doing so. [HL1649]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is part of a Global Coalition of over 60 countries and organisations who have come together to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The Coalition agreed that we will need to make concerted efforts on five lines: Military, Foreign Fighters, Finance, Stabilisation and Strategic Communications. The UK is playing a key role to support concerted efforts on these five lines.

The UK is a leading contributor to the military efforts to defeat ISIL. We are upgrading local forces – the Iraqi Security Forces (including Kurdish fighters) and the Syrian Moderate Opposition – through the provision of training and equipment and the RAF is part of the Coalition's air support which is helping to defeat ISIL on the ground.

We are countering ISIL's efforts to recruit foreign fighters by identifying recruitment networks, encouraging the exchange of information on travel routes, and ensuring Coalition members are sharing information to combat the flow of these fighters.

We have been working to prevent ISIL's use of the international financial system and cutting off sources of funding, whether from oil smuggling, kidnap for ransom, foreign donations, or the trade in looted antiquities. The Coalition is committed to providing stabilisation support in Iraq. Essential services, civilian planning, local government and police will be needed in liberated areas to ensure relief and recovery, so that displaced people can choose to return to their homes safely. In the meantime, the UK is providing humanitarian assistance to the millions of people affected by ISIL's brutality and chaos in Syria, Iraq and the region. The UK is one of the co-leads for the international working group on strategic communications. We are enabling credible voices across the region to speak out against ISIL's atrocities and to encourage people not to support or promote ISIL. We also support Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi and his efforts to lead an inclusive government and advance national reconciliation.

### Israel: Arms Trade

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Maude of Horsham (HL1418) regarding the sale of arms to Israel, how they define "internal repression" and "using the items aggressively against another country". [HL1725]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government defines 'internal repression' as 'Actions contrary to International Humanitarian Law and other major suppression or violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms as set out in relevant international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.'

On 'using the items aggressively against another country', the Government defines that as 'Under the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, Criterion Three requires the Government to consider the risks of threats to the preservation of regional peace, security and stability. The Government takes into account, inter alia, the existence or likelihood of armed conflict between the recipient and another country and whether the equipment would be likely to be used other than for the legitimate national security and defence of the recipient.'

### Israel: Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 15 July on Iran's nuclear programme, whether during the visit to Israel they have plans to initiate discussions with the government of Israel with a view to inviting them to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. [HL1516]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government continues to call on Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state. In that regard we also continue to call on Israel to agree a full scope Comprehensive Safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to support the five-year ceasefire currently under discussion between Israel and Hamas. [HL1421]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We would support any moves that could deliver progress towards a durable peace in the Middle East.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of the EU in respect of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. [HL1662]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government assesses that the EU plays a positive role in promoting conduct which is in line with Israel's obligations as an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949.

### Israel: West Bank

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel concerning their decision to start building the separation wall in the Cremisan Valley in Beit Jala. [HL1422]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials raised our concerns about the route of the separation barrier with contacts in the Israeli National Security Council, the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Defence on 9 July.

Also on 9 July, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), issued a press statement on the Israeli Supreme Court's decision regarding the barrier.

The UK position on the Separation Barrier is clear: if Israel wished to build the Barrier, it should have been built on the 1967 border – and where it is constructed on the Palestinian side of that border, it is illegal under international law.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with their European allies regarding any United Kingdom red lines for Israel in the West Bank. [HL1664]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government has regular discussions with European partners about Israel's occupation of the West Bank. Our fundamental starting

point in all our discussions is that Israeli conduct must be in line with International Humanitarian Law.

### **Jobseeker's Allowance: Disqualification**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the official monthly rate of sanctions applied to Jobseeker's Allowance claimants is calculated. [HL1273]

**Lord Freud:** The Department calculates a monthly sanctions rate for Jobseekers Allowance claimants based on the number of sanctions in a month divided by the Claimant Count.

The data underpinning the calculations are DWP's statistics on decisions to apply a sanction and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) statistics on the number of people claiming JSA (the Claimant Count). These are publicly available Official Statistics.

More detail on the calculation of the monthly sanctions rate can be found in the statistical ad-hoc publication, "JSA and ESA benefit sanctions rates: explanation of methodology", available on GOV.UK. A copy of the publication is also attached here.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

JSA and ESA benefit sanctions rates [HL 1273 JSA and ESA benefit sanctions rates.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-09/HL1273>

### **Legislation: England**

*Asked by Baroness Andrews*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Stowell of Beeston on 16 July (HL1057), which specific pieces of legislation passed between 1985 and 2015 relate exclusively to England. [HL1586]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** The Government has not performed a retrospective assessment of which laws passed since 1985 relate exclusively to England in their entirety. Under the Government's proposals on English Votes for English Laws, the application of the proposed new rules to future legislation will be a matter for the Speaker of the House of Commons, considering both the application of the legislation and whether or not the matters in question are devolved.

The Speaker will not only certify bills as a whole, but also clauses and schedules within bills under this test.

### **Libya: Islamic State**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in light of the recent terrorist attack in Tunisia, what strategy they have to prevent the further expansion of IS in Libya. [HL1369]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government remains concerned about the growing threat from extremist groups in Libya, including those affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). We have seen barbaric and appalling acts of terror inside Libya, including the brutal murders of Egyptian Coptic Christians and Ethiopian Christians. We are investigating possible links between ISIL in Libya and the recent terrorist attacks in Tunisia. We are working with Libya's neighbours to enhance their capacity to tackle the threat.

A lasting and inclusive political settlement and the establishment of a Government of National Accord (GNA) is the best way to tackle the threat in the long term. We stand ready to support the GNA on security issues, not least tackling ISIL, as soon as it is formed.

### **Life Expectancy: Disadvantaged**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what policies they plan to bring forward to tackle the shorter average life expectancy in the most deprived areas of the country. [HL1334]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department is taking a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to reducing the health inequalities that shorten life expectancy including promoting healthier lifestyles across the whole of society, working to address the wider, social causes of ill health and early death as well as tackling differences in access to, and outcomes from, health services.

The legal duties to have regard to the need to reduce health inequalities apply to the Secretary of State for Health, National Health Service Commissioning Board, known as NHS England, and clinical commissioning groups, embedding consideration of health inequalities across the public health and health care system. For example, the need to reduce health inequalities has been reflected in the NHS Constitution, NHS Mandate, Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and is a condition of the public health grant to local authorities. Health inequalities are measured through the Public Health Outcomes Framework and the NHS Outcomes Framework and life expectancy is an overarching indicator in both.

In 2014, Living Well for Longer: National support for local action, which is attached, set out the national actions taken by the Department, wider Government, NHS England and Public Health England (PHE) in the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of the five big killer diseases and to reduce health inequalities. NHS England (in the Five Year Forward View) and PHE (in From evidence into action) have published long term plans which echo the need to prioritise and mainstream prevention as fundamental in improving outcomes and reducing health inequalities as well as maintaining sustainability of the health and care system. Copies of both documents have also been attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Five Year Forward View [Five year forward view.pdf]



From Evidence into Action [From evidence into action.pdf]

Living Well For Longer [Living well for longer.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-13/HL1334>

## Living Wage

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to bring the National Living Wage in line with the rate recommended by the Living Wage Foundation by incorporating adjustments for cost of living and support received through tax credits. [HL1658]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government wants to move from a low wage, high tax, high welfare society to a higher wage, lower tax, lower welfare society. That means placing more emphasis on support to families on low incomes by reducing income tax through increases in the income tax personal allowance level and increasing wages, than on topping up low wages through tax credits.

The National Living Wage will not be linked to the rate recommended by the Living Wage Foundation. The Low Pay Commission has been asked to provide recommendations regarding the level of the National Living Wage in the future and an assessment of the pace of increase to reach the Government's ambition of 60% of median earnings by 2020. In making its recommendations on the National Living Wage, the Low Pay Commission takes into account a wide range of evidence from across the economy.

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on individuals' and businesses' understanding of wage rules of naming the new higher minimum wage, announced in the recent July budget, a National Living Wage when there is already a living wage rate established by the Living Wage Foundation. [HL1712]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government will take steps to ensure the wage rules for the National Minimum Wage and the National Living Wage are clear to employers and employees. The National Living Wage will be implemented through the National Minimum Wage Regulations, in the same manner as the National Minimum Wage uprating in October 2015. National Living Wage rates will be debated in both Houses of Parliament in time to come into force on 1 April 2016. This will mean rules for all wage rates will be found within the National Minimum Wage Regulations.

The Government supports employers that choose to pay above the level of the National Living Wage. However, decisions on what wages to set are for employers and workers to agree as long as employers pay at least the statutory minimum.

## Living Wage: Greater London

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering introducing a distinct London rate for the National Living Wage, following the principle established by the Living Wage Foundation for both a recommended national and London rate. [HL1659]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The UK has a national wage policy and we do not plan to introduce a regional wage policy. It is right that workers across the country should benefit from the new National Living Wage. The Low Pay Commission takes into account a wide range of evidence from across the economy in making its recommendations on the level at which rates should be set, and will continue to do so. This means there is a level playing field and that wage policy is simple for employers to understand and meet their responsibilities under the law.

## Loans: Greece

Asked by *Lord Higgins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost to the public purse of (1) arrangements made, and (2) proposed arrangements, to deal with the Greek financial crisis. [HL1377]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government has secured a deal that protects UK taxpayers from any risk from financing euro area bailouts now and in the future. This deal gives legal force to the commitment secured in 2010 that UK taxpayers would not be drawn into a euro area bailout. Under the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM) short term financing agreement concluded on Friday 17 July, Greece's IMF arrears have also been cleared.

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United Kingdom will incur any financial costs relating to the bailout being given to the government of Greece, either through the European Central Bank or the International Monetary Fund, or in any other way. [HL1388]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government has secured a deal that protects UK taxpayers from any risk from financing euro area bailouts now and in the future. This deal gives legal force to the commitment secured in 2010 that UK taxpayers would not be drawn into a euro area bailout. Under the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM) short term financing agreement concluded on Friday 17 July, Greece's IMF arrears have also been cleared.

## Local Government: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Bowness*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the powers of the Secretary of State contained in clause 10 of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill [HL] could be used to alter or extend the boundaries of Greater London. [HL1730]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** If all the councils concerned consented, the Secretary of State's powers in the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill to make regulations on local authority governance could be used to facilitate the alteration and extension of London Borough boundaries, and hence of Greater London. The Secretary of State intends to use these powers to effect governance changes where these are part of an agreed bespoke Devolution Deal.

## London Underground

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of salary levels for employees working on the London Underground on the affordability of the use of the network by poor families. [HL1612]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** To deliver a large programme of capital investment Transport for London (TfL) needs highly skilled, specialist and experienced staff and competes with the private sector for the best professional staff across a range of disciplines. Tube operators' pay is comparable with the rest of the rail industry. TfL's salaries and total employment package are regularly benchmarked against the external market to ensure they are competitive.

Fares in real terms have been frozen for two years in a row. Pay-as-you-go daily caps have been cut to one fifth of the cost of a 7 Day Travelcard to Zone 1, providing fairer and more affordable travel for flexible and part-time workers. A wide range of customers can enjoy discounted and concessionary travel, including students, Londoners over 60, disabled travellers, apprentices, war veterans, and people who receive Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance or Jobseeker's Allowance.

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the cost of creating an automated underground system in London; and what would be the net effect on the public purse of creating such a system. [HL1613]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Various levels of automation currently operate across the underground network. Automatically driven trains operate on the Central, Jubilee, Northern and Victoria lines. On some lines, full automation may not be possible due to physical infrastructure limitations.

A decision to fully automate any Underground line, or the entire network, would not be made solely on the net effect on the public purse, but on the net effect of the costs and benefits. This would include consideration of financial costs, but also the constraints of existing Underground physical infrastructure, customer service and operational models.

## M1

*Asked by Lord Radice*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many road miles between junction 10 of the M1 and Leeds are currently subject to restrictions in respect of roadworks. [HL1672]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** A total of 57.1 miles of the M1 between Junction 10 and Junction 43 for Leeds are currently subject to restrictions in respect of road works.

These road works all relate to upgrades to this section of the M1, part of an ambitious £15.2 billion plan to triple annual levels of spending on England's motorways and major 'A' roads by the end of the decade to improve capacity and condition.

The works associated with these restrictions are set out in the table below.

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Current Restriction Mileage</i>
M1 J11a (A5-M1 Link)	1.8
M1 J15-19 Smart Motorway & M1 J19 Improvement	22.9
M1 J21-21a Bridge construction	1.4
M1 J28-31 Smart Motorway	18.7
M1 J32-35a Smart Motorway	5.1
M1 J39-42 Smart Motorway	7.2

*Asked by Lord Radice*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money is currently committed to enhancements of the M1; and when the current programmes will be completed. [HL1673]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The following schemes have committed construction budgets.

<i>Motorway</i>	<i>Approved Budget</i>	<i>Scheduled Completion</i>
M1 J28-31 Smart Motorway	£205.8m (plus £14m of additional resurfacing)	Q4 2015/16
M1 J32-35a Smart Motorway	£125.5m	Q4 2016/17
M1 J39-42 Smart Motorway	£120m	Q3 2015/16

<i>Motorway</i>	<i>Approved Budget</i>	<i>Scheduled Completion</i>
M1 J19 Improvements	£190.7m	Q3 2016/17
M1 J13-19 Smart Motorway	Phase 1 is M1 J19-16 approved budget of £101.6m scheduled to start Q3 2015/16.	Overall scheme (J143-19) is scheduled to complete in 2021/22
M1 J38 North Bound Exit-Slip	Dropped kerbs and improved signing, cost of £146k	August 2015
M1 J37 South Bound Exit-Slip	Signing improvements, cost of £462k.	September 2015

There are other interventions planned on the M1 which do not yet have confirmed costs, but timescales are:

- M1 J24-25 Smart Motorway starting 2016/17 and completing 2017/18
- M1 Junction 45 improvement starting in 2017, completion not yet confirmed
- M1 J23a-24 Smart Motorway starting before end 2019/20, completion not yet confirmed

*Asked by Lord Radice*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been levied in fines from motorists for speeding in roadworks on the M1 in the last year. [HL1676]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Fines are issued by each individual police force through which the M1 passes. Therefore, the Department for Transport does not collect this specific data.

Enforcement of speed limits through roadworks has an important role in maintaining road safety.

## **Marriage: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to take action to secure the right of same-sex couples to marry in Northern Ireland, in the light of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on 21 July in *Oliari and Others v Italy*. [HL1794]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Within the United Kingdom's constitutional arrangements, responsibility for legislating on the subject of marriage in relation to Northern Ireland has been devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly and any change in the law is a matter for that Assembly. The situation in Italy is not comparable with the situation in Northern Ireland where civil partnerships are available to same-sex couples. Italy provides no legal recognition of same-sex relationships

either through a civil union/registered partnership or through marriage.

## **Matrimonial Property**

*Asked by Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the law relating to financial provisions on divorce. [HL1495]

*Asked by Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to bring forward legislation on binding pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements. [HL1496]

**Lord Faulks:** The Law Commission has undertaken a review of elements of the law in this area and published its report on Matrimonial Property, Needs and Agreements last year, following wide consultation. The review looked in particular at the treatment of nuptial agreements, financial needs and matrimonial property in financial relief cases. The Government is carefully considering the Law Commission's recommendations and will respond in due course.

## **Mayors**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any other Executive Mayors in addition to those of London and Bristol that could not be abolished by the holding of a referendum. [HL1602]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There are none. The Greater London Authority Act 1999 makes provisions for the London mayor, and mayoral governance in Bristol has been established pursuant to Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000.

## **Meat: Inspections**

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to end the permanent presence of meat inspectors in abattoirs and meat-cutting plants. [HL1739]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** European Commission (EC) food hygiene legislation sets out official controls for premises requiring veterinary supervision. For abattoirs, these requirements are prescriptive and largely require that official veterinarians are present while animals are being processed. Official veterinarians may be supported by inspectors for certain activities, such as inspection of carcasses and offal, though responsibility for producing safe meat rests with the food business operator.

In poultry abattoirs, slaughterhouse staff may carry out inspection duties, though they must be working under the supervision of an official veterinarian

The EC is considering future changes to official controls in place for meat. These may bring further flexibilities and place greater responsibility on food business operators to produce safe meat. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) fully supports modernised approaches which better meet our current understanding of the risks, which are mainly microbiological, and ensuring proportionate and effective safeguards for consumers, animal health and welfare.

There has not been a permanent presence of officials in cutting plants since 2006, and, even before then, attendance was not on a full-time basis. The FSA carries out audits of these premises on a risk-based frequency, with unannounced inspections taking place in between audits to monitor standards in place.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to introduce full cost recovery of meat inspection charges; and what is their estimate of the financial gain to the public purse of doing so. [HL1740]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has responsibility for charging for meat official controls. At present the FSA has no set timetable to move to full cost recovery. The level of discount on meat official control charges varies from year to year.

### **Mediterranean Sea: Refugees**

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what Ministry of Defence costs in respect of naval operations concerning migrants in the Mediterranean are currently being funded by the Department for International Development. [HL1756]

**Earl Howe:** The Department for International Development is not providing funding for current Ministry of Defence naval operations concerning migrants in the Mediterranean.

### **Mental Health Services: Children in Care**

*Asked by Baroness Tyler of Enfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of mental health outcomes for young people who have been in local authority care. [HL1770]

*Asked by Baroness Tyler of Enfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of access to specialist mental health services for young people who have been in local authority care. [HL1771]

*Asked by Baroness Tyler of Enfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the additional £1.25 billion in funding for mental health services announced in the last Parliament will be spent

on specialist services for children in care and young people who have been in local authority care. [HL1772]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No recent assessments have been made of the mental health outcomes amongst care leavers, or of their access to services. However, one of the themes of *Future in mind*, published in March 2015 was care for the most vulnerable, including looked after children and care leavers. Although care leavers may be adults, the report addressed the needs of those in transition to adult services and looked at how services could be improved for those with mental health conditions reaching the age of 18 when they generally transfer to adult services.

The Government is currently considering how best to take forward proposals in *Future in mind* to deliver system-wide, sustainable transformation as well as the way in which the additional £1.25 billion made available in the 2015 Spring budget for children's mental health over the course of the current Parliament will be used. However, decisions on how to allocate funding to best meet the needs of individual groups of children and young people will be made locally and reflected in local transformation plans.

A copy of *Future in mind* is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Future in Mind [Future in Mind.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-21/HL1770>

*Asked by Baroness Tyler of Enfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of access to mental health professionals with a specialism in attachment disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism spectrum disorder for young people over 18 years old who have been in local authority care. [HL1773]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No assessment has been made of access to mental health professionals with a specialism in attachment disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or autism spectrum disorder for young people over 18 years old who have been in local authority care.

### **Middle East: British Nationals Abroad**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British nationals are estimated to have travelled abroad to Syria and Iraq to join extremist groups since October 2014; how many have since returned to the United Kingdom; and what is the total number of such people who remain in Syria. [HL1648]

**Lord Bates:** Around 700 people who are of concern to the Police and Security Services are thought to have



travelled to the region since the start of the conflict. We estimate that around half of those have returned.

### Military Aid

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list the countries where the United Kingdom is providing training to foreign armed forces; and of those training missions, whether they will list those which include training in preventing and responding to sexual violence. [1] [HL1594]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lady to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces (Penny Mordaunt) in the House of Commons on 2 July 2015 to Question number 4649 to the hon. Member for Cardiff South and Penarth (Stephen Doughty).

Further to this, I attach two tables which detail the countries receiving training in preventing and responding to sexual violence.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Armed Forces Training [Hansard Extract 2 July 2015.doc]

PSVI Training [20150727\_PSVI training answer (2)[1].doc]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-17/HL1594>

### Military Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the size of the combat air fleet of the Royal Air Force at the end of each of the next 10 years. [HL1760]

**Earl Howe:** The overall size of the combat air fleet for the next decade is being considered as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015.

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress the Ministry of Defence has made in examining the requirement for a maritime patrol aircraft; and if such an asset is procured, in which Command responsibility for operation would be vested. [HL1803]

**Earl Howe:** Consideration of the requirement for a maritime patrol aircraft is ongoing, and we continue to assemble evidence and perform analytical studies. A decision on whether or not to acquire an aircraft has yet to be taken.

### Ministers: Pay

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) Ministers of State, and (2) Parliamentary Under-

Secretaries of State, in the House of Lords are presently unpaid. [HL1666]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** There are three unpaid Ministers of State and three unpaid Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State in the House of Lords. A full list of ministers by department is already in the public domain on the [gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>.

### Ministry of Defence: Public Bodies

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what organisations have been established in the last five years by the Ministry of Defence that are wholly funded from within its budget; and which of those are not subject to civil service pay scales, terms or conditions, and why. [HL1801]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has set up two arm's length organisations in the last five years that are wholly funded from within its budget.

Defence Equipment and Support was set up as a bespoke trading entity on 1 April 2014. It has a number of freedoms and flexibilities to manage its own business, outputs and workforce within an operating cost envelope set to drive significant efficiencies. This includes the freedom to implement its own pay and grading structures to reflect the highly specialised labour market in which it operates.

The Single Source Regulations Office (SSRO) was established by the Defence Reform Act (DRA) 2014. The SSRO is wholly funded from within the MOD budget, via grant-in-aid. SSRO employees are not subject to civil service pay scales, terms and conditions. The DRA specifies that SSRO employees are not in the civil service of the state, ensuring the independent discharge of their duties.

### Mohamed Nasheed

*Asked by Lord Bilimoria*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to secure the release of Mohammed Nasheed, former President of the Maldives. [HL1414]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), regularly raises former President Nasheed's case, and those of others, with the Maldivian government, as has the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron). Both individually met Mr Nasheed's wife and representatives of his legal team on 24 June, after which the Prime Minister called for the release of all political prisoners in the Maldives, including Mr Nasheed. Mr Swire has also discussed these matters with the Commonwealth Secretary General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and many other concerned international partners.

## Money Laundering

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to require estate agents to carry out anti-money-laundering due diligence checks on the purchaser of a property, in addition to those they carry out on the seller. [HL1806]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government will consult this year on transposing the 4th EU Money Laundering Directive in order to comply with the revised global standards of the Financial Action Task Force. We will use this to consult on other changes to improve the effectiveness of the UK's anti-money laundering and counter terrorist finance regime, including whether or not to require estate agents to conduct due diligence on the buyer as well as the seller of a property.

The Government is committed to protecting the financial system and national security, through effective and proportionate use of financial sanctions, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist and proliferation finance measures. All those dealing with property transactions in the UK, including banks, lawyers and estate agents, are required to actively detect and prevent money laundering including reporting suspicious activity to the National Crime Agency and conducting customer due diligence using a risk-based approach.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to introduce a cap on cash payments for property, in addition to existing anti-money-laundering measures. [HL1808]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government does not currently have plans to introduce a cap on cash payments for property.

However, the Government will consult later this year on the transposition of the 4<sup>th</sup> EU Money Laundering Directive which is compatible with the revised global standards of the Financial Action Task Force. We will use this consultation to propose changes to improve the effectiveness of the UK's anti-money laundering and counter terrorist finance regime.

The Government is committed to protecting the financial system and national security through effective and proportionate use of financial sanctions, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist and proliferation finance measures. All those dealing with property transactions in the UK, including banks, lawyers and estate agents, are required to actively detect and prevent money laundering including by reporting suspicious activity to the National Crime Agency and by conducting customer due diligence using a risk-based approach.

## Monitor: Pay

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the new chief executive officer of Monitor will receive a remuneration package higher than the Prime Minister's salary. [HL1401]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The remuneration package will be commensurate with the responsibilities that this position entails.

## Motor Neurone Disease

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what step they are taking to ensure appropriate and timely access to communication support for persons living with Motor Neurone Disease. [HL1693]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Since 1 April 2013, NHS England has been responsible for commissioning augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) aids for patients with complex disability, such as motor neurone disease. Prior to this, there was no national AAC service which resulted in variation in provision of specialised AAC services and inequitable access for patients.

As the commissioner of specialised AAC services, NHS England is committed to improving access to the specialist assessments and equipment. Over the past two years it has worked hard to assess the levels of specialised AAC provision and levels of need and agree contracts with providers to deliver the new, national service. NHS England has allocated a £15 million recurring budget for the commissioning of AAC services for 2015/16 which builds on a part year allocation provided in 2014/15. All 13 AAC providers are accepting referrals and assessments are being offered to patients. Priority is being given to patients who have a life limiting condition and providers are working to ensure patients have timely access to assessment and services.

## Motor Vehicles: Litter

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the results of the scoping study on littering from vehicles; and when they plan to make regulations for littering from vehicles under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. [HL1471]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The scoping study into the most cost-effective and proportionate means to gather evidence about Local Authority enforcement action against littering from vehicles concluded in March. We are considering the findings and plan to publish the report this autumn along with the Government response to the recent Communities & Local Government Select Committee inquiry into Litter & Fly-tipping.

We fully support action to tackle littering, reflected in our manifesto commitment to review the case for increasing the fines for littering. Equally, the Government is committed to introducing new regulation only where necessary, when it can be proven to be more effective than current or non-regulatory approaches and provided new regulation can be implemented in a way that is proportionate, consistent, transparent and targeted. We must ensure that any new regulations on littering from vehicles are shaped to the needs of Local Authorities, and will deliver a real improvement on the current law.

### Motorways: Accidents

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many motorway accidents there were in 2013–14; and how many of those involved heavy goods vehicles. [HL1575]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The table below gives the number of personal-injury accidents that occurred on motorways in Great Britain (including motorways with a designation of A(M)) in 2013 and 2014 that were reported to the police. The final column indicates how many of the reported accidents involved at least one heavy goods vehicle (HGV).

	<i>Reported accidents</i>	<i>of which involved at least one HGV</i>
2013	5,397	1,261
2014	5,630	1,312

Police reported accidents do not include any damage-only incidents. Not all accidents are reported to the police, therefore these figures do not represent a full count of all collisions or accidents that took place on motorways in 2013 and 2014.

### Motorways: Outdoor Advertising

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what regulations they are considering to restrict high intensity lit advertising for goods and services over motorways in urban locations. [HL1671]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government have no plans to introduce regulations to restrict high intensity lit advertising over motorways for goods and services at this time.

### Muscular Dystrophy: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make Translarna available for the treatment of NHS patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy as a matter of urgency. [HL1761]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England published its investment decisions for certain specialised services on 2 July 2015.

NHS England has agreed with the recommendations from NHS England's Clinical Priorities Advisory Group that a final funding decision on Ataluren (Translarna) for Duchenne muscular dystrophy should be made after the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has concluded its Highly Specialised Technology Appraisal process.

NICE is expected to produce draft guidance on Ataluren (Translarna) in October, with final guidance to follow shortly after. The European medicines regulator has also asked the manufacturer to undertake further studies of the treatment for completion in October.

There is also a process which allows for the consideration of critically clinically urgent cases falling outside of routine commissioned provision.

### Namibia: Germany

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Germany regarding the return of items, including human skulls, taken from German South-West Africa in the early twentieth century and exported to European institutions. [HL1412]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government has not held discussions with the German Government on this matter.

### National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

*Asked by Lord Mancroft*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is possible to amend the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's process and methodology for technology appraisals midway through an appraisal. [HL1512]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has advised that it follows the processes and methodology set out in its published guidance development manuals. NICE's processes are sufficiently flexible to enable it to respond to unique situations that arise within an appraisal. There have been occasions where changes to the published processes have been introduced during an ongoing appraisal. In such cases, full consultation with stakeholders on substantive changes have taken place before their implementation.

## National Mental Capacity Forum

Asked by **Lord Hardie**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Faulks on 10 March (HL Deb, col 646) about the recruitment of a chair of the national mental capacity forum, (1) when the recruitment process was first advertised in national publications by inviting applications for the post; (2) what was the specification of the duties of the chair; (3) whether they will provide a copy of the advertisement; and (4) what stage has been reached in the appointment process. [HL1468]

**Lord Faulks:** The advert for the post of chair was advertised on the Cabinet Office's Centre for Public Appointments website on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, and is attached. The advert contains the duties of the chair.

We are at the final stages of the recruitment process and will announce the successful candidate after summer recess as we need to allow a 5 week period for the appropriate vetting process to be completed.

Discussions on the membership and composition of the forum will take place with the new chair immediately after the completion of an appointment. We expect the process of determining membership to be complete by the end of September and will hope to convene the first meeting of the forum in November.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Advert for the Post of Chair [Advert for the Post of Chair.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-15/HL1468>

Asked by **Lord Hardie**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Faulks on 10 March (HL Deb, col 646) about the creation of the national mental capacity forum, (1) whether an appointment has been made to the chair of that forum, and if not, when they expect to make such an appointment; (2) how soon after the appointment of the chair they expect the membership and composition of the forum to be discussed; (3) when they expect the process of determining membership to be completed; and (4) on what date they expect the forum to first meet. [HL1469]

**Lord Faulks:** The advert for the post of chair was advertised on the Cabinet Office's Centre for Public Appointments website on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, and is attached. The advert contains the duties of the chair.

We are at the final stages of the recruitment process and will announce the successful candidate after summer recess as we need to allow a 5 week period for the appropriate vetting process to be completed.

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## National Police Air Service

Asked by **Lord Scriven**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take in response to the National Police Air Service London tweeting a picture of Michael McIntyre from a helicopter surveillance camera team, in the light of the Surveillance Camera Commissioners Code of Practice. [HL1571]

**Lord Bates:** The National Police Air Service (NPAS) is a police-led, operational initiative. West Yorkshire Police is the lead body on behalf of the national collaboration, accountable to the NPAS Strategic Board.

The Surveillance Camera Commissioner is in contact with NPAS to ensure that their use of surveillance camera systems is in line with the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice issued by the Home Secretary under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. He will also be meeting the National Police Lead on CCTV to discuss wider issues.

NPAS have publicly acknowledged the need to demonstrate that their activities are ethical and carried out in the public interest. An investigation will be carried out by the Professional Standards Department of West Yorkshire Police into the actions of the helicopter crew concerned. This incident should not detract from the vital work of NPAS across the country in fighting crime and keeping communities safe.

## NATO

Asked by **Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many copies of the NATO Fact Sheet "Russia's top five myths about NATO" have been circulated (1) in the United Kingdom, and (2) to members of both Houses of Parliament. [HL1452]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government has not circulated any North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) fact sheets in the UK or to Members of Parliament or the House of Lords. However, we do commend them to all Members as an excellent resource, and I attach NATO's "Russia's top five myths about NATO" fact sheet to this answer and am placing a copy of it in the Library of the House. This and other fact sheets are freely available on NATO's website. NATO's own figures show that around 7700 UK-based users have accessed its "NATO-Russia relations: the facts" webpage,



while many thousands more have engaged with its content via social media. Additionally, since the start of the Russia/Ukraine crisis the Government has regularly exposed Russian myths through social media, including promoting NATO's myth busting content. We will look for further opportunities to bring such valuable info to the attention of this House.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

fact sheet 'Russia's top five myths about NATO' [NATO FACT SHEET -russia-top5-myths.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-14/HL1452>

*Asked by Lord Robertson of Port Ellen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been spent on publicising NATO and its role in the United Kingdom for each of the last three years. [HL1453]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The information requested is not held centrally in the format requested, and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

*Asked by Lord Robertson of Port Ellen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of zero nominal growth in NATO's civil budget on the additional tasks given to NATO at the Wales Summit. [HL1454]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government places the highest priority on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) delivering the commitments made at the Wales Summit, which will strengthen the Alliance to ensure it is able to respond to the full range of new and emerging threats. Good progress has been made in 2015 towards delivering the Wales package with Zero Nominal Growth civil budgets in place. For example NATO has reprioritised resources towards Cyber Defence, enabling its funding to rise by 116 per cent within existing resources. The NATO Civil Budget for 2016 remains under discussion, but we are pressing NATO to continue to prioritise resources as necessary towards delivering the Wales agenda. We support the Secretary General's drive for adaptation of the organisation, which we hope will promote greater prioritisation and smarter use of resources, allowing NATO to respond quickly to evolving security challenges.

## NATO: Finance

*Asked by Lord Robertson of Port Ellen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the United Kingdom contribution to NATO's civil budget in each of the last five years. [HL1480]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The figures for the last 5 years for which they are available are in the table below:

DATE (UK FINANCIAL YEAR)	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
UK CONTRIBUTION TO NATO CIVIL BUDGET (£GBP)	21,304,775.80	22,629,075.15	19,213,066.08	19,391,543.64	18,438,652.39

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Civil Budget ceiling has been maintained at Zero Nominal Growth for the last five years, with the exception of pensions. The UK contribution to the civil budget each year takes account of other variables: monthly amendments to account for changes in the official exchange rate between the pound and the Euro; NATO adjustments to the call for contributions from Allies to allow for an offset of income received by NATO such as bank interest and for under spends on the budget; and adjustments in the percentage contribution attributable to the UK, which are calculated biannually on the basis of countries' Growth National Income, and on the number of NATO members contributing.

## Network Rail

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which studies or investigations are currently examining past, present or future issues relating to Network Rail; who commissioned each study or investigation; and what are the names of the study or investigation leaders, terms of reference and planned reporting dates for each. [HL1318]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has recently commissioned three pieces of work looking into Network Rail:

- Dame Colette Bowe is looking at what lessons can be learnt from the planning of the Control Period 5 programme in order to improve future rail infrastructure investment. This will report in September.

- Sir Peter Hendy is looking at how we can put the current investment programme back on a sustainable footing. This will also report in the autumn.

- Nicola Shaw will look to the future: advising the government on how it should approach the future shape and financing of Network Rail in the longer term. This will report in time for Budget 2016.

The terms of reference for Bowe are available in the Libraries of the House. Those for Shaw will also be placed in the Libraries of the House. Terms of reference for Hendy have not been published.

Network Rail and the Office of Rail and Road are also conducting their own reviews internally. Any terms of reference are held by the respective organisations.

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the appropriateness of Network Rail senior executives investigating the sale of part of the company to private investors. [HL1547]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Day-to-day business decisions are a matter for Network Rail management, within the structure of the Framework Agreement. The longer-term future shape and financing of the company are the responsibility of government. Nicola Shaw, Chief Executive of High Speed 1, has been asked to advise on how the government should approach these matters.

*Asked by Lord Snape*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make further changes at board level at Network Rail. [HL1746]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Secretary of State for Transport's direct powers in relation to Network Rail's Board are the rights to appoint or remove the Chair and the Special Director. Decisions on both of these posts were announced on 25 June and have taken effect.

Other changes to Network Rail's Board are a matter for Network Rail in consultation with the Secretary of State. As it said in its Annual Report, Network Rail is currently in the process of recruiting a new Non-Executive Director with railway experience.

*Asked by Lord Snape*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current financial stability of Network Rail and its impact on improvements to the railway system, in the light of increasing demand for passenger and freight services; and whether they plan to take further action to restructure the company if the recently commissioned review so recommends. [HL1747]

*Asked by Lord Snape*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that any further private sector involvement in Network Rail takes place only after detailed consideration and consultation with the industry and the relevant trade unions; and what assessment they have made of whether the complete privatisation of the company is either feasible or desirable. [HL1748]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The government has asked Sir Peter Hendy, Network Rail Chairman, to lead a review into Network Rail's investment programme. This will be completed by Autumn 2015.

The government has also asked Nicola Shaw, Chief Executive of High Speed 1, to advise on the longer-term future shape and financing of Network Rail. This work will report in time for Budget 2016.

## Network Rail: Property

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Rothschild's regarding their study into Network Rail's commercial property portfolio. [HL1316]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Ministers and officials meet Rothschild and other financial advisors from time to time. Departmental Ministers and officials have held no meetings with Rothschild specifically on their study into Network Rail's commercial property portfolio.

## NHS: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the remarks by the NHS England Clinical Director of Specialised Services that the National Health Service will not be able to afford many new drugs and treatments are consistent with (1) the statutory duty placed on NHS England to encourage innovation, and (2) the agreement with the pharmaceutical industry to hold down costs over a five-year period. [HL1404]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No such assessment has been made.

As a statutory organisation, it is for NHS England to ensure that its actions are in compliance with its statutory duties.

The Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) Payments for England all go back into spending on improving patients' health and care. The Department includes the expected PPRS Payments in setting the NHS England allocations in advance of each year.

*Asked by Lord Mancroft*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Accelerated Access Review will publish its views on the potential assessment of affordability in relation to the appraisal of new medicines. [HL1513]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Accelerated Access Review will publish its interim recommendations by the autumn, and further recommendations in December.

## NHS: Laboratories

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many National Health Service laboratories have full International Organization for Standards certification; and when they expect those not reaching the necessary standards to be certified. [HL1367]

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many National Health Service laboratories are currently in service; how many have been inspected by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service since 2010; and on how many occasions. [HL1368]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not collected centrally.

**NHS: Negligence***Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the change in the annual cost of clinical negligence; and what plans they have in place to reduce costs arising out of clinical negligence. [HL1362]

*Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to reform the rules relating to claimant expert reports covered by after-the-event insurance in clinical negligence cases. [HL1363]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government is concerned about the rising cost of clinical negligence claims and is working with the NHS Litigation Authority, the wider National Health Service and others on ways to reduce the litigation bill in order to save money which would be better spent on patient care.

The costs of after-the-event insurance will be considered as part of this work.

In addition, the Department announced plans on 28 June 2015 to consult formally on the introduction of fixed recoverable costs for clinical negligence claims, with a view to reducing how much claimants' lawyers can claim in costs in lower value claims.

The announcement on 28 June 2015 was posted on the Department's Media Centre social media channel, 'dhmediacentre.tumblr.com'. The text of the announcement was as follows:

**Government to cap excessive legal fees in clinical negligence cases**

Excessive legal fees charged by lawyers in clinical negligence claims could be capped as part of Department of Health plans to save the NHS up to £80 million a year.

- Health Minister, Ben Gummer, has today outlined the plans following a letter to the Master of the Rolls.

- In 2013/14 claimant lawyers charged the NHS Litigation Authority (NHS LA) £259million in legal fees for clinical negligence claims.

- Currently, there is no limit on legal fees even if the compensation claim is small, meaning lawyers can claim extortionate fees for low-cost cases.

- In one case, a lawyer charged £175,000 while the patient received just £11,800 in damages.

- In another, the legal bill was more than £80,000 while the patient only received £1,000 — the legal bill was later reduced to less than £5,000 by the courts after a successful challenge by NHS LA. Taking cost claims to courts is a time and cost-consuming process in itself and could be avoided if fixed costs are introduced.

- NHS LA has saved the NHS more than £74 million by challenging excessive legal costs in 2013/14 but these new DH proposals to put strict limits on legal bills will help them further.

- Proposals include fixing legal costs for claims up to £100,000. The lawyer's fee would reflect a percentage of the compensation received by the patient so that it is proportionate.

- Limits have already been introduced for other areas of personal injury claims such as road traffic accidents and employers' and public liability.

- The detailed proposals are being considered by Ministers ahead of a formal consultation in the autumn.

- These plans follow recent announcements by DH on other tough new financial controls to cut down on waste in the NHS and save money which could be spent on patient care.

Health Minister, Ben Gummer, said:

"Safe, compassionate care is my utmost priority and to achieve this, the NHS must make sure every penny counts. Unscrupulously, some lawyers have used patient claims to load grossly excessive costs onto the NHS and charge far more than the patient receives in compensation.

"Our One Nation approach is about being on the side of hardworking taxpayers and these financial controls will ensure money is pumped back into patient care."

**NHS: Staff***Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish correspondence since 7 May between the Department of Health and (1) Monitor, (2) NHS England, and (3) the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, regarding safe staffing levels; and whether they plan to publish the details of all meetings at the Department of Health at which safe staffing was discussed. [HL1645]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the timetable is for the completion of the work by NHS England on safe staffing levels in accident and emergency care. [HL1646]

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the work on safe nurse staffing guidance being carried out by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence was suspended. [HL1694]

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether NHS England has the resources to produce independent guidance on safe nurse staffing levels. [HL1695]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In my oral answer to the Noble Lord Hunt of Kings Heath on 13 July 2015, *Official Report*, column 345, I said that "the Government are committed to supporting NHS trusts to put in place sustained safe staffing by using their resources as effectively as possible for patients. The existing National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance on maternity settings and acute in-patient wards will continue to be used by NHS trusts. NHS England, working with NICE and other national organisations, will continue with this work in other areas of care and other healthcare professional groups".

Subsequently, the Secretary of State announced that the responsibility for safe staffing will be taken forward by Dr Mike Durkin as part of the decision to transfer the national functions for safety to NHS Improvement. Dr Durkin will work with the Chief Nursing Officer to complete the work started by NICE on safe staffing levels. This work will be reviewed independently by NICE, the Chief Inspector of hospitals, and Sir Robert Francis to ensure it meets the high standards of care the NHS aspires to.

Future plans for safe staffing work will be developed in due course.

Ministers and officials in the Department hold regular discussions with colleagues from Monitor, NHS England and NICE on a range of issues including safe staffing. We have no plans to publish details of these meetings or correspondence between these organisations on this issue.

### Non-domestic Rates

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce business rates. [HL1709]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We announced at the 2014 Autumn Statement an extra £650 million of support for 2015-16 business rates bills in England, bringing the total support from 2013 and 2014 Autumn Statement measures to £1.4 billion in 2015-16. That includes:

- doubling Small Business Rate Relief for a further year;
- a 2% cap on the inflation increase for 2015-16 (for the second year);
- increasing the temporary discount for shops, pubs and restaurants with rateable values below £50,000 from £1,000 to £1,500 for 2015-16;
- extending the existing transitional relief scheme for two years for properties with a rateable value up to and including £50,000; and
- limiting backdating of bills arising from changes to the rateable values list.

We are also conducting a review of business rates which will conclude by the end of this year.

### North Korea: Biological Weapons

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by 38 North that North Korea has the capacity to make anthrax; and what assessment they have made of claims by Im Cheon-Yong that anthrax and other biological agents have been tested on North Korean citizens, including disabled people. [HL1522]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a State Party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Under the Convention it is prohibited from developing, producing and stockpiling biological and toxin weapons, which include anthrax. As a confidence building measure, States should submit annual returns to report implementation of the Convention, but the DPRK has only ever submitted one such return (in 1990). This makes it extremely difficult for the international community to have confidence that they are meeting their obligations under the Convention.

We are aware of claims by Im Cheon-Yong, a former DPRK Special Forces officer who defected in the mid-1990s. The UN Commission of Inquiry into human rights violations in the DPRK considered this issue in their 2014 report but received no first-hand accounts. The Commission concluded it was not in a position to confirm these allegations, but noted them as subjects for further investigation.

### North Korea: Children

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the 2014 annual report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimated that the number of North Korean children being treated for severe acute malnutrition increased by 38 per cent in 2014; what assessment they have made of the reasons for this; what assessment they have made of the percentage of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's budget used for the health and wellbeing of children; and what information they have about how the government of North Korea is addressing the issue. [HL1631]

**Baroness Verma:** The UN's Needs and Priorities report for 2015 states that approximately 70 per cent of the DPRK population are food insecure and highly vulnerable to shortages in food production, which "is hampered by a lack of agricultural inputs, such as soybean seeds, fertilizer and plastic sheets". It lists the chronic malnutrition (stunting) rate amongst children under-five as 27.9 per cent (about 540,000) and the acutely



malnourished (wasting) rate as four per cent of children under-five (about 90,000).

During the Third Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly held on 9 April 2015, the DPRK announced an overall increase in state budget of 5.5% (from 2014 figures), although no specific details regarding budget allocation were given.

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has provided funding to sustain emergency aid operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In 2014 CERF allocated US\$ 6.5 million funding to the DPRK, of which the UK contributed 24%. This included support for nutrition and food security.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

DPR Korea 2015 Needs and Priorities [DPR Korea 2015 Needs and Priorities.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-20/HL1631>

### Notifiable Diseases: Detainees

Asked by *Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases or outbreaks of reportable diseases in prisons and immigration removal centres have occurred in each of the last three years. [HL1500]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public Health England (PHE) receives reports from prisons and immigration removal centre on cases or outbreaks of reportable diseases.

The numbers of reportable single cases of infection per setting from 2012-2014 reported to PHE are presented in the table below.

Custodial setting	Year		
	2014	2013	2012
Prisons	1,208	1,630	600
Immigration Removal Centres	60	38	30

Note: the increase in reported cases in prisons from 2012-2013 is due to improvements in reporting Hepatitis C infection. There were over 300 cases of hepatitis C reported during 2013.

The number of outbreaks of infection in prisons and immigration removal centres reported to PHE from 2012-14 are presented in the table below.

Custodial setting	Year		
	2014	2013	2012
Prisons	26	21	26
Immigration Removal Centres	3	2	1

### Nuclear Power Stations: Cumbria

Asked by *Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of their decision to endorse the site at Moorside in West

Cumbria for the construction of a new nuclear power station, what action they are taking to ensure that any consequent or related infrastructure, including that proposed by National Grid, fully complies with the law and with the undertakings of the government that landscapes designated as of the highest quality, including the landscapes of the National Park, should be protected and not damaged by electricity infrastructure development. [HL1706]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Moorside is one of the eight sites listed as potentially suitable for the construction of new nuclear power stations in the Nuclear National Policy Statement published in 2011. In the event of an application for development consent being made, the Nuclear National Policy Statement sets out how the Planning Inspectorate should consider impacts, including at section 3.10, landscape and visual impacts, before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State. Section 2.8 of the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure makes similar provisions for related Grid developments. The Energy National Policy Statements are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statements-for-energy-infrastructure>

### Nuclear Power Stations: Insurance

Asked by *Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there is sufficient capacity in the United Kingdom and European insurance markets, or elsewhere, to meet the requirements of the operators and contractors of planned nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom. [HL1553]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Government is in regular contact with the insurance market to discuss the provision of insurance for nuclear operators' third party liabilities, including for planned nuclear power stations in the United Kingdom. At present there is predicted to be sufficient capacity in the market, although the availability of such insurance will always depend on the circumstances at the time. Government will continue to monitor the insurance market for capacity in this area and to encourage insurers to enter the nuclear insurance market.

### Nutrition: Surveys

Asked by *Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how old were the blood samples used in the recent National Diet and Nutrition Survey published on 20 March, broken down by age, gender, and country of collection. [HL1409]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The blood samples analysed as part of the National Diet and Nutrition Survey to produce the United Kingdom, Scotland and Northern Ireland results for folate status published on 20 March were collected over four years between May 2008 and

June 2012. Blood samples used to produce results for Wales were collected between July 2009 and June 2013. For all samples, analysis for serum folate was carried out in 2012-2013 and for whole blood folate in 2014.

The survey was designed to be representative of the UK population within each year and as such the distribution of blood samples by age and sex was approximately the same each year. The blood folate results reported in 2015 were based on analysis of 2,526 blood samples for serum folate and 2,475 samples for red cell folate. The breakdown by survey year, by age and sex and by country is shown in the tables below.

<i>Survey Year</i>	<i>Serum folate</i>	<i>Whole blood folate</i>
Year 1 (2008/09)	520	455
Year 2 (2009/10)	626	599
Year 3 (2010/11)	560	557
Year 4 (2011/12)	741	788
Year 5 (2012/13)*	79	76
Total	2,526	2,475

\* Wales only

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Serum folate</i>		<i>Whole blood folate</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1.5-3 years	38 (M&F combined)		36 (M&F combined)	
4-10 years	125	108	120	110
11-18 years	279	258	274	259
19-64 years	561	801	557	778
65 years +	150	206	144	197
<i>Country</i>	<i>Serum folate</i>		<i>Red cell folate</i>	
England	1,222		1,186	
Scotland	618		616	
Wales	341		328	
Northern Ireland	345		345	
Total UK	2,526		2,475	

## Occupational Pensions: LGBT People

*Asked by Lord Cashman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Altmann on 13 July stating that the total cost of equalising survivor benefit payments would amount to £3.3 billion (HL Deb, col 343), what assessment they have made of the cost of equalising payments specifically on the grounds of sexual orientation; and whether they consider those costs to be prohibitive. [HL1778]

**Baroness Altmann:** The capitalised cost of eliminating all differences in survivor benefits because of sexual orientation is estimated at £120 million, as set out in the

Review of Survivor Benefits in Occupational Pension Schemes.

Although all differences because of sexual orientation in the provision of survivor benefits would be eliminated, differences because of sex would remain. This would mean that there would be differences in treatment between male same sex couples and female same sex couples. This is because male same sex couples would receive survivor benefits based on accruals from 1988 (in line with widowers of an opposite sex marriage), with female same sex couples receiving them based on accruals from 1978 (in line with widows of an opposite sex marriage).

The Government must take into account the costs and all other effects of reducing or eliminating differences before deciding on whether the law should be changed.

## Open Water Market

*Asked by Lord Whitty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much public funding has been spent on Open Water, and why it has been wound up and the Open Water programme taken over by Ofwat and Market Operating Services Limited. [HL1360]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Open Water is the programme responsible for the design and delivery of the new retail market. It has not been wound up. It includes the work of Defra, Ofwat, and Market Operator Services Limited (MOSL), which is a private company owned by market participants. MOSL's precursor, Open Water Markets Limited, is being wound-up, following the transition of the majority of its functions to MOSL.

For further information please see Ofwat's information notice IN 15/08 (Opening a new retail market for non-household customers – roles, responsibilities and governance for the Open Water programme after May 2015). This is available on Ofwat's website.

The Open Water programme is funded by contributions from water and sewerage companies. In June 2015, Open Water published an update on the programme budget (Revised budget for implementing the new water and wastewater retail services market in England – the Open Water programme), which is available on Ofwat's website.

## Organs: Donors

*Asked by Lord Condon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to encourage organ donation. [HL1779]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We are supporting a number of initiatives to raise awareness and to encourage more people to consent to organ donation.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) launched a new United Kingdom wide organ donation and transplantation strategy in July 2013. *Taking Organ Transplantation to*

2020 was developed by NHSBT and the four UK Health Departments. The strategy sets the agenda for increasing organ donation and transplantation rates to world class standards over the next few years.

In 2014 NHSBT ran a successful campaign during National Transplant Week entitled 'Spell it out'. This encouraged people to tell their friends and family once they have signed up to the Organ Donation Register (ODR). Last year's campaign achieved higher levels of social media engagement than ever before, and media coverage reached 82% of adults. This year National Transplant Week takes place 7 – 13 September.

In July we also launched a modern ODR system which will enable people to make their wishes about donation much clearer and also link better with social media and donation partners, record more information such as ethnicity and religion and promote organ donation across the UK.

The Department also supports a number of initiatives to raise awareness in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities to become donors. Less than 5% of deceased organ donors are BAME, yet patients from BAME communities represent around a quarter of people waiting for a transplant.

NHSBT also works collaboratively with a number of partners in the private, public and third sectors to promote organ donation, such as Boots Advantage Card. People can also add their name to the ODR via Government-owned channels such as applying for a driving licence and paying car tax online.

### Overseas Aid

*Asked by **The Earl of Sandwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the Department for International Development budget in the last two financial years was allocated to (1) British non-governmental aid organisations, and (2) indigenous non-governmental aid organisations directly assisted in-country by the Department; and how much was similarly allocated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence. [HL1829]

**Baroness Verma:** Information on all UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) is only available on a calendar year basis.

The percentage of total DFID and FCO Bilateral ODA disbursed through UK based non-governmental organisations (NGO's) for 2012 and 2013, the last years for which figures are available.

Year	% Total DFID ODA	% Total FCO ODA
2012	8%	3%
2013	10%	3%

The percentage of total DFID and FCO Bilateral ODA disbursed through developing-country based NGO's for 2012 and 2013.

Year	% Total DFID ODA	% Total FCO ODA
2012	2%	2%
2013	3%	1%

The Ministry of Defence did not disburse ODA to non-governmental organisations during 2012 or 2013.

### Overseas Students: Visas

*Asked by **Lord Stevenson of Balmacara***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list, for each of the last four calendar years, (1) each accredited United Kingdom higher education institution's visa refusal rate; (2) the number of students initially sponsored by each institution under Tier 4 who later went on to claim asylum in the United Kingdom; and (3) the number of students initially sponsored by each institution under Tier 4 who were later subject to enforcement action. [HL1720]

**Lord Bates:** We do not hold the data in a format which would allow us to answer the questions and we have estimated that to obtain the necessary information would incur disproportionate cost.

### Overseas Trade

*Asked by **The Earl of Dundee***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of opportunities to revive previous Hanseatic League trade routes between the United Kingdom and Europe; and in particular what (1) marketing research has been undertaken, (2) commercial arrangements have been forged, and (3) support has been given to United Kingdom ports and shipping, in relation to those opportunities. [HL1841]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** UK Trade and Investment works with UK based businesses to ensure their success in international markets through exports. UKTI services are available in all European markets subject to the prevailing political climate; there is no specific focus on reviving Hanseatic League trade routes.

### Overseas Trade: Greece

*Asked by **Lord Radice***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of total annual British imports from, and exports to, Greece. [HL1674]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** The total value of UK imports from Greece was £2.6 billion in 2013. This comprised of £0.8 billion imports of goods and £1.9 billion imports of services.

The total value of UK exports to Greece was £2.8 billion in 2013. This comprised of £1.5 billion exports of goods and £1.3 billion exports of services.

These data are taken from the United Kingdom Balance of Payments - The Pink Book 2014, available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/bop/united-kingdom-balance-of-payments/2014/index.html>

Data on the total value of UK trade with Greece for 2014 will be published in the Pink Book 2015, due for release 30 October 2015.

## Pain

*Asked by Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence is planning to publish guidelines on the treatment of chronic pain; and if so, when. [HL1445]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published several clinical guidelines on different health conditions which include the treatment and management of pain and chronic pain.

These include low back pain (CG88) and neuropathic pain (CG173). The clinical guideline on low back pain is currently being updated, with an expected publication date of November 2016. Copies of these guidelines have been attached.

NICE has been asked to develop a clinical guideline on pain management for young people and adults, but the schedule for this work has yet to be finalised. The provisional schedule will be made available on the NICE website in due course.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NICE Guideline CG173 [HL1445 NICE Guidelines CG173.pdf]

NICE Guideline CG88 [HL1445 NICE Guidelines CG88.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-14/HL1445>

## Pakistan: Muttahida Quami Movement

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the outcome of the recent raid on the headquarters of the Muttahida Quami Movement in Karachi, Pakistan, by Pakistani special forces. [HL1811]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK encourages efforts by the Government of Pakistan to strengthen the accountability of its security forces and to increase security in a way that is even-handed and consistent with international human rights obligations.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the televised speeches made by Altaf Hussain, leader of the Muttahida Quami Movement, who is based in London, which have been reported as inciting hatred and violence in Pakistan. [HL1812]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There is no place in the UK for the incitement of hatred or violence and we have strict laws in place to deal with this. Investigations of alleged crimes and any criminal prosecutions are a matter for the Metropolitan Police Service and the Crown Prosecution Service, who are operationally independent of Government.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that Pakistani special forces in Karachi found alleged terrorists in the headquarters of the Muttahida Quami Movement. [HL1813]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** This specific case is a matter for the Government of Pakistan. Increasing security and countering terrorism across Pakistan is in the interests of ordinary Pakistanis, regional stability and the UK. The Government is committed to partnering Pakistan in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, and will continue to support Pakistan in developing its capacity to deal with terrorism, and in addressing its root causes.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on relations between the United Kingdom and Pakistan of the presence in the United Kingdom of Altaf Hussain, leader of the Muttahida Quami Movement, who is alleged to have been involved in money laundering and terrorism. [HL1814]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK continues to support the Government of Pakistan in promoting good governance, economic development and stability in the interests of British and Pakistani national security and prosperity. Investigations of alleged crimes and any criminal prosecutions are a matter for the Metropolitan Police Service and the Crown Prosecution Service, who are operationally independent of Government.

## Pakistan: Religious Freedom

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to the authorities in Pakistan to ensure the protection of religious minorities across Pakistan; whether they plan to make representations to the government of Pakistan urging them to reform the blasphemy laws and to provide effective safeguards against their abuse; and whether they plan to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Asia Bibi, and take effective steps to guarantee her safety and that of her family. [HL1448]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We continue to urge the Government of Pakistan to fulfil the human rights obligations set out in the Constitution of Pakistan and international law, including those related to religious minorities.



In November 2014 the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), raised concerns about the application of blasphemy laws in Pakistan with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), raised similar concerns with Prime Minister Sharif in December 2014. In June 2015, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), conveyed to the High Commissioner for Pakistan our ongoing concern about the application of the blasphemy law in Pakistan. We will continue to follow closely developments related to freedom of belief and to engage the Pakistani authorities on this issue.

We remain deeply concerned about the case of Ms Asia Bibi. We continue to work through the EU to make clear to the Pakistani authorities and people the importance we attach to this case, and our concerns about the blasphemy laws in Pakistan more broadly.

### **Pakistan: Terrorism**

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the level of terrorist activity in Karachi, Pakistan, and whether there is any involvement by Al Qaeda, Taliban and the Muttahida Quami Movement. [HL1810]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There is a high threat from terrorism and other violence throughout Pakistan, including Karachi. The British Government regularly reviews the security situation in the country and is aware of reports of attacks claimed by various militant groups in Karachi. The main terrorist threat continues to come from Tehrik-e Taleban Pakistan (TTP) who have a mainly anti-state focus but also maintain, and have stated, an intent to launch attacks on western interests. Although Al Qaeda is diminished in Pakistan and under severe pressure, it is still capable of devising sophisticated attacks. Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) is a political party.

The Government is committed to partnering Pakistan in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, in the interests of both countries. We will continue to support Pakistan in developing its capacity to deal with terrorism, and in addressing its root causes.

### **Parades Commission**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the determinations by the Northern Ireland Parades Commission are not made available to the public. [HL1606]

**Lord Dunlop:** All determinations made by the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland are published on the Commission's website.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who selected the members of the Northern Ireland Parades Commission; and on what grounds those members were selected. [HL1607]

**Lord Dunlop:** In accordance with Schedule 1 of the Public Processions (NI) Act 1998, the Secretary of State appointed the Chair and members of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland, based on the recommendations of a selection panel, which included independent representation.

The appointments process was regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) and run in accordance with the Commissioner's Code of Practice.

The selection panel considered the suitability of all candidates against the published person specification and skill requirements:

*"Person Specification*

Outstanding individuals are sought to become Chair and members of the Parades Commission; people who can command the confidence of all sides of the community in Northern Ireland, act in controversial situations and determine courses of action, and assess the probability of future events and make clear and well informed judgements.

*Essential Skills*

Candidates for these demanding roles will need to demonstrate:-

§ The courage and conviction to take difficult but fair decisions in high profile and controversial circumstances;

§ The ability to build productive and respectful relationships with fellow Commissioners, colleagues and the communities which are impacted by the Commission's decisions; and

§ A reputation for personal integrity, professional conduct and credibility, with an exceptional sense of propriety.

In addition, candidates for the Chair role need to be able to show a strong track record of leadership, and the ability to broker consensus between senior stakeholders and opposing views."

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications there were in the most recent round of appointments to the Northern Ireland Parades Commission. [HL1608]

**Lord Dunlop:** The most recent public appointment process for the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland was launched during week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015; 68 applications were received and considered by the selection panel.

### Peers: Freemasonry

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask the Chairman of Committees whether Members of the House of Lords who are Freemasons are required to register that fact in the Register of Interests. [HL1474]

**Lord Sewel:** No. Paragraph 84 of the Guide to the Code of Conduct states that “Other non-financial interests are not normally registered, though it may be necessary in certain circumstances to declare them. Such interests include: other trusteeships, for example of private estates; unpaid ordinary membership of voluntary organisations or pressure groups; membership of churches or other religious bodies or organisations. The Registrar is available to advise Members in cases of uncertainty.”

### Pensions: Advisory Services

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government when they plan to publish information on the uptake and effectiveness of Pension Wise. [HL1525]

**Lord O’Neill of Gatley:** Since its launch in April, Pension Wise has helped nearly 950,000 people understand their options and make informed choices about what to do with their retirement savings. Nearly 18,000 free guidance appointments over the phone and face to face are being delivered and more than 925,000 people have used the Pension Wise website, with many people returning to the site regularly.

The government is closely monitoring the operation and effectiveness of the Pension Wise service. This ongoing monitoring is part of a wider programme of evaluation that the government is undertaking to ensure that Pension Wise is working effectively, delivers value for money, and meets consumer needs.

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the availability of affordable advice for savers wishing to exercise their new pension freedoms. [HL1526]

**Lord O’Neill of Gatley:** Pension Wise provides free and impartial guidance on what consumers can do with their pension pots, helping them make a decision which best suits their personal circumstances. The guidance encourages customers to think about how they can best provide for themselves in the future, and prompts them to think about how long their money needs to last.

As part of this, Pension Wise helps people understand when professional financial advice could be useful and how to access it by referring them to the Money Advice Service’s new Retirement Advisor Directory. The Directory helps people find a local advisor which serves their pot size, can provide a specialist type of retirement advice service, and displays information on whether they charge a minimum fee.

The government believes that it is vital that consumers should have access to professional financial advice if they need it, and supports the work of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to encourage the development of affordable models of advice to help service this need.

### Personal Income: Young People

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what plans they have to address income pressures on people aged under 25 in the light of the additional costs of student maintenance, reduced access to housing support and their ineligibility for the new National Living Wage. [HL1660]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The overall maintenance support available to students in loans will increase to the highest level ever for students from low-income households. The Government will also continue to provide maintenance loans to students from all backgrounds to cover the costs of living while studying. These loans are only repaid once borrowers’ earnings rise above £21,000.

The priority for younger workers under 25 is to gain skills and experience and secure work - something that is already reflected in the National Minimum Wage rate structure where the youth rate is currently £1.40 lower than the adult rate. Wages tend to increase through the early 20s as workers gain more experience. Therefore, the wages of younger workers will continue to be underpinned by the core National Minimum Wage as recommended by the Low Pay Commission at the highest possible level without affecting employment.

### Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

*Asked by Lord Northbourne*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to encourage and support maintained secondary schools in enabling all pupils, including those who are not academically talented, to develop the confidence and interpersonal skills that will help them towards success and wellbeing in adult life; and what steps they plan to take in the future. [HL1477]

**Lord Nash:** We have high aspirations for all children. In order to achieve their potential all children need strong academic skills, but also a strong set of complementary skills that will set them up for life in modern Britain. Schools should balance the provision of a rigorous academic curriculum with a broad range of additional activities, such as sport, volunteering and cultural activities, to develop character, resilience, confidence and interpersonal skills.

The Department for Education has committed £3.5 million as part of the Character Innovation Fund (announced in spring) to support 14 projects designed to help create a generation of confident, resilient young

people. We have also made £1 million available to the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to expand research into the most effective ways that character can be developed.

The DfE has invested over £460 million from 2012-2016 in a diverse portfolio of music and arts education programmes that improve access to the arts for all children regardless of their background and to develop talent across the country. This includes support for music education hubs which provides opportunities for children and young people to play in ensembles and develop singing strategies. Through playing a musical instrument, young people can learn perseverance and discipline and develop confidence, team-working and leadership skills.

Through the primary PE and sport premium, over £300 million of ring-fenced funding was paid direct to schools across academic years 2013/14 and 2014/15 to improve PE and sport. The Government has committed to continue this funding of £150 million a year until 2020. Independent research found that over 70% of schools used the funding to provide more extra-curricular activities and offer a wider range of sports. Through competitive sport young people can learn teamwork, perseverance, self-control, and sportsmanship.

### Pharmacy

*Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 14 July (HL1009), what reports the Department of Health has received in the last twelve months from the pharmaceutical industry about interruptions in the supply of drugs to United Kingdom pharmacies. [HL1681]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Reports from pharmaceutical companies about potential or impending medicines shortages are provided to the Department in confidence, as required by the joint Departmental/pharmaceutical industry guidance, *Notification and management of medicines shortages*. A copy of this document is attached. When advanced warning is received, we work with companies and others in the supply chain to explore the options for continued supply and many potential interruptions in the supply of medicines to United Kingdom pharmacies are avoided. When a shortage does occur, the Department expects companies to communicate with its customers and others as appropriate.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Notification and management of medicines shortages [HL1681  
Notification and management of medicine shortages.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-20/HL1681>

### Planning Permission

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which of the planning proposals set out in the document Fixing the Foundations will require primary legislation. [HL1556]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government's productivity plan 'Fixing the Foundations' indicates where further planning reforms are likely to require legislation. Details will be set out when the legislation is introduced in the autumn.

### Police National Computer

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which non-police prosecuting agencies have access to the Police National Computer via the Association of Chief Police Officer's Criminal Records Office; and what records are kept about, and audit made of, the use these agencies make of that facility. [HL1473]

**Lord Bates:** The ACRO Criminal Records Office (ACRO) does not provide direct access to the PNC. The following organisations are provided with information from the Police National Computer via ACRO: • Department for Business Innovation and Skills • Civil Aviation Authority • Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority • Environment Agency • Food Standards Agency • Gambling Commission • Maritime and Coastguard Agency • Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency • Middlesbrough Borough Council • Natural Resources Wales • Natural England • Office of Communication • Office of Rail Regulation • Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals • Security Industry Authority • Serious Fraud Office (Intelligence) • TM Eye Ltd

In order to use the service, non-police prosecuting agencies are required to submit a business case to ACRO that identifies the legal gateway for their need to access information held on the PNC, and the purpose for which the information will be used. The process is that, if agreed, a formal Information Sharing Agreement is drawn up setting out process arrangements, transmission requirements and relevant information management details.

Different levels of service are offered by ACRO. In the first instance, the non-police prosecuting agency is provided with information to assist with conduct of their investigation and latterly, should they decide to bring a prosecution, provided with information required by the prosecution, the defence and the court to support relevant criminal justice processes. ACRO's use of the PNC is audited by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

## Police: Biometrics

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 16 July (HL1344), in the light of the fact that some police forces, including the Metropolitan Police Service, have stopped adding faces to the National Database until the law has been clarified, why the Home Office has not yet distributed guidance about adding faces to the database until the review is complete. [HL1679]

**Lord Bates:** There are a number of police forces (including the Metropolitan Police Service) which do not, and never have, uploaded custody images to the Police National Database (PND). Of the Forces that have been uploading Custody Images to the PND, none have ceased doing so. Guidance on the operational uses of PND is issued by the National Police Chiefs Council.

## Ports: EU Action

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposed European Union port services regulation. [HL1578]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Regulation as initially proposed by the European Commission in May 2013 was ill-suited to the UK's thoroughly competitive ports industry and in that form would impose unacceptable regulatory burdens. Very significant improvements were, however, secured by the UK, working with other Member States, in the Council General Approach agreed in October 2014. The matter is now under consideration in the European Parliament. The Government will continue to scrutinize proposed amendments very carefully with a view to ensuring that UK trade, ports and shipping interests are not damaged by this legislation.

## Pregnancy

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the latest figures, including trends, for unplanned pregnancies, broken down by age and region. [HL1482]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave him on 21 July to Question HL1175.

Information on trends by age and region is not collected.

## Pregnant Women: Aviation

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what published scientific data there are regarding the risks to the unborn child of inhaling heated pyrolysed synthetic jet engine fumes. [HL1538]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Her Majesty's Government is not aware of any such data. However, Public Health England advise that the Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) have reviewed published data in 2007 and in 2013 data from four new research projects undertaken by Cranfield University relating to the cabin air environment, ill-health in aircraft crews and the possible relationship to smoke/fume events in aircraft.

Although this review focused on cabin crew the possibility of exposure of the passengers to fumes was considered. Passengers, and by extrapolation an unborn child, which spend much less time than crew in the environment are much less likely to be exposed to rare occurrences of fume episodes. Furthermore, the exposures detected in cabin air were similar to or lower than occupational (workplace) short-term exposure limits. Workplace exposure limits take into account susceptible groups and therefore would protect pregnant women.

## Prisoners: Age

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what projections they have made of the future age profile of the prison population. [HL1589]

**Lord Faulks:** The Ministry of Justice publish annual projections of the prison population broken down by juveniles (15-17 year olds), young adults (18-20 year olds) and adults (21+). These are published as part of the annual prison population projections.

The next release of this publication will be in November 2015, when it is planned to include further tables showing projections for populations aged over 50 years and over 60 years old.

## Prisoners: Radicalism

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made with regard to the running of the Ibaana Programme in prisons. [HL1769]

**Lord Faulks:** One of the Secretary of State's earliest priorities has been to look closely at the way in which the Ministry of Justice, and specifically the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), deals with the threat from extremism and radicalisation in prisons and probation, and whether the response to that threat is effective. It is clear that the threat is evolving and increasing globally and it is crucial that the response, not just in my department but across government, rises to the growing challenge.

As part of his initial assessment the Secretary of State decided to halt the proposed de-radicalisation programme Ibaana, as its approach is not consistent with the principles set out in the Prime Minister's speech in Munich in February 2011, and reinforced by his speech on 20 July 2015.



The Secretary of State has also asked the Ministry of Justice, supported by external expertise, to review our overall approach to dealing with Islamist extremism in prisons and probation. This will include considering whether the Ibaana programme should be replaced and if so what a replacement should look like.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to be closely involved in the cross government work currently underway on developing de-radicalisation programmes.

### Property: Registration

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to require companies registered abroad that intend to hold a property title in the United Kingdom to deliver to the Land Registry the same details that companies registered in the United Kingdom are required to deliver to Companies House. [HL1805]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Land Registry records the legal owner of a property in England and Wales. Where the registered owner is a company, Land Registry records the Companies House registration number for UK companies, or the territory of incorporation for overseas companies. This information can be accessed by the public. From 2016 all UK companies will have to register their beneficial owners at Companies House. So where a property is owned by a UK company, information on that company's beneficial ownership will be accessible, online and for free in the Register of People with Significant Control

The Prime Minister stated during a speech made in Singapore on 28 July, that he will consult on the best way forward to extending what we ask of UK companies to foreign companies

He has also asked Land Registry from this autumn to publish data on which foreign companies own which land and property titles in England and Wales.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to require the Land Registry to record the purchase price of all properties, including those where the transaction is in a foreign currency or where the price is not precisely stated. [HL1807]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Land Registry Rules state that a price paid or value declared must be entered where "practicable". Transactions in a foreign currency are not exempt from these Rules. With all transactions there may be situations where the entry of the price paid or value stated information may be considered misleading or not reasonable for the customer to provide.

There are currently no plans to change the current practice which is explained in full in Land Registry's Practice Guide 7, available on the GOV.UK website. This guide also describes how Land Registry deals with transactions where the price is not exactly stated.

### Prostate Cancer: Diagnosis

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to improve early diagnosis rates for prostate cancer. [HL1551]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Through the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme (PCRMP), Public Health England (PHE) is working to raise awareness of prostate cancer in men.

The Programme is in place to ensure that men over 50 without symptoms of prostate cancer can have a prostate specific antigen test free on the National Health Service after a discussion with a general practitioner and consideration of an evidence based leaflet.

PHE is currently reviewing the PCRMP.

### Public Expenditure

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which groups of the population are classified as vulnerable for public expenditure purposes. [HL1385]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The information requested is not available, given that statistics on government spending do not break down expenditure by vulnerability.

### Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of progress in implementing the economic pact agreed with the Northern Ireland Executive in June 2013. [HL1815]

**Earl of Courtown:** The first annual progress report on the economic pact was published last July. This set out improvements in access to finance, investments by the Green Investment Bank, and continuation of 100 per cent Assisted Area Status for Northern Ireland.

Further progress has been made and legislation passed to allow the devolution of corporation tax rate-setting powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The new tax-setting powers will only be commenced if the Executive parties put their finances on a long-term sustainable footing.

The Government will continue to work with the Executive on delivery across the economic pact and will publish a further update report following the summer recess.

### Public Sector: Borrowing

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how much public-sector borrowing

will grow up to 2018–19 as a consequence of the fiscal changes announced in the recent budget. [HL1710]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government has set out a strategy that reduces the deficit at the same rate again in this Parliament as over the previous Parliament - that means reducing the deficit by 1.1 per cent of GDP a year on average, for the next four years. While, as set out in the Office for Budget Responsibility's July Economic and Fiscal Outlook, borrowing is forecast to be £21 billion higher up to 2018-19, the resulting smoother fiscal path leads to a higher surplus and lower public sector net debt as a share of GDP, relative to the March Budget.

### Public Service Broadcasting

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish proposals regarding the repeal of section 73 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 following the recent consultation document on the balance of payments between television platforms and public service broadcasters. [HL1549]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government intends to publish its response to the Balance of Payments consultation later this year. The Government will set out its position in regards to section 73 in the response.

### Radicalism

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there is a link between Muslim extremism and United Kingdom policies in the Middle East. [HL1661]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There is no justifiable link between Islamist extremism and British policy in the Middle East. As the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), said on 20 July, "The root cause of the threat we face is the extremist ideology itself."

The UK continues to make a significant contribution to countering Islamist extremism and terrorism across the Middle East, including through the UK's leading role in the Global Coalition to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

### Railways

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk that the works committed to in National Rail's control period 5 will slip into control period 6; which schemes, if any, they assessed as likely to slip into control period 6; and what are the new timescales for those schemes. [HL1572]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Secretary of State for Transport has commissioned proposals this autumn from Network Rail Chair Sir Peter Hendy for a re-plan of the Control Period 5 enhancements programme. It would be premature to comment on the outcome of that work before it has been concluded.

*Asked by Lord Snape*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they first received notification from Network Rail that the costs of some projected enhancement and electrification schemes were likely to exceed the amounts listed as available to them in the budget for Control Period 5. [HL1744]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** By spring 2014, as Network Rail began to develop designs for its enhancements to a greater level of maturity, it identified increases in cost forecasts on some of the major electrification schemes and discussed these forecasts with the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Office of Rail and Road (ORR). Very few of the schemes had passed through the ORR's regulatory process to ascertain their efficient price by this point in time, so the forecasts remained indicative.

In light of this emerging picture, last summer Secretary of State for Transport asked Network Rail as a matter of urgency to provide an update on forecast costs across the whole programme, working with the ORR and DfT officials.

*Asked by Lord Snape*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Network Rail enhancement and electrification schemes that have now been paused for reconsideration, whether they plan to take steps to ensure that all other remaining projects set out for completion in Control Period 5 will proceed as scheduled; and if that is not possible, whether they plan to publish a revised and achievable programme of upgrades and enhancements as soon as possible. [HL1745]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As the Secretary of State for Transport said in his statement on 25 June, important aspects of Network Rail's investment programme are costing more and taking longer.

The Transport Secretary has paused electrification work on Midland Main Line and preliminary electrification structure work on the North TransPennine Line east of Stalybridge. This will allow Network Rail to plan an integrated programme which delivers reduced journey times, improved performance and capacity, alongside electrification.

All other schemes will continue to be delivered while the new Chair reviews the programme delivery as a whole. He is due to report back to the Secretary of State in the autumn detailing his proposals for re-planning the rail enhancements portfolio.

## Railways: Electrification

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to fund and start the electrification of the Midland Main Line TransPennine rail line before funding and starting Crossrail 2. [HL1484]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** On 25th June the Secretary of State for Transport announced that work on Midland Main Line electrification was being paused pending Sir Peter Hendy's proposals this autumn on re-planning the Control Period 5 programme. It would be premature to speculate now on the outcome of the re-plan.

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the progress by Network Rail in delivering the rail electrification programme. [HL1577]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As the Secretary of State for Transport set out in his oral statement to the House on 25 June, he has asked the new Chair of Network Rail, Sir Peter Hendy, to re-plan the enhancements programme. A full assessment of the delivery of the enhancements programme will be a specific task of the re-plan, which is due to report back in the autumn.

## Railways: EU Action

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether officials were instructed to vote against the technical pillar of the Fourth Railway Package at the European Union Transport Council Working Group meeting in June, whilst at the same time supporting the package; and if so, why. [I] [HL1548]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** A proposal for the technical pillar of the Fourth Railway Package was subject to endorsement by Member States on 30 June at a meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER). In line with Government policy, the UK delegation was unable to support the item on the grounds that the proposals were not consistent with the UK's preferred approach on the use of secondary legislation powers and the use of delegated acts. Notwithstanding our position on this issue, officials were able to offer the UK's general support for the Package as a whole.

## Railways: North of England

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the pause in the electrification of the TransPennine rail line and Midland Main Line will affect (1) the ending of the use of Pacer vehicles on the Northern franchise by 2020, and (2) the terms and conditions relating to the re-letting of the Northern franchise. [HL1780]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The pause in the electrification of TransPennine and Midland Main Line will have no impact on the ending of the use of Pacer vehicles on the Northern franchise by 2020 or the terms and conditions relating to the re-letting of the Northern franchise.

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any assessment of whether the replacement of Class 170 diesel multiple units by Class 156 units on the TransPennine franchise has resulted in a change in the quality of service; and if so, whether it has changed for better or worse. [HL1781]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The decision to move the Class 170 diesel multiple units from the TransPennine Express franchise was a commercial one made by their owner Porterbrook Rail Leasing.

## Rape

*Asked by Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to respond to the recent figures released by the Office for National Statistics, which recorded over 29,000 rape cases in the year ending March 2015; and what support is being provided through statutory and voluntary organisations to provide counselling to support the victims and survivors. [HL1768]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has continued its funding commitment until March 2016 to provide support to victims and survivors of rape. This includes £1.72 million to part fund 87 Independent Sexual Violence Adviser posts and £4.4million to fund rape support centres across England and Wales. Reporting of sexual violence is going up and specialised support services to victims and child sexual abuse are experiencing increased demand on their services. In recognition of this, the Home Office and Ministry of Justice announced an additional £7 million in 2014/15 and 2015/16 for non-statutory organisations providing these services as follows:

- £2.15 million as extra funding for 84 existing Rape Support Centres;
- £2 million for a Child Abuse Inquiry Support Fund to better support survivors coming forward as a direct result of the announcement of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse; and
- £2.85 million for a Child and Adult Victims of Sexual Abuse Support Fund to help non-statutory organisations providing support across England and Wales meet the increased demand on those services.

## Refugees

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total expenditure from the Home Office budget during 2014-15, and the total planned expenditure for 2015-16, on

the reception, processing, accommodation and maintenance of illegal immigrants claiming refuge or asylum on arrival in the United Kingdom. [HL1817]

**Lord Bates:** It is not possible to answer the question as asylum claims are considered regardless of the means by which an applicant entered the country. We therefore do not set a discrete budget for the costs of supporting and accommodating asylum applicants who have entered the country illegally.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what basis the cost of refugees arriving in the United Kingdom is allocated between the budget of the Home Office and that of the Department for International Development. [HL1818]

**Lord Bates:** The Government does not assign a budget to departments specifically for the cost of refugees arriving in the UK.

The cost of refugees might include asylum support, housing benefit, education, health care, and food and clothing. These costs are spread throughout government and are dealt with by various Government departments.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost per head to public funds of the first 12 months after arrival of those classified as refugees and accepted for resettlement in the United Kingdom. [HL1819]

**Lord Bates:** I refer my Noble Friend to the answer I gave on 29 June 2015, to written question HL676.

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers the United Kingdom has accepted so far under the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Gateway Protection Programme; and what is the breakdown of those individuals by nationality. [HL1828]

**Lord Bates:** The numbers of refugees resettled under the Gateway Protection Programme are released as part of the Home Office statistics each quarter. Since Gateway began to 31 March 2015 (the date of the most recently published statistics), a total of 6,363 refugees have been resettled to the UK. Information on the nationality of resettled refugees has been included in the statistics since 2013.

The Gateway Protection Programme is a Home Office led scheme operated in partnership with UNHCR. Those resettled under the programme are not asylum seekers, but are recognised as refugees by UNHCR prior to their resettlement to the UK. The most recent statistics are available at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Gateway Refugees Resettled by Nationality - HL1828 [Gateway Refugees Resettled by Nationality Table - PQ HL1828.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-22/HL1828>

## Refugees: Mediterranean Sea

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Bates on 14 July, when the inter-departmental ministerial meeting to discuss the refugee crisis will take place. [HL1446]

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Bates on 14 July, what issues will be on the agenda during the inter-departmental ministerial meeting to discuss the refugee crisis; and whether they plan to consider the creation of protected safe zones, and the call from Save the Children for the United Kingdom urgently to relocate 1,500 children. [HL1447]

**Lord Bates:** The inter-departmental ministerial meeting is on the 14th October. The agenda has yet to be confirmed but it is likely that a wide range of issues relating to the situation in the Mediterranean will be discussed.

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assets are now involved in humanitarian operations in the central Mediterranean; and for how long they are committed. [HL1618]

**Lord Bates:** The UK currently has two Border Force patrol vessels in the Mediterranean directly tasked with saving lives.

In addition, HMS ENTERPRISE, supported by a Merlin helicopter, is the UK's contribution to the EU operation in the Mediterranean to disrupt the smuggling networks. She will participate in search and rescue when required. We keep our commitment under close review, depending on operational need.

## Regional Planning and Development: North of England

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 28 May (HL97 and HL98), what are the geographical boundaries of the area included in the Northern Powerhouse; which cities are encompassed within the phrase "our northern cities"; whether Nottingham, Leicester, Derby and Lincoln are included as "northern cities" in the Northern Powerhouse; and if not, what is their relationship with the Northern Powerhouse. [HL1622]



*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to nominate a capital of the Northern Powerhouse; and if so, how it will be chosen, and whether cities will be able to bid formally for that status. [HL1623]

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there will be a secretariat for the Northern Powerhouse; and if so, where it will be based, and how many persons they expect to be employed there by the end of 2015, 2016 and 2020. [HL1624]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The exact extent of the North in the context of the Northern Powerhouse is not prescribed by the Government. There will not be a secretariat and we do not intend to nominate a capital.

However, the Government considers the following eleven Local Enterprise Partnerships to be part of the North:

- North East Local Enterprise Partnership
- Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership
- Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership
- York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership
- Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Humber Local Enterprise Partnership
- Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership
- Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership
- Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership
- Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership
- Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership

It is important, for the Northern Powerhouse to work with its neighbouring Local Enterprise Partnership areas across the UK to ensure rebalancing across all regions and nations of the UK – as set out in the Government's long-term economic plan.

## Remembrance Day

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what part representatives of the Merchant Navy will play in the Festival of Remembrance this year. [HL1354]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Decisions on the part to be played by representatives of the Merchant Navy in the Festival of Remembrance are for the Royal British Legion (RBL), who organise the Festival. Our understanding from the RBL is that there will be a larger representation of serving Merchant Navy personnel at the Festival this year (normally there are five or six, but this year there

will be around twenty). There will also be a small allocation of tickets to Merchant Navy veterans.

## Reoffenders

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what targets they have for reducing rates of reoffending; and what plans they have for (1) a partial replacement of custodial sentences with community sentences, and (2) policies to assist families, communities and schools to dissuade young people from crime. [HL1838]

**Lord Faulks:** We have taken decisive action to reduce reoffending. For the first time in recent history those sentenced to less than 12 months in custody receive probation support on release. We have also opened up the delivery of rehabilitation services to a diverse range of providers, including private and voluntary sector organisations. While there is no specific national target for reducing reoffending, Community Rehabilitation Companies are incentivised to help offenders turn their backs on crime and will only be paid in full if they are successful in reducing reoffending.

The government is currently considering what options there may be for strengthening and improving the current community sentence framework, and in particular the role that technology may play in this. No decisions have yet been made.

We are committed to preventing youth offending and supporting families. We contribute to the Youth Engagement Fund which is using social impact bonds to support up to 8,000 disadvantaged young people to improve their educational qualifications and secure employment which will reduce their risk of becoming involved in offending. We have also introduced family engagement workers in young adult and women's prisons to help strengthen family relationships.

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of comparative statistics in other European states for (1) custodial sentences per head of population, and (2) reoffending rates for individuals who have served either (a) custodial or (b) community sentences. [HL1839]

**Lord Faulks:** We are keen to learn from innovative justice practice in other countries and are currently reviewing international evidence of what works.

We contribute towards the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics and the International Centre for Prison Studies, which provide a comparison of custodial sentences per head of population.

In the case of reoffending, few comparisons have been published because of the limited number of countries which regularly collect and analyse such data and the different methods which are used to calculate these rates. The 2010 "Compendium of reoffending statistics and analysis" compares reoffending rates for England and

Wales, Scotland and the Netherlands. It concluded that most of the difference in reoffending rates between countries identified was due to the different measurement techniques, rather than any real difference in the level of reoffending between particular groups of offenders.

### Rights of Way

*Asked by Baroness Byford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of landowners affected by the judgment in *R (on the application of Andrews) v Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs* [2014] EWHC 1435 (Admin). [HL1492]

*Asked by Baroness Byford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to minimise the impact of the judgment in *R (on the application of Andrews) v Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs* [2014] EWHC 1435 (Admin) on landowners; and whether the Secretary of State plans to meet relevant stakeholders to discuss the issue. [HL1493]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Local highway authorities are responsible for protecting the rights of the public to use footpaths and other rights of way, and for holding records associated with their public rights of way network. Consequently, Defra does not have the information required to make an assessment of the number of landowners who may be affected by the judgment.

However, we recognise that there may be a significant number of claims which could come forward following the case. The Ramblers estimated 500 – 1000 in court. This would have an impact both on landowners, in defending any claims, and on local authorities, in dealing with such claims.

We are introducing a package of rights of way reforms; the primary provisions were part of the Deregulation Act 2015. Those reforms will significantly improve and streamline the processes for recording and altering the public rights of way network. The reforms will commence the cut-off date, 2026, for the recording of historic (pre 1949) public rights of way, which will bring certainty to landowners. Claims to record routes as a result of the judgment will be subject to this cut off. Other measures which will be of benefit to landowners include that a right of way can be diverted or the width reduced before being recorded. This would be by agreement between the local authority and landowner, removing the scope for such agreement to be blocked by objections. Organisations that represent landowners are members of the Stakeholder Working Group which developed the rights of way reform package.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs meets regularly with interested stakeholders and we encourage users and landowners to work together to balance the needs for

access with those who own or work land, continuing the good work of the Stakeholder Working Group.

*Asked by Lord Temple-Morris*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers they intend to give local authorities to alter the status of routes which have in the past been legally recorded on definitive maps of public rights of way as restricted byways with provision for access by horse-drawn and other non-mechanically propelled vehicles. [HL1678]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government does not plan to introduce any new powers in primary legislation to specifically give local authorities the ability to alter the status of restricted byways or any other type of public right of way.

The legal framework governing public rights of way has been reviewed by a stakeholder working group, which recommended a package of reforms which are now being implemented through provisions included in the Deregulation Act 2015.

### Road Signs and Markings: Speed Limits

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to use electronic road traffic signs to encourage drivers to moderate their speed by reminding them of the effect of doing so on the environment and public health, and the impact of reduced speeds on road accidents. [HL1398]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has no plans to use electronic traffic signs to influence driver speeds by signing the environmental, public health and road accident impacts.

However, electronic signing is prescribed for use to remind drivers exceeding the signed limit to slow down and to warn of the need to slow down for junction, bend or roundabout hazards.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) how long it would take to give all roads in the United Kingdom a surface treatment using super flex asphalt, and (2) the cost of doing so. [HL1491]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** No assessment has been carried out concerning the time and cost required to resurface the road Network in England applying this specific proprietary product.

Both Highways England, as a publicly owned company responsible for the strategic road network and local highway authorities, responsible for maintaining the local road network, allow the use of many materials for treating highway surfaces. The Department for Transport is aware of a number of local highway authorities currently using

Superflex asphalt to help repair their roads. Using this product is entirely a matter for each individual highway authority to decide.

It is important that products can demonstrate that they can achieve certain standards of safety, durability, environmental, and life cycle benefits. Suppliers promoting their road surfacing products have to undertake strictly managed trials before they can be widely used on the network.

Highways England is currently undertaking initial trials to assess the performance of Superflex on the network. The trials are likely to be completed by 2017.

### Royal Fleet Auxiliary

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any vessels of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (1) are laid up, (2) are placed in extended readiness, or (3) are otherwise unable to proceed to sea as a consequence of shortage of officers or ratings. [HL1691]

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any vessels of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary are laid up awaiting disposal. [HL1738]

**Earl Howe:** The normal operating cycle of every ship includes periods of low readiness, and a number of ships will enter periods of 'low' or 'very low' readiness depending on their programmes and departmental planning requirements. It remains Ministry of Defence policy not to publish details of the readiness states of individual Royal Navy or Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) vessels for reasons of national security. I can confirm that the RFA continues to meet its operational commitments.

With regard to RFA ships awaiting disposal, RFA ORANGELEAF will be withdrawn from service later this year, in accordance with the Navy Plan.

### Russia: Georgia

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what political and diplomatic response they have made to recent reports of further encroachments by Russia on territory and property in the north of Georgia. [HL1827]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 13 July our Chargé d'Affaires attended a briefing by Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili, and on 14 July he met Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Tamar Beruchashvili to reaffirm UK commitment to Georgia's territorial integrity in response to the installation of new signs near the Administrative Boundary Line with South Ossetia. Our Embassy in Tbilisi released a press statement on 14 July rejecting any events that increase tensions and isolation in communities living along the Administrative Boundary Line and calling for peaceful resolution of disputes. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials held meetings in London with the Georgian Ambassador to the

UK to discuss developments. In London, Tbilisi and Moscow, FCO officials remain in close contact with government representatives and international stakeholders to encourage a measured and peaceful response to this issue.

### Russia: Sanctions

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on whether sanctions against Russia have been breached by (1) British companies, (2) other European Union companies, and (3) Asian companies, particularly in relation to the energy industry. [HL1372]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK takes enforcement of sanctions seriously. Violating sanctions is a criminal offence that can carry a significant custodial sentence. We cannot comment on individual criminal cases or sanctions breaches.

### S4C

*Asked by Lord Lipsey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the calculations used in Box 8 of the BBC Charter Review public consultation, what is the cost per viewer hour of S4C. [HL1576]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** According to S4C's Annual Report & Statement of Accounts 2014/15, the cost per user hour is £1.54

### Schools: Performance Standards

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the current performance data held by the Department for Education and its agencies, what estimate they have made of the number of (1) primary, and (2) secondary, schools that are likely to fall into the category of coasting. [HL1832]

**Lord Nash:** No school will be identified as coasting until the end of 2016, when there is data available for three years, 2014, 2015 and 2016. A school will only be deemed to be coasting when its performance data falls below the coasting level in each of the three previous years. The coasting level for 2016 will be based on the new primary and secondary accountability measures to be introduced in 2016 and will be set in 2016 once the impact of these changes is known. For these reasons it is not possible to provide an accurate forecast of the number of coasting schools, but the department estimates that numbers will be in the hundreds.

### Scotland Bill

*Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 22 July (HL1552),

whether they plan to delay the sending of the Scotland Bill to the House of Lords until those negotiations are concluded. [HL1816]

**Earl of Courtown:** Business of the House will be announced in the usual way. As has previously been stated, the Government intends to progress the negotiations on the fiscal framework in parallel with the Scotland Bill.

### Senior Civil Servants: Departmental Records

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place in the Library of the House the files referred to in the supplementary report of the Wanless-Whittam review, published on 22 July. [HL1844]

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what if any evidence they have that permanent secretaries have held any miscellaneous or unstructured files in their private offices. [HL1845]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Minister for the Cabinet Office made a statement on a set of unstructured records held by the Cabinet Office on 4 February 2015 (HLWS229). He also announced that a review of the papers is under way. Papers will be considered for opening to the public in the normal way at The National Archives as the review progresses. Information held by other government departments is not held centrally.

### Sexual Offences

*Asked by Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the latest data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, and the statistics on the number of incidents of revenge porn recently released in response to a Freedom of Information Act 2000 request, what steps they are taking to ensure that police forces are adequately resourced, and officers adequately trained, to respond to the victims and survivors of sex crimes. [HL1755]

**Lord Bates:** Resourcing the response to any type of crime is an operational matter for chief officers. The Government continues to support improvements to the criminal justice system's response to victims of sexual violence, including the introduction of a new offence to criminalise revenge pornography in the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015. Alongside this, the Government has also carried out a campaign to raise public awareness of the issue and has established a Revenge Porn Helpline, offering details of free legal advice and liaising with law enforcement and media companies to remove content where possible.

Police recorded crime figures show more victims of sexual violence have the confidence to come forward, and

the number of prosecutions and convictions for rape are at their highest levels.

### Sheep Dipping: Wales

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, prior to September 1993, a circular was issued by the Welsh Office Poisons Unit indicating that doctors would not be presented with cases of sheep dip poisoning unless the patient could prove that they were employed in manufacturing such products or that there had been a spillage during transport; and if so, upon whose authority the circular was issued, upon what evidence it was based, and to whom it issued. [HL1669]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Wales Office holds no record of the circular referred to.

When the National Assembly for Wales was established in 1999, all documents held by the Welsh Office at that point were transferred to the Assembly.

### Sheltered Employment: Minimum Wage

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to consider providing a therapeutic exemption from the National Minimum Wage for registered charities, or social enterprises, that establish sheltered employment for those with disabilities. [HL1335]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The following occupations are exempted under Part 6 of the National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015 from being paid National Minimum Wage:

- self-employed people running their own business
- company directors
- volunteers or voluntary workers
- workers on a government employment programme, e.g. the Work Programme
- family members of the employer living in the employer's home
- non-family members living in the employer's home who share in the work and leisure activities, are treated as one of the family and aren't charged for meals or accommodation, eg au pairs
- workers younger than school leaving age (usually 16)
- higher and further education students on a work placement up to 1 year
- workers on government pre-apprenticeships schemes
- people on the following European Union programmes: Leonardo da Vinci, Youth in Action, Erasmus, Comenius
- people working on a Jobcentre Plus Work trial for 6 weeks
- members of the armed forces
- share fishermen
- prisoners



· people living and working in a religious community  
The Government has no plans to change this list.

### Slavery

*Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to conduct a consultation with civil society during the summer of 2015 concerning the guidance available to businesses on what to include in their slavery and human trafficking statements. [HL1599]

**Lord Bates:** Statutory guidance on transparency in supply chains will be published to coincide with the commencement of the transparency provisions in the Modern Slavery Act 2015. We have already held a public consultation on what the statutory guidance should cover and received responses from a wide range of civil society and private sector organisations. These responses are being taken into account in the development of guidance.

### Small Businesses: Living Wage

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on small businesses of the new national living wage. [HL1345]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government will publish an impact assessment for the introduction of the National Living Wage alongside the implementing regulations. These regulations will be debated in both Houses of Parliament in time to come into force on 1 April 2016. This will contain a section on the impact on small businesses.

### Small Businesses: Regulation

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help small businesses that face high costs when complying with regulations. [HL1348]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** This Government is committed to reducing the regulatory burden for all businesses. The "One in, Two out" rule put a strict brake on the introduction of new regulations. The Enterprise Bill will ensure that we deal with more aspects of the costs of burdensome regulations by targeting regulators' actions as part of the overall £10 billion in cuts we promised. This will drive savings through, for instance, simpler guidance, less paperwork and coordinated inspections.

We are also carrying out a rolling programme of 'Cutting Red Tape' sector reviews, working with trade associations, business groups, departments and regulators to identify current burdens on business with a view to reducing these where possible. Each review will look specifically at the experience of smaller businesses.

Our forthcoming Enterprise Bill will allow changes in regulators' policies to count against our £10 billion deregulation target. That will encourage regulators to think about their impact on businesses, especially small ones.

### South Sudan and Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

*Asked by **Lord Chidgey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of how many peacekeepers in Sudan and South Sudan have been attacked between 2005 and 2014, excluding carjackings and household robberies; and how many of those incidents resulted in a significant loss of weapons and ammunition from United Nations and African Union Peace operations in Darfur and South Sudan. [HL1415]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We do not keep a record of the number of specific incidents, but there is no reason for us to doubt the findings of the Small Arms Survey report that there have been over 100 attacks on peacekeepers in Sudan and South Sudan between 2005 and 2014, the vast majority in Darfur. We are unable to independently estimate how many of these incidents resulted in a significant loss of weapons and ammunition.

*Asked by **Lord Chidgey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the recent report by Small Arms Survey Under Attack and Above Scrutiny? Arms and Ammunition Diversion from Peacekeepers in Sudan and South Sudan, 2002–14, and in particular the conclusion that "the losses of arms and ammunition by peacekeepers are larger and more frequent than previously appreciated, and can be reduced". [HL1416]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials are currently reviewing the Small Arms Survey report. We encourage the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to do more to tackle the losses of arms and ammunition.

*Asked by **Lord Chidgey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recommendations they have for measures and actions that could be taken to reduce the losses of arms and ammunition by peacekeepers in Darfur, Sudan and South Sudan; whether they have presented these to UN and African Union agencies; and if so, what was the response. [HL1417]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are currently reviewing the Small Arms Survey report. However, we would advocate similar rules and regulations as used by UK Armed Forces, namely that arms and ammunition should always be secured, in different locations and by different trained personnel, when not being used for their primary purpose on operations. We will seek the views of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations on how they propose to tackle the losses of arms and ammunition.

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the reliability of the process for overseeing and reporting arms and ammunition recovered by UN and African Union peacekeepers from armed groups in their mission areas in Sudan, South Sudan and Darfur; and what is their assessment of the measures in place to prevent such arms and ammunition being recirculated or returned to the groups from which they were taken, or otherwise used inappropriately. [HL1467]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We understand from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that the UN missions in Sudan, South Sudan and Darfur all have processes in place for the recovery and destruction of arms, ammunition and land mines. Many of these activities are carried out by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Details of their progress in destroying such arms and ammunitions are included in regular UN mission reporting.

### South Sudan: Food Supply

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the food security situation in South Sudan; and to what extent the United Kingdom will respond bilaterally as well as through the specialised UN agencies. [HL1581]

**Baroness Verma:** The most recent South Sudan Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report dated 27 May 2015 shows an increase in the number of people facing severe food insecurity. 4.6m people / 40% of the population are estimated to be unable to meet their basic food needs. The UK is the second largest bilateral donor to the humanitarian response in South Sudan, contributing £172m since the start of the crisis, along with an additional £88.9m to the regional response for South Sudanese refugees. This support is provided both bilaterally and to specialised UN agencies.

### South Sudan: Health Services

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to secure a medical pipeline in areas where the government of South Sudan is unable to provide basic drugs for health clinics. [HL1582]

**Baroness Verma:** DFID has provided £11.5 million to the jointly funded (US, Norway and UK) Emergency Medicines Fund for drug distribution in the three conflict states of South Sudan. In addition, critical gaps in the other seven states are being covered through the £120m DFID-managed Health Pooled Fund supported by US and World Health Organisation.

### South Sudan: Human Rights

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about whether there will be an independent investigation into the alleged atrocities in Unity State, South Sudan, in April and June, reported by the UN Mission in South Sudan Human Rights division; and what assessment they have made of whether UNMISS can now protect civilians in these areas through increased patrolling. [HL1580]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are acutely concerned about the atrocities detailed in the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) report of 30 June and the UK Government has called for immediate and thorough investigations into the allegations. One opportunity for such an investigation will be the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' fact-finding mission and comprehensive investigation on South Sudan mandated, with strong UK support, by the UN Human Rights Council at its recent session. The Protection of Civilians remains at the core of the UNMISS mandate including through proactive patrolling outside Internally Displaced Person camps and Protection of Civilian sites. It is therefore unacceptable that access to some of the affected areas has been denied to the mission, and we continue to press all parties to the conflict to ensure full access.

### South Sudan: Non-governmental Organisations

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that international non-governmental organisations working in conflict areas of South Sudan receive UN protection and are able to recover the rising costs of delivering life-saving support. [HL1583]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has contributed £172 million to the humanitarian response in South Sudan since the beginning of the current conflict in December 2013. Part of this contribution goes towards covering security and logistical costs for international non-governmental organisations. In addition, the UK played a key role in shaping the most recent mandate renewal for the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), a central part of which remains to create the conditions suitable for the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and we regularly lobby both the Government and the Opposition in South Sudan to allow unhindered access across South Sudan for UNMISS and humanitarian organisations.

### Speech Therapy: Training

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to take steps to increase the number of training posts for speech and language therapists available in 2016–17. [HL1337]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National workforce plan for England 2015-16 outlines that commissions for Speech and Language Therapists has increased since 2014-15 by 3.7%.

Health Education England is currently working with local organisations and key external stakeholders to develop the National Workforce Plan for England covering the period 2016-17. This will be published in December 2015. The plan takes account of what local providers require by way of future staffing levels including Speech and Language Therapists.

### Sports: Females

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make Women's Sport Week an annual event. [HL1777]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Although Government cannot mandate that the sector runs a Women's Sport Week every year, we are delighted that Women in Sport considered the inaugural week a success and are already making provisional plans for next year.

### St Helena: Aviation

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the first commercial flights to St Helena will commence. [HL1789]

**Baroness Verma:** The first commercial flight to St Helena will be in February 2016, subject to completion of the remaining airport construction works and to meeting all regulatory requirements.

### St Helena: Tourism

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many tourist beds (1) are currently available, and (2) are under construction, on St Helena. [HL1790]

**Baroness Verma:** St Helena Government confirms that 101 tourist beds are currently available in serviced rooms, with an additional 38 serviced rooms planned for construction between 2015 and 2016. There are also 90 self-catering rooms on the island.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many tourist beds will be required on St Helena to support one weekly flight when the island's airport opens in February 2016. [HL1791]

**Baroness Verma:** St Helena Government estimates that 80 to 160 tourist beds will be required when the air service becomes operational.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many proposals to create more tourist beds on St Helena (1) have been passed, (2) are currently under consideration, and (3) have been rejected, by the island's planning authority. [HL1792]

**Baroness Verma:** St Helena Government has confirmed that since July 2014, five applications for additional accommodation have been approved by St Helena's Planning Authority and two are currently under consideration. None have been rejected.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the number of tourist beds on St Helena; what progress has been made in this regard since the decision to build an airport on the island was made in 2010; and what incentives they are offering to encourage inward investors to provide tourist facilities on the island. [HL1793]

**Baroness Verma:** The Department for International Development supports Enterprise St Helena (ESH), the St Helena Government's development agency. Enterprise St Helena offers grants to assist local businesses with proposals to increase the quantity and quality of tourist accommodation. Fifteen new serviced rooms have been added since 2010, with an additional 38 serviced rooms planned for construction between 2015 and 2016. The Saint Helena Government has introduced a range of tax incentives for investors, including tax credits, rollover reliefs and accelerated depreciation.

### Stem Cells

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the research, recently published in Nature, into using stem cells to rid organs of mutant mitochondria without recourse to three-parent IVF; and whether it is their policy that human embryos should be destroyed if alternatives are available. [HL1523]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The research by the Centre for Embryonic Cell and Gene Therapy in Oregon, USA, published in Nature, is at a very early stage but may possibly offer hope of health improvement for those who already have a mitochondrial disease. The purpose of the mitochondrial donation treatment, which will be allowable through Regulations from 29 October 2015, is to prevent the transmission of serious mitochondrial disease from mother to child in the first instance.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 provides that embryos can only be used in research where the research is necessary and desirable and the use of embryos is necessary. However, that provision does not apply to treatment. Decisions about whether to use eggs or in vitro fertilisation embryos in treatment, including mitochondrial donation, are made according to clinical

judgment, if authorised by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

## Strategic Defence and Security Review

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the forthcoming Strategic Defence and Security Review will incorporate preventing sexual violence in conflict as a component of building security overseas. [I] [HL1593]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government is committed to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), and to driving forward the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative. This commitment will inform work on the relevant aspects of the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review.

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what part, if any, the geopolitical analysis in the 2015 review of French military spending will play in the formulation of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [HL1758]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government routinely consults with allies and partners on the shared threats we face and will take their analysis into account in formulating our National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review.

## Sudan: Christianity

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make representations to the Sudanese authorities about dropping the charges against the 10 female Christian students charged last month with "indecent dress"; and whether they plan to press the Sudanese authorities to repeal Article 152 of the Criminal Act 1991. [HL1449]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials at our Embassy are following closely the case of 10 women charged with "indecent dress" and are in contact with their legal team. The British Government regularly raises concern with the Government of Sudan over Article 152 of the Criminal Act 1991, often referred to as Sudan's "public order law", and its discriminatory application as part of our ongoing Human Rights dialogue. In addition, the issue was highlighted in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's in-year human rights update published on 15 July. We have also called for the Government of Sudan to bring all legislation in line with its commitments to their citizens in the Interim Constitution of 2005.

## Supermarkets: Sales Promotions

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps to tighten regulation to ensure that supermarkets do not mislead customers with confusing pricing promotions. [HL1721]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** It is already a criminal offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 for traders, including supermarkets, to give consumers misleading pricing information. We are currently giving careful consideration to the Competition and Market's Authority's (CMA) findings and recommendations published on 16<sup>th</sup> July in response to the *Which?* Super-complaint on pricing practices in the grocery market and will respond to the CMA's report within 90 days.

## Syria

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of the number of Syrians displaced (1) within Syria, and (2) abroad. [HL1652]

**Baroness Verma:** There are an estimated 7.6 million internally displaced persons within Syria, and there are now over four million refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries. According to the UN, there have been over 278,000 Syrian asylum applications in Europe between April 2011 and May 2015.

## Syria: Military Intervention

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many combat missions involving British pilots embedded with US forces have taken place over Syria since August 2013; whether Ministers gave permission for the involvement of British personnel in such missions; and if so, why Parliament was not informed. [HL1650]

**Earl Howe:** Five British pilots embedded with Coalition forces have been involved in combat missions over Syria under the operational command of their host nation. Ministers authorise the embedding of UK personnel on deployment with host forces. It has been long-standing practice not to announce such deployments.

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the criteria that would allow air attacks on ISIL targets in Syria without prior reference to Parliament have been changed. [HL1668]

**Earl Howe:** No.

We will return to Parliament for a separate decision if we propose to take military action against ISIL in Syria, but as the Prime Minister has said, if there were a critical British national interest at stake or if there were the need



to act to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe, we would act immediately and explain to Parliament afterwards.

### Syria: Peace Negotiations

Asked by **Baroness Helic**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it remains their policy to ensure that future negotiations to end the Syria conflict include the formal participation of Syrian women; what representations they have made to the UN about this; and what initiatives they have begun to help identify and support Syrian women's groups to fulfil this role. [HL1628]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK remains committed to ensuring that Syrian women participate fully in any future negotiations to end the Syrian conflict. In 2014 we supported an initiative by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to improve the capacity of women's groups to participate in a political process in Syria, including through learning lessons from similar women's groups in Bosnia. The initiative also helped to provide a platform for women to advocate for a solution to the conflict in UN fora, including by influencing the UN during the review of Syria's implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

We have raised the importance of the role of women's groups in political processes with senior UN officials, including UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan De Mistura. We understand that Mr De Mistura involved women's groups in his recent round of consultations on a future political process in Syria. We also ensured that the following language was included in June's UN Human Rights Council resolution on Syria: "Calls upon the international community to support the leadership and full participation of women in all efforts aimed at finding a political solution to the Syrian Arab Republic, as envisaged by the Security Council in its resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013".

More broadly, our programmes of support to grass roots peace-building initiatives and civil society groups inside Syria seek to ensure that Syrian women's voices are heard and that they are represented in future political negotiations.

### Tax Allowances: Children

Asked by **Lord True**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each financial year from 2015–16 to 2020–21, what are the estimated annual costs of providing tax relief for (1) tax-free child credit, and (2) child trust funds. [HL1429]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) will be launched in early 2017, and will give up to 1.8m families 20 per cent support towards their childcare costs, up to a maximum government contribution of £2,000 per

child, per year (£4,000 per child, per year, for disabled children).

The estimated total costs of TFC in each year are:

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Cost of TFC (£m)	0	75	570	650	700	770

These costs are expected to rise to around £1 billion per year in steady state.

Child Trust Funds (CTF) are long-term tax-free savings accounts for children. Since 2011, children without a CTF can open a Junior ISA instead. Existing CTF accounts can still receive contributions. The contribution limit per CTF for the 2015-16 tax year is £4,080.

The cost to the government of exempting CTF account savings from income tax is set out in HM Revenue and Customs' "Estimated cost of minor tax allowances and reliefs" and is negligible in 2013-14 and 2014-15. The cost is also expected to be negligible in 2015-16 to 2020-21.

### Tax Avoidance

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they expect to raise from action on tax avoidance by 2017–18. [HL1711]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government has committed to saving £5 billion per year through tackling avoidance and tax planning, evasion and compliance and imbalances in the tax system.

The package of measures announced at Summer Budget 2015 represent the next stage in the government's actions in this area and contributes towards the government commitment by saving £19 billion by 2020/2021 and £5 billion per year by 2019/2020.

### Teachers

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what outcomes they expect amending the provision of teachers' pay and conditions warning notices to produce. [HL1835]

**Lord Nash:** We are making amendments to teachers' pay and conditions warning notices in the Education and Adoption Bill to be consistent with the changes we are making to performance standards and safety warning notices. We will allow local authorities to set an appropriate timescale for a school to take effective remedial action, rather than, as now, being bound by the existing requirement of 15 working days. We will also remove the school's right to make representations to the local authority against a notice. This will ensure that the school begins to take steps immediately to remedy the matters in the notice. We will also require a local authority to inform the Secretary of State that they have

given a notice to a school. This will ensure that where a regional schools commissioner intends to intervene in an underperforming school they are aware of any action the local authority is taking in that school.

### Telecommunications: Databases

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the proposed timetable for the passage of a new communications data bill through both Houses in order to meet the present legislation's sunset deadline of December 2016. [HL1616]

**Lord Bates:** The Government are committed to introducing a Bill on investigatory powers early next year, so that it can receive Royal Assent before the sunset clause in the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act comes into effect at the end of 2016. In order to meet that timetable and allow the full parliamentary scrutiny, we intend to bring forward a draft Bill for consideration in the autumn, which will be subject to full pre-legislative scrutiny, including by a Joint Committee of both Houses.

### Television: Internet

*Asked by Lord Inglewood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 20 July (HL1072), in the light of imminent decisions regarding the BBC's Charter, why they have made no estimate of when television will be delivered predominantly across the internet. [HL1705]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government's BBC Charter Review public consultation is open until 8 October and no decisions on the BBC's Charter are imminent.

Further to my answer of 20 July to Question HL1072, there is already a range of industry research on the future of television distribution and a wide variety of views about migration to internet protocol distribution of television services. This includes the 'Future of Innovation in Television Technology Report,' which DCMS officials contributed to, and which was published by the cross-television industry Digital Television Group in May 2014.

In May 2014, Ofcom's discussion document 'The Future of Free to View TV', also considered which trends that might make universal distribution of internet protocol television possible. In the statement on the future of 700Mhz spectrum, Ofcom concluded that: 'digital terrestrial television is likely to retain this central role over the next decade, with a full switch to alternative technologies such as IPTV not appearing until at least 2030'.

### Terminal Illnesses: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what factors were taken into account when deciding that the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence may only consider a medicine under its end of life criteria if it is indicated for fewer than 7,000 patients across all licensed indications. [HL1766]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is responsible for the methods it uses in the development of its technology appraisal guidance, including the criteria it considers in deciding whether to apply the flexibilities for the appraisal of life-extending drugs and treatments for patients at the end of their lives.

The supplementary advice to its Appraisal Committees on appraising life-extending, end of life treatments, published in 2009, explains the factors that NICE took into account in developing the criteria. It states that "In developing this supplementary advice, the Institute has taken account the Appraisal Committees' previous decisions, together with the relevant principles in the guide to the use of Social Value Judgements. It has also had regard to the consideration given by the Citizens Council, at its meeting in November 2008, to the circumstances in which it might be appropriate to support the use of treatments outside the Institute's cost per quality adjusted life years (QALY) threshold range". A copy is attached and is available at:

[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/gid-tag387/resources/appraising-life-extending-end-of-life-treatments-paper2](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/gid-tag387/resources/appraising-life-extending-end-of-life-treatments-paper2)

NICE has advised that the definition of a small patient population as "normally not exceeding a cumulative total of 7,000 for all licensed indications in England" was originally based on an estimate of the annual number of deaths in England from rarer terminal cancers, obtained by NICE in 2008.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Appraising life extending end of life treatments [HL1766 NICE  
Appraising life guidelines.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-21/HL1766>

### Terrorism

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place in the Library of the House a copy of the agreement between the Metropolitan Police Service and the Independent Police Complaints Commission regarding the investigation of public complaints relating to Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000. [HL1587]

**Lord Bates:** The IPCC and MPS reached an agreement on the handling of Schedule 7 complaints, which was issued by the High Court on 12 January 2015 in the form of a consent order. The consent order is available to the public at:

[http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/Schedule\\_7\\_Consent\\_Order.pdf](http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/Schedule_7_Consent_Order.pdf)

We will also place a copy of the consent order in the Library of the House.

### **Tibet: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed freedom of religion and belief in Tibet with the government of China since the death in prison of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche; and if so, when. [HL1464]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We pay close attention to the human rights situation in China, and remain concerned by all restrictions to freedom of religion or belief, including in Tibet. We have raised the case of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche with the Chinese authorities on a number of occasions, including during the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in April this year. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), also raised this case during Westminster Hall Debates on Tibet in June and last December, and urged the Chinese authorities to consider him for medical parole.

Although we have not raised the issue of freedom of religion or belief with the Chinese authorities since Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's death, we support and encouraged the EU statement of 15 July, which said the EU expected the Chinese authorities to investigate and make public the circumstances surrounding Tenzin's death. We will continue to raise our concerns through the EU, and as part of our wider relationship with China.

### **Tickets: Sales**

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) the City of London, (2) the Competition and Markets Authority, and (3) any other relevant authorities, about the enforcement of measures covering the resale of tickets set out in section 90 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015. [HL1774]

#### **Baroness Neville-Rolfe:**

The Government is liaising with: (1) the City of London police on measures being taken against fraudulent ticketing activity online (2) the Competition and Markets Authority about their strategy for monitoring compliance with the regulations and the undertakings from secondary platforms they received in March 2015; and (3) business and consumer advice bodies on how best to guide vendors and advise buyers on what the Act requires of sellers and the protections and recourse available to consumers.

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in line with the statutory objective set out in the Consumer Rights Act 2015 to set up an enquiry in order to publish a report on the operation of the secondary market for tickets within a year of Royal Assent to that Act, they have decided on the membership of the Review Group and its terms of reference; and whether they have consulted the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ticket Abuse. [HL1775]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is finalising the leadership of the Review and its Terms of Reference following input from stakeholders. The All-Party Parliamentary Group will be invited to submit evidence to the Review once the Chair has been appointed and approved the Terms of Reference.

### **Transport for London**

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to transfer more surface railways to Transport for London. [HL1757]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As demonstrated by the various routes and services devolved to Transport for London (TfL) since 2007, the Department for Transport is committed to transferring services to local control where there is a business case for doing so.

In May 2018, Heathrow Connect services are due to be transferred to TfL control in preparation for full operation of Crossrail.

### **Tunisia: British Nationals Abroad**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made, if any, of the impact of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's revised travel advice for Tunisia on the Tunisian economy in terms of the loss of revenue from British tourism. [HL1647]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Sousse terrorist attack has had a significant impact on tourist numbers in Tunisia: at the time of the attack there were an estimated 20,000 British tourists in Tunisia. This had dropped to around 2,000 before the Government changed its travel advice. Our travel advice has highlighted for some time the high threat from terrorism in Tunisia. Because of developments in the threat and intelligence picture since the attack, coupled with our assessment of the vulnerability of tourist sites, we took the decision to change our travel advice in order to ensure the safety of British nationals

Tourism usually accounts for around 15 per cent of Tunisia's Gross Domestic Product. We and international partners are working with Tunisia to identify how we can best support their economy, including by increasing our bilateral and multilateral support. The Secretary of State

for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and EU Foreign Ministers discussed economic support for Tunisia, including a significant increase in olive oil export quotas, at Monday's EU Foreign Affairs Council. We also continue to encourage Tunisia to set out its plans for its economic development.

### **Tunisia: Terrorism**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations took place with the government of Tunisia in advance of the most recent Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice for Tunisia being issued; and when those consultations took place. [[HL1370](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Ministers and officials have remained in regular contact with the Tunisian authorities since the attack in Sousse on 26 June. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), spoke to Foreign Minister Baccouche on 27 June and Prime Minister Essid on 5 July. The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), met Interior Minister Gharsalli on 29 June alongside the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), who had previously spoken to Mr Gharsalli on 26 June.

Our Ambassador to Tunisia spoke to Foreign Minister Baccouche on 27 June. He remained in regular contact with representatives of the Tunisian authorities including ministers between 5 and 9 July.

The Foreign Secretary spoke again to the Tunisian Prime Minister on 9 July as the Travel Advice change was being made.

### **Ulster Bank**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of what assets, if any, have been sold by Ulster Bank Ltd to Cerberus Capital Management since 2013; and what assessment they have made of the impact of such sales on their three objectives for their shareholding in Royal Bank of Scotland. [[HL1634](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Chancellor has previously set out his objectives for the banks in state ownership, including Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). The government wants to maximise the ability of these important banks to support the British economy; get the best value for money for the taxpayer; and return them to private ownership.

Following a strategic review in 2013, the RBS Group committed to accelerating its return to private ownership by improving the performance of its 'core' bank. This included the creation of an internal 'bad bank' to house

underperforming and high-risk assets, and a commitment to removing them from its balance sheet quickly.

The RBS Group announced in December 2014 that it had sold a £1.1 billion portfolio of real estate loans from its internal 'bad bank' to Cerberus Capital Management, reflecting the improved economic outlook of investors for the economy in Northern Ireland.

The Government's shareholding in RBS is managed at arm's length from HM Treasury by UK Financial Investments (UKFI). As an engaged shareholder, UKFI works closely with the banks' management to assure itself of the banks' approach to strategy. However, UKFI's role is to manage the investment, not to manage the bank. Commercial decisions and assessments, including those relating to the sale of assets, remain a matter for the bank's independent management team.

### **UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 July ([HL790](#)), what factors they took into account in deciding not to nominate a candidate from the United Kingdom for the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. [[HL1340](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** With all nominations to United Nations and other international committees, the United Kingdom duly considers many factors. We are fully committed to fulfilling our obligations under the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and remain focused on ensuring effective gender mainstreaming across Government including implementing the recommendations of the CEDAW committee which were accepted by the United Kingdom following the examination of the UK's 7th periodic report.

### **UN Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty Review Conference**

*Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the outcomes from the UN Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty review conference in 2015; and what assessment they have made of those outcomes. [[HL1568](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I refer the noble Baroness to the Written Ministerial Statement of 1 June following the conclusion of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, made by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), which I repeated the same day in the House of Lords ([HLWS6](#)).



*Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions were held at the UN Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty review conference in 2015 about the risk of nuclear inadvertence leading to the accidental, unauthorised or mistaken use of nuclear weapons. [HL1569]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK gives the very highest priority to the security and safety of our nuclear weapons, and robust arrangements are in place for the political control of the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent. At the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, over 50 working papers were put forward by States Parties or groups of States and a large number of formal and informal statements were made over the four weeks of the Conference. These covered a broad range of issues related to all aspects of the Treaty, including the security and safety of nuclear weapons.

*Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals were put forward at the UN Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty review conference in 2015 to mitigate the risks of inadvertent use of nuclear weapons; and what assessment they have made of the appropriate forums in which to hold discussions before the next conference in 2020. [HL1570]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK gives the very highest priority to the security and safety of our nuclear weapons, and robust arrangements are in place for the political control of the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent. At the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, over 50 working papers were put forward by States Parties or groups of States and a large number of formal and informal statements were made over the four weeks of the Conference. These covered a broad range of issues related to all aspects of the Treaty, including the security and safety of nuclear weapons. We will continue to engage constructively in discussions on all aspects of the Treaty in the appropriate fora including the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in October this year and at the forthcoming Preparatory Committees of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty scheduled for 2017, 2018 and 2019.

## Underground Railways

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which cities globally have an automated underground or metro transport system; and what research they have conducted on the effectiveness of those systems. [HL1614]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has not undertaken any research on the effectiveness of global automatic underground and metro transport systems.

London Underground is a founder member of CoMET, an international benchmarking group for the world's

largest metro systems, and a member of the International Association of Public Transport, and as a result has engaged extensively with many of the world's most advanced automated systems. This has included: Paris Metro, to learn from the successful conversion of an existing line to full automation. Lille Metro, to learn from their programme to retrofit pre-assembled Platform Edge Door (PEDs) units, minimising closures and maximising value for money. Seoul Metro, to learn from their integrated use of gap fillers, PEDs and obstacle detection solutions at the Platform Train Interface. And Barcelona Metro, to learn from their staffing model for automation that has led to increased staff satisfaction and lower absenteeism.

## UNESCO

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of UNESCO. [HL1604]

**Baroness Verma:** In 2011 UNESCO was one of the agencies assessed in the Multilateral Aid Review. That review rated UNESCO as Poor Value for Money and sought significant improvements in results based management, a strengthened focus on value for money, continued reductions in administrative overhead and improved transparency.

In 2013 we conducted a follow-up review of UNESCO. This concluded that the organisation had made reasonable progress with reforms, particularly in the areas of greatest weakness in the 2011 assessment.

## Unidentified Flying Objects

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Defence currently outsources investigations into unidentified aerial phenomena to the private sector; and if so, which are the contracted agencies. [HL1728]

**Earl Howe:** No.

## Welfare Reform and Work Bill

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish a memorandum, setting out their detailed analysis of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill's implications for children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in accordance with the commitment given by the Coalition Government in December 2010; and if so, when. [HL1714]

**Lord Freud:** Ministers had regard to all relevant international obligations when formulating the policies and consider that these obligations have been complied with.

## Welfare State: Children

Asked by **Lord True**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each financial year from 2015–16 to 2020–21, what are the estimated annual costs of (1) child benefit, (2) child tax credits, (3) free school meals for Year 1 and Year 2 children, (4) Universal Credit First Child Premium, (5) Working Tax Credit Childcare element, (6) working tax credit lone parent element, (7) housing benefit family

premium, (8) child care grant, and (9) healthy start. [HL1427]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** (1, 2, 5, 6) The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has published expenditure forecasts for tax credits and Child Benefit as part of their recently published Economic and Fiscal Outlook document. The relevant information relating to personal tax credits and child benefit is reproduced below. Expenditure forecasts are not produced for individual elements of tax credits.

£ billion

Forecast

Welfare  
cap period

Estimate

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Personal tax credits	29.7	29.5	25.3	26.3	27.3	27.5	28.2
Child benefit	11.6	11.5	11.4	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.4

(3) The Government is providing over £1 billion of funding in 2014-15 and 2015-16 to meet the costs of universal free school meals for children in reception, year 1 and year 2. Funding for later years will be considered as part of the forthcoming Spending Review.

Schools also provide free school meals for children up to the age of 18, based on their parents' eligibility for certain benefits. This will include children in years 1 and 2. This is funded separately from within the Dedicated Schools Grant allocated to schools. It is up to schools to

decide how to use their budgets and the Government does not measure spend on free school meals for this cohort.

(4) The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has published expenditure forecasts for Universal Credit as part of their recently published Economic and Fiscal Outlook document. The relevant information is reproduced below.

Expenditure forecasts are not produced by individual Universal Credit elements and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£ billion

Welfare  
cap  
period

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Universal credit*	0.1	0.5	-0.2	-0.9	-1.7	-2.7	-3.1

\*Universal credit actual spending for 2014-15 and 2015-16. Spending from 2016-17 onwards represents universal credit additional costs not already included against other benefits (i.e. UC payments that do not exist under current benefit structure).

(7) The information relating to housing benefit is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

(8) Forecasts are not available for child care grants, for which the rate is set annually. £74 million of awards were made in the 2013/14 academic year. Information relating to student support grant for childcare for 2016/17 was published in a written statement by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on 21 July 2015. It confirmed that the maximum childcare grant payable in 2016-17, which covers 85 per cent of actual childcare costs, will be £155.24 per week for one child only and £266.15 per week for two or more children. Student support grants for childcare form just one component of the overall student grant budget.

(9) The estimated annual costs for the Healthy start scheme for 2015/16 are £81.6 million, net of devolved administration receipts.

## West Bank: Armed Conflict

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost to the public purse in the last five years of the conflict in the West Bank, both directly and via the EU. [HL1663]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK provided £349 million in support of Palestinian development between 2011-2015 and will provide a further £72 million in 2015/16. This includes support for both Gaza and the West Bank.

DFID's programme contributes to UK policy objectives of a negotiated two-state solution. Following the conflict in Gaza last year, the UK provided £17 million of immediate humanitarian assistance and pledged a further

£20 million of early recovery assistance at the Gaza Reconstruction conference in Cairo.

We have already disbursed over 80% of the pledge. European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is the main EU financial instrument for the OPTs which provides funding to support governance at local and national levels, private sector and economic development and water and land development. In 2014, EU funding through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) amounted €309.5 million.

The UK contributes to the EU Budget as a whole, and not to individual instruments within it. The UK's share of the EU's expenditure in EU instruments is approximately 14.5%.

### **West Bank: Demolition**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possible consequences for Israel and the Israeli settlers if the Israeli Civil Administration demolish the village of Susiya; and what information they have on any plans to rehouse the residents. [[HL1726](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), raised our concerns over settlements with the Israeli government on 16 July, during his visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. He made it clear to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu that actions that diminish trust and make the prospect of peace more remote need to be avoided and that settlement

announcements do real harm. The Government's position is that all Israeli settlements are illegal under international law.

The Government is a strong supporter of the community in Susiya, including through regular visits to see the situation on the ground. Our Consul-General in Jerusalem visited Susiya, alongside the other EU Heads of Missions, most recently on 22 July, to make clear our serious concerns about the proposed demolition.

The Government has not received clear information on plans to re-house Susiya residents, although the community has raised specific concerns that they may be transferred away from their privately owned land, against their will.

### **Zimbabwe: Pensions**

*Asked by **Lord Goodlad***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to use overseas superannuation funds to pay pensioners owed money by the government of Zimbabwe; and, if so, when they will do so. [[HL1393](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The legal and moral responsibility to pay pensions to former Rhodesian and Zimbabwean public servants sits with the Government of Zimbabwe. The British Government continues to remind the relevant authorities in Zimbabwe of this legal commitment. Following our most recent approach the Government of Zimbabwe wrote to us on 27 May. They explained that pension repayments remain affected by current financial constraints in Zimbabwe and the state of the wider economy. Nonetheless, at our prompting they committed to continuing to seek a solution.

# Written Answers

*Tuesday, 8 September 2015*

## COE Parliamentary Assembly

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who are the Members of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and what is the political affiliation of each Member. [HL1688]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** A list of full and alternate UK members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), as well as their party affiliations and European political groupings, is attached here. The current delegation consists of those members who were appointed by the Prime Minister, my right hon.

Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), on 15 January 2013 and includes Members from both Houses. The party distribution should reflect the composition of the House of Commons. However, the delegation remains unchanged from before May's general election (apart from, sadly, Charles Kennedy). Therefore, some existing UK PACE members no longer have seats in Parliament. This delegation can continue for up to a maximum of six months from the date of May's general election. The new delegation will be appointed by the Prime Minister by November 2015. The party distribution will reflect the composition of the House of Commons.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PACE: List of full and alternate members [150722 PQ HL1688 - UK Del to PACE CoE attachment.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-07-20/HL1688>



## Written Answers

*Thursday, 10 September 2015*

### **Afghanistan: Immigration**

*Asked by **Baroness Coussins***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan interpreters (1) have already been relocated to the United Kingdom under the post-conflict redundancy

scheme, and (2) have had their application approved and are awaiting relocation. [[HL2044](#)]

**Earl Howe:** Over 170 former local staff have already been relocated to the UK under the Ex Gratia Redundancy Scheme along with approximately 400 family members. Over 35 more local staff have had their application approved and been granted a visa, along with their immediate family members and will be relocating to the UK in the near future.

## Written Answers

Friday, 11 September 2015

### Afghanistan: Immigration

Asked by *Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan interpreters (1) have applied for, and (2) been granted, relocation to the United Kingdom under the policy regarding intimidation. [HL2045]

**Earl Howe:** Under Her Majesty's Government's Intimidation Policy for locally employed staff in Afghanistan staff can raise a claim of intimidation and following investigation we provide them with the most appropriate measure to mitigate any risk they may face. This can include security advice, financial support to move location within Afghanistan or relocation to the UK. Under the current policy no local staff have been relocated to the UK, and we have relocated some 30 local staff within Afghanistan.

### Carer's Allowance

Asked by *Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many households in receipt of Carer's Allowance have a total benefit income above (1) £20,000, and (2) £23,000. [HL1927]

**Lord Freud:** The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Telephone Services

Asked by *Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has target times by which members of the public can reasonably expect to get through on the telephone and speak to an official; by what percentage extent there has been a change over the past three years in the number of telephone calls from the public seeking information or assistance from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills; and what training in communication skills is provided for the officials in that Department. [HL2013]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Department's target is for 93% of telephone enquiries to be answered within 45 seconds.

Call volumes to the general enquiries telephone line for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills were as follows:

April 2012-March 2013: 41,562 calls

April 2013-March 2014: 31,426 calls (a 24% decrease from 2012-2013)

April 2014-March 2015: 30,533 calls (a 3% decrease from 2013-2014)

Training provision on communication skills is dependent on the needs of officials and teams. An advanced level course on the professional handling of telephone calls was most recently delivered to frontline call handlers on Thursday 20 August.

### Offices: Rents

Asked by *Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the costs of renting office space in cities, especially London, and of the effect on those costs as more previously disused office space is converted into new flats. [HL2038]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** BIS constantly review occupancy costs through effective data management utilising best in class market advisors to provide current market rental evidence. London particularly has seen an increase in office rental values driven in part by the demand for alternative residential use. BIS have adopted strategies to mitigate the costs resulting in a cost per person and space utilisation being lower in London than regions.

A BIS 2020 Estate strategy is currently being developed to maximise the efficient use of office space across the office portfolio. The new estates strategy will drive significant reductions in floor space and coupled with greater emphasis on online working will deliver substantial savings over the spending review period.

### Queen Elizabeth II

Asked by *Lord Hanningfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to acknowledge and celebrate Her Majesty the Queen becoming the longest-serving monarch on 9 September. [HL1900]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Her Majesty's Government congratulates Her Majesty the Queen on this historic milestone and wishes her many more happy years as Head of State. In line with Her Majesty the Queen's wishes, there were no official events to mark the occasion.

# Written Answers

Monday, 14 September 2015

## Battle of Jutland

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Jutland in 2016. [HL1942]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** A national commemorative event will be held on 31 May 2016 to mark the Battle of Jutland and the wider war at sea. Further details will be announced later this year.

## BBC

Asked by *Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conclusions of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee report of February 2015, Future of the BBC, that (1) the BBC's independence could be compromised by negotiations with government that lack transparency and public consultation; (2) licence fee payers must be consulted and Parliament should have an opportunity to debate any significant changes to funding responsibilities; and (3) that it was wholly wrong that the 2010 licence fee settlement was not subject to any public or parliamentary consultation. [HL1878]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The BBC Charter Review Consultation, published on 16 July 2015, drew heavily on the evidence heard by, and the report from, the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's report on the Future of the BBC. The Charter Review provides an opportunity for a wide-ranging national debate about the BBC, and will inform the Government's proposals for the future of the BBC, including its funding.

## BBC: Royal Charters

Asked by *Baroness Greender*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how often the members of the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel will meet (1) each other and (2) the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. [HL1876]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** (1) As set out in the Advisory Group's terms of reference the Group will meet approximately six times a year at times agreed in advance by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport's office<sup>[1]</sup>.

(2) These meetings will be chaired by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

[1] Can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/445912/TERMS\\_OF\\_REFERENCE.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445912/TERMS_OF_REFERENCE.pdf)

Asked by *Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the terms of reference of the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel. [HL1882]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The BBC Charter Review Advisory Group's terms of reference are:

Membership of the Group is voluntary and by invitation from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, who will Chair the meetings.

Members will possess a range of skills, experience and expertise that enables them to contribute independently and in different ways to the oversight of the Government's Review of the BBC Royal Charter.

Members are appointed on the basis of their personal experience not as representatives of their respective organisations.

Further details on the BBC Charter Review Advisory Group can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/445912/TERMS\\_OF\\_REFERENCE.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445912/TERMS_OF_REFERENCE.pdf).

Asked by *Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel will take evidence during the course of its work; and if so, whether that evidence will be taken in public. [HL1884]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** In its consideration of policy and process issues for the Charter Review, it is envisaged that the Advisory Group will consider a range of sources of evidence – including, but not limited to, responses to the Government's consultation, and publicly available sources of evidence such as the BBC's strategy documents. There are no current plans for evidence, written or oral, to be taken in public by the Advisory Group.

Asked by *Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish the views and advice they receive from the members of the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel. [HL1885]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** There are currently no such plans. The Group may make recommendations about policy and process, but ultimate responsibility for decisions remains with Department for Culture, Media and Sport Ministers.

Asked by *Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel has the power to compel evidence from the people and institutions from whom they wish to hear. [HL1886]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** In its consideration of policy and process issues for the Charter Review, it is envisaged that the Advisory Group will consider a range of sources

of evidence – including, but not limited to, responses to the Government’s consultation, and publicly available sources of evidence such as the BBC’s strategy documents. There are no current plans for evidence, written or oral, to be taken in public by the Advisory Group.

### British Nationals Abroad: Germany

*Asked by Lord Wallace of Saltaire*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what estimates they have made, if any, either from United Kingdom sources or from access to German statistics, of the number of United Kingdom citizens (1) resident in Germany, (2) working in Germany, and (3) claiming social benefits in Germany. [HL1979]

**Lord Freud:** According to the German National Statistics Agency there were 103,756 UK nationals resident in Germany as of 31 December 2014.

According to the German Federal Employment Agency, in 2014, there were 33,536 UK nationals in regular employment in Germany and paying national insurance contributions.

Statistics on the number of UK nationals claiming social benefits in Germany are not held.

### Courts: Buildings

*Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Faulks on 16 July (HLWS108), how many of the courts closed since 2010 remain to be disposed of, and what is the monthly cost of each such court building. [HL1700]

**Lord Faulks:** The Department is committed to disposing of surplus property assets expeditiously and reducing holding costs. As of 4 September 2015 a total of 80 courts closed under the Court Estate Reform Programme have been sold attracting disposal receipts of £49.18m.

The total cumulative gross benefits expected from the 2010 Court Estate Reform Programme are £152m, consisting of resource savings from court closures of £98m and gross capital proceeds of £54m from the sale of buildings.

The disposal of surplus property assets is dependent on a number of factors, such as the market, potential future use, location and the fact that some are occupied in part by the police and local authorities which also make disposal difficult. There are 13 closed court buildings closed since May 2010 that are currently not in use, the majority of which were closed under the Court Estate Reform Programme. Five of the closed court buildings which have not been disposed of are either under offer or on the market. Of those which have not yet been brought to the market, four court buildings have shared locations

with the police which means the future of the building is tied in with the Police Station, one has a flying freehold issue and the other three were closed recently. We are working on bringing all of them to the market as soon as possible.

There are temporary costs associated with making sure unused buildings are kept secure, protecting the fabric of the building and property rates payable to local councils. In addition, decommissioning the buildings to make them ready for sale results in some costs which cannot be disaggregated from the overall running costs. However, these are significantly lower than the costs of running the courts when open, which will have included estates costs, staffing costs and the cost of the judiciary. On average the estates running costs alone for these courts are now more than £4,000 lower per month, almost £50,000 less a year, than when the courts were open. That does not include the further substantial savings from staffing and judiciary costs.

*Table: Monthly cost of each court building which has been closed since May 2010 but not yet disposed of as at 4 September 2015*

<i>Court building</i>	<i>Average monthly cost<sup>1,5</sup></i>
Alton Magistrates’ Court <sup>2</sup>	£9,828
Bracknell Magistrates’ Court	£5,319
Cirencester Magistrates’ Court	£1,472
Coleford Magistrates’ Court	£1,561
Keighley Magistrates’ Court (sitting at Bingley)	£2,011
Knutsford Crown Court <sup>2</sup>	£9,274
Liverpool Magistrates’ Court <sup>4</sup>	Not available
Lyndhurst Magistrates’ Court	£1,783
Oswestry Magistrates’ Court / County Court	£2,269
Pontefract Magistrates’ Court	£1,957
Spalding Magistrates’ Court <sup>2</sup>	£3,909
Totnes Magistrates’ Court <sup>3</sup>	£790
Towcester Magistrates’ Court <sup>3</sup>	£445

*Footnotes:*

1. Monthly cost based on financial year data 2014/15 (unless otherwise stated). Holding costs include rates, fuel and utilities, facilities management, telephony and other property costs.

2. These courts closed in financial year 2014/15 and the stated average monthly cost is therefore based on the last three months of 2014/15. The stated costs for these 3 courts are abnormally high because maintenance costs are likely to include decommissioning costs which are incurred shortly after closure. It is not possible to strip out any decommissioning costs from this answer without incurring disproportionate costs.

3. Monthly cost based on financial year data 2013/14 and 2014/15 in order to address accounting adjustments made in 2014/15.

4. Liverpool (Dale Street) Magistrates’ Court was integrated into the QEII Law Courts as of 30 June, creating a single centre for crime in the city of Liverpool.



## Department for Work and Pensions: Telephone Services

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Department for Work and Pensions has target times by which members of the public can reasonably expect to get through on the telephone and speak to an official; by what percentage extent there has been a change over the past three years in the number of telephone calls from the public seeking information or assistance from the Department for Work and Pensions; and what training in communication skills is provided for the officials in that Department. [HL2012]

**Lord Freud:** The current targets across DWP for answering telephone calls from the public are:

- Working Age Benefits - 2 minutes (with the exception of Universal Credit which is 1 minute 30 seconds).
- State Pension, State Pension Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance - 1 minute 30 seconds.
- Child Maintenance Group - 1 minute.

We are unable to provide information relating to the request for a percentage change over the past three years in the number of telephone calls from the public, as prior to April 2013, reporting was produced through the telephony platform itself. As the platform has a 14 rolling month data retention policy, and no robust archive of data was maintained at this time, robust data is not available for this period.

All staff working in the Department for Work and Pensions who are new to delivering phone services receive job specific training which includes communication skills. New members of staff also have the opportunity to observe experienced staff allowing them to pick up a range of communication skills from experienced Agents.

## Education Funding Agency: Birmingham

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Education Funding Agency did not consult all relevant partners when purchasing Spitfire House in Castle Vale, Birmingham. [I] [HL2073]

**Lord Nash:** Consultation with any partners or tenants is a matter for the vendor of the building rather than the Education Funding Agency as purchasers.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date the Education Funding Agency became involved in purchasing Spitfire House in Castle Vale, Birmingham;

what price they paid for the building; and who received the purchase monies. [I] [HL2074]

**Lord Nash:** The Education Funding Agency first visited the property and began negotiations on 8 July 2015.

The purchase price was £1,500,000 (exclusive of VAT).

The vendor, Birmingham Metropolitan College, received the purchase monies.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Department is responsible for ensuring that the project regarding the change of ownership and function of Spitfire House in Castle Vale, Birmingham, complies with financial rules under the European Regional Development Fund. [I] [HL2075]

**Lord Nash:** The Education Funding Agency (EFA) was not party to the original funding agreement with the European Regional Development Fund and therefore ensuring relevant consultation and compliance is a matter for the vendor rather than the purchaser.

EFA legal team confirmed that the title contained no caution or charge in respect of the European Regional Development Fund.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions took place, and with which organisations, about the proposal to lift the restrictive covenants regarding community access in respect of Spitfire House in Castle Vale, Birmingham. [I] [HL2076]

**Lord Nash:** The property was purchased subject to restrictions on title relating to community access. No restrictive covenants regarding community access have been removed or amended and therefore no consultation was necessary.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what safeguarding arrangements are in place for the free school that will operate in part of Spitfire House in Castle Vale, Birmingham. [I] [HL2077]

**Lord Nash:** All schools have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn. Ofsted has completed a pre-registration inspection at this school and advised that this school is likely to meet all the independent school standards when it opens, including those relating to the welfare, health and safety of its pupils.

The Trust is preparing a management plan so that the school will be able to operate independently from the other occupants in the premises.

The September 2015 pupil intake will be located on the second floor which is not co-habited by others.

## Government Departments: Marketing

Asked by *Lord Strasburger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times this year the Department for Work and Pensions has published invented quotes and stock images purporting to be from and of real benefits claimants; and to what extent other government departments engage in similar practices. [HL1854]

**Lord Freud:** This information is not collated centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

## Heathrow Airport

Asked by *Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the report of the Independent Monitoring Board on the non-residential short-term holding facilities at London Heathrow Airport for the period February 2014 to January 2015. [HL1872]

**Lord Bates:** The Minister of State for Immigration, James Brokenshire, wrote to the Chairman of the Heathrow Airport Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) on 23 June 2015 and outlined the Home Office's response to the main points made in the IMB's annual report.

The Home Office has drafted an action plan which considers each individual recommendation made in the report. Home Office officials met the Heathrow Airport IMB Chairman on 28 July 2015 to discuss this action plan and the work being undertaken by Detention Operations, Border Force and the escort provider to implement the report's recommendations. These meetings will continue to take place on a quarterly basis.

## Human Trafficking

Asked by *Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in (1) 2013–14 and (2) 2014–15 how many potential victims of trafficking referred to the National Referral Mechanism and accommodated by the National Asylum Support Service received specialist trafficking outreach support under the Victim Care Contract during the 45-day reflection and recovery periods. [HL1926]

**Lord Bates:** The number of potential victims of human trafficking who received outreach support under the Victim Care Contract whilst accommodated through the Home Office asylum contracts accommodation were as follows:

01/07/2013 - 30/06/2014 - 202

(Male - 20; Female - 182)

01/07/2014 - 30/06/2015 - 246

(Male - 33; Female - 213)

## Nuclear Power Stations: Insurance

Asked by *Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there is sufficient capacity in the nuclear insurance market for third-party liabilities for operators of planned nuclear power stations. [HL1948]

Asked by *Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there is sufficient capacity in the nuclear insurance market to cover the expected level of investment in Hinkley Point B. [HL1949]

Asked by *Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the competitiveness of the insurance market for nuclear property damage and nuclear liability, and (2) whether it provides the capacity needed by nuclear operators, notwithstanding the presence and nature of nuclear insurance pools, including the United Kingdom nuclear insurance pool, and any potential they may have to restrict and distort the provision of such insurance to nuclear operators. [HL1950]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government is in regular contact with the insurance market to discuss the provision of insurance for nuclear operators; this includes both general insurance and third party liabilities. At present there is predicted to be sufficient capacity in the market for planned nuclear power stations, including Hinkley Point C, although the availability of such insurance will always depend on the circumstances at the time. Government will continue to monitor the insurance market for capacity in this area and to encourage insurers to enter the nuclear insurance market.

The Government fully recognises the importance of promoting competition in insurance markets so that customers can get the best price possible. The Financial Conduct Authority and the Competition and Markets Authority between them ensure effective competition, and make sure markets work well for consumers, business and the economy.

## Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Asked by *Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that remaining pre-accreditation from the feed-in tariff scheme will have on the United Kingdom's ability to meet its climate change targets. [HL1985]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Even with the removal of pre-accreditation we are currently on track to deliver at least 30% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2020. In 2014, renewables' share of electricity generation was 19.1% on an unadjusted basis.

The UK is also continuing to make progress towards the 2020 renewables target of 15% of final energy consumption from renewable sources. We are on track to meet the next interim target, which is an average of final energy consumption over 2013/14. The provisional figure, released on 25 June, showed 6.3% of final energy consumption for 2013/14 came from renewable sources, against a target level of 5.4%.

In order to meet the 2050 target (80% reduction on 1990 level) we know we will need significant cuts in emissions across all parts of the economy by 2050. We will need a balanced mix of low carbon technologies, including nuclear, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and renewables, to help tackle the threat of climate change while keeping the lights on and ensuring the best value for consumers.

### Sellafield

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has sufficient human resources of the necessary calibre and expertise to ensure that construction work at Sellafield is being effectively managed and supervised; whether that work is on course to meet all the necessary deadlines; and what progress has been made with that work. [HL1986]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is responsible for ensuring that it and its delivery partners (the Site Licence Companies) have the right skills and capability to deliver its mission. The Department monitors closely the work of the NDA – a specialist contracting authority - and its contractors, which manage and operate the sites on its behalf.

The current NDA team bring decades of technical and commercial experience to the oversight of these major contracts and the Department is assured that the NDA has the necessary resource and expertise to oversee work at Sellafield and its other sites.

In light of the decision, announced by the Secretary of State in January 2015, to change the ownership model for Sellafield, bringing the Sellafield Ltd Site Licence Company under the direct ownership of the NDA as a wholly owned subsidiary with effect from April 2016, the NDA is re-assessing its future resource requirements. The model change has prioritised accessing world class capabilities to all levels of the site.

Performance at Sellafield has been improving steadily since the NDA took ownership in 2005, prior to which there was little investment in the legacy infrastructure and no progress with decommissioning. Sellafield Ltd has on average met 86% of its milestones in recent years and is making good progress against its work plan for 2015/16.

The NDA publishes reports on its website on progress on priority programmes and projects. The latest version of the document can be viewed at:

<http://www.nda.gov.uk/publication/programmes-and-major-projects-report-pilot-3/>

An update is scheduled for later this Autumn.

### Slavery

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 20 July (HL1460), whether the guidance for competent authorities will be revised to include indicators of slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour, in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights, as distinct from cases of human trafficking for these forms of exploitation; and if so, when that guidance will be produced. [HL1924]

**Lord Bates:** Updated guidance for competent authorities was published on 31 July 2015 to reflect the extension of the National Referral Mechanism to identify and support all victims of modern slavery in England and Wales. This guidance now includes information on the definitions and nature of all forms of modern slavery. On the same day, similar updates were also published to the guidance for frontline workers on identifying victims of modern slavery.

### Social Security Benefits: Carers

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of carers who will be affected by the reduction of the benefit cap to (1) £20,000 per year outside London, and (2) £23,000 per year in London. [HL1928]

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the cost of exempting all those in receipt of Carer's Allowance from the benefit cap when it is reduced. [HL1929]

**Lord Freud:** The Government set out its assessment of the impacts of the policies in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill on 20th July. A copy of the impact assessment is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Benefit Cap Impact Assessment [Benefit CAp Impact Assessmet.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1928>

### Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children there were in families subject to benefit

sanctions during the most recent period for which figures are available; and whether that number is rising, falling, or static. [HL1954]

**Lord Freud:** The information as requested is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have responded to the report *Time to Rethink Benefit Sanctions* published in March by five British churches; if so, what is their assessment of that report; and if not, whether they intend to respond, and when. [HL1956]

**Lord Freud:** The Department has not responded to this report. However we are currently considering the contents

of the Work and Pensions Select Committee report and will be providing a government response shortly.

### **Universal Credit: Disqualification**

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the sanctions regime for Universal Credit complies with the recommendations of the UK Statistics Authority. [HL1934]

**Lord Freud:** DWP statisticians are considering all of the points raised by UK Statistics Authority about the publication of sanctions statistics and what additional information and commentary is appropriate to explain this complex area, including the future release of Universal Credit sanctions statistics.



# Written Answers

Tuesday, 15 September 2015

## Affordable Housing

Asked by **Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take in respect of their starter homes policy, in the light of the decision in *R (on the application of West Berkshire District Council and Reading Borough Council) v. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* [2015] EWHC 2222 (Admin) removing affordable housing contribution exemptions from small developments. [HL1947]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As my Rt. Hon Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his report *Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation*, as part of our manifesto commitment to build 200,000 Starter Homes over this Parliament, we intend to expand the current Starter Homes exception site policy to include more types of underused or unviable brownfield land and strengthen the presumption in favour of development for Starter Home developments.

The Government remains concerned about the burden certain Section 106 contributions place on small scale development and the possible impact on the number of houses being built. We are seeking to appeal the judgment

## Bail

Asked by **Lord Beecham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings by Professor Hucklesby of Leeds University on pre-charge bail; and what action, if any, they plan to take in response to those findings. [HL2048]

**Lord Bates:** Professor Hucklesby submitted her findings as part of the public consultation launched by my Right Honourable Friend the Home Secretary in December last year. Officials have been in contact with Professor Hucklesby and have arranged for her to address the next meeting of the PACE Strategy Board in October.

Professor Hucklesby's findings are broadly supportive of the reforms to pre-charge bail which the Home Secretary set out in response to the consultation in March of this year. Legislation to give effect to those reforms will be brought forward in the Policing and Criminal Justice Bill later this year.

## Capital Punishment

Asked by **Lord Judd**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have taken steps to ensure that any funding they provide to counter-narcotics schemes in other countries, including

Iran, Pakistan and The Gambia, promotes the removal of the death penalty. [HL1989]

**Lord Bates:** The UK works with a range of international partners to combat the flow of illicit drugs. We do so to tackle the international drugs trade and minimise the threat it poses to the UK and its citizens. The UK Government takes its domestic and international human rights obligations seriously. We remain opposed to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances and are consistent in our communication with international partners on this issue. Promoting and safeguarding human rights is, and will remain, a fundamental component of our international work.

## Council Housing

Asked by **Lord Beecham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the decision to cut social housing rents on the maintenance of existing council housing stock and the number of new council houses likely to be built in the short, medium, and long term. [HL2049]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We made a commitment in the Summer Budget to reduce social rents in England by one per cent a year for four years from April 2016. This will help protect tenants from rising housing costs whilst protecting taxpayers from the rising costs of subsidising rents through housing benefit. We are confident that local authorities and private registered providers will be able to find and make efficiencies to accommodate the new rent settlement while meeting their Decent Homes responsibilities. The Government remains committed to delivering 275,000 affordable homes over the course of this Parliament.

## Food

Asked by **Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have sought advice from bodies such as Public Health England on their plans to support productivity and growth in the food and drink sectors. [HL2041]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We have regular meetings with the Department of Health and Public Health England to discuss issues of common interest, including our plans to support productivity and growth in the food and drink sectors.

Asked by **Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether plans to support productivity and growth in the food and drink sectors are in conflict with other Government priorities to reduce obesity and alcohol-related harm. [HL2042]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** There is no conflict between plans to support growth and productivity in the food and drink industry with other Government priorities

relating to obesity and alcohol related harm. We want to expand UK food and drink production so that we can displace imports and increase our exports. We aim to see more consumers benefit from access to our world-beating, high quality and nutritious food.

### Hill Farming

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of a further reduction in income for upland farmers on ecosystem services and landscape management. [HL1915]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We have recently increased the direct payment rates for upland farmers under Pillar 1 of the Common Agricultural Policy to ensure they are distributed more equitably across all English farms. These increases will help prevent a fall in income for upland farmers following the expiry of existing support under the Uplands Entry Level Scheme.

Upland farmers are also eligible to apply for support under the new Countryside Stewardship (CS) scheme, which is focused on improving biodiversity and water quality, mitigating flood risks and enhancing the landscape.

We will monitor the impact on upland farmers of these changes to Common Agricultural Policy support arrangements.

### Housing: Construction

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the constraints preventing the achievement of the 200,000 annual housebuilding target. [HL2037]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has no annual housing target but is taking action through a wide range of programmes to boost housing supply and to increase home ownership.

### Human Trafficking

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in (1) 2013–14, and (2) 2014–15, how many potential victims of trafficking referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) were accommodated by the National Asylum Support Service; and of those, how many received (a) a positive reasonable grounds decision, and (b) a positive conclusive grounds decision. [HL1925]

**Lord Bates:** In 2013/14, 1,282 referrals were made into the NRM, of which 537 were accommodated in NASS accommodation. Of those in NASS accommodation, 403 individuals were issued with Positive Reasonable Grounds decisions, of which 154 received a subsequent positive Conclusive Ground decision.

In 2013/15 1,800 referrals were made into the NRM, of which 716 were accommodated in NASS accommodation. Of those in NASS accommodation, 632 individuals were issued with Positive Reasonable Grounds decisions, of which 126 received a subsequent positive Conclusive Ground decision.

### Hunting: Crossbows

*Asked by Lord Hanningfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to introduce legislation to ban hunting with bows and arrows, and crossbows. [HL1897]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The management of wildlife is a devolved matter. In England and Wales, the use of a bow or crossbow to kill or take any wild animal is currently prohibited under section 11(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. There are no plans to allow bow hunting in England or amend the Act in this respect.

### Iraq: Military Intervention

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the rules of engagement for British soldiers embedded with the United States forces in Iraq have been changed; and whether those rules allow military action outside Iraq. [HL1894]

**Earl Howe:** The UK does not comment on rules of engagement (ROE) used by other Nations. However, UK personnel embedded with other nations remain subject to UK military jurisdiction and are personally responsible for ensuring that their actions when acting in self defence or participating in, or supporting, offensive operations are in accordance with UK law and with the UK's interpretation of international law.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Disqualification

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to make a more comprehensive analysis of sanction rates for Jobseeker's Allowance claimants. [HL1933]

**Lord Freud:** DWP statisticians are considering all of the points raised by UK Statistics Authority about the publication of sanctions statistics and what additional information and commentary is appropriate to explain this complex area.

### Mycoplasma Bovis

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have evaluated the potential risk of Mycoplasma bovis to the national dairy herd and to milk production; and if not,

whether they plan to do so, and within what timescale. [HL1910]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to raise awareness amongst livestock farmers of *Mycoplasma bovis* disease. [HL1911]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to work with the farming industry to address the problems caused by *Mycoplasma bovis*. [HL1912]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have identified any potential risk to human health from *Mycoplasma bovis*. [HL1913]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Through the Animal and Plant Health Agency, the Government is aware of the current situation of *Mycoplasma bovis* in cattle in England, Wales and Scotland and has funded work on *Mycoplasma* species. This work is published and information about *Mycoplasma bovis* has been made available to livestock owners through the Cattle Health and Welfare Group and various pharmaceutical companies.

The disease has been recorded in the UK since 1974 and is more often associated with calf pneumonia than with its impact on milk production in the UK. The organism is host specific to cattle and has only ever been reported twice in man, in immunocompromised patients in both cases.

An assessment was carried out in 2010 on any links between animal *Mycoplasmas* and human health. The conclusion of the assessment was that human infections are very rare, but may have occurred and that the potential for human transmission could not be totally excluded.

The Minister of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment has discussed individual cases of *Mycoplasma bovis* and their implications with the Chief Veterinary Officer during the course of the last twelve months, and we continue to monitor the disease.

## National Insurance

*Asked by Lord Wallace of Saltaire*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what checks are made to ensure that applicants are entitled to (1) reside within the United Kingdom, and (2) work within the United Kingdom, before new National Insurance numbers are issued. [HL1978]

**Lord Freud:** The Department for Work and Pensions conducts thorough identity, immigration status, and right to work checks on all applications for National Insurance Numbers.

The Department works closely with the Home Office to identify anyone with no valid right to reside or work in the UK and an applicant who could not demonstrate that

they were in this country legally would not be given a National Insurance Number.

## Navy: Military Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the future of the Royal Navy Air Squadron. [HL1968]

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the future manpower, equipment, potential and likely deployment strategy of 736 Naval Air Squadron. [HL1969]

**Earl Howe:** 736 Naval Air Squadron, based at Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose in Cornwall, provides a wide range of training at sea, including maritime aggressor training and air threat simulation, for the Royal Navy and international Defence allies.

While the Ministry of Defence aims, in the future, to take advantage of synthetic training environments, a requirement to support Defence training activities with live aircraft will remain. The future delivery of this training, including the overall equipment and manpower requirements, will be decided through the Air Support to Defence Operational Training programme

## Neonicotinoids

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what scientific evidence they based their decision to lift the ban on neonicotinoids. [HL1921]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK Government has not lifted a ban on neonicotinoids. There is not a ban, but a restriction on the use of three neonicotinoids in place since 1 December 2013. A number of uses remain approved. The restriction has been implemented in full.

The main European regulation on pesticides provides for limited and controlled use of the restricted neonicotinoids on an exceptional basis to control a danger which cannot be contained by any other reasonable means.

The Government considers applications for such emergency authorisations according to the legal requirements and the best available scientific evidence. The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides advises Ministers on what authorisations are capable of being issued. The Committee considered two applications for emergency authorisations, each for two separate neonicotinoid seed treatments for winter oilseed rape this year. They recommended the first application, which requested authorisation to use neonicotinoids on 79% of the national crop area, should be rejected as their use was not limited and controlled. They recommended that the second application, to use neonicotinoids on 5% of the national crop area, should be accepted as the use was

limited and controlled, was subject to stewardship arrangements and was to control a danger which could not be contained by any other reasonable means.

The Committee's advice has been published online and copies will be placed in the House Libraries.

The European Commission has begun a review of the science on neonicotinoids and pollinators. The Government will participate fully in that process.

### **Northern Ireland Civil Service: Redundancy Pay**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the source of funds being made available to the Northern Ireland Executive to allow it to finance the voluntary exit scheme for Northern Ireland Civil Servants. [HL2024]

**Lord Dunlop:** Under the Stormont House Agreement the Government will provide the Northern Ireland Executive with flexibility to use Reinvestment and Reform Initiative capital borrowing powers to fund a Northern Ireland public sector voluntary exit scheme.

### **Oilseed Rape: Neonicotinoids**

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of recent field trials of rape seed treated with neonicotinoids and the impact of neonicotinoids on bumblebee populations. [HL1850]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Commission has begun a review of the science relating to neonicotinoids and bees. This will include effects on bees from seed treatment and granule uses of the restricted neonicotinoids on any crop. The Government will contribute fully to this review and will base its view on future regulation of neonicotinoids on all the available scientific evidence. We are aware that there have been a number of new studies since 2013. Initial results from a large field trial being carried out by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to look at honey bees, bumble bees and solitary bees are expected later this year.

The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides has the task of advising Ministers on issues relating to the authorisation of pesticides. It considered recent research on neonicotinoids and pollinators, including the recent report by Rundlöf et al, at its May 2015 meeting. The detailed record of the meeting states that the Committee "agreed that this was a complex and evolving issue that required careful judgement, based on a weight of evidence approach". The Committee agreed to come back to the issue regularly at future meetings.

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date they took the decision to grant an emergency application from the National Farmers' Union to use neonicotinoid seed treatments in the autumn of 2015; when this

decision was announced; and, if there was a gap between the date of decision and date of announcement, what was the reason for the delay. [HL1851]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The decision was taken on 21 July and was communicated to the applicant on 22 July. Details of pesticide authorisations issued are placed on the Health and Safety Executive website. These authorisations were issued to the National Farmers' Union on 24 July and were placed on the website on the same day.

### **Police and Crime Commissioners: Elections**

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each year between 2011 and 2014, how many people were eligible in each police area to take part in elections for police and crime commissioners in England and Wales. [HL2092]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office does not hold information on the number of eligible electors in each police area in 2011.

For 2012, when the first elections for Police and Crime Commissioner took place across England and Wales, the Home Office does not hold verified data. However, this information should be available directly from local authorities via the relevant Police Area Returning Officer (PARO).

For 2013, the Home Office does not hold this data.

For 2014, the number of eligible electors in the two police areas where by-elections took place were: West Midlands: 1,974,518; South Yorkshire: 1,010,599. This information has been verified by the relevant PARO for each police area. The Home Office does not hold data for eligible electors for the remainder of police force areas.

### **Severn River Crossing: Tolls**

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with ministers of the Welsh Government about the future of the charging of tolls on the Severn Bridge. [HL2001]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** We will set out a timetable for decisions on the future of the Severn Tolls shortly. In taking this forward we will ensure we consult fully with key interested parties, including the Welsh Government.

### **Social Rented Housing**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for meeting the housing needs of homeless people and those living in overcrowded conditions of social housing stock being sold off. [HL2036]



**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Since 2010 the Government has invested over £500 million to help local authorities and the voluntary sector prevent and tackle homelessness, enabling local authorities prevent over 935,000 households from becoming homeless.

The Government wants to help hard working families achieve their dream of home ownership. But not all tenants of housing associations are able to benefit from the discounts the last Government introduced. That's why this Government want to give housing association tenants the same home ownership opportunities as council tenants. Each housing association home sold under the Right to Buy extension will be replaced.

Local authorities should use resources effectively and efficiently and those with a Housing Revenue Account will be required to sell vacant high value housing in order to help fund the building of more affordable homes and the extension of Right to Buy to housing association tenants.

### **Social Security Benefits: Disqualification**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what circumstances, if any, they impose benefit sanctions on persons lacking literacy, numeracy and computer skills, or those with language, communication or mental health problems; and if sanctions are imposed on such groups whether they plan to discontinue them. [HL1951]

**Lord Freud:** The decision to temporarily halt a jobseeker's benefit payment is always thoroughly considered and is not something we do lightly.

It is a consequence of a jobseeker not meeting the conditions attached to receiving their benefits without good reason.

Jobseekers are only ever asked to meet reasonable requirements, taking into account their circumstances and

capability. The requirements and consequences are clearly communicated with them throughout their claim and set out in their Claimant Commitment.

The vast majority of jobseekers fulfil their requirements and do not receive a sanction.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration, if any, they have given to imposing community service, instead of benefit sanctions, on benefits claimants who wilfully fail to comply with the rules. [HL1952]

**Lord Freud:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave on 13 July 2015 to Question UIN HL1119 when I wrote, "there are no current plans to replace benefit sanctions with community service."

### **Type 26 Frigates**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the planned operational life of a Type 26 frigate. [HL1943]

**Earl Howe:** The planned operational life of a Type 26 Global Combat Ship is at least 25 years.

### **Unmanned Air Vehicles**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to authorise the sale in the United Kingdom of anti-drone ammunition for use in 12-gauge shotguns. [HL2097]

**Lord Bates:** There are currently no plans to authorise the sale of such ammunition in the United Kingdom. However, any ammunition which is armour-piercing is prohibited under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968.

## Written Answers

Wednesday, 16 September 2015

### A303

Asked by *Lord Cameron of Dillington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which year they currently expect the dualling of the A303 around Stonehenge to be completed. [HL2056]

Asked by *Lord Cameron of Dillington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which year they currently expect the dualling of the A303 along the Ilminster by-pass and the A358 link to the M5 to be completed. [HL2057]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Road Investment Strategy sets out an intention to upgrade all remaining single carriageway sections of the A303 between the M3 and the A358 to dual carriageway standard as part of a long-term commitment to creating a new Expressway to the South West. We are starting this process with three major improvements: A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down (Stonehenge), A303 Sparkford to Ilchester and the A358 Taunton (M5) to Southfields. Construction of these schemes is expected to start in the first Road Period (by 1 April 2020), depending on planning, and completion is expected by the middle of the 2020s at the latest. We would expect subsequent Road Investment Strategies to fund the remaining improvements, such as to the Ilminster by-pass.

### Airports: Lost Property

Asked by *Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of lost property is recovered from (1) Heathrow airport, (2) Manchester airport, (3) Liverpool airport, (4) Gatwick airport, and (5) Glasgow airport. [HL2103]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government does not collect statistics on what proportion of lost property is recovered from airports. This is a matter for the airports concerned.

Asked by *Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what happens to the lost property that is not recovered at (1) Heathrow airport, (2) Manchester airport, (3) Liverpool airport, (4) Gatwick airport, and (5) Glasgow airport; and what revenue, if any, property that is not recovered raises for each airport. [HL2104]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government does not hold information on the lost property arrangements of individual airports or any revenue that they collect as a result. However it is usual practice for items to be retained for a minimum of 90 days and then either

auctioned, donated or, where they may be deemed hazardous, to be disposed of in a suitable manner.

### Animal Products: Import Controls

Asked by *Lord Hanningfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to introduce legislation to ban the import of animal trophies into the United Kingdom, particularly trophies from endangered species. [HL1898]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Under international rules set by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, a hunting trophy of an endangered species can only be exported if the exporting country is satisfied that the hunt was both legal and sustainable in terms of its impact on the overall population of the species in that country.

However, in light of growing concerns about the sustainability of the hunting of some species, we have worked within the EU to introduce stricter controls on the import of hunting trophies of particular species. This requires the importing country to also carry out an assessment of the sustainability of the hunt. In this way the import of hunting trophies of certain species from certain countries is currently prohibited by the EU.

The Government considers that properly managed, legal and sustainable trophy hunting can play a part in species conservation efforts, including providing an important source of funding for some countries. As such we have no plans to introduce legislation banning the import of all animal trophies, but we will continue to monitor the impact of trophy hunting and will work with the EU and our international partners to put in place greater protection, including prohibiting imports, where this is shown to be needed.

### Animal Products: Imports

Asked by *Lord Hanningfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what records they keep of the import of animal trophies into the United Kingdom; and whether they plan to publish data regarding the number of such imports and the respective countries of origin. [HL1899]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK holds records of applications and permits issued to import hunting trophies of species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to the UK from outside the EU. We also hold information on which import permits were returned as used.

The UK annually submits trade data in CITES specimens, including hunting trophies, to the CITES Secretariat, which administers the Convention. These are publicly available on the CITES Trade Database on the CITES website.

## Archaeology

Asked by **Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the review of local government archaeology services by John Howell MP and Lord Redesdale, which was commissioned in October 2013 by the Minister for Culture, Communication and Creative Industries, Mr Ed Vaizey MP; and when they plan to announce their response. [[HL2095](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The review of local government archaeology services usefully highlighted the imperative of ensuring that local planning authorities have the historic environment information and expertise they need to help deliver sustainable development. Historic England is currently working with the Historic Environment Forum to develop sector-led ideas for new approaches to managing change in the historic environment that make the best use of local government resources and reduce burdens.

## BBC: Royal Charters

Asked by **Baroness Grender**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the members of the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel will be required to declare any relevant interests; and if so, what is the process for doing so. [[HL1874](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Grender**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any declarations of interest by the members of the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel will be published. [[HL1875](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Grender**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel will have the power to commission research; and, if so, from whom. [[HL1877](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Department published the names of the Advisory Group members, as well as their principal roles, both current and former, in July 2015. This information is shown in the table below:

<i>Advisory Group Member</i>	<i>Current or former role</i>
Dawn Airey	Senior Vice President of Yahoo's business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and formerly Chairman and Chief Executive of Channel 5.
Dame Colette Bowe	Chairman of the Banking Standards Board, President of the Voice of the Listener and Viewer and former Chair of Ofcom.
Andrew Fisher	Executive Chairman at Shazam.
Darren Henley OBE	CEO of Arts Council England and former Managing Director of Classic FM.

<i>Advisory Group Member</i>	<i>Current or former role</i>
Ashley Highfield	CEO of Johnston Press, one of the largest local media groups in the UK, and former director at the BBC.
Alex Mahon	Former CEO of Shine Group, global television content production company.
Lopa Patel MBE	Digital entrepreneur and founder/CEO of NewAsianPost.com and Diversity UK.
Stewart Purvis OBE	British broadcaster and academic, and former Editor-in-Chief and CEO of ITN.

The Group has no legal status or powers and no decision-making or research commissioning functions. These are not public appointments and therefore the Group is not subject to the Cabinet Office guidelines for public appointments.

Asked by **Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury**

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what process the members of the BBC Charter renewal advisory panel were appointed. [[HL1883](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The members of the Charter Review Advisory Group were appointed by invitation from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The Group is not a decision-making body, and forms one part of a wider Charter Review process which includes public consultation. As set out in the published terms of reference, additional members may be co-opted as and when required by the Chairman. Members of the Group act in a voluntary capacity and on the basis of their personal experience and expertise rather than as representatives of their respective organisations.

## Careers and Enterprise Company

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reply by Lord Nash on 10 December 2014 (HL Deb, col 1830), what progress has been made in establishing the Careers and Enterprise Company and making it operational. [[HL1961](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government who is on the board of the Careers and Enterprise Company. [[HL1962](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the proposed £20 million funding has been spent on the Careers and Enterprise Company to date; and when its first accounts will be published. [[HL1963](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect that the Careers and Enterprise Company has had (1) on the level of employer input into careers education in schools and

colleges, and (2) on the quality of careers education in schools and colleges. [HL1964]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Local Enterprise Partnerships have been involved with the Careers and Enterprise Company to date. [HL1965]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the progress of the work by the Careers and Enterprise Company will be reported to Parliament. [HL1966]

**Lord Nash:** The Careers & Enterprise Company, which was set up to take a lead role in transforming the provision of careers, enterprise and employer engagement experiences for young people, was incorporated in February 2015. Since then it has been working with employers, schools and colleges, careers, enterprise and employer engagement providers and others to devise its strategy for transforming the way in which schools and colleges, in partnership with employers, help to prepare young people for adult life.

On 1 July 2015 the company announced the appointment of Claudia Harris as its Chief Executive Officer and a company board comprising Christine Hodgson, Chair of Capgemini UK (chair); Lord Young of Graffham, former Enterprise Adviser to the Prime Minister; Steve Holliday, Chief Executive Officer of National Grid; Brian Lightman, General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders; and Dame Julia Cleverdon, Vice-Patron of Teach First and Vice-President of Business in the Community.

The Careers & Enterprise Company has made good progress with its set up and its delivery plans. The company will commence its services in the coming months, including publishing research on 'what works' in school-work engagement; launching its £5 million investment fund; and development of a digital 'Enterprise Passport' to help young people broaden and showcase their experience. The company has been engaging Local Enterprise Partnerships recently and the enterprise advisers in the network will support schools to improve their careers and enterprise offer, in particular by brokering links with employers and local careers and enterprise providers.

To date the company has received £10.95 million from government for its activities leading to delivery of the objectives set out by my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State in December. As an independent company, it is for The Careers & Enterprise Company to publish its accounts in accordance with The Companies Act 2006.

My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State is accountable to Parliament in the usual way for progress on improving careers advice and guidance for young people, including the contribution that the company makes to this.

## Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients: Children

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children aged under 18 were detained in police custody during the past 12 months, after being sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983; and what action they plan to take, if any, to prevent such detention in future. [HL2033]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In 2014-15 there were 145 cases of children under the age of 18 being detained in police cells after being sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983; this represents a 40% decrease from the previous year, and a 55% decrease since the figures began to be collected in 2011-12.

The Crisis Care Concordat was launched in February 2014 seeking to improve the experience of those in crisis, and in particular, prevent those detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act being held in police cells. All localities signed up to the principles of the Concordat before the end of 2014. Detailed action plans are now in place across England setting out how local partners will work together to improve service responses for people in crisis. The Department of Health, NHS England and Mind continue to work with local areas to strengthen and improve their "local Concordat action plans".

As announced by the Home Secretary in May earlier this year, this Government will also be reforming the law on the use of police cells to end this practice altogether for under 18s. This will be backed by £15 million to improve the provision of health-based places of safety so that there is better availability of alternatives to police cells for people of all ages.

## Cycleways: Greater London

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to designate roads that form part of strategic cycle networks in London, such as the Cycle Superhighways, as Greater London Authority roads. [HL1904]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The government has no such plans. Any re-designation would be a matter for the Mayor and the Greater London Authority.

## Cycling: Safety

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to help protect cyclists from collisions with heavy goods vehicles caused by the driver being unable to see the cyclist on the near side. [HL1923]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is committed to ensuring the roads are safe for all road users. The European Union has required improved mirrors on new models of heavy goods vehicle launched after 30



June 2014. Further changes are expected in due course, to allow camera monitoring systems and the redesign of lorry cabs for better vision.

We are also watching closely the impact of Transport for London's proposals in this area, including the Safer Lorry Scheme.

### Dolphins: Japan

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Japan to discourage the annual killing of dolphins in the town of Taiji in Japan. [HL2163]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK Government raises its opposition to the annual coastal dolphin hunts that take place in Taiji, Japan, at every appropriate opportunity.

In July 2015, Minister of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment, George Eustice MP, wrote to the Japanese Government to raise the UK's opposition to their on-going coastal hunts and continued programme of lethal scientific research on cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises).

Prior to this, the UK Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) met the Japanese Commissioner to the IWC in May 2015 and officials from the Japanese Embassy in March 2015, where he strongly re-iterated the UK Government's opposition to their continued hunting of cetaceans. Her Majesty's Ambassador to Japan has also written previously to the Japanese Government on this issue.

### Electronic Tagging

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend the mandation of electronic tagging to include individuals under a Domestic Violence Protection Order. [HL1916]

**Lord Bates:** The Government is wholly committed to protecting women and girls from violence and supporting victims and survivors. We are currently developing a refreshed strategy on violence against women and girls which will include intervening earlier in the abuse cycle to deter and rehabilitate perpetrators, as well as continuing to improve the protection for victims and bring offenders to justice.

We are supportive of any tools that can assist the police to manage offenders and protect victims. The potential application of new technologies and electronic monitoring to protect victims of domestic abuse is something that we are exploring as part of our refreshed strategy and we are committed to working with police forces to test new technology. We have no immediate plans to mandate the use of electronic tagging in relation to Domestic Violence Protection Orders.

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to address the delays in implementing the contract for GPS electronic tagging technology. [HL1918]

**Lord Faulks:** A comprehensive review of the Electronic Monitoring programme to introduce GPS technology is underway.

### Food

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish a 25-year plan to boost productivity and growth in the food and drink sectors; and whether this will include consideration of any negative consequences of increased alcohol production. [HL2040]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Our aim is to publish the 25 year Food and Farming Plan around the end of the year. The plan will have a strong focus on the potential for our world leading food and farming sector, including the alcoholic drinks industry, to create jobs and deliver economic growth. The issue of alcohol related harm is complex and multi-faceted, and we have regular discussions with Public Health England and the Department of Health on this and other areas of common interest.

### GCSE

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the criticisms of GCSEs by the High Master of St Paul's School who was reported in the press on 18 August as saying that "one size doesn't fit all" and that "the curse of GCSE is that the size on offer fits no one". [HL2009]

**Lord Nash:** The government's plan for education is designed to help every student, regardless of their background, develop the knowledge, skills and values to prepare them for life in modern Britain. That is why we are reforming GCSEs and A levels to be robust and rigorous, to match the best education systems in the world and to keep pace with universities' and employers' demands.

We have also introduced gold-standard technical and vocational qualifications, ensuring our young people can choose from a wide range of academic and vocational courses.

The government has consulted extensively with a range of educational stakeholders including the teaching sectors and employers.

### Health Services: Armed Forces

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to provide injured service men and women with full access to NHS facilities and treatments; and

whether any such provision would be made for individuals who have access to private treatment. [HL2100]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Injured service men and women are able to access National Health Service facilities and treatments.

All secondary acute and community care is currently provided by the NHS for those serving in the Armed Forces and primary care is provided by the Ministry of Defence's Defence Medical Services (DMS). In some cases, injured serving personnel can be granted temporary registration with an NHS general practitioner for primary care if authorised by the DMS for up to two years where it is in the best interest of the patient's care.

Any patient is free to choose to fund privately a healthcare procedure, but as a result will generally be required to pay all costs associated with that procedure.

### **HMS Queen Elizabeth: Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the purchase of sufficient F35B Sea Lightnings to form a carrier air wing for HMS Queen Elizabeth is dependent on the outcome of the next Strategic Defence and Security Review. [HL1944]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given to him by my predecessor (Lord Astor of Hever) on 22 January 2015 to Question number HL4163.

The number of F-35B Joint Strike Fighter aircraft to be purchased to enable carrier strike from HMS Queen Elizabeth will be determined through the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Aircraft Carriers [Hansard Extract 14 January 2015.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1944>

### **Madeleine McCann**

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the cost to date of the investigation into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann, Operation Grange; what provision has been made for funding the operation in the future; and what criteria they are using to judge how long funding should continue. [HL2087]

**Lord Bates:** The total cost of the investigation, into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann (Operation Grange), up until end of June 2015, is £10.1m. The Home Office has budgeted £2m for the investigation in 2015/16.

The Home Office funds this work from the Special Grant budget. The level of funding provided to the

Metropolitan Police in relation to this investigation is reviewed regularly and will continue to be monitored.

### **Mental Illness: Children**

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made of the mental health problems being experienced by children in the United Kingdom; and what action they plan to take, if any, to reduce the number of children aged under 10 who suffer from severe depression. [HL2034]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The last prevalence survey, published in 2004, found that around 10% of children were suffering from a diagnosable medical condition. Around one in a thousand children was a child aged under 10 suffering from severe depression. Based on these figures, the charity Young Minds has estimated that around 8,000 children aged under 10 suffer from severe depression.

This Government is committed to improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing as a major priority. All clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) have been asked to work with their local partners to develop plans to transform their offer through the development of local transformation plans. These plans, alongside existing investment, should include the full spectrum of interventions: from prevention and resilience building, to support and care for existing and emerging mental health problems, as well as transitions between services and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. This local transformation will be supported by a national programme of work, which includes piloting single points of contact so that young people have access to mental health advice and support in schools and the extension and expansion of the Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme.

Additionally, the Department is commissioning a new comprehensive prevalence survey of children and young people's mental health. The programme is on track to announce a contractor in autumn 2015, and final publication is expected in 2018. The findings of the survey will help identify where best to target improvements.

### **Mental Illness: Prisoners**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Oxford University study Psychiatric disorders and violent reoffending: a national cohort study of convicted prisoners in Sweden, and whether they have plans to improve the current level of diagnosis of and treatment provided to prisoners with mental health problems before their release. [HL2050]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We have made no assessment.

The joint National Health Service and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Offender Personality Disorder (OPD) programme provides a pathway of psychologically informed services for offenders who have a severe personality disorder and who pose a high risk of harm to others or a high risk of reoffending in a harmful way.

The programme has developed a range of services to improve the assessment, treatment and management of this group of offenders from sentence through custody to community-based supervision and resettlement. The NHS is re-investing up to £30 million in OPD services in 2015-16, mainly in prisons and probation services.

In response to the objective in the Government's Mandate to NHS England to provide better healthcare across for people in the criminal justice system in England, including improved mental health care, NHS England has introduced a range of measures to improve mainstream mental health services in prisons.

NHS England's new national specifications for health and justice services will help to promote effective and coordinated mental health services across the prison estate in England. All 116 prison establishments now have clear commissioning strategies to improve service delivery.

NHS England has also developed new performance indicators for prison healthcare with NOMS. These Health and Justice Indicators of Performance will provide assurance that healthcare delivery in prisons, including mental health care, is fit for purpose.

Options for a new mental health pathway, connecting custody, community, as well as secure hospitals, are also being developed to ensure that any prisoner can have mental health treatment equivalent to that they would receive in the community, and that this is also available during a community sentence and after prison.

### Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the last major maintenance work was undertaken on (1) the junction of the M6 and the A38(M), known as Spaghetti Junction, and (2) the elevated section of the M5 between junctions 1 and 2. [HL2116]

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost of maintaining the motorway junction of the M6 with the A38(M), known as Spaghetti Junction, for each of the last 10 years. [HL2117]

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost of maintaining the elevated motorway section of the M5 between junctions 1 and 2 for each of the last 10 years. [HL2118]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** From Highways England's records that are readily available,

(1) The last major maintenance work at the junction of the M6 and the A38 (M), known as Spaghetti Junction was undertaken in 1995.

(2) The last major maintenance work at the elevated section of the M5 between junctions 1 and 2 was undertaken in 1987.

On the matter of the annual maintenance cost:

The cost of maintaining the motorway junction of the M6 with the A38(M), known as Spaghetti Junction was approximately £8.2m for the 12 month period July 2014 to June 2015.

Costs for earlier periods are not readily available.

The cost of maintaining the elevated section of the M5 between junctions 1 and 2 was approximately £2.4m for the 12 month period July 2014 to June 2015.

Costs for earlier periods are not readily available.

### Motorway Service Areas

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage motorway service station signs to advertise on approaching road signs the brand and prices of fuel they are selling. [HL1930]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is currently finalising the detailed design for trialling new traffic signs, displaying comparative motorway fuel prices, to provide greater transparency on the pricing of fuel at service areas and to encourage competition. The first sign will be installed this Winter, with the remaining three signs by Spring 2016.

### Nurses: Migrant Workers

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS nurses they estimate will be affected by the new pay threshold for migrants; and whether they anticipate there will be a shortfall in NHS nursing staff as a result. [HL2027]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Home Office estimate that there were 713 visas issued to nurses in 2011/12 to whom the pay threshold and six year cap would apply if they are still resident in the United Kingdom.

Health Education England (HEE) is responsible for delivering a better health and healthcare workforce for England and for ensuring a secure future supply of nurses with the right skills, values and behaviours to meet future demand.

HEE has increased nurse training places by 11% over the last two years and there are currently over 20,000 more professionally qualified clinical staff since 2010, including over 8,100 more nurses on our wards.

## Nurses: Recruitment

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are targets for the recruitment of British nurses; if so, what they are; and how much it is estimated that this recruitment process will cost. [HL2028]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department has not set any targets for the recruitment of British nurses.

National Health Service organisations are best placed to decide how many staff they employ. Services should be tailored to meet the needs of their patients and local communities, to deliver safe care.

NHS trusts are able to recruit nurses using the NHS Jobs dedicated online recruitment service for the NHS, free of charge.

## Police and Crime Commissioners

Asked by *Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the cost of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for each police area in England and Wales for each year between 2012 and 2015. [HL2091]

**Lord Bates:** The Government does not collate centrally information in respect of the cost of the former Police Authorities or of the Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, it is the responsibility of PCCs to determine how each police area's funding settlement is allocated, including setting the police force budget and the running of the PCC's office.

The 2011 Act specifies that PCCs must publish key information as prescribed by the Secretary of State. The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 (and amended in 2012) sets out what information must be published: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/3050/contents/made>

The publication of this information enables the local electorate to judge whether the PCC is making the best use of public money at the ballot box.

PCCs perform a completely different role from the old Police Authorities they replaced. PCCs are providing accountable, visible leadership, and making a real difference to policing locally.

The Home Affairs Select Committee recognised in their 2014 report that individual PCCs are providing greater clarity of leadership for policing in their areas, and are increasingly recognised for the strategic direction they are providing. In contrast, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary found, in 2010, that only four of the 22 police authorities inspected were judged to have performed well in two of their primary functions: setting strategic direction and ensuring value for money.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

The Elected Local Policing Bodies - Order 2011 [SI - 2011 - No 3050 - Police, England and Wales - Elected Local Policing Bodies - Order 2011.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-08/HL2091>

## Power Stations

Asked by *Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the peak generating capacity of (1) Longannet, (2) Ferrybridge, (3) Ironbridge, (4) Eggborough, (5) Lynemouth and (6) Rugeley power stations; what percentage of the total generating capacity of the United Kingdom each one represents; and when those power stations are expected to close. [HL1984]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The installed generating capacities of each power station and expressed as a percentage of total UK generation capacity are shown in the table below.

Power Station	Installed Capacity (MW)*	Percentage of total UK Generating Capacity*
Longannet	2260	2.8
Ferrybridge	980	1.2
Ironbridge	360	0.4
Eggborough	1960	2.4
Lynemouth	420	0.5
Rugeley	1006	1.2

\*Source: Chapter 5.10 Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electricity-chapter-5-digest-of-united-kingdom-energy-statistics-dukes>

Decisions on plant closures are a commercial matter for individual plant owners. The owners of Longannet and Ferrybridge have publicly stated their intention to close these plants by 1 April 2016. Ironbridge is required to close by end 2015 under the requirements of the Large Combustion Plant Directive. The owner of Eggborough has announced the plant may cease generating at the end of March 2016.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Chapter 5 Digest of UK Energy Stats (DUKES) [DUKES\_2015\_Chapter\_5.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1984>

## Prisoners: Older People

Asked by *Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) males, and (2) females, over the age of 80 are currently serving sentences in prisons in England and Wales. [HL1895]



**Lord Faulks:** As at 30 June 2015 there were 133 male, and 1 female, prisoners aged over 80 years serving sentences in England and Wales.

### Rescue Services: Belfast

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the coastguard boat based in Belfast was given an Irish Language name; and what steps they plan to take to ensure equality of cultures in any such namings in the future. [HL2142]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Her Majesty's Coastguard does not have a boat based in Belfast.

### Rescue Services: Training

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the standard of training for air-sea rescue, formerly provided by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, is maintained under the contract with Bristow Group. [HL1967]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The standard of training provided by Bristow Helicopters for its search and rescue (SAR) helicopter crews is scrutinised in two separate ways. Firstly, as a civil helicopter operator, Bristow Helicopters is regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Bristow must demonstrate to the CAA that its crews have at least the minimum standard of training the regulator requires for the SAR services Bristow provides to the Government. Secondly, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will regularly audit Bristow's contractual compliance with its contract specification, much of which mirrors the military's SAR standards.

### Scientific Advisers

*Asked by Lord Strasburger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what grounds scientific advisory committees may choose not to publish their agendas and minutes; and what assessment they have made of whether such grounds comply with the need for transparency set out in the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees. [HL1853]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government is committed to openness and transparency, in particular in relation to scientific advice. The Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees sets out principles upon which departments and SACs set their own publication policy.

Defra's Scientific Advisory Council, and Scientific Advisory Committees, may choose not to publish their agendas or minutes when they relate to:

- confidential information;
- there is non-disclosure associated with the meeting subject material;

- Government Security Classified documents; or
- commercially sensitive information.

This decision to do so is assessed against the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees. A publicly available explanation is provided when Committees decide not to publish minutes.

In assessing whether grounds for not publishing comply with the Code of Practice's need for transparency, the committee considers:

- public interest in the subject material;
- the commercial impact should the material be published;
- the timing of the material be published; and
- the policy impact, for example, in relation to UK negotiations with another country.

### Small Businesses: Advisory Services

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the Growth Vouchers programme. [HL2004]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Since the growth voucher programme launched in January 2014, we have carried out two qualitative assessments and published the findings. Our evaluation is ongoing. All research and evaluation relating to the programme will be published and can be found at the gov.uk website.

### South Wales Railway Line: Electrification

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there has been any revision to the target date for the completion of the electrification of the South Wales Main Line railway link between London and Swansea. [HL2002]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As the Prime Minister stated on 24th June 2015, this Government is committed to the electrification of Great Western line from Swansea to Cardiff and on to London.

The Secretary of State for Transport announced on the 25th June 2015 that Great Western was a top priority for delivery and that is why he has asked Sir Peter Hendy, the new chair of Network Rail, to put forward proposals for replanning the enhancement programme across England and Wales, which includes electrification. Sir Peter is due to report to the Secretary of State in the Autumn.

### Surgery: Waiting Lists

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why, and by how many, the number of people waiting longer than 18 weeks for treatment for surgery has risen since May 2010. [HL2064]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much waiting times have risen since May 2010 for those patients who are not treated for common forms of surgery within the 18 weeks waiting limit. [HL2065]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Referral to treatment waiting times data, which measure waiting times from referral to the start of consultant-led treatment for non-urgent conditions, does not distinguish between patients waiting for surgery and patients waiting for other types of consultant-led treatment.

At the end of July 2015 there were 232,424 people waiting more than 18 weeks to start consultant led treatment compared to 209,411 in May 2010, an increase of 23,013 people. The main driver for this increase is the growth in demand for elective care over the period due to a range of demographic and other factors such as technological changes in the provision of care. However, the number of people waiting more than 18 weeks as a proportion of the total number of people waiting to start consultant-led treatment is lower in July 2015 than in May 2010, 7.1% of the total waiting list compared to 8.1% in May 2010.

The average median waiting times for all patients who started treatment and that involved an admission during July 2015 was 9.1 weeks compared to 8.4 weeks in May 2010. The time waited for those patients who had waited more than 18 weeks to start treatment is not separately identified.

## **Toxicity of Chemicals in Food Consumer Products and the Environment Committee**

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of Item 3 of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food and the Environment (COT) held on 30 June, relating to inaccurate representation of the Committee's conclusions in official replies, what steps they plan to take to address the fact that COT believes "COT advice to Government ha[s] been repeatedly misrepresented in ministerial communications, including answers to Parliamentary questions"; and whether they plan to inform members of both Houses who receive those answers about their correspondence with COT on this issue. [HL2047]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport's officials have held a meeting on 7 September 2015 with the Committee on Toxicology and Public Health England to discuss these concerns. All sides agreed constructive steps to ensure the Committee's concerns are addressed. The Government plans to write to members of both Houses who have received correspondence or responses to Parliamentary Questions on the issue, with a full description of the Committee's advice in the light of these discussions with the Committee on Toxicology. A copy of this letter will be placed in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

# Written Answers

Thursday, 17 September 2015

## Alcoholic Drinks: Consumption

Asked by **Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they propose to publish any updated guidelines on safe drinking limits, following a review by the Chief Medical Officer. [HL2043]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Guidelines Development Group, a group of independent experts, has been tasked with developing lower-risk drinking guidelines for the United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers to consider. The Group is currently researching and developing a proposal on the guidelines, including a UK-wide approach for guidance on alcohol and pregnancy. We are expecting to consult on these later in the year.

## Birds of Prey: Conservation

Asked by **Viscount Ridley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, of the 12 hen harrier nesting attempts in England in 2015, how many of (1) the six failed nests, and (2) the six successful nests, were on land in an area where the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds had primary control over access to the nests. [HL2105]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The table below sets out monitoring arrangements and outcomes for the 12 hen harrier nesting attempts in England in 2015.

Nest	Landowner	Nest monitored by	Outcome	Notes
1	Private landowner	Local raptor workers	Chicks Fledged	
2	Private landowner	Local raptor workers	Chicks Fledged	
3	Natural England	Natural England	Chicks Fledged	
4	Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission/RSPB/Natural England	Chicks Fledged	
5	Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission/RSPB/Natural England	Chicks Fledged	
6	United Utilities	RSPB	Chicks Fledged	
7	United Utilities	RSPB	Nest failed	Male disappeared
8	United Utilities	RSPB	Nest failed	Male disappeared

Nest	Landowner	Nest monitored by	Outcome	Notes
9	United Utilities	RSPB	Nest failed	Male disappeared
10	United Utilities	RSPB	Nest failed	Male disappeared
11	United Utilities	RSPB	Nest failed	Predation
12	RSPB	RSPB	Nest failed	Male disappeared

## British Nationals Abroad

Asked by **Lord Wallace of Saltaire**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimates they have made of the number of United Kingdom citizens resident within the rest of the European Union; and what level of confidence they have of the accuracy of that estimate. [HL1980]

Asked by **Lord Wallace of Saltaire**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimates they have made of the number of United Kingdom citizens currently employed within the rest of the European Union; and what level of confidence they have of the accuracy of that estimate. [HL1981]

Asked by **Lord Wallace of Saltaire**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of United Kingdom citizens resident outside the European Union; how many of those citizens they estimate to hold dual nationality; and what level of confidence they have of the accuracy of those estimates. [HL1983]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [Lord Wallace of Saltaire UKSA reply.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1980>

## Bovine Tuberculosis

Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the cost of operational and policing requirements for each badger killed under the culling programme. [HL2176]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Defra has published on gov.uk the total operational and policing costs to Defra for the licensed culls in Somerset and Gloucestershire in 2013 and 2014, and total number of badgers culled. We do not have a breakdown of operational or policing costs for each individual badger killed.

## Care Homes

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the appropriateness of the use of the terms "love" and "darling" in a care home; and whether they have given advice to the Care Quality Commission and local authorities on such matters. [HL2218]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department has made no such assessment.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care. All providers of regulated activities must register with CQC and comply with Regulations and a set of fundamental standards of safety and quality.

One of these fundamental standards relates to treating users of services with dignity and respect. The CQC issues guidance to providers on how they should meet the fundamental standards. The guidance on the standard governing dignity and respect includes the following:

- when people receive care and treatment, all staff must treat them with dignity and respect at all times. This includes staff treating them in a caring and compassionate way; and
- all communication with people using services must be respectful. This includes using or facilitating the most suitable means of communication and respecting a person's right to engage or not to engage in communication; and
- people using the service should be addressed in the way they prefer, and local colloquial terms may fit such guidelines perfectly well.

## Cetaceans: Faroe Islands

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of the Faroe Islands to discourage the annual killing of dolphins and pilot whales in the Faroe Islands. [HL2164]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK Government continues to raise its opposition to the hunting of dolphins and pilot whales with the Government of the Faroe Islands at every appropriate opportunity.

Most recently, in June 2015 the UK Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) wrote to the Danish and Faroese Governments to re-iterate our concerns over the welfare and sustainability of their hunts. This follows a visit to the Faroe Islands in March, during which the [then] Secretary of State for Scotland raised the UK's concerns with the Faroese Prime Minister. Her Majesty's Ambassador to Denmark has also previously visited the Faroe Islands and raised the issue in a meeting with the Faroese Prime Minister and Fisheries Ministry officials. Further, in his address to the International Whaling Commission meeting in September

2014, the Minister of State for farming, food and marine environment, George Eustice, stressed the UK's strong support for finding alternatives to hunting and for improving the conservation and welfare of cetaceans globally.

## Children: Cycling

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children aged (1) 8–11, and (2) 11–14, were trained in cycling proficiency at school in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years. [HL2000]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has been funding Bikeability cycle training in schools since 2006/07. The Department for Transport funds training in England and Transport for London funds training in London.

Bikeability training is delivered to children between school years 5-9 (ages 9-14). Bikeability training consists of three levels. Level 1 and Level 2 training is aimed at children aged 9-11 years old and Level 3 training is aimed at children aged 11-14 years old.

Delivery statistics are not collated by age group. However, data on the number of training places delivered for each level of Bikeability training is available from 2012/13 to 2013/14. We have used these data to give an indication of the number of children trained in cycling proficiency at school in each local authority area in England (excluding London) for the age ranges 9-11 years and 11-14 years. Please see the attached tables 1 and 2. The figures are based on information provided by Local Highway Authorities (LHA) and School Games Organiser Host Schools (SGOHS).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL2000 - Tables for Bikeability Training [HL2000 - Bikeability training.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL2000>

## Children: Obesity

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking to assist obese children with sports and exercise alongside food awareness and education. [HL2153]

**Lord Nash:** Tackling obesity, particularly in children, is one of the government's priorities. We will put forward our plans for action in this area as part of the childhood obesity strategy. We recognise that schools can help to address the problem of childhood obesity, through focusing on improving physical education (PE) for all children and teaching about food, nutrition and healthy eating.



Since 2013, the government has provided over £300 million of ring-fenced funding to head teachers to improve PE and sport. We are investing a further £150 million this academic year for schools to improve the quality of PE and sport they offer. More than eight in ten schools have seen an increase in pupil engagement with PE during school time and in the number of children doing sports after school.

PE is a compulsory subject at all four key stages in the national curriculum. The PE programme of study aims to ensure that all pupils are physically active for sustained periods of time and lead healthy, active lives. The national curriculum also sets the expectation that children will be taught about healthy eating and what constitutes a balanced diet.

The government-funded Change4Life programme aims to inspire everyone to eat well, take more exercise and live longer. There are a number of campaigns which promote healthy eating and sports such as the 10 Minute Shake Up summer campaign and Change4Life sports clubs. These are extracurricular sports clubs in schools which are designed to increase physical activity levels in the least active children.

### Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients: Children

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the parents of young people detained by the under the Mental Health Act 1983 can access the same funding as their counterparts whose children are not detained under that Act; and if not, why not. [HL1970]

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the funding available for parents whose children are detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 complies with the Equality Act 2010 provisions regarding disability discrimination. [HL1971]

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to review the funding provisions for the parents of children detained under the Mental Health Act 1983, in particular in the light of the number of children held in hospitals that are significant distances away from their homes. [HL1972]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Under the hospital travel costs scheme, parents are eligible to apply for help with travel costs to accompany their children being treated in distant locations. This is means tested. Parents and carers of children detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 may also, in some circumstances, seek additional assistance provided at the discretion of the clinical commissioning group as part of the child's care package.

### Crime: Disability

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many disability hate crimes have been reported in the United Kingdom in each year since 2010; and how many of those have been successfully prosecuted, broken down by the year of reporting. [HL1867]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office has collected information on the number of disability hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales since 2011/12. In 2011/2012, the number recorded was 1,757, with 1,843 in 2012/13 and 1,985 in 2013/14. The Home Office does not collect prosecutions data.

Further information on hate crimes can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crimes-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014>

(1) The College of Policing (as the professional body for policing) issues Authorised Professional Practice or 'APP'. This is the official source of professional practice on policing and police officers and staff are expected to have regard to APP in discharging their responsibilities. Disability hate crime training is referenced throughout a number of APP issued by the College, including investigations and public order. In May 2014, the College also published specific Hate Crime Operational Guidance.

(2) CPS have created a training support package focused on disability hate crime and reflecting refreshed legal guidance on disability hate crime. This was piloted on 17 July and is currently being rolled out to all CPS Areas. The aim of the training is to provide prosecutors in CPS Areas with guidance on the key elements of prosecuting disability hate crime, resulting in greater confidence in handling cases and improved prosecution performance. The training has been mandated for all Area prosecutors and will be concluded by the end of the calendar year.

The Government is currently speaking to a number of organisations and individuals to inform the next steps in our strategy to both raise awareness and encourage reporting of disability hate crime. This includes work with the Fulfilling Potential Forum, which is led by the Office for Disability Issues within DWP and is made up of around 40 disability charities, including disabled people's user led organisations.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HO Stats Bulletin - Hate Crimes England and Wales [Home Office Statistical Bulletin - Hate Crimes England and Wales 2013-14.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1867>

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what training programmes regarding disability hate crime are available to (1) United Kingdom police forces, and (2) Crown Prosecution Service staff. [HL1868]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office has collected information on the number of disability hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales since 2011/12. In 2011/2012, the number recorded was 1,757, with 1,843 in 2012/13 and 1,985 in 2013/14. The Home Office does not collect prosecutions data.

Further information on hate crimes can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crimes-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014>

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The Answer includes the following attached material:

HO Stats Bulletin - Hate Crimes England & Wales [Home Office Statistical Bulletin - Hate Crimes England and Wales 2013-14.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1868>

*Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to (1) raise awareness of disability hate crimes, and (2) encourage the reporting of disability hate crimes, in the United Kingdom. [HL1869]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office has collected information on the number of disability hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales since 2011/12. In 2011/2012, the number recorded was 1,757, with 1,843 in 2012/13 and 1,985 in 2013/14. The Home Office does not collect prosecutions data.

Further information on hate crimes can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crimes-england-and-wales-2013-to-2014>

(1) The College of Policing (as the professional body for policing) issues Authorised Professional Practice or 'APP'. This is the official source of professional practice on policing and police officers and staff are expected to have regard to APP in discharging their responsibilities. Disability hate crime training is referenced throughout a number of APP issued by the College, including investigations and public order. In May 2014, the College also published specific Hate Crime Operational Guidance.

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The Answer includes the following attached material:

HO Stats Bulletin - Hate Crimes Eng & Wales [Home Office Statistical Bulletin - Hate Crimes England and Wales 2013-14.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1869>

## Cybercrime

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the next United Kingdom Cyber Security Strategy will outline the steps they plan to take to address cyber breaches and protect the United Kingdom economy from the threat of cyber attack. [HL2059]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The UK Cyber Security Strategy, published in November 2011, sets out how the UK will support economic prosperity, protect national security and safeguard the public's way of life by building a more trusted and resilient digital environment. The next UK Cyber Security Strategy will continue this work and will include steps to address cyber breaches and protect the UK economy from cyber attack.

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, under the process of conducting the forthcoming Strategic

Defence and Security Review, they considered creating a new stand-alone government office for National Cyber Security, the purpose of which would be to manage the cyber security programme and continue to develop the public sector–private sector partnership. [HL2060]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Strategic Defence and Security Review will look comprehensively at cyber security. We cannot speculate on the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

The Government is already focusing its efforts on building partnerships with industry, academia and international partners. The benefits of stable and secure cyberspace show the need for shared responsibility in improving the UK's cyber security.

### Death Certificates

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Shipman Inquiry in order to introduce procedures to reform the death certificate system and to allay the fears of those who have lost their loved ones. [HL2094]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We remain committed to these reforms and will provide an update on implementation plans once the Spending Review has been completed.

### Dental Services: Children

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 27 July (HL1635), whether they have plans to introduce day surgery appointments for the clearance or extraction of deciduous teeth under general anaesthetic. [HL2177]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Many extractions are already carried out on a day case basis; whether the extraction is carried out as a day case or requires an overnight admission is a matter for the clinicians involved.

NHS England has advised that NHS Lancashire and Greater Manchester have for a number of years commissioned day case surgery as well as overnight admission for children who require a full clearance of deciduous teeth under general anaesthetic.

### Diabetes

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 21 July (HL1204), whether they plan to publish (1) their plans to improve the health outcomes of people with Type 1 diabetes; and (2) the degrees of improvement at annual intervals. [HL1889]

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 21 July (HL1204), what outcomes have been achieved through the incentives in the Quality and Outcomes Framework regarding the care and treatment of those with Type 1 diabetes. [HL1890]

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the disparity of outcomes in Type 1 diabetes care and Type 2 diabetes care. [HL1891]

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 24 July (HL1407), whether they plan to publish their plans to improve the management and care of people with diabetes, including reducing variation in outcomes, within 12 months. [HL1892]

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that those with Type 1 diabetes meet similar targets of recommended care processes, blood glucose and cholesterol as those with Type 2 diabetes; and whether they plan to publish full details of such targets within 12 months. [HL1893]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Diabetes is a clear priority for this Government and we are in the early stages of developing plans to improve the outcomes of people with and at risk of diabetes. For example, we are considering improvements in the management and care of people with diabetes which would focus equally on Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

Whilst there is still more to do in terms of reducing variation in the delivery of National Institute for Health and Care Excellence care processes and achievement of the treatment targets, we are now beginning to see the benefits of incentivising these through the Quality and Outcomes Framework in terms of reductions in complications and premature mortality.

The most recent National Diabetes Audit data shows that the relative risk for someone with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes developing heart failure is significantly reduced. There are also clear trends in the reduction of the relative risk of developing angina, heart attack, stroke, major amputation and end stage kidney disease. In 2013, the Global Burden of Disease Study showed that the United Kingdom has the lowest rates of early death due to diabetes of the 19 wealthy countries included in the analysis.

The National Diabetes Audit 2012–2013 Report 2: Complications and Mortality provides data on health outcomes for those with Type 1 diabetes and Type 2 diabetes on an annual basis allowing comparisons between the two types to be made.

NHS England is developing a sample service specification on the transition from children and young people diabetes services to adult services for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to use if they so choose. This will benefit those with Type 1 diabetes. In addition, a sample diabetes service specification was published in July 2014, which aimed to highlight the specific care needs of those with Type 1 diabetes where they differ from those with Type 2. However, NHS England currently has no plans to publish plans for a programme of work to improve outcomes for people with Type 1 diabetes.

NHS England has also recently agreed to extend the roll out of its Right Care programme to all CCGs over the next four years. This will ensure that, where local diabetes services and outcomes are poorer compared to demographic peers, suitable improvement programmes will be implemented, with the learning shared across all CCGs.

### Employment and Support Allowance

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost of travel to (1) hospital appointments, (2) Work Capability Assessment appointments, and (3) Jobcentre Plus appointments, for recipients of Employment Support Allowance in the work-related activity group. [HL1960]

**Lord Freud:** The Department of Health does not collect data centrally on the cost of travel to hospital appointments; this is a matter for local NHS organisations.

The Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme is part of the NHS Low Income Scheme, and was set up to provide financial assistance to those patients who do not have a medical need for Hospital or ambulance transport, but who require assistance with their travel costs. The scheme is run locally by the NHS and is funded from local budgets rather than centrally forming part of the overall NHS cash Allocation.

All claimants that attend an appointment for a Work Capability Assessment (WCA) are entitled to claim back any reasonable travel costs incurred. The Department does not break down the cost of travel to WCA for recipients of Employment and Support Allowance to Work Related Activity Group level but, per claimant, in total, that has actually made a claim for expenses, during the period March 2015 to May 2015 the average cost was between £8.75 - £8.90

Claimants that attend an appointment at a jobcentre are refunded travel costs in appropriate circumstances. The Department does not break down the cost of travel to jobcentres for recipients of Employment and Support Allowance to Work Related Activity Group level.

### Expert Committee on Pesticides

*Asked by Lord Strasburger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Expert Committee on Pesticides has not published the agenda for its meeting on 7 July and the minutes of its meeting on 20 May; and what involvement they had, if any, in the decision not to publish those documents. [HL1852]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Expert Committee on Pesticides published the agenda for the 7 July meeting and the minutes of its meeting of 20 May on 23 July 2015.

### Government Departments: Statistics

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all government departments have now adopted the Office for National Statistics rural-urban classification in their analyses of data and evidence. [HL2080]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [HL2080 UKSA Reply.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-08/HL2080>

### Health Services: Travellers

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of each of the recommendations to the Department of Health in the report Bridging the Gap between Academics and Policy Makers by researchers from Buckinghamshire New University and the University of Bristol, published on 20 April. [HL1871]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We have made no assessment.

NHS England, and all National Health Service organisations, have a duty to have due regard to the need to reduce health inequalities in access to health services and health outcomes achieved, as well as having regard to the different needs of groups with characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010.

As part of its contractual arrangements for provision of healthcare in prisons, NHS England expects that care planning and delivery of services must be equitable for all prisoners and take into consideration the diversity of the prison population. This would include Gypsies, Travellers and the Roma communities.

The Equality Delivery System (EDS) for the NHS helps all NHS organisations, in discussion with local partners and patients, to review and improve their performance for



people with characteristics protected under the Equality Act. By using the EDS, NHS organisations can ensure they are delivering on the public sector Equality Duty.

Every person entering a place of detention will have an initial health screen at reception where health needs are assessed and where appropriate referrals are made to other services, including substance misuse services.

### **Holiday Accommodation: Safety**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for extending to properties subject to short or holiday lets, such as those via Air BnB, safety provisions such as those set out in the draft Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015. [HL2052]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** DCLG, in conjunction with the tourism sector and the Chief Fire Officers' Association, has produced guidance to help small-scale accommodation providers comply with the Order's provisions and Airbnb make this available to hosts on its website.

### **Independent Rural Proofing Implementation Review**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in implementing the recommendations of the Independent Rural Proofing Implementation Review; and when they expect to report fully on that progress. [HL2079]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Ministers are currently carefully considering the recommendations made in the review. The Government response will be published in the autumn.

### **Jobcentre Plus**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they issue to Jobcentre Plus branches about treating claimants as innocent and deserving unless clearly shown not to be so; and whether they have any plans to amend any such guidance. [HL1955]

**Lord Freud:** Legislation sets clear entitlement provisions which are used to ensure that benefit is paid correctly to those who claim it. We emphasise in our learning and development packages and the DWP customer charter, that all claimants are treated fairly and with respect. These standards are outlined and published in the DWP Customer Charter on GOV.UK.

### **Motorcycles: Noise**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to reduce the noise of motorbikes on public roads. [HL2212]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There are already a number of measures in place to control motorcycle noise with manufacturers required to meet strict noise limits. We expect the European Commission to undertake a study of noise from new motorcycles and to make proposals for tougher limits that will apply from 2020. The Department for Transport will take an active role in future discussions, with the European Commission and Member States.

### **National Parks**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have not yet taken a decision about extending the boundaries of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks in the light of the 2013 inspector's report on the public inquiry; and when the decision will be taken. [HL1861]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Secretary of State is giving careful consideration to the inspector's report on the inquiry into proposed extensions to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks and will issue her decisions in due course.

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the amount of government, public-sector and third-sector funding and resources expended so far on preparing for and considering the revision of National Park boundaries. [HL1990]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** For clarity, the costs referred to here are for the preparation and consideration of proposals for boundary variations to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

The costs to Defra to date, including for the public inquiry, are £122,360. This includes Planning Inspectorate costs, the cost of an inquiry manager, notice of the inquiry, and the costs of venues for the inquiry. In addition, there are costs of staff time which have not been quantified.

The estimated costs to Natural England are £490,000 since 2009. This includes the costs of extensive technical assessments of the areas concerned and the production of detailed reports, public and statutory consultations, printing costs, and the costs to Natural England of the public inquiry. It does not include staff costs.

No estimate has been made of any funding and resources expended by the third sector.

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to announce their decision on the revision of National Park boundaries. [HL1991]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Following the public inquiry into proposals to extend the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, the inspector has submitted his report to Defra. The Secretary of State is considering the report and will issue her decisions in due course.

## Police Authorities

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the cost of each police authority in England and Wales in 2011–12. [HL2093]

**Lord Bates:** The Government does not collate centrally information in respect of the cost of the former Police Authorities or of the Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, it is the responsibility of PCCs to determine how each police area's funding settlement is allocated, including setting the police force budget and the running of the PCC's office.

The 2011 Act specifies that PCCs must publish key information as prescribed by the Secretary of State. The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 (and amended in 2012) sets out what information must be published: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/3050/contents/made>

The publication of this information enables the local electorate to judge whether the PCC is making the best use of public money at the ballot box.

PCCs perform a completely different role from the old Police Authorities they replaced. PCCs are providing accountable, visible leadership, and making a real difference to policing locally.

The Home Affairs Select Committee recognised in their 2014 report that individual PCCs are providing greater clarity of leadership for policing in their areas, and are increasingly recognised for the strategic direction they are providing. In contrast, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary found, in 2010, that only four of the 22 police authorities inspected were judged to have performed well in two of their primary functions: setting strategic direction and ensuring value for money.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

SI - The Elected Local Policing Bodies - Order 2011 [SI - 2011 - No 3050 - Police, England and Wales - Elected Local Policing Bodies - Order 2011.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-08/HL2093>

## Police: Weapons

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what current legal controls are in place to prevent police forces from deploying weapons that are not officially authorised for use by the Home Office. [HL2189]

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the current Code of Practice on the Police use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons specifically prohibits the Metropolitan Police Service from deploying water cannons; and whether that Code of Practice is binding upon chief constables. [HL2225]

**Lord Bates:** The Code of Practice on Police Use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons 2003, made under section 39A of the Police Act 1996 determines the framework by which police forces use both conventional firearms and less lethal weapons. The Authorised Professional Practice on the Use of Force, Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons clearly states that "only less lethal weapons that have been approved by the Secretary of State may be used by the UK police service." Water cannon is classed as a less lethal weapon and the Home Secretary's decision not to authorise its use followed the established authorisation process.

The deployment of water cannon by police forces in England and Wales is therefore prohibited.

## Pupils: Diabetes

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they provide to schools to educate teachers and pupils about possible diabetic symptoms. [HL2155]

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to introduce lessons in all schools to educate school children about the symptoms of diabetes. [HL2156]

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that where it is necessary medical aid is immediately available to diabetic pupils. [HL2157]

**Lord Nash:** Schools' responsibilities to support pupils with medical conditions such as diabetes are set out in statutory guidance which is published online. The guidance helps to ensure that schools take action to support pupils and help parents feel confident that the right support will be put in place, typically through an individual health care plan. The guidance was drafted with support from Diabetes UK and other members of the Health Conditions in Schools Alliance, school leaders,

teacher and support staff unions, Department of Health and young people and their parents.

The guidance specifies that any member of school staff providing support to a pupil with medical needs must have received training. Staff need an understanding of the specific medical conditions they are being asked to deal with, their implications and preventative measures.

Schools are also advised that policies in place to support pupils with medical conditions should set out arrangements for whole-school awareness training so that all staff are aware of the school's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions and their role in its implementation. In this regard, Diabetes UK provides helpful information for schools on its website. As part of the primary science curriculum pupils should be taught how to recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function. Teachers can choose to include aspects of diabetes in any part of the curriculum they feel appropriate, such as personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education.

In addition to specific support for the medical needs of a pupil with diabetes, all schools should have at least one first aider. The number of first aid personnel will be based on local circumstances, considered as a part of a first aid needs assessment. A qualified first aider must complete a training course and hold a valid certificate. The department publishes health and safety advice for schools and signposts further information on first aid from the Health and Safety Executive.

### Rural Areas: Local Government Finance

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to assist rural councils that cannot access funding from the Rural Services Delivery Grant in order to ensure that the additional cost of delivery of services in rural areas is adequately resourced. [HL1914]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** In setting the baseline in 2013-14, the Government took into account the additional costs of delivering services in rural areas. It increased the amount distributed through sparsity in the older people's social care need formula, and both the district and county-level environmental, protective and cultural services need formulae. In addition a separate sparsity element was introduced in the fire need formula.

The Government believes that all authorities have sufficient resources to deliver adequate services within their areas.

### Social Security Benefits

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many claims for (1) Jobseeker's Allowance, (2) Universal Credit, (3) Disability Living Allowance, (4) Personal Independence Payment, (5) Employment Support

Allowance, (6) Income Support, and (7) Carer's Allowance, were subject to a request for mandatory reconsideration in each year since 2013; how many of those claims were (a) approved, and (b) rejected, following the reconsideration process; how many claims that were rejected by the reconsideration process subsequently came before (i) the first-tier tribunal, and (ii) the Upper tribunal; and in each case how many claims were approved. [HL1957]

**Lord Freud:** The information requested is not available, and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Department has published data on Mandatory Reconsideration (MR) and the Ministry of Justice on appeals as follows:

- Ad hoc statistics on MR receipts and clearance times
- Personal Independence Payment statistics
- ESA and JSA sanctions
- Appeals – all benefits

The information will now be placed in the House library.

The Department has plans to look into what might be possible to publish on mandatory reconsiderations in the existing regular statistical publications, including information on outcomes. As each publication is ready, DWP statisticians will pre-announce the improvements in accordance with the UKSA release protocols.

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the support given to those of working age living in a household subject to the benefit cap; how many of those people received employment support; and how many of those receiving employment support moved into work in 2014 and 2015. [HL1958]

**Lord Freud:** Since April 2012 Jobcentre Plus has been supporting claimants potentially affected by the benefit cap to ensure they receive the help they need to move closer to the labour market. Management Information was collected from pre-implementation in May 2012 to November 2013 showing approximately 35,800 people living in potentially capped households had accepted an offer of support. More recent information on the number of people living in capped households who have received employment support and on how many of them have moved into work is not readily available but employment support continues to be available.

Since the cap was introduced in April 2013, more than 16,000 previously capped households have entered work, as defined by an open Working Tax Credit claim. A suite of evaluation was published on 15 December 2014 finding those affected by the benefit cap were 41 per cent more likely to go into work, as defined by having an open Working Tax Credit claim, than a similar group with benefit entitlement just under the cap level. 38 per cent of those capped said they were doing more to find work.

### **Social Security Benefits: Disqualification**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to introduce a warning system to provide benefit claimants with an opportunity to explain any non-compliance before sanctions are imposed. [HL1953]

**Lord Freud:** This is already an established part of the process. All claimants are informed of the responsibilities they must fulfil in order to receive benefit, and the consequences of failing to comply. This is done in discussions with work coaches and through the Claimant Commitment.

Where it appears a claimant has failed to comply with a particular requirement and the case is being referred to a decision maker, the claimant is asked to provide

information they wish to be taken into account, including their reasons for non-compliance, before the imposition of a sanction.

Anyone who disagrees with a sanction has the right to appeal.

### **Tickets: Sales**

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in setting up the review of consumer protection measures for the secondary ticketing market. [HL1888]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** An announcement on who will lead the review, terms of reference and how it will run is expected shortly.



# Written Answers

Monday, 12 October 2015

## A303

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to (1) investigate options, and (2) consult on proposals, to widen the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down following the A303/A30/A358 corridor feasibility study last year, and which organisations and individuals they plan to consult during each exercise. [[HL2379](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to implement a tunnel for the A303 in order to avoid the entire surface area of the Stonehenge part of the World Heritage Site. [[HL2381](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost of a twin-bored A303 road tunnel at Stonehenge of length (1) 2.9 kilometres, (2) 4.5 kilometres, and (3) at least 7 kilometres, in order to avoid the entire surface area of the Stonehenge part of the World Heritage Site and its setting. [[HL2382](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have sought, or intend to seek, funding outside their own resources (1) in Europe, and (2) globally, for a road-widening solution for the A303 that avoids the entire surface area of the Stonehenge part of the World Heritage Site by the use of a tunnel. [[HL2383](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Road Investment Strategy is clear that the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down scheme involves a tunnel of at least 1.8 miles (2.9 kilometres). Highways England is in the early stage of scheme development, looking at options, including the length of tunnel. Consultation on options will take place in 2017 and will involve stakeholders, local residents, businesses, road users and interested parties.

Highways England does not yet have reliable cost estimates for a 2.8 miles (4.5 kilometres), or 4.3 miles (7 kilometres) tunnel. This information would become available during the consideration of options. The A303/A30/A358 Corridor Feasibility Study indicated that the cost estimate for a 1.8 miles (2.9 kilometres) tunnel is in the range of £864m to £1321m.

To date, Highways England has not sought funding outside of their own resources to fund a solution for the A303 past Stonehenge although this does not preclude them from considering other funding sources in the future.

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have sought, or been given, the advice of the National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites concerning proposals for dualling the A303 through the Stonehenge part of the World Heritage Site; and if so, what advice they received. [[HL2380](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Highways England is currently in the early stage of scheme development looking at options and to date have not sought the advice of the National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend fully to honour Article 4 of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Heritage in respect of any future A303 dualling scheme at Stonehenge; and if not, whether they intend to withdraw as a signatory to the World Heritage Convention. [[HL2384](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** This Government will continue to honour its obligations under article 4 of the World Heritage Convention regarding the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site. We are committed to working with UNESCO and its advisory bodies to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site is taken into consideration in any forthcoming road scheme. We will be closely monitoring the development of any such scheme as it progresses.

## Academies

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new academy schools they estimate will open in the year May 2015 to May 2016. [[HL2130](#)]

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their target for opening new academy schools in the year May 2015 to May 2016. [[HL2131](#)]

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their target for opening new academy schools in each of the next five years. [[HL2132](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The government has no targets for opening new academies. On the basis of actual opening dates since May 2015 and anticipated opening dates of current academy proposals, between May 2015 and May 2016 approximately 650 new academies will open; this number is very likely to change as new projects arise.

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many sponsors have applied to open new academy schools since May. [HL2133]

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage sponsors to open new academy schools. [HL2134]

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their total estimated value of sponsorship for new academy schools between 7 May and 31 August. [HL2135]

**Lord Nash:** On Monday 7 September 2015 my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Education and I attended the Academy Ambassadors 'businesses in schools' event, at which the Secretary of State urged business leaders to set up more academy trusts. I set up Academy Ambassadors (AA) to recruit sponsors and high-calibre business leaders to join academy trust boards as non-executive directors. This latter activity is to help multi-academy trusts grow in a sustainable way, offer specific support such as Chair of Audit or Finance, or simply serve as strong, independent board members. AA work closely with academy trusts to recruit non-executive directors and trustees with the specific skill-set the trust requires, from their local community. Its most successful approaches have been through business breakfasts, partnerships with large employers, and working with network organisations (such as Women in Banking and Finance). AA has placed over 80 business leaders onto academy trusts and has a current 'talent pool' of over 150 business people.

In addition, the Department for Education's Regional Schools Commissioners undertake a wide range of activities to encourage sponsorship involving schools, businesses and other bodies, including colleges and universities, in their regions.

The value of sponsorship is largely unquantifiable in purely monetary terms.

Since May, no new schools have opened where the sponsor had 'applied' since May, however, we regularly receive applications from organisations wishing to be academy sponsors.

## **Affordable Housing**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 September (HL2049), what proportion of the 275,000 affordable homes they have committed to delivering over the course of this Parliament will be available to rent; and of those, how many will be made available (1) by local authorities, (2) on the private rental market, and (3) as social housing. [HL2266]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The 275,000 affordable homes will be delivered through grant funded and non grant funded delivery.

The grant funded 2015-18 Affordable Homes Programme, is split between rent and affordable homes ownership products depending on the bids received.

The proportion of rental homes delivered through the previous 2011-15 Affordable Homes Programme is published at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/435123/Live\\_Table\\_1012.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/435123/Live_Table_1012.xlsx)

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Live Table 1012 [PQ HL2266 - Lord Beecham - Attachment Live Table 1012.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2266>

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 September (HL2049), what they define as affordable housing in relation to new homes for owner occupation (1) on the private rental market, (2) for social housing, and (3) for housing managed by local authorities. [HL2267]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The definition of affordable housing for planning purposes is set out in Annex 2 to the National Planning Policy Framework, as shown below.

**Affordable housing:** Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

**Social rented housing** is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable).

**Intermediate housing** is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared

ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.

Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as “low cost market” housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is their definition of “affordable housing”. [HL2277]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The definition of affordable housing for planning purposes is set out in Annex 2 to the National Planning Policy Framework, which is shown below.

**Affordable housing:** Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable).

Intermediate housing is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.

Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as “low cost market” housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.

## **Afghanistan: Immigration**

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government which United Kingdom authorities are participating in the scheme to receive relocated Afghan interpreters. [HL2046]

**Lord Bates:** To date 17 local authorities have received relocated Afghans under the Afghan Locally Engaged Civilian Ex Gratia Scheme. It would not be appropriate for us to release details of where individuals are currently being placed or where they may be placed in the future, as this may undermine their privacy.

## **Agriculture: Subsidies**

*Asked by Lord Willoughby de Broke*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether the Rural Payments Agency will complete Basic Payment Scheme payments to eligible farmers before the end of 2015. [I] [HL2378]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Rural Payments Agency are on track to start making payments for 2015 BPS Claims from December. The majority of these will be in December and the vast majority in January. The payment window runs from December to the end of June.

## **Air Pollution**

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether all government departments assess the impact on air quality when drawing up directly or indirectly related policies or legislation since the Supreme Court judgment on 29 April in R (on the application of ClientEarth) v Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [2015] UKSC 28 and [2013] UKSC 25. [HL2275]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** HM Treasury’s Green Book guidance provides the framework for economic appraisal and evaluation of all Central Government policies, programmes and projects. In line with its advice, departments should reflect air quality impacts in decision-making wherever possible. Specific guidance is provided for government departments to use in valuing the impacts of air quality. This guidance has been available since 2013.

The Government is currently consulting on draft air quality plans. Alongside the air quality plans interim appraisal guidance has been published to reflect the latest health evidence related to Nitrogen Dioxide. This guidance supplements the Green Book guidance.

Both sets of guidance are available on the gov.uk website. Copies are attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Air Quality Econanalysis [676 - HL2275 Air-quality-econanalysis-nitrogen-interim-guidance.pdf]

Supplementary Green Book Guidance [676 - HL2275 - Supplementary Green Book guidance air quality.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2275>

## Aircraft Carriers: Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 16 September (HL1944), how many F35B Sea Lightnings were assumed to be in the air wings when the Prime Minister stated in September 2014 that both new aircraft carriers would be operated concurrently in the future. [HL2376]

**Earl Howe:** In September 2014, at the NATO Summit, the Prime Minister announced that, "the second carrier, HMS PRINCE OF WALES will also be brought into service. This will ensure that we will always have one carrier available, 100% of the time." The exact number of fixed wing aircraft embarked at any time will be dependent on the mission being undertaken.

## Alcoholic Drinks

Asked by *Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made by the Alcohol Network on the Responsibility Deal. [HL2291]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There were 131 partners in the Responsibility Deal Alcohol Network, who signed up to a range of voluntary Responsibility Deal pledges on alcohol and committed to help people drink within the lower-risk alcohol guidelines.

Under the previous Government, Responsibility Deal Alcohol Network partners committed to a 2012 pledge to remove 1 billion units of alcohol sold annually from the market by December 2015, principally through improving consumer choice of lower alcohol products. A 2014 interim monitoring report of progress against this pledge estimated that between 2011 and 2013 the number of units of alcohol removed from the market exceeded this target two years ahead of target date, showing there was a reduction of 1.3 billion units due to reductions in alcohol by volume of alcohol products.

Also under the previous Government, Responsibility Deal Alcohol Network partners committed to a pledge to have 80% of bottles and cans displaying unit content, the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) lower-risk guidelines and by the end of 2013 a warning about drinking when pregnant. A 2014 independent report by Campden BRI found that 79.3% of labels provided all three elements correctly. The report also assessed market share by total amount of alcohol sold to allow comparison of progress since 2008 (trend data). This found that unit information increased by 22%; the CMO's lower-risk drinking guidelines by 314%; and pregnancy warnings boosted by 122%.

## Allotments: Measurement

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to write to all local authorities and parish councils with guidance making clear that they are entitled to sell allotment space in imperial measurements, as well as metric. [HL2216]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government does not intend to issue any instructions or guidance to local authorities on this matter. Current guidance on the disposal of allotments can be found at - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/allotment-disposal-guidance-safeguards-and-alternatives>.

The provision and management of allotments, including their sale, is a matter for local authorities; it is a matter for them as to how they measure their allotments for sale.

## Animal Feed: Residues

Asked by *The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report published in March by the WHO Cancer Panel on the carcinogenicity of glyphosate, what steps they are taking to encourage the home production of proteins which have not been sprayed with Roundup as a pre-harvest desiccant in order to reduce the dependence of the animal feed industry on imported genetically modified Roundup-ready soy. [HL2246]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Glyphosate is currently approved for use as a herbicide in the EU. Products such as Roundup which contain glyphosate are authorised in the UK for a range of uses including pre-harvest uses in protein crops. Decisions on approval and authorisation are based on an assessment of risks to health and the environment.

All pesticide approvals are subject to regular review to ensure that they meet modern safety standards. The review of glyphosate is currently being carried out by the European Food Safety Authority. If the review were to provide new evidence to show that the use of glyphosate is no longer safe, the EU Commission has the power to withdraw its approval. As part of the overall evidence, the review is considering the Monograph on glyphosate published by the International Agency for Research on Cancer on 29 July 2015.

The regulatory system for pesticides is designed to ensure that there are no unacceptable risks arising from their use. The controls include residue limits in EU and imported food, including soy. If produce from third countries contains residues at above the levels permitted, import will not be allowed.

The Government supports research on sustainable protein production, which includes increasing the domestic supply of sustainably produced vegetable protein for farmed animals. In part, this is carried out under the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform, run by Innovate UK.



## Armed Conflict: Sexual Offences

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the European Commission's statement on 11 September affirming that female war rape victims must have access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services including abortion is in accordance with United Kingdom government policy. [HL2207]

**Baroness Verma:** The statement from the European Commission is consistent with UK policy.

## Art Works: Sales

*Asked by The Earl of Clancarty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will take steps to ensure that buyers of art and antiques, including from dealers and auction houses, receive information about the provenance of such objects, including documentation of previous owners. [HL2224]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The UK has made it a criminal offence to deal dishonestly in tainted cultural property and issued guidelines to help UK dealers and auction houses consider the relevant issues such as ensuring good provenance of cultural objects in which they deal.

However, the Government believes that regulating trade in art and antiquities is primarily the responsibility of the art and antiquities trade itself. The established trade associations possess codes of ethics by which they expect their members to abide and we expect the associations to enforce those codes strictly.

## Asylum

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Court of Appeal's ruling in Lord Chancellor v Detention Action [2015] EWCA Civ 840 regarding the Detained Fast Track, what steps they are taking to ensure that immigration officers can process asylum claims quickly and efficiently. [HL1906]

**Lord Bates:** On 2 July the Minister for Immigration temporarily suspended the operation of the Detained Fast Track policy. The operation of this policy will resume when the Minister is satisfied that revised structures and safeguards are in place. For those who can be detained in line with general detention policy, the Home Office continues to detain and decide asylum claims quickly under Detained Asylum Casework.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to seek to amend the Dublin Regulation (European Union Regulation 604/2013) and the Eurodac system. [HL1907]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has no plans to change the way in which we apply the current Dublin and Eurodac Regulations. The right of initiative to propose amendments to the Regulations lies with the European Commission: any proposals are subject to negotiation by Council and the European Parliament.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether adults in receipt of five-year humanitarian protection in the United Kingdom will be allowed to work; and what provision will be made for their education or training. [HL2069]

**Lord Bates:** People who have been granted five years' humanitarian protection in the United Kingdom, including Syrian nationals admitted under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme, have permission to work and access to broadly the same rights, benefits, education and training as British nationals.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will issue fresh guidance on the Dublin III Agreement concerning asylum applicants, in particular about family reunions. [HL2205]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has no plans to change its policy on the application of the Dublin and Eurodac Regulations. Guidance to officials is under review in order to reflect current organisational structures and wider departmental procedures: an updated version will be published once the review has been completed.

## Asylum: Finance

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will give an assurance that no asylum seeker, whatever their status, will be denied the necessary support to avoid destitution. [HL1908]

**Lord Bates:** We are committed to fulfilling the UK's international obligations to meet minimum standards for asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute until their asylum claim has finally been determined. These minimum standards are met through the support provided under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, usually in the form of accommodation and a weekly cash allowance of £36.95 to cover essential living needs.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to reverse the cut imposed with effect from August on asylum support, in the light of the fact that this has been frozen since 2011; and whether they will introduce special rates for children under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. [HL2204]

**Lord Bates:** There have been two recent changes to the level of the cash allowances provided to destitute asylum seekers to cover their essential living needs.

With effect from 6 April, the allowance provided to asylum seekers without dependants was raised to £36.95 per week (from £36.62).

Since 10 August a standard payment of £36.95 per week has been provided for each person in a family group (the asylum seeker and any dependants). This resulted in a reduction in the total allowance provided to asylum seekers with children. The change was made because a review of the support system showed that the allowances previously provided exceeded the amount necessary to cover essential living needs.

There are no plans to reverse either of these changes. The Government generally reviews the level of the allowances each year and plans to do so again in 2016.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what grounds their consultation on reforming support for failed asylum seekers proposes to remove all support from some 15,000 asylum applicants who are not able to produce sufficient evidence to sustain their cases; what assessment they have made of the likelihood that such people will be removed or returned to their countries of origin; and whether they plan to publish a summary of the consultation and their response to it. [HL2206]

**Lord Bates:** The consultation document on reforming support for failed asylum seekers published on 4 August referred to the estimated 15,000 failed asylum seekers and their dependants who were in receipt of support under section 95 or section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 at 31 March 2015. It set out proposals for transitional arrangements for these cases, under which that support would remain available, subject to the use of existing powers under which it can be discontinued. A summary of the consultation and the Government's response to it will be published in due course.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what payments were made to asylum seekers who were not entitled to state benefits in (1) 2000, (2) 2010, and (3) 2014. [HL2298]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office does not recognise or use the term 'state benefits'. We have therefore provided information on payments made under Section 4 and Section 95 of the Asylum Act 1999.

	<i>Under S95</i>	<i>Under S4</i>
<i>Calendar Year</i>	<i>£m</i>	<i>£m</i>
2014	66.4	11.3
2010	25.8	

Disaggregating the costs of subsistence payments made under S4 in 2010 would incur disproportionate costs.

Disaggregating the S4 or S95 costs in 2000 would incur disproportionate costs.

## Asylum: Housing

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements to support asylum seekers and refugees are included in the contracts with suppliers of accommodation for those people; and what steps they are taking to monitor contractors' performance in this and other respects. [HL1862]

**Lord Bates:** COMPASS Contract Providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation to comply with relevant mandatory and statutory requirements in relation to housing. This includes the Housing Act 2004 and the Decent Homes Standard.

Asylum applicants are provided with signposting support services as soon as they arrive at their dispersed accommodation with information and advice that they need in order to cope with the new environment in which they are being accommodated. The focus of this support is the accommodation provided, individual safety, the operating instructions for equipment, facilities and installed items provided for comfort and general living. Service users are also given advice on access to healthcare and how to register with the nearest GP practice or attendance at the nearest hospital in case of immediate medical concerns.

The Home Office has a rigorous contract compliance regime in place including monthly meetings with providers, and quarterly and biannual strategic meetings. Home Office contract compliance teams scrutinise providers' services on a daily basis (via inspections, monitoring customer service and administrative audit) and they are supported by Home Office Service Delivery Managers. The Home Office governance regime which is subject to Government oversight through quarterly reports to the Cabinet Office ensures that contracts and providers are well managed.

## Asylum: Pregnant Women

*Asked by Baroness Cumberlege*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the report by Maternity Action and the Refugee Council *When maternity doesn't matter: dispersing pregnant women seeking asylum*, they plan to publish revised guidance on procedures for dispersing and accommodating pregnant women seeking asylum in the United Kingdom. [HL1941]

**Lord Bates:** The revised guidance will be published shortly.

## Asylum: Syria

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) whether the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme will be

expanded and (2) why so few vulnerable Syrians have been relocated to date. [HL2030]

**Lord Bates:** An expansion to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Scheme has been announced. Her Majesty's Government now intends to resettle 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament.

The Scheme is based on need, prioritising those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin: women and children at risk, people in severe need of medical care and survivors of torture and violence. We work closely with the UNHCR to identify cases that they deem to be in need of resettlement and we will continue this work to ensure even greater numbers are identified and provided with refuge in the UK. Individuals admitted under the Scheme to date are in addition to nearly 5,000 Syrian nationals who have been granted asylum in the UK since the crisis there began.

### **Autism: Children**

*Asked by Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans are in place to reduce the current average wait for children before a diagnosis of autism. [HL2371]

*Asked by Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to support families waiting for a diagnosis of autism for a child. [HL2372]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines on autism make it clear that families should wait no more than three months to start diagnosis. Every part of the National Health Service should be adhering to these guidelines.

There are new arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs, introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014. These require clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and local authorities to make joint arrangements for ensuring a coordinated assessment of the range of eligible children's needs, and the development of an Education, Health and Care plan to provide necessary support.

NHS England's Children with Complex Needs Implementation Board is leading working on ensuring robust and accountability mechanisms are in place to ensure delivery and to allow NHS England to hold CCGs to account for performance.

### **Bahrain: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the fifth UN joint statement on human rights in Bahrain, they have discussed with the government of Bahrain the cases of opposition leaders Sheikh Ali Salman, Ibrahim Sharif, Fadhel Abbas, and Majid Milad; and if so, with what results. [HL2314]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have previously raised these four cases with the Government of Bahrain, including at the highest levels. We continue to do so on a regular basis. Following the UN joint statement on 14 September on human rights in Bahrain, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), discussed human rights and political reform with the Bahraini Ambassador.

### **Banks: Regulation**

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated cost to the British economy of the Financial Conduct Authority's policies on the banking sector. [HL1997]

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Financial Conduct Authority's regulation of the banking sector, and of the impact of its regulation on banks' ability to respond to the needs of customers. [HL1998]

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what changes the Financial Conduct Authority has implemented regarding the setting up of bank accounts for customers in the United Kingdom over the past year; and what assessment they have made of the impact of such changes on the time it takes to set up a bank account in the UK. [HL1999]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is operationally independent from Government and carries out its functions within the framework of statutory objectives and duties agreed by Parliament. This includes requirements to publicly consult and perform cost benefit analysis on their relevant rules and policies. These questions are therefore a matter for the FCA as an independent regulator.

The questions have been passed on to the FCA. The FCA will reply directly to the Noble Lord by letter. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### **Banks: Taxation**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help small lenders to compete effectively with the larger banks, in the light of the new bank corporation tax surcharge. [HL2003]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The banking tax roadmap set out at the Summer Budget means that banks will end up paying a corporation tax rate which is the lowest in the G7 and lower than at any time under the last Labour government. There is also an allowance in the surcharge

for the first £25 million of a banking group's profits, reducing the impact on smaller banks and excluding many altogether.

The Government is committed to improving competition in banking to improve outcomes for consumers. Challenger banks play a crucial role in providing consumers with more choice on the high street.

The Government has already taken significant action to improve competition in banking and create an environment that reduces barriers to entry and incentivises new banks to enter the market. This includes:

- driving the delivery and supporting the continued success of the Current Account Switch Service and Midata, so customers can compare personal current accounts and switch banks where they see a better deal – simply, quickly and reliably;
- committing at Budget 2015 to deliver an open standard to Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) in UK banking – as well as helping customers engage more with their bank, it will drive innovation and increase competitive intensity by supporting the growth of technology that can be used by banks and non-bank providers to offer new products;
- improving competition in the small and medium sized enterprise (SME) lending market by requiring the major banks to share SME credit data with other lenders through designated credit reference agencies, and to offer any SMEs they turn down for finance the chance to have their details passed to online platforms that can help match them with alternative finance providers;
- announcing at Summer Budget 2015 that the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) will establish a joint New Bank Unit to help prospective new banks enter the market and through the early days of authorisation – the PRA and FCA will also produce annual reports on how they are delivering against their respective competition objectives;
- putting competition at the heart of the regulatory system by creating the new Payments System Regulator to ensure challenger banks can access payment systems on fair and equal terms – the Government has also created a single, stronger competition regulator: the Competition and Markets Authority.

### **BBC World Service: North Korea**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the BBC's decision to inaugurate broadcasts to the Korean peninsula. [HL2182]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** No such assessment has been made. The BBC's proposals published in 'British, Bold, Creative - The BBC's programmes and services in the next Charter', including its ideas for the future of the World Service, will be an important part of the Charter Review process the Government is running.

### **Belfast Agreement**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Belfast Agreement 1998 provides for a role for the government of the Republic of Ireland in Strand One talks where the discussions are about Northern Irish internal affairs. [HL2210]

**Lord Dunlop:** As the Noble Lord is aware, the involvement of the Irish Government in cross-party talks is in accordance with the established three-stranded approach to Northern Ireland affairs and the 1998 Belfast Agreement. This provides that Northern Ireland's internal arrangements are for the Northern Ireland parties and the United Kingdom Government alone to decide. A commitment always to stand by that principle was contained in the Government's Northern Ireland Manifesto at the General Election.

### **Billing**

*Asked by Baroness Kramer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many compensation awards were given under section 5A of the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in each of the last five years. [HL1976]

*Asked by Baroness Kramer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many claims for compensation under section 5A of the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 were made against (1) local authorities, (2) NHS providers, including Clinical Commissioning Groups, (3) non-departmental public bodies and (4) government departments, in each of the last five years. [HL1977]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The requested information is not held centrally.

As part of the Budget Statement on 18 March 2015, the Government announced that from April 2016 all central government departments and their arm's length bodies will be required to publish, on a quarterly basis, all interest liable under the late payment legislation.

The 2015 Public Contracts Regulations introduced a reporting requirement so that from 2016 contracting authorities will have to publish details of the amount of interest paid due to late payment and from 2017 they will have to publish their liability to interest whether or not paid.

### **Bills: England**

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Stowell of Beeston on 29 July (HL1727), whether they plan to conduct an assessment of the number of bills in each of the three most recent parliamentary Sessions that affected England alone and had no implications for any of the



other nations in the United Kingdom; and if not, why not. [HL1879]

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Stowell of Beeston on 29 July (HL1727), why they have not conducted an assessment of the number of bills in each of the previous five Parliaments that affected England alone and had no implications for any of the other nations in the United Kingdom. [HL1880]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** The Government has not performed, and does not intend to perform, a retrospective assessment of bills introduced over the last Parliament because under the Government's proposals on English Votes for English Laws, the application of the proposed new rules to future legislation will be a matter for the Speaker of the House of Commons. Decisions on certification will be a matter for Parliament and will apply to future legislation. Moreover, the Government's proposals would apply to England and England and Wales-only provisions within bills, as well as bills that are England-only in their entirety.

## Breast Cancer: Drugs

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of lives that might be saved per annum from licensing bisphosphonates for the treatment of early post-menopausal breast cancer. [HL2179]

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether doctors are free to prescribe bisphosphonates in the treatment of early stage breast cancer despite the fact that it is not presently licensed for that purpose. [HL2180]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Neither the Department nor NHS England have made an assessment of the number of lives that might be saved per annum from licensing bisphosphonates for the treatment of early post-menopausal breast cancer.

Doctors can already prescribe a drug outside its licensed indications where they judge it to be the most clinically appropriate treatment for an individual patient.

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost to the National Health Service of bisphosphonates and whether they will take steps to encourage the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to consider the evidence base for the prescription of these drugs in treatment of early stage breast cancer. [HL2181]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed in the community in England for bisphosphonates<sup>1</sup> in 2014, was £16.813 million<sup>2</sup>.

In secondary care, the cost in 2014 was £35.841 million<sup>3</sup>.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published clinical guidelines on early and locally advanced breast cancer and advanced breast cancer, published in February 2009, and familial breast cancer published in June 2013. NICE periodically reviews its guidance to take account of new and emerging evidence.

A copy of these clinical guidelines are attached.

<sup>1</sup> Bisphosphonates are defined as those included in paragraph 6.6.2 (Bisphosphonates and other drugs affecting bone metabolism) of the British National Formulary (BNF) but excluding denosumab and strontium ranelate.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) provided by the Health and Social Care Information Centre

<sup>3</sup> Source: Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index (HPAI) provided by IMS Health

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Advanced breast cancer guidelines [HL2181 Cost ofbisphosphonates to the NHS.doc attachment 2.pdf]

Early and locally advanced breast cancer guideline [HL2181 Cost ofbisphosphonates to the NHS.doc attachment 1.pdf]

Familial breast cancer guidelines [HL2181 Cost ofbisphosphonates to the NHS.doc attachment 3.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-11/HL2181>

## Broadband

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the invention by Agri-Broadband which has enabled broadband speed to be increased from 1 Mbps to 45 Mbps; and whether such an invention could contribute to equipping rural areas with superfast broadband. [HL2096]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government welcomes the work of companies such as Agri-Broadband who are providing superfast broadband services to rural communities.

We recognise that a range of solutions will be required to reach those in the hardest to reach areas. That is why the Government has invested up to £8 million to support seven pilot projects to explore ways to extend superfast broadband beyond 95% of UK premises, with technologies such as satellite and wireless and using alternative financing models.

## Broadband: South West

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 30 July (HL1682), what assessment they have made of the rate of progress in improving superfast broadband provision in Devon and Somerset; and what is their assessment of the impact of that progress on regional economic performance. [HL1993]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** By the end of the Connecting Devon and Somerset Phase 1 project (December 2016) over 277,000 additional homes and businesses will have access to superfast broadband. As of 30 June 2015, 121,343 premises had gained access to superfast broadband due to this public investment.

Connecting Devon and Somerset have signed a contract with Airband under their Phase 2 contract to extend superfast coverage to an additional 4,794 premises across Exmoor and Dartmoor. Roll-out to these premises will start in February 2016 and is to be completed by November 2016. Assuming completion of the announced commercial coverage, a further 106,725 premises in Devon and Somerset would remain without superfast coverage.

The economic impact of superfast broadband coverage is assessed in the study published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in November 2013 at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-broadband-impact-study--2>

## Burma: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 15 September (HL Deb, col 1741), what assistance they have given to the Karen and other ethnic minorities in Burma in overcoming obstacles to a comprehensive national ceasefire, particularly in regard to (1) the placing of weapons beyond use, (2) the restitution of land, and (3) the extension of the franchise to Burmese refugees living in refugee camps on the border between Burma and Thailand. [HL2310]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcome the continuing talks between the Burmese government and ethnic armed groups to agree a National Ceasefire Agreement. Throughout the negotiations the UK has funded specialists to provide expert advice in support of the peacemaking dialogue in Burma to both sides of the conflict. This includes support to the National Ceasefire Coordination Team, the ethnic groups' negotiation team of which Karen groups are a part. We are also a member of the Peace Donor Support Group which is directly supporting work to move from ceasefire agreements to political dialogue with all of Burma's ethnic groups.

The signing of a ceasefire would only be the start of a wider peace process. The next stage, as envisaged by the

draft National Ceasefire Agreement, is a National Political Dialogue. It is at this stage that issues such as decommissioning of weapons, land restitution and resettlement of internally displaced people will be discussed. To date we have not been asked to assist with any of these issues, and we would only do so with the consent of both sides. However, as I highlighted in the debate to which the noble Lord refers, the UK has earmarked £3million in flexible funding to support such activities in support of the continuing peace process through the multi-donor Peace Support Fund, with the potential to increase this to £5million.

We have raised with the Burmese authorities the issue of extending voting to internally displaced people. Most recently our Ambassador lobbied the head of the Union Election Commission on the inclusion of internally displaced people in Burma on the voter lists.

## Burma: Identity Cards

*Asked by Lord Hussain*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Myanmar about abolishing ethnic and religious classifications for identification cards. [HL2295]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have a number of concerns about how identity cards and citizenship are obtained in Burma and the role of religion and ethnicity. Of particular concern are how these apply to the Muslim Rohingya community in Rakhine State, the requirement for Rohingya to identify as 'Bengali' to apply for citizenship, and the cancellation, on 31 March 2015, of all 'White Card' identity documents – the only form of identification held by many Rohingya.

We have repeatedly made our views known to the Burmese authorities on both questions. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), pressed the Burmese authorities on the issue of identity cards and a pathway to citizenship for the Rohingya during his visit to Burma in July.

## Burma: Nationality

*Asked by Lord Hussain*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Myanmar about revising its citizenship laws, which place restrictions on non-indigenous residents who have lived in Myanmar for a long period of time from becoming full citizens. [HL2294]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have a number of concerns about Burma's 1982 Citizenship Law, and particularly how it deals with the Rohingya community. The British Government has consistently called for a sustainable solution to the issue of Rohingya citizenship which meets international standards. Most recently, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,

my right. hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), raised this at senior level with the Burmese authorities, both with the central government and in Rakhine State, during his visit to Burma in July.

### Burma: Sexual Offences

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding they provide to organisations that support women in Burma to ensure the proper documentation of sexual violence resulting from conflict in that country. [HL1992]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Sexual violence in Burma remains a significant problem. Our work to date has included funding for an international non-governmental organisation to provide training to various local non-state actors on the protection of women in armed conflict and supporting a project that creates legal aid centres and provides training to paralegals to help provide advice and assistance on documenting crimes of sexual violence. Our work to provide educational courses to the Burmese military has also included components on sexual violence in conflict. The lack of effective documentation means that many cases go unreported and unpunished. During his visit in July, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), launched the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence at an event in Rangoon attended by Burmese civil society groups. The International Protocol provides the know-how to enable governments and civil society organisations to produce effective reporting to an evidentiary standard capable of supporting prosecutions.

### Business

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the results of the Confederation of British Industry's quarterly survey of the financial sector, what steps they are taking to reduce the cost of red tape and to support the growth of the business sector. [HL2168]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government has committed to supporting business sector growth in the Enterprise Bill, which will set a target of cutting £10 billion of red tape over the next five years.

The productivity plan: "*Fixing the foundations: creating a more prosperous nation*" launched in July 2015 outlines an number of steps the government is taking to support the growth of the business sector, including cutting red tape.

### Cancer

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of cancer diagnoses related to alcohol. [HL2292]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The 2012 Government's Alcohol Strategy, aims to cut the number of people drinking at harmful levels.

Since April 2013, a dedicated alcohol risk assessment has been included as part of our free NHS Health Checks for 40 to 74 year olds so people can get advice and information to help them cut down if they need to.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies, is overseeing a United Kingdom-wide review of all alcohol guidelines which will include reviewing any new evidence on alcohol and potential harms, so that people can make informed choices about their drinking at all stages of their lives.

Warnings about the potential links between alcohol and a range of medical conditions including different types of cancer are included on the NHS Choices website at: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### Cancer: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the availability of data collected via the Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) dataset to organisations outside the NHS; and whether they plan to consider how to improve access to SACT data, including publishing a timeline for when it should be fully accessible. [HL2285]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public Health England (PHE) is aware of the considerable interest in the Systemic Anticancer Therapy (SACT) dataset by organisations outside of the National Health Service and plan to enhance the public reporting of the data in the near future.

The absolute priority of PHE is to maintain patient confidentiality and therefore data will only be released to external parties in a format that does not compromise patient confidentiality either directly or by inference. It is not possible to provide a timeline of when data would be fully accessible.

### Cancer: Older People

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the Department of Health is doing to improve the access of elderly patients to effective cancer treatments. [HL2284]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We recognise that there is room for improvement in cancer outcomes for older patients. The independent Cancer Taskforce recognised the needs of older cancer patients as a key theme in its report, and NHS England is working with partners across the cancer community to better understand both the causes of the variation in cancer outcomes, and looking at action we can take now to address it. NHS England is also in the process of developing metrics to track improvements in cancer outcomes for older people as part

of the development of the cancer dashboard recommended by the independent Cancer Taskforce.

### Capital Punishment

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the moral and philosophical case for them making representations to foreign governments on the use of the death penalty in their countries. [HL2172]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances and calls on all states to adopt a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 186 adopted in December 2014. This is part of the process towards complete abolition. The UK's own experience showed that the death penalty did not deter crime, and miscarriages of justice were irreversible and irreparable. Where we judge that an execution is incompatible with international law or marks a backward step, we raise our concerns privately and publicly.

### Carer's Allowance

Asked by *Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people receive Carer's Allowance in relation to care for a recipient of Employment Support Allowance who is (1) in the support group, and (2) in the work-related activity group. [HL1959]

**Baroness Altmann:** None.

Payment of Employment and Support Allowance is not one of the benefits that can "trigger" payment of Carer's Allowance.

### Cerebral Palsy

Asked by *Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve awareness of cerebral palsy amongst (1) medical generalists, and (2) those working in schools. [HL2373]

Asked by *Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve access to specialist health and educational interventions for children with cerebral palsy. [HL2374]

Asked by *Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce a national register of children with cerebral palsy, including data on the number of children identified with the condition, and the education, health and care provision available to support those children. [HL2375]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has taken a number of steps to support people with cerebral palsy.

Health Education England is mandated to develop training for general practitioners to develop a special interest in the care of young people with long-term conditions. We have also funded the development of *Paediatric Care online*, a resource for supporting the clinical workforce across the full range of children's health issues.

The Government funded the development of Disability Matters (launched in February 2015). This is an e-learning tool to improve the skills of anyone working to support the needs of people with a disability or complex need (of all ages), and can be used by teachers and health professionals.

The Government has introduced a new statutory framework for children and young people with special educational needs and disability, which requires clinical commissioning groups and local authorities to make joint arrangements to ensure a co-ordinated assessment of needs. The new approach will greatly improve integrated working across specialist health, education (either in mainstream or special schools), and social care, to deliver improved outcomes for the child.

There are no current plans to introduce a national register of children with cerebral palsy.

### Charities: Inspections

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the case for establishing a new office of Chief Inspector of Charities in England and Wales. [HL1994]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We believe there is no case for a Chief Inspector of Charities.

As the independent regulator, the Charity Commission for England and Wales can intervene where there is serious misconduct or mismanagement or risk to charity property. We are currently strengthening the regulator's powers to intervene in the Charities (Protection and Social Investments) Bill.

### Charity Commission

Asked by *Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reports of serious incidents the Charity Commission has received this year; and what is (1) the average, and (2) the maximum, time delay in investigating those reports. [HL2184]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Chief Executive to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Charity Commission Reply [Baroness Finlay PQ2184.pdf]



The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-14/HL2184>

### Children in Care: Kent

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the increase in the number of asylum-seeking children in the care of Kent County Council, (1) what steps they plan to take to help address demands on social services in the county, and (2) what steps they plan to take to help make up the £5.5 million shortfall incurred by Kent County Council for this purpose. [HL1905]

**Lord Bates:** The Government is very aware of the pressures currently faced by Kent County Council in caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. We are working closely with Kent on the operational and financial implications of this. We are also working with Kent and other local authorities to consider possible future arrangements for the management of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. In the meantime, we are providing additional funding to local authorities agreeing to accept such cases from Kent.

### Civil Proceedings: Legal Costs

Asked by *Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of their consultation on costs protection in defamation and privacy claims, they plan to introduce a new costs protection regime to help people and organisations of modest means to bring and defend defamation and privacy claims; and if so, when they plan to. [HL1946]

**Lord Faulks:** The Coalition Government consulted on introducing a costs protection regime for defamation cases in 2013. This Government is considering the way forward.

### Civil Servants: Sick Leave

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average number of days lost through sickness in the Northern Ireland Office, and in the civil service as a whole, over the last five years. [HL2213]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Statistics on average days lost across the Civil Service are collected and published by the Cabinet Office on a quarterly basis.

<i>Year ending</i>	<i>Northern Ireland Office AWDL per staff year</i>	<i>Civil Service AWDL per staff year</i>
31 March 2010	8.8	8.8
31 March 2011	12.1	8.2
31 March 2012	10.3	7.7

<i>Year ending</i>	<i>Northern Ireland Office AWDL per staff year</i>	<i>Civil Service AWDL per staff year</i>
31 March 2013	3.2	7.6
31 March 2014	6.4	7.3
31 March 2015	5.9	7.4

The Civil Service actively manages sickness absence and we continually review our progress. We strive to improve health and wellbeing at work for our staff and this remains a priority

The Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) per staff year in the Northern Ireland Office has reduced from 8.8, for the year ending 31 March in 2010, to 5.9, for the same period in 2015.

The Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) per staff year in the Civil Service has reduced from 8.8, for the year ending 31 March in 2010 to 7.4 for the year ending 31 March 2015.

These statistics demonstrate that we have made significant progress in reducing sickness absence in the Northern Ireland Office and the Civil Service as a whole. We are continuing to work with both line managers and staff to address absence issues.

### Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why people who have reached the age of 75 are not automatically invited for a bowel screening to identify symptoms of bowel cancer. [HL2348]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether not automatically inviting those aged 75 or over for a bowel screening test complies with their duties under the Equalities Act 2010. [HL2349]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the National Health Service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy and supports implementation based on the best available evidence.

Bowel cancer screening by Faecal Occult Blood testing for men and women aged 50-74 was recommended by the UK NSC in July 2003. Following this recommendation, the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme in England initially invited men and women aged 60-69 years old as the programme was rolled out across the country. This has now been extended to men and women aged up to 74, as recommended in the Cancer Reform Strategy (2007). The programme offers screening up to the age of 74 based on the original English<sup>1</sup> and Danish<sup>2</sup> trials along with evidence published in 2010 (Cairns et al, 2010) which recommended that surveillance ceases at the age of 75.

No assessment has been made regarding automatically inviting those over 75 years for bowel screening. Men and women aged above the eligible age limit have been able to self-refer for screening every two years since the programme began, and so far over 150,000 have done so.

<sup>1</sup> Hardcastle JD, Chamberlain JO, Robinson MH, Moss SM, Amar SS, Balfour TW, James PD, Mangham CM. Randomised controlled trial of faecal-occult-blood screening for colorectal cancer.

Lancet. 1996;348(9040):1472-7

<sup>2</sup> Kronborg O, Fenger C, Olsen J, Jorgensen OD, Sondergaard O. Randomised study of screening for colorectal cancer with faecal-occult-blood test.

## Commodity Markets

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the 30 per cent drop in Anglo American PLC's profit, whether they are taking part in any discussions about the health of the United Kingdom commodity market. [HL2167]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Her Majesty's Government has made no contact with Anglo American PLC, and no discussions have taken place about the health of the UK commodity market.

Conditions in the global commodity market remain challenging across all sectors, chiefly the result of the ongoing glut in oil supply, the prospect of further capacity coming on stream from Iran and Iraq and continuing uncertainty regarding China's economic prospects. BIS monitors metals markets, but responsibility for specific commodity markets is spread across different departments.

## Community Orders: Mental Illness

Asked by **Lord Bradley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many mental health treatment orders were issued by each magistrates' court in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [HL2319]

**Lord Faulks:** Data on Mental Health Treatment Requirement Orders (MHTRs) made by each court is not held centrally.

Only national data on numbers of MHTRs issued in England and Wales as part of a community order/suspended sentence is available and can be found here:

Year	Numbers of MHTRs issued.
2015 (January to March):	202
2014	960
2013	854
2012	764
2011	878
2010	1005

The above data can be found in the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletins.

## Conflict, Stability and Security Fund

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what payments have been made since the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund was established; and what is the planned destination of expenditure from that fund during the rest of this financial year. [HL2068]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** At the end of Quarter 1, payments of £163million have been made from the £1,033million Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) with the majority of spend not scheduled until Quarter 2 and 3. The National Security Council (NSC) agreed CSSF allocations at the start of the Financial Year, the details of which were made in the Written Ministerial Statement about the CSSF on 12 March 2015 by the then Minister for Government Policy in the Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for West Dorset (Mr Letwin), which was repeated the same day in the House of Lords by Lord Wallace of Saltaire, (HLWS379).

## Construction: Equal Opportunities

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage diversity in the construction and property sectors. [HL2191]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is working to improve the diversity and inclusiveness of the construction sector through the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) and the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB). Actions include a new CLC led image and recruitment campaign for the sector, the CITB Fairness Inclusion and Respect initiative and CITB's work with *Be Onsite*. More widely we have encouraged industry participation in wider initiatives such as *Your Life and Think, Act, Report*.

## Council Housing: Immigrants

Asked by **Lord Beecham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated cost to local authorities of complying with their duty to support (1) failed asylum seekers and their children, and (2) evicted tenants deemed not to have the right to rent. [HL1864]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Home Office support any failed asylum cases involving children. Local authorities are only required to provide support to failed asylum seekers with children in rare circumstances, for example if a family member has an exceptional need. No estimate of the cost of such support has been made.

Landlords taking new tenants are required to conduct a right to rent check and the Government proposes to provide landlords with new powers to evict illegal migrants in the forthcoming Immigration Bill.

## Councillors: Complaints

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a councillor who is the subject of, or mentioned in, a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman has the right to know (1) the nature of the complaint, and (2) the identity of the person or persons making the complaint. [1] [HL2217]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There is no requirement that a councillor who is subject of, or mentioned in, a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman be informed of the nature of the complaint or the identity of the complainant. However, the Local Government Ombudsman's practice is to request that local authorities ensure all interested parties within the local authority are aware of the investigation and are able to comment before the Ombudsman comes to a final decision.

## Counter-terrorism

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of current counter terrorism legislation; and whether it prevents funding of Syrian non-governmental organisations and faith-based organisations who are best placed to respond to the humanitarian emergency in Syria. [HL2249]

**Lord Bates:** UK counter-terrorism legislation is kept under constant review to ensure the police and the security and intelligence agencies have the powers they need to tackle all new and existing threats, whether home grown or international. Our continued focus rightly seeks to dissuade individuals from travelling to places of conflict and to work with communities to prevent the radicalisation of individuals. We also seek to ensure that where individuals have undertaken illegal activities, whether at home or abroad, they are not beyond the reach of the law and can be prosecuted.

UK counter-terrorism legislation is subject to robust independent oversight. The Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, currently David Anderson QC, reviews the legislation and reports his findings to Parliament annually. The Government gives careful consideration to these reports and any recommendations he may make. For example, following a recommendation in his last annual report released in July 2014, officials have opened a dialogue with international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) about their operations overseas and the parameters within which they work. This constructive dialogue is continuing.

Ensuring an effective response to humanitarian crises is a key objective for this Government. In line with the key humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality, we work with trusted humanitarian partners with experience of operating in fragile and conflict affected states, to ensure that aid is delivered to people on a needs basis. In

2015/16 the Department for International Development is working with 18 humanitarian partners in Syria and 18 partners in neighbouring countries. These include UN agencies, Red Cross/Crescent organisations, INGOs and international financial institutions, who in turn work with local NGOs and civil society organisations. The Government also work with a range of partners utilising the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, including Syrian organisations, INGOs, the private sector, academic institutions, international organisations and other donors. We apply a rigorous process of due diligence, where partners must demonstrate accountable and transparent governance structures and financial procedures, as well as compliance with relevant legislation.

## Courts: Interpreters

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the timetable and process will be for reviewing, publishing and awarding the contract for the provision of court interpreters, when the current contract expires at the end of 2016. [HL2089]

**Lord Faulks:** Provision of interpretation and translation services across courts and tribunals is being explored in preparation for the end of the current contracts in October 2016. A competition to retender the contract is expected to be launched in due course.

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their response to the Independent Review of Quality Arrangements under the MoJ Language Services Framework Agreement, published by Optimity Matrix in December 2014, what progress has been made in discussions with the National Register of Public Services Interpreters on the development of an independent regulatory framework. [HL2146]

**Lord Faulks:** This Government is committed to providing a standard of interpreter that meets the needs of those requiring support in the justice system.

Provision in interpretation and translation services across courts and tribunals is being explored in preparation for the end of the current contracts in October 2016. As part of this work, Ministry of Justice officials have met with representatives from a range of stakeholders, including the National Register of Public Service Interpreters.

## Criminal Cases Review Commission

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much in real terms funding for the Criminal Cases Review Commission has been cut since 2010; and what assessment they have made of the impact of such a reduction on the working of the Commission. [HL2051]

**Lord Faulks:** Since 2010 the Criminal Cases Review Commission's budget has been reduced in real terms by 26%. Since 2010, the Commission has improved its performance, closing 947 cases in 2010/11 and 1,632 cases in 2014/15.

### Cybercrime

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made in the forthcoming Strategic Defence and Security Review of the threat posed by cyber security; and whether they plan to commit to new spending in this area. [HL2058]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We regard cyber security as one of the top risks to UK national security. The 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review therefore covers cyber security and will consider what we need to tackle the cyber threat. We cannot speculate on the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

### Darfur: Internally Displaced People

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about (1) the levels of malnutrition and disease among children in each of the camps for internally displaced people in Darfur, and (2) the plans of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to deal with those problems. [HL1873]

**Baroness Verma:** The executive summary of the comprehensive survey undertaken by UNICEF of nutrition and health indicators in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Darfur, funded by DFID at the end of 2013, is available online. This survey confirms that overall levels of nutrition and health in Darfur IDP camps continue to be of concern, for example 44% of children in Zamzam camp in North Darfur were recorded as suffering from stunting. Indicators for camps in North and Central Darfur are generally worse than camps in other areas; however the health and nutrition situation for IDPs located in camps tends to be better than the situation for resident and displaced populations in other parts of Darfur located outside of camps. A follow up survey, to be partially funded by DFID, is planned to take place in mid-2016.

The United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has played a central role in developing the Sudan 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan which aims to address the humanitarian needs of up to 5.4 million vulnerable people in Darfur and other parts of Sudan and appeals for funding of £650 million to achieve this. In line with agreed strategic objectives, OCHA coordinates the activities of in country partners, including other UN agencies and national and international non-governmental organisations and

allocates funding received through the appeal to humanitarian projects across Sudan, such as those to tackle disease and malnutrition. DFID is the third largest humanitarian donor in support of this appeal.

### Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003

*Asked by The Earl of Clancarty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there have been any prosecutions under the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003. [HL2223]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** There have been no prosecutions to date under the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act.

### Developing Countries: Diseases

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to assist countries that receive United Kingdom development support in addressing non-communicable diseases. [HL2287]

**Baroness Verma:** In countries in which DFID provides health assistance, we aim to improve the provision of basic health services for the poorest so that these countries are better able to address a broad range of health problems including non-communicable diseases (NCDs). We do this through strengthening health systems, improving health worker capacity and increasing access to essential medicines and equipment. With this focus on strengthening health services, developing countries will be better equipped to address a broad range of health problems including non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

We are also supporting specific efforts in developing countries to reduce the prevalence of NCDs, for example:

- Hepatitis B immunisation that prevents liver cancer (through support for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI);
- Work on the Safe Cookstoves which will have an impact on the prevalence of NCDs;
- Research on cardiovascular and mental health issues.

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will be represented at the WHO dialogue on non-communicable diseases and development co-operation taking place in Geneva on 30 November. [HL2288]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government is committed to tackling non-communicable disease as the leading causes of mortality and morbidity in our country and around the globe. We will make a decision on attendance at the meeting in Geneva shortly.



## Developing Countries: New Businesses

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take, if any, to support the campaign launched by Dell for the post-2015 UN development agenda to promote sustainable development through entrepreneurship. [HL2006]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has played a key role in the negotiation of the Sustainable Development Goals and fully supports the Open Working Group proposal which will be formally agreed at the UN summit later this month. DFID runs a range of programmes to support entrepreneurs, including working with business action groups, providing support to improve the investment climate for small businesses and hosting challenge funds to which entrepreneurs can apply to for grants.

## Diabetes: Homelessness

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they provide to homeless people who suffer from diabetes. [HL2159]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** All commissioners have a responsibility to tackle health inequalities. Co-commissioning will help clinical commissioning groups, working with their local authority colleagues, identify and address health inequalities that arise in hard to reach groups such as the homeless population.

## Diabetes: Refugees

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing to refugees in the United Kingdom who suffer from diabetes. [HL2158]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Refugees who have been granted asylum status are eligible for services from the National Health Service on the same basis as the general population. This includes access to primary medical care and any specialist diabetes treatment and care required.

## Directors: Ethnic Groups

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the number of board members from ethnic minorities. [HL2192]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We believe it is the best interests of business to tap into the richest and widest talent pool.

There are no current plans for any Government led activity to increase the number of board members from ethnic minorities.

## Economic Policy

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any of the economists who wrote a letter to The Times, published on 18 August, are employed in any capacity to advise Government departments or are serving on any executive or non-executive bodies. [HL2101]

**Lord Bates:** None of the economists in question are employed in any capacity to advise the Home Office.

## Economic Situation: Greece

Asked by *Lord Dykes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they are next meeting representatives of other European Union member states to discuss the procedures in the Greek emergency financial recovery plan. [HL1922]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** While Greece remains in the euro, its financial stability is the responsibility of the euro area. Ministers and officials routinely meet with international counterparts to discuss economic and financial issues within the euro area and wider European Union, including ongoing financial assistance programmes.

## Education Funding Agency: Birmingham

Asked by *Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the role of the Homes and Communities Agency in respect of Spitfire House in Castle Vale, Birmingham, following a change of ownership. [I] [HL2078]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Homes and Communities Agency does not own or control Spitfire House and had no involvement in the decision of Birmingham Metropolitan College to sell the property to the Education Funding Agency. The Agency's role is limited to determining whether a legal charge it holds over the building should be removed.

## Electoral Register

Asked by *Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bridges of Headley on 3 August (HL1680), whether their discussions with local government and the devolved administrations about bringing forward the full implementation of individual electoral registration (IER) in advance of elections in May 2016 included asking their views in advance of the laying before Parliament of an order to bring forward the implementation of IER by 12 months. [HL1901]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** It would not be appropriate to inform these legislatures or bodies about the Government's approach before advising the UK Parliament. Ministers informed their counterparts in the

Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government upon taking the decision.

### Electronic Cigarettes

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to promote the use of e-cigarettes as a replacement for smoking tobacco. [HL2098]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Electronic cigarettes have the potential to help smokers quit smoking, and the evidence indicates that, for smokers, they are less harmful to health than cigarettes. However, they are not risk free, and therefore they should only be used as a means to help smokers quit. The best thing a smoker can do is to quit completely.

For those that cannot stop using nicotine completely, or need help not to relapse, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance already promotes the use of harm reduction strategies using a range of nicotine replacement therapies.

Any smoker wanting to quit, with or without the help of an e-cigarette, is advised to seek expert advice and support from their local stop smoking service. Smokers using the personalised support offered by stop smoking services are four times more likely to stop smoking and quit for good.

All smokers, including those who want to use e-cigarettes to help them quit, can sign up to Stoptober to receive additional help and support.

### Electronic Tagging

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend the mandation of electronic tagging to include priority and persistent offenders as part of integrated offender management programmes. [HL1917]

**Lord Faulks:** A comprehensive review of the Electronic Monitoring programme to introduce GPS technology is underway.

### Employment Tribunals Service

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the number of applications to employment tribunals of the increase in the qualifying period of employment from one year to two since it was introduced. [HL1866]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Changes in the number of claims for unfair dismissal cannot easily be attributed to the increase in the qualifying period because of other changes to the employment tribunal system.

### Empty Property

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of houses that were unoccupied in each of the regions in England in (1) 2000, (2) 2010, and (3) 2014. [HL2300]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The table below shows the number of long-term empty homes, i.e. those dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over six months, by region. Data for the year 2000 are not readily available and so we have provided the earliest available year, 2004.

<i>Region</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2014</i>
East Midlands	26,219	26,427	19,490
East of England	25,020	25,597	17,202
London	42,600	34,422	20,795
North East	21,599	20,337	16,052
North West	68,594	66,410	40,461
South East	35,459	33,998	23,956
South West	22,434	24,226	18,550
West Midlands	40,167	30,395	22,257
Yorkshire and The Humber	36,550	38,187	27,058
England Total	318,642	299,999	205,821

### Energy Supply

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 16 September (HL1984) which states that "decisions on plant closures are a commercial matter for individual plant owners", whose responsibility it is to ensure that the United Kingdom has enough energy supplies to meet expected needs. [HL2316]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Electricity Act (1989) and Gas Act (1986) place obligations on the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority to secure long-term viable supplies and to secure that all reasonable demands for electricity are met.

### English Votes for English Laws

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Stowell of Beeston on 29 July (HL1727), whether they plan to produce an impact assessment of their proposals for English Votes for English Laws; and if not, why not. [HL1881]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** The Government does not plan to produce an impact assessment for its proposals, which relate to House of Commons procedure. However, given the importance of the Government's proposed changes, the Leader of the House of Commons has invited the Procedure Committee to review the proposals in operation in order that there is proper scrutiny.

### **Eritrea: Ethiopia**

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to propose to the UN Secretary-General that he commission a study of the effects on the economies of Eritrea and Ethiopia if the latter gave their unequivocal approval to the boundary demarcation between the two states, as determined by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission. [[HL2141](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have no plans at present to propose to the UN Secretary-General that he commission such a study.

Resolving the ongoing Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute requires both countries to engage in political dialogue. We believe this would be in the economic interests of both countries, and contribute to reducing instability in the Horn of Africa.

We have consistently urged both Eritrea and Ethiopia to engage bilaterally and with international partners, such as the EU and the UN, to overcome the current stalemate. The UK, along with our partners in the international community, has underlined that the decision by the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission is final and binding. We urge both governments to respect the commitment they made in the Algiers peace agreement of December 2000.

### **EU Immigration**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they plan to make to European Union ministers at the 14 September meeting on EU migration; and whether they plan to make representations on the issue of co-operation between EU member states, including those outside the Euro or Schengen areas. [[HL2070](#)]

**Lord Bates:** I apologise for the late reply to your question. This is due to the rapid pace of development of the EU response to the migration crisis currently facing the European Union, as demonstrated by the convening of a further extraordinary JHA Council meeting on 22 September.

The Luxembourg Presidency of the European Union convened the extraordinary meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council on 14 September in Brussels in response to a joint request that My Right Honourable Friend the Home Secretary (Theresa May

MP) made with the French and German Interior Ministers. A further extraordinary meeting of the JHA Council was held on 22 September. The Home Secretary attended both meetings on behalf of the United Kingdom.

My Rt Hon Friend the Home Secretary will write to the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee, and to his counterpart in the European Union Committee, setting out the key decisions taken, and the interventions that my Rt. Hon Friend made, at the Extraordinary JHA Councils that took place on 14 and 22 September. A copy of these letters will be placed in the House library. Additionally, the Commission's Migration Package has been deposited for scrutiny by both Houses.

### **Expert Committee on Pesticides**

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Expert Committee on Pesticides has not published the minutes of its meeting of 20 May; and what assessment they have made of whether, by not publishing those minutes, the Committee has breached its terms of reference. [[HL1849](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The minutes of the meeting of the 20 May have been published. They were published on 23 July 2015.

### **Eyesight: Testing**

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to review the quality of eye tests carried out by optometrists and dispensing opticians. [[HL2293](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Under the Sight Testing (Examination and Prescription) (No.2) Regulations 1989, when a doctor or optometrist carries out a sight test, they have a legal duty to perform such examinations that are necessary to detect signs of injury, disease or abnormality and to refer the patient for further investigation if necessary. They will also carry out tests to determine if the patient requires an optical appliance to correct a defect in sight.

These requirements apply to all sight tests, whether provided on the National Health Service or privately.

The General Optical Council (GOC) is the regulatory body for optometrists who carry out sight tests and any concern about the quality of sight tests can be raised directly with the GOC.

Dispensing opticians do not carry out sight tests.

### **Flood Control**

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ask water companies to do more to co-ordinate and implement flood defences; whether they plan to launch a full and transparent tender process in

the market to meet this objective; and whether water companies' work on flood defence is intended to be outwith their regulated business. [HL2355]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Water and sewerage companies' responsibilities include managing the risk of flooding from surface water or sewer systems. They are also expected to work in partnership with the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authorities to manage the risks of all sources of flooding within a catchment.

The Government has therefore not asked water companies to do more to co-ordinate and implement flood defences, nor is it planning to launch a tender process in the market to meet this objective.

### Fluoride: Drinking Water

*Asked by Earl Baldwin of Bewdley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement in the 2015 systematic Cochrane review *Water fluoridation for the prevention of dental caries* that the authors' confidence in evaluating fluoridation's effectiveness was limited by there being "very little contemporary evidence, meeting the review's inclusion criteria", and by "the high risk of bias within the studies and, importantly, the applicability of the evidence to current lifestyles". [HL1940]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The results of the 2015 'Cochrane Review' *Water fluoridation for the prevention of dental caries*, *Iheozor-Ejiofor et al, Feb 2015* are broadly consistent with those from other systematic reviews conducted over the past 15 years in concluding that this public health measure is, as the Cochrane authors state, "effective at reducing levels of tooth decay in both children's baby and permanent teeth."

The Cochrane review used specific and relatively narrow criteria requiring that studies include baseline measures of dental caries in two communities, one of which then introduced fluoridation within three years. This approach had the consequence of excluding numerous studies conducted over the past 25 years which compared dental caries levels in fluoridated and non-fluoridated communities. The Cochrane reviewers acknowledge in their report that there may be concerns regarding the exclusion of these studies from their review.

The Cochrane review analysed studies conducted in different ways at different times in different places, finding consistent reductions in levels of dental caries following the introduction of fluoridation. The term 'bias' used in the Cochrane review has a specific scientific meaning relating to controlling for other factors such as dietary habits that might have affected the levels of dental caries in the populations studied. *The reviewers recognise that this bias "may occur in either direction"*.

Relatively recent studies which did not meet the reviewer's specific inclusion criteria have continued to find substantial dental benefits of water fluoridation.

Public Health England's (PHE) recent Monitoring Report (2014) looked at fluoridated and non-fluoridated communities in England and found that communities served by water fluoridation schemes continue to show lower levels of tooth decay.

A copy of PHE's report is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PHE Water Fluoridation Monitoring Report  
[Water\_fluoridation\_health\_monitor\_for\_England\_2014\_executive\_summary\_1Apr2014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1940>

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to make representations to Manchester City Council to give further consideration to fluoridation of the water supply in Greater Manchester; and whether any such representations will take account of the lower level of tooth decay amongst children in Birmingham, where the water supply has been fluoridated since 1964. [HL2178]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** It has been the policy of successive governments that decisions on water fluoridation are best taken locally. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 gave powers to upper tier and unitary local authorities to make proposals in relation to fluoridation.

In 2014 Public Health England published a water fluoridation health monitoring report which showed lower levels of tooth decay in areas with water fluoridation.

Public Health England has also, in 2014, published an evidence informed toolkit for local authorities to support them in planning, reviewing and commissioning oral health improvement interventions for children and young people, including the potential role of water fluoridation.

### Fracking

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Prime Minister on 11 September (HC9076), on what evidence they base the statement that "investment in shale could reach £33 billion and support 64,000 jobs in the oil, gas, construction, engineering and chemical sectors"; how many wells would be required to achieve such levels of investment and employment; and over what time period such levels would be achieved. [HL2334]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** EY's 2014 report, 'Getting Ready for UK Shale Gas: Supply chain and skills requirements and opportunities' identifies that over the period of 2016–32 c.£33bn of spend could be required to bring up to 4,000 wells into production. At peak this equates to around £3.3bn of spend and some 64,500 jobs (6,100 of which are direct roles).



The full report can be viewed at:

[http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Getting\\_ready\\_for\\_UK\\_shale\\_gas/\\$FILE/EY-Getting-ready-for-UK-shale-gas-April-2014.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Getting_ready_for_UK_shale_gas/$FILE/EY-Getting-ready-for-UK-shale-gas-April-2014.pdf)

### Fracking: Planning Permission

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in considering whether to call in planning applications for schemes involving hydraulic fracturing that have taken longer than 16 weeks to be decided upon, they will count the 16 weeks from (1) the date the application was first received by the Minerals Planning Authority or (2) the date the application was registered; and whether, in either case, they will take into account (a) the timetable agreed between the applicant and the planning authority, even if that is for longer than 16 weeks, (b) delays caused by the failure of the applicant to provide the necessary information, (c) delays caused by defects in the application, (d) delays caused by amendments to the application, (e) an estimate of the additional costs likely to result from calling in the application, and (f) whether a call-in will result in a greater delay than allowing the planning authority to continue to deal with it. [HL2337]

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the case of planning applications for schemes involving hydraulic fracturing that have been determined by the Secretary of State after being called in as a result of the failure of the Minerals Planning Authority to do so within 16 weeks, any conditions that require further approval of details of the scheme will be dealt with by application to (1) the planning authority, or (2) the Secretary of State. [HL2338]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I refer the noble Lord to the written ministerial statements of 16 September, HLWS194 and HLWS195, which set out a number of measures to enable planning applications and appeals relating to shale gas and oil to be dealt with as quickly as possible.

These include a commitment by the Secretary of State to actively consider calling-in shale planning applications. Separately, a scheme has been put in place to identify local planning authority underperformance in respect of their determination of oil and gas planning applications. The scheme uses the same threshold of underperformance set out in the document 'Improving planning performance – Criteria for designation', of 50% or fewer applications being made within the relevant statutory time limit, or such extended period as has been agreed in writing by the applicant. The statutory time limit applies once an application has been validated by the local planning authority. Where an authority is identified as underperforming under the scheme, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will actively consider calling-in for his determination oil and gas

planning applications that are validated by that authority, in accordance with existing policy.

The decision on whether to call-in any application will be taken in line with current call-in policy. Any applications relating to shale gas that are called-in would be prioritised for urgent resolution.

If the Secretary of State were to grant a planning permission in respect of a called-in application, then any details of the scheme that are the subject of planning conditions would need to be submitted to and approved by the relevant local planning authority.

### Fuels: Tax Evasion

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much duty has been lost in each of the last five years as a result of fuel laundering in South Armagh. [HL2211]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** No specific assessment has been made of the loss of revenue specifically due to fuel laundering in South Armagh to the UK each year.

The government is committed to reducing revenue loss due to fuel duty fraud and HM Revenue and Customs works closely with the Revenue Commissioners in the Republic of Ireland and others to fight fuel fraud on a wide range of fronts. This includes regular exchange of information, joint operational activity and the recent implementation of an improved new marker for rebated fuel (which was also introduced in the Republic of Ireland).

### Gaza: Israel

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the block on exports from Gaza. [HL2197]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 10 September the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), emphasised to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu the importance of improving daily life for the people of Gaza, for example through better power and water supplies and facilitating travel in and out of Gaza. During his visit to the region in July, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), urged the Israeli government to ease restrictions on Gaza and for the parties to prioritise progress towards a durable solution, including taking the necessary steps to advance construction and economic development. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv has also frequently urged Israel to go further in easing movement and access restrictions on Gaza.

## Gaza: Neonatal Mortality

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Palestinian Authority and the government of Israel regarding the increase in neonatal mortality in the Gaza Strip. [HL2196]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised the issue of neonatal mortality in the Gaza Strip with either the Palestinian Authority or the Israeli authorities, as part of our long-term assistance for Gaza, the UK supports partners like the World Food Programme, the UN Works and Relief Agency and the International Committee of the Red Cross, who help deal with food shortages, provide basic services and repair water infrastructure in Gaza. On 10 September the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), emphasised to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu the importance of improving daily life for the people of Gaza.

## General Practitioners

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many GP practices have been closed in (1) England, and (2) London, since 2010. [HL2062]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many GP practices have been merged or taken over in (1) England, and (2) London, since 2010. [HL2063]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department does not hold information in the format requested. Figures on closures, mergers and takeovers are collected in total, but are not separable.

## Gibraltar: Spain

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of recent statements by the Spanish Minister for Europe in relation to British waters surrounding Gibraltar that Spain does not recognise United Kingdom rights over maritime areas not covered by Article X of the Treaty of Utrecht 1713. [HL1996]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are confident of UK sovereignty over British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) under international law and have made our position clear to the Spanish government.

Asked by *Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the delays to cars and freight vehicles crossing the border between Gibraltar and Spain in

June, July and August 2015; and how this compares with those months in 2014. [HL2017]

Asked by *Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all the recommendations of the European Commission to facilitate movement across the Gibraltar to Spain border have been implemented by the United Kingdom and the Spanish government. [HL2018]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** According to Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar figures, the maximum delay to vehicle traffic crossing the Gibraltar-Spain border in 2015 were: 90 minutes for June; 105 minutes for July; and 105 minutes for August. In 2014 the figures were 320 minutes for June; 180 minutes for July and 300 minutes for August. While we have started to see an overall downward trend, disproportionate delays remain unacceptable. Working with Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar, we provide regular updates to the European Commission on the flow of traffic at the border. We continue to press the Spanish government to implement the European Commission's recommendations quickly, in full and in consultation with Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar. The Commission has welcomed the steps taken by Gibraltar in response to their recommendations.

Asked by *Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of recent incidents involving Spanish customs boats entering British Territorial waters around Gibraltar, and what action has since been taken. [HL2019]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Recent illegal incursions by Spanish Customs vessels into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) are unacceptable and unlawful under international law. Incursions are a violation of sovereignty, not a threat to it. They do not weaken or undermine the legal basis in international law for British sovereignty over Gibraltar, including BGTW.

In response to the incursion on 22 August we protested to the Spanish government at a high level and secured their assurances that they will respect the importance of safety at sea. Working closely with Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar, we have agreed with Spain to step up law enforcement cooperation in the fight against organised crime.

Asked by *Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incursions there were into British Territorial waters around Gibraltar by the Spanish Guardia Civil, customs officers and navy in June, July, and August 2015; and how this compares with those months in 2014. [HL2020]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In June, July and August 2015, there were 45, 40 and 41 unlawful incursions respectively by Spanish State vessels into

British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. For the same months in 2014, the numbers were 46, 31 and 25.

*Asked by Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the circumstances concerning the incursion of a Spanish customs vessel into Gibraltar British Territorial waters on 11 September, and what discussions they have had with the government of Spain on the matter. [HL2296]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 11 September a Spanish Guardia Civil vessel made an illegal incursion into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) and attempted to stop and board a Gibraltarian pleasure boat. The Royal Gibraltar Police, Gibraltar Customs and the Royal Navy attended the incident, during which the Guardia Civil vessel repeatedly manoeuvred recklessly endangering the other vessels and those on board. The Royal Navy challenged the Guardia Civil vessel as they always do, after which the Guardia Civil left BGTW. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington), raised this unacceptable incursion and the dangerous behaviour of the Guardia Civil vessel at Ministerial level with the Spanish government.

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the potential benefits to marine conservation and habitats of extending British territorial waters in the sea areas around Gibraltar away from Spain. [HL2361]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government has not made any such assessment. Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar has constitutional competence for marine conservation and habitats in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

## Haematological Cancer

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the Department of Health is doing to prioritise the availability of treatments for rare blood cancers, such as multiple myeloma. [HL2283]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Ensuring that the National Health Service is able to support the availability and use of effective medicines for cancers, including rare blood cancer, is a key priority.

Cancer 52, an organisation which specifically represents patients with rarer cancers, was represented on the independent Cancer Taskforce. The Taskforce published its report, *Achieving World-Class Cancer Outcomes: A Strategy for England 2015-2020*, in July, and made many recommendations relevant to rarer and blood cancers, focussing in particular on improving access to diagnostic testing, including fast, direct general practitioner access to key blood tests, and increasing patient access to the most advanced treatments. NHS

England, Public Health England and other healthcare organisations are now considering the detail of the individual recommendations.

Earlier in 2015, NHS England consulted on the principles and process by which it makes investment decisions in specialised services, which address the issue of rarity. The outcome of future investment decisions taken by NHS England will be published in accordance with the new process. NHS England's response to the consultation is attached, and can be found at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/spec-services/key-docs/>

In addition to drug treatments for blood cancers, NHS England also commissions blood and bone marrow transplantation in accordance with its current published policy. A revision of the policy is planned during 2015-16 to be implemented during 2016-17. The current published policy is attached, and can be found at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/b04-p-a.pdf>

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence is developing guidelines for the treatment of multiple myeloma and these are currently subject to public consultation.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NHS England consultation response [nhse-respns-publictn-17-06-15.pdf]

Transplantation policy April 2013 [b04-p-a (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2283>

## Hamas

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the outcomes of the talks between Tony Blair and Hamas since his active negotiations with Khaled Meshaal in June. [HL2279]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not made an assessment of the outcomes of any talks between Tony Blair and Hamas. The immediate priority remains for all parties to prioritise making progress on reaching a durable agreement that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict.

## Health Services: Armed Forces

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 16 September (HL2100), whether they plan to remove the National Health Service ban on treating injured British military personnel who have undergone some private medical treatment, however small, for their injuries. [HL2317]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Any National Health Service patient is free to choose to fund privately a healthcare procedure, but as a result will generally be required to pay costs associated with that procedure. Whether the NHS provides on-going care is addressed on a case by case basis. Given the circumstances relating to a small number of very seriously injured veterans, NHS England is ensuring that they continue to receive on-going care. The NHS works closely with the Ministry of Defence to support injured service personnel through the transition process when they are discharged from the Armed Forces.

We do not plan to exempt serving personnel or veterans from the principles of the NHS, but will ensure that all the circumstances of individual cases are taken into account when making decisions on the care of serving personnel and veterans.

### Health: Finance

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the proposed £200 million reductions in the public health budget will be distributed; what proportion will be to (1) central funds, and (2) local public health authority funds; by what formula the allocation of spending reductions amongst local authorities is distributed; and what advice they plan to give to local public health authorities about which services or activities should carry the reductions. [HL2185]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** We are committed to implementing these savings in a way which will minimise any impact on services. We consulted from 31 July to 28 August 2015 on the best way of delivering the required savings, which will be applied to local authorities' public health grant allocations, and are currently considering responses.

### Hepatitis: Vaccination

*Asked by Baroness Suttie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current policy on hepatitis vaccinations in the United Kingdom, in particular the implementation of a universal hepatitis B vaccination as part of the UK childhood immunisation schedule. [HL2233]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The hepatitis B vaccination is currently recommended for individuals considered to be at increased risk of complications from the disease or exposure to the virus such as injecting drug users, patients with chronic liver disease and families adopting children from countries with a high or intermediate prevalence of hepatitis B.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, the independent expert committee that advises the government on all immunisation matters, has recommended that a universal infant hepatitis B

vaccination should be introduced subject to procurement of a hexavalent (6 in 1) vaccine at a cost effective price. The outcome of the competitive tender exercise that is currently underway is expected to be known mid 2016.

### Home Office: Telephone Services

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Home Office has target times by which members of the public can reasonably expect to get through on the telephone and speak to an official; by what percentage extent there has been a change over the past three years in the number of telephone calls from the public seeking information or assistance from the Home Office; and what training in communication skills is provided for the officials in that Department. [HL2010]

**Lord Bates:** The largest volumes of calls in the Home Office are handled by HM Passport Office and UK Visas and Immigration. The Home Office does not publish centrally collated figures for call handling.

HM Passport Office calls are either handled directly through its commercial partner Teleperformance or at one of the in-house call centres in Liverpool and Southport. Both Teleperformance and the in-house call centres aim to answer 80% of calls in 30 seconds.

UK Visas and Immigration calls are handled either directly at the in-house call centres in Croydon and Sheffield, or through one of two commercial partners, HGS and Sitel. UKVI in-house Contact Centres aim to answer the majority of calls in three minutes.

All commercial partner and in-house staff undergo an assessed foundation training course; which includes modules around required knowledge, communication, effective questioning and call control.

### House of Lords Composition

*Asked by Lord Grocott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by the Leader of the House on 7 September (HL Deb, col 1212), whether they will publish the statistics on which they base the statement that the Government face a combined opposition of 80 Peers, which is twice the size faced by the last Labour Government. [HL2102]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** At the end of the 2009-10 session, of those peers eligible to take part in the work of the House of Lords there were 211 Labour members, 185 Conservative members and 72 Liberal Democrat members – meaning there were 46 more peers sitting on the benches of the two largest political parties in opposition than there were peers on the Government benches.

As of 18 September, of those peers eligible to take part in the work of the House of Lords there are 223 Conservative members, 211 Labour members and 101 Liberal Democrat members – meaning there are 89 more peers sitting on the benches of the two largest political



parties in opposition than there are peers on the Government benches.

### House of Lords: Catering

*Asked by Lord Palmer*

To ask the Chairman of Committees what costs were incurred in the recruitment of the House of Lords Executive Chef. [HL2226]

**Lord Laming:** The recruitment exercise for an executive chef is ongoing. We have paid £346.61 to publicise the vacancy in relevant forums. Other anticipated costs include a £350 fee for an external recruitment panel member and the marginal cost of ingredients for a cooking test. Other costs are not envisaged, although we do reimburse reasonable candidate travel expenses.

### House of Lords: Electronic Cigarettes

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask the Chairman of Committees whether the Administration and Works Committee will reconsider the ban on e-cigarettes in rooms in the House of Lords which formerly permitted smoking, in the light of the conclusions of a report by Public Health England that e-cigarettes are a good substitute for tobacco cigarettes and should be available on the NHS. [HL2145]

**Lord Laming:** The Administration and Works Committee agreed that the e-cigarette policy should ideally be a bicameral one; it presently is. This has ensured that the policy is simple and applied across the whole Estate. The decision to ban the use of e-cigarettes across the Estate (except in smoking shelters and a dedicated e-cigarette use area) was based on the advice available at the time about uncertainty over the impact of e-cigarettes, safety concerns and the practice of other organisations. I recognise that the position on e-cigarettes is changing and we will keep this matter under review.

### Hungary: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they plan to make to the government of Hungary about the use of tear gas and water cannon on those seeking asylum. [HL2366]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK expects all EU Member States to meet their obligations to comply with international standards including with regards to the fundamental values of respect for human dignity, freedom and respect for human rights, in the same way they have this expectation of us. The British Government recognises that Hungary has received the second highest number of asylum claims of any EU Member State this year to June, reaching unprecedented levels. We continue to follow closely the situation in Hungary and other Central European countries regarding the arrival of unprecedented

numbers of people seeking entry and, often, passage onwards. Staff at our Embassy in Budapest have visited the border with Serbia and reception centres and have also met with Hungarian officials. More broadly as the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), has stated, the UK and its EU partners must pursue a comprehensive approach which addresses the causes of the migration problem as well as the consequences.

### Immigrants: Detainees

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what audit procedures are performed across the immigration detention estate to ensure that the requirements of Detention Services Order 13/2012 regarding the transfer of medical records when transferring detainees between detention centres, or removing them under escort, are carried out. [HL1938]

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what audit procedures, if any, exist under the Detention Centre Rules 2001, or other detention centre rules, to monitor the preparation and presentation of medical records and discharge summaries to detainees on release or unescorted removal; if such procedures exist, what were the results of the audit or audits in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; and if such procedures do not exist, whether they plan to take steps to put such procedures in place. [HL1939]

**Lord Bates:** Operating Standards and contracts for service providers in the immigration detention estate require them to operate a schedule of self audit to include compliance with the Detention Centre Rules 2001, Operating Standards and Detention Service Orders.

Since 1 September 2014 the preparation and presentation of medical records and discharge summaries to detainees on release or unescorted removal is the responsibility of service providers commissioned by NHS England. NHS England's national specifications for healthcare commissioned in Immigration Removal Centres requires providers to have in place a programme of annual audit in line with their organisation's clinical governance framework.

The first annual audits under the new arrangements have not yet taken place.

### Immigration

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts they are making to recognise and meet the genuine need those attempting to enter the United Kingdom at Calais; and what efforts they are making to contribute to finding solutions to the problems arising out of large-scale global migration. [HL1909]

**Lord Bates:** The UK and French Governments have been working together closely for many months to address the situation in northern France, and are committed to resolving it together.

The declaration signed by the Home Secretary and the French Interior Minister, on 20 August, cements a comprehensive programme of work between our two countries.

As part of this, the two Governments agreed that there will be increased observation in the camp in Calais to identify those migrants who are especially vulnerable or potential victims of trafficking. A system for transferring those who are especially vulnerable to places of safety and to offer those people advice and support will also be put in place, within broader arrangements the Republic of France already has.

The UK is also playing a leading role in pushing for comprehensive, long-term action through the EU and the UN to tackle the causes of illegal immigration and the organised trafficking gangs behind it, as well as increasing support and protection for those who need it in North and East Africa.

### Immigration Controls: Pakistan

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister of State for International Development, Desmond Swayne, on 11 September (HC8462), which states that the government of Pakistan has publicly recognised "the problems facing minorities, and the need to bring an end to religious persecutions", why the current Home Office guidance Pakistan: Christians and Christian Converts states that "there are a large number of Christians in the country and the evidence does not indicate that Christians are, in general, subject to a real risk of persecution or inhuman or degrading treatment"; and whether, in the light of the most recent evidence, they now plan to revise this guidance. [HL2214]

**Lord Bates:** The UK recognises there may be individual cases of religious persecution. However, not all Christians are at risk. It is important to carefully consider each case on its merits.

This position was confirmed by the courts in December 2014 in the country guidance case 'AK and SK (Christians: risk) Pakistan CG [2014] UKUT 569 (IAC)'.

Therefore, whilst the Home Office is always reviewing country of origin information and the accompanying guidance on a particular issue, its position is consistent with the statement made by the Minister of State for International Development, Desmond Swayne, on 11 September.

### Immigration Rules

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 14 July (HL1075), whether a non-EU citizen in possession of (1) a temporary, and (2) a permanent, residence permit issued by the government of Germany may enter the United Kingdom without a visa. [HL2221]

**Lord Bates:** A non-EU citizen who holds a valid, genuine residence card issued under Article 10 of Directive 2004/38/EC, or a permanent residence card issued under Article 20, may enter the UK without a visa only where they are joining or accompanying their EU national family member to the UK. This applies only to Article 10 and 20 residence cards, which are issued to family members of EU nationals who are exercising free movement rights in a Member State other than that of which they are a national. Residence documentation issued by another Member State on any other basis under their domestic legislation does not exempt the holder from the requirement to hold a visa to enter the UK.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they define the term "very significant obstacles", as used in paragraph 276ADE(1)(vi) of the immigration rules, especially in relation to applicants who have lived in the United Kingdom for more than half their life. [HL2364]

**Lord Bates:** Paragraph 276ADE(1) of the Immigration Rules sets out the requirements for leave to remain on the basis of the applicant's private life in the UK. Under paragraph 276ADE(1)(vi), where the applicant is aged 18 or over and has lived continuously in the UK for less than 20 years (and whether or not they have done so for more than half their life), there must be "very significant obstacles" to the applicant's integration into the country to which they would have to go if required to leave the UK. Guidance for caseworkers on this is contained in section 8.2.3.4 of the Immigration Directorate Instruction Appendix FM 1.0b Family Life (as a Partner or Parent) and Private Life: 10-Year Routes, published on GOV.UK.

### Immigration: Appeals

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to offer to those waiting in the immigration and asylum appeal process (1) the right to work after six months, and (2) an automatic right to engage in voluntary work at the beginning of the process. [HL2365]

**Lord Bates:** We have no plans to reduce the time asylum seekers have to wait to take up employment or voluntary work. Volunteering can be undertaken at any stage of the asylum process and we support asylum seekers who engage in this positive contribution to the

community, providing such activities do not amount to voluntary work or employment.

### Immigration: Statistics

Asked by *The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to distinguish between the number of overseas students with Tier 4 visas and the number of migrants in all other categories in immigration statistics. [HL2324]

**Lord Bates:** International students are included in net migration statistics that are produced by the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). In line with the internationally agreed UN definition, these statistics define a migrant as someone changing their normal place of residence for more than a year. Students are therefore included in the same way as other migrants. Other countries, such as the United States, Canada, and Australia also include students in their net migration figures. Like other migrants, students who stay for longer than 12 months have an impact on communities, infrastructure and services while they are here, so it is right that they are included in the net migration count.

The ONS estimates that in the year ending March 2015 there was a difference of 96,000 in the number of non-EU students coming to and leaving the UK. Therefore student emigration, or the lack of it, is a key driver of overall net migration.

We have an excellent offer for international students, and as a result we remain the second most popular destination in the world for international higher education students. The latest figures show that visa applications sponsored by universities were now 17% higher than they were in 2010, and the corresponding figure for Russell Group universities was 33%.

The Home Office publishes statistics on entry clearance visa grants broken down by category in table vi\_04 (Entry clearance visas tables volume 4) within the 'Immigration Statistics' release, and in the Visas topic. Data for numbers of entry clearance visas granted for study (Tier 4 & pre-PBS equivalent) are separately identified. An example summary table from the Visas topic, identifying data for students, is provided below.

Entry clearance visas granted by reason (excluding visitor and transit visas)

*Entry clearance visas granted by reason (excluding visitor and transit visas)*

Year	Total issued (1)	Work	Study	Student visitors (2)	Family	Dependant joining or accompanying	Other
YE June 2010	616,650	154,615	320,183	41,859	50,240	15,407	34,346
YE June 2011	616,413	158,261	304,568	55,082	49,263	15,001	34,238
YE June 2012	520,073	147,377	214,219	68,990	44,424	12,782	32,281
YE June 2013	501,608	144,503	204,410	72,473	33,710	11,649	34,863
YE June 2014	538,504	159,231	218,239	78,075	35,664	11,362	35,933
YE June 2015	538,663	168,544	216,769	64,181	35,245	10,930	42,994
Change: latest year	+159	+9,313	-1,470	-13,894	-419	-432	+7,061
Percentage change	+0%	+6%	-1%	-18%	-1%	-4%	+20%

[h4] Table notes

(1) Excluding visitor and transit visas

(2) Student visitors are allowed to come to the UK for 6 months (or 11 months if they will be studying an English Language course) and cannot extend their stay. For consistency and comparability over time student visitor visas have been excluded from study-related totals.

A copy of the latest release, "Immigration Statistics April to June 2015", is available from the Library of the House and the Home Office website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Similarly the Office for National Statistics figures on international migration to the UK (those changing their usual residence for 12 months or more) separately identify those whose main reason for migration is to study. The

ONS figures are published as part of the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report, and are available from the Library of the House. The latest edition is available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/august-2015/stb-msqr-august-2015.html>

### Immigration: Young People

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the past five years, what percentage of applicants aged between 18 and 25 have been granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom on compassionate grounds; and how many applicants are still waiting for a decision. [HL2363]

**Lord Bates:** People in all immigration application routes have the potential to be granted leave to remain on compassionate grounds. There is no formal application category for ‘compassionate grounds’. The Home Office therefore cannot determine the percentage of applicants between 18 and 25 who have been granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom on compassionate grounds or how many applicants are still waiting for a decision.

### **Inheritance Tax: Siblings**

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 September (HL Deb, cols 1427–9), whether they will publish full details of how the family home allowance announced in the 2015 Budget will affect siblings who have joint ownership of their home. [HL2149]

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 September (HL Deb, cols 1427–9), what is the position of siblings who live together in jointly owned property under current inheritance tax laws. [HL2150]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** All individuals have an inheritance tax threshold (or ‘nil rate band’), currently £325,000, which is the value below which an estate does not have to pay any inheritance tax. The Summer Budget 2015 announced that from April 2017, a new additional transferable residence nil-rate band of £175,000 is being phased in for individuals who leave their home on death to their children, grandchildren or other direct descendants. Together with the existing nil-rate band this means that most individuals will have an effective inheritance tax threshold of up to £500,000 each.

The long standing spouse exemption means that any transfers of assets between spouses or civil partners are exempt from inheritance tax. The Government has no plans to change the inheritance tax treatment of long-term cohabiting and co-dependent siblings.

Where a property is jointly owned by siblings, the individual sibling’s share of the property will be included in their estate for inheritance tax purposes. Each individual’s estate is considered separately and the position for siblings is the same as for other co-habiting individuals.

Full details of the legislation relating to the new residence allowance announced in the Summer Budget 2015 can be found at clause 9 of the Summer Finance Bill. Guidance will be published nearer the time that the new allowance comes into effect.

### **IRA**

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the status, structure and operational capability of the Provisional IRA. [HL2025]

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they plan to remove the Provisional IRA from the list of proscribed organisations. [HL2026]

**Lord Dunlop:** I refer the Noble Lord to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland’s remarks to the House of Commons on 8 September 2015 which set out the Government’s and the Chief Constable’s current assessment of the Provisional IRA (PIRA).

We have no plans to remove PIRA from the list of proscribed organisations.

The Government has made clear that there is no place for any paramilitary group in a democratic society. Issues arising out of continued paramilitary activity and remaining structures need to be urgently addressed in cross-party talks, and that is our priority.

### **Iran: Overseas Trade**

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, in the light of the reopening of the British Embassy in Iran, what plans they have to develop trading opportunities in Iran; and whether those plans take account of decisions by other countries to develop trading opportunities there. [HL2232]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Trade sanctions on Iran will not be lifted immediately. Sanction relief will only happen once the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has verified that Iran has taken agreed nuclear measures. While sanctions remain in place, they will continue to be enforced.

Recent trade visits to Iran highlight the wide interest in new trade opportunities, but even as phased sanctions relief begins Iran will remain a challenging place to do business. If Iran completes its commitments and sanctions are rolled back, the British Government will help the business and financial sector take advantage of the opportunities that arise, and promote trade and investment between our two countries. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), took a trade delegation with him to Iran when he reopened our Embassy on 23 August, and further trade delegations are being planned. Over time, our reopened Embassy in Tehran will be a key part of the Government’s role in supporting British business, including through a full time UK Trade and Investment presence. However the decisions of British businesses on whether or not to trade with Iran are independent of Government.

### **Iraq Committee of Inquiry**

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how much Sir John Chilcot has been paid in daily allowances and



expenses since the establishment of the inquiry into the Iraq war. [HL2088]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Sir John Chilcot is paid a fee of £790 for each day worked. His three Committee colleagues are paid £565 for each day they work. According to the Inquiry's website, since the Inquiry began in 2009, remuneration for the Committee and its advisers totalled £1,565,700 up to the end of the last financial year.

### Iraq: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Worcester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure humanitarian access to civilian communities in Iraq in need of aid who are caught up in the fighting. [HL2305]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK's humanitarian programme in Iraq is delivered through the partners we judge are best able to access civilian communities caught up in a complex conflict. We work with the UN and other humanitarian actors that abide strictly by the key humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence, so they can gain the acceptance of parties to the conflict and access vulnerable groups. The UK is also the leading donor to the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund which supports a number of national NGOs who typically have better access to hard to reach areas of Iraq.

To date, the UK has provided £59.5m of humanitarian assistance across Iraq.

### Iraq: Kurds

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Worcester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are supporting Kurdish authorities in Iraq to manage the civilians who have fled the fighting and are displaced in the region. [HL2304]

**Baroness Verma:** To date, the UK has provided £59.5m of humanitarian assistance across Iraq. This goes to people most in need, including those in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). We are providing funding for a Joint Crisis Centre (JCC) within the Kurdistan Regional Government as part of this support. The JCC works closely with the UN, the Government of Iraq (GOI) and the international community to provide life-saving coordination. The UK also supports Iraqi-led stabilisation activities to enable the safe return of displaced people to their homes.

### Iraq: Military Intervention

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Worcester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that military action by coalition forces in Iraq does not displace civilians. [HL2306]

**Earl Howe:** Defence's initial involvement last summer was to deliver immediate aid in support of humanitarian objectives. The Royal Air Force dropped nearly 100 tonnes of humanitarian supplies, the majority to the besieged Yazidi community on Mount Sinjar.

Individual members of the Coalition retain responsibility for the actions of their own forces. All UK air strikes are conducted under UK rules of engagement, which have been agreed for this campaign in accordance with the law. Close observation, careful selection and approval of targets before a strike, and the use of precision weapons minimises collateral damage and the potential for civilian casualties. This is in stark contrast with ISIL's complete disregard for human life and for the consequences of their actions for civilians.

### Iraq: Politics and Government

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Worcester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are supporting the government of Iraq to build an inclusive state that provides for the wellbeing of all its citizens. [HL2303]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are supporting Prime Minister Abadi in his efforts to rebuild public trust in the Iraqi state, deliver the services and opportunities which all Iraqis want and deserve, and unite Iraq's communities against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and extremism. We welcome the commitments that he has made to inclusivity, to protecting Iraqi citizens, and addressing human rights abuses and holding those responsible to account.

We have contributed £2million to the UN's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilisation, to help the Iraqi government stabilise areas recently liberated from ISIL and re-establish security, basic services and inclusive local governance. In 2015/16 we will provide funding for a number of projects designed to support community cohesion and encourage reconciliation, acceptance and tolerance between communities at a grass roots level. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has deployed or reassigned 20 officers to strengthen our efforts in helping the Government of Iraq defeat ISIL. 11 of these officers are in Iraq, to better understand and support the political process, including efforts to reach out to members of the Sunni community.

### Islam: Legal Systems

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the undertaking by the Home Secretary, made in a speech on 23 March, to set up an independent investigation into the application of Shari'a law in Britain will be fulfilled; and when that investigation is expected to report. [HL2190]

**Lord Bates:** Sharia councils may be working in a discriminatory and unacceptable way. That is why, as part

of the forthcoming Counter-Extremism Strategy, Government will commission a full, independent investigation to assess to what extent Sharia is being applied in a manner that is unacceptable. The review will commence following the appointment of an independent chair. The Terms of Reference for the review and its duration will be determined at that point. We will act on any evidence of it's application which is outside of the law.

### Islamic State

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the number of people serving or training with Daesh in Syria and Iraq who were formerly soldiers or civil servants under Saddam Hussein. [HL2086]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have made no such assessment. However, a number of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's senior leadership are assessed to be Iraqis who served within Saddam Hussein's regime.

### Islands: Climate Change

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing to (1) Tuvalu, (2) Vanuatu, and (3) Nauru, to counter the threat to the long-term viability of the islands caused by climate change. [HL1919]

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) other European Union member states, (2) the United States of America, and (3) the United Nations, regarding the threat posed by climate change to the viability of small island nations. [HL1920]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We engage with UN and US and EU partners about the risks and impacts of climate change on a regular basis, both within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations, and in other fora including the G7, G20 and Pacific Island Forum. This includes, but is not limited to engagement focussing on the particular vulnerabilities of the small island states to climate change.

The UK provides financial support to small island nations through bilateral and multilateral channels, such as the European Development Fund, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and regional development banks. The UK has also committed to provide financial support to the multilateral Green Climate Fund which will include support for adaptation in countries vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including the small island states.

### Israel: Armed Forces

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they are having with the government of Israel about the review of live-fire regulations. [HL2128]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), discussed the issue of the use of live fire by the Israel Defence Forces with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu during his visit to the UK on 10 September. Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv also raised our concerns over the use of live fire with the Israeli Chief Military Advocate General on 27 August.

### Israel: Arms Trade

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the partial embargo imposed in 2014 on military supplies and equipment for Israel has been lifted; what was the reason for this decision; and whether the matter was considered by the Cabinet. [HL2067]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** There was no partial embargo imposed in 2014 on military supplies and equipment for Israel. However, a review of licences in circulation at the outbreak of hostilities in July 2014 identified 12 export licences the Government would suspend, as a precautionary measure, in the event of a resumption of significant hostilities. The Government was concerned that in these circumstances it would be unable to clarify whether the export licensing criteria were being met. This was announced on 12 August 2014.

The results of a further review were announced on 14 July 2015 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-of-export-licensing-procedures-for-israel>) and concluded that 11 months after the establishment of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, there was now sufficient information from a wide variety of sources to apply standard export licensing procedures using the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria without any additional measures such as the precautionary measure adopted in August 2014.

The specific details of the review were not considered by the Cabinet. This is because export licensing policy is set by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. In setting this policy the Secretary of State always seeks and takes into account advice from other Cabinet colleagues, including the Foreign and Defence Secretaries.

## Israel: Church Schools

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following the strike at Christian schools in Israel in protest against funding cuts. [HL2198]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** British Embassy officials discussed this issue with Israel's Ministry of Education during the summer.

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current differences in the levels of funding between Christian schools and other schools in Israel. [HL2201]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We assess that government funding per student for Christian schools has fallen by approximately 50% during the last five years. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised this issue with the Israeli Ministry of Education in the summer.

## Israel: Churches

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current assessment of the number of "price tag" attacks on church property in Israel. [HL2202]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We condemn all extremist violence, including those attacks against religious buildings. Whilst most 'price tag' attacks have taken place in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, we are aware that on 18 June the Benedictine Church of the Multiplication at Tabgha, on the Sea of Galilee, was set on fire and vandalised with graffiti. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised this at the time with the Israeli Foreign Ministry and National Security Council. Although it did not occur in Israel, it is worth noting the arson attack that took place in February on a Greek Orthodox seminary in East Jerusalem, again with inflammatory graffiti. We are also aware that Muslim and Jewish holy places are desecrated and we unequivocally condemn all such incidents. On 10 September the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), raised their concerns for peace in the region with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.

## Israel: Ethnic Groups

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the family living in the Negev at Wadi Atir whose water tank was removed by Israeli soldiers during a heatwave as part of a demolition. [HL2125]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While the British Government has not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, we do raise our concerns regarding the treatment of the Bedouin, including in the Negev. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), raised the issue of the Bedouin with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu during his visit to the UK on 10 September.

## Israel: Palestinians

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel following the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court of 6 July to allow the construction of a section of the separation barrier through the Cremisan Valley. [HL2161]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have raised the issue of the separation barrier through the Cremisan Valley with the Israeli authorities on several occasions, most recently during the week beginning 31 August.

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the viability of a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine following the decision to resume construction of the separation barrier in Beir Ona, near the Cremisan Valley. [HL2162]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government approved the local press statement issued by the EU representatives on 19 August, which reaffirms the EU Member States' opposition to Israel's settlement policy and actions taken in this context, such as building the separation barrier beyond the 1967 line, demolitions and confiscation - including of EU funded projects, evictions, forced transfers including of Bedouins, illegal outposts, settler violence and restrictions of movement and access. On 10 September the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), made clear to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu the UK's deep concerns over issues which would put in serious jeopardy the prospect of a viable Palestinian state.

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of Israel concerning the right of return for Palestinians. [HL2370]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We continue to be clear with both sides that there must be a just, fair and agreed settlement for refugees as part of a negotiated two-state

solution. On 10 September during the visit to London of Prime Minister Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), raised the need for the parties to return to negotiations.

### Israel: Religious Buildings

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what concerns they have expressed to the government of Israel about the temporal and spatial restrictions on the entry for Muslims to Al Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem. [HL2129]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv raised the issue of the Al Aqsa Mosque and Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif compound on 1 September with the Israeli Cabinet Secretary. An official from our Embassy also raised this issue with the Deputy Head of Foreign Affairs at the Israeli National Security Council on the same day. It is vital that the longstanding status quo of the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif compound be preserved and we urge the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law as an occupying power in East Jerusalem.

### Kids Company

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of what has happened to the children previously cared for by Kids Company. [HL2035]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The wellbeing of the young people previously supported by Kids Company continues to be our top priority. Since the closure, Local Authorities have been reviewing the cases handed to them by Kids Company to determine the support services the young people require. Funding is being made available to local authorities to support the transition of Kids Company young people to other services.

*Asked by Baroness Benjamin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of what has happened to the trafficked young people who were being helped by Kids Company to obtain the necessary legal documents required to attend a United Kingdom university. [HL2144]

**Lord Bates:** The welfare of the young people who used Kids Company services continues to be of primary concern and we are working closely with local authorities to make sure they have access to the support and services they require. Under the Children Act 2004 local authorities have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in need of protection, including trafficked children. Under these arrangements, looked after children are provided with access to all their needs be they in relation to education, accommodation, psychological or health. Local authorities co-ordinate the

arrangements for each looked after child to ensure they are safeguarded and have their welfare promoted.

### Knives: Crime

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the incidence of knife crime amongst young males in London. [HL2242]

**Lord Bates:** The independent Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that crime has fallen by more than a quarter since June 2010. While better police recording of violent crime appears to have led to a recent statistical rise, knife crime offences remain 18% below the level in the year to June 2010 and figures for London show that knife crime offences are now 24% lower than June 2010. In the year ending March 2015, the Metropolitan police recorded 9,623 offences involving a knife or sharp instrument, a 4% decrease compared with the previous year (10,012 in year ending March 2014). Police forces do not break down offence data by age.

We are taking a range of steps to tackle knife crime, including working with police forces and other key partners through the Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme, including in 25 London boroughs. We have also strengthened the law in this area, and in July 2015, we brought into force the new legislative provision that anyone caught in possession of a knife for a second time will now face a mandatory minimum sentence in prison or youth custody.

### Landfill Communities Fund

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the decision to give Landfill Communities Fund contributions by Viridor regarding the Beddington landfill site to the Wilton Music Hall in Tower Hamlets and All Saints Church in Kingston, which are not situated in the communities affected by that site. [HL1902]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Landfill Communities Fund allows a landfill operator to gain a tax credit against 90 per cent of the voluntary donations it makes to environmental bodies for spending on certain prescribed objectives. The restoration of a building of historic interest or place of religious worship within the vicinity of a landfill site is one of these objectives.

ENTRUST, the regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund publishes guidance which describes the vicinity of a landfill sites as within approximately 10 miles of a site. The works at Wilton Music Hall and All Saints Church fall within this range.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether charities that distribute Landfill Communities Fund money should be wholly



independent of waste companies bidding for contracts with waste authorities. [HL1903]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) allows landfill operators to claim a 90 per cent tax credit on voluntary contributions made to Environmental Bodies, for spending on certain prescribed objectives.

Environmental Bodies do not need to be charities but they must be non-profit making, and not controlled by the landfill operator or a local authority. Environmental Bodies are also precluded from using funds for the benefit of the contributing landfill operator.

All LCF-funded projects undertaken by Environmental Bodies are approved by ENTRUST, the regulator of the LCF, to ensure they meet the requirements of the scheme. Details of all projects approved by ENTRUST are published on their website.

### Languages: Teachers

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many additional Modern Languages teachers, if any, will be needed fully to implement the English Baccalaureate. [HL2320]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education considers the resulting change to teacher demand carefully each time a teaching or curriculum-related policy change is announced.

The department does this by adding policy assumptions into the Teacher Supply Model (TSM), which informs the Initial Teacher Training (ITT) targets each year.

Further details as to how the policy assumption process is managed within the TSM itself can be found in both the 2015/16 TSM and the accompanying user guide, which have been published online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teacher-supply-model>

We will factor the Ebacc commitment into future TSMs as required, and publish online in keeping with our usual approach to forecasting teacher supply requirements. This will be informed by the Ebacc consultation that we are planning to run later on in the Autumn.

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Modern Languages teachers have been recruited in each of the last five years to work in (1) primary, and (2) secondary, schools. [HL2321]

**Lord Nash:** Recruitment to primary initial teacher training (ITT) is not subject specific. Therefore, the Department for Education does not hold data on those recruited in languages to primary schools.

The number of people recruited to secondary ITT in languages over the last five years is shown in the table below:

Recruitment year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Number recruited	1,550	1,410	1,620	1,324	1,105

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Modern Languages teachers have left the teaching profession in each of the last five years (1) through retirement, and (2) for other reasons. [HL2322]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The information requested is not available.

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of how many teachers qualified to teach Modern Languages leave the profession within the first three years post-qualification. [HL2323]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The information requested is not available.

### Legal Aid Scheme

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the funding and number of legal advice centres of changes to legal aid and advice following the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. [HL2262]

**Lord Faulks:** We have specifically protected civil legal aid so it remains available where legal help and advice is most needed; where life or liberty is at stake, or where there is a serious risk of harm such as where there is evidence of domestic violence or child abuse.

We have commissioned a survey examining how the not-for-profit sector is responding to these changes, which we plan to publish by the end of 2015.

Furthermore, we have committed to reviewing the legal aid reforms set out in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 within 3-5 years of implementation.

### Local Enterprise Partnerships

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to make local enterprise partnerships more accountable, without duplicating the work of local authorities. [HL2193]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** LEPs are strategic partnerships made up of business, local authority leaders, and other public sector partners.

· They are accountable for decisions they make, with democratic accountability provided through the local authority leader representation, and financial

accountability through each LEP's accountable local authority, which receive funds on behalf of their LEP.

· To ensure basic accountability standards are upheld, Government has established a set of clear national standards and principles which are set out in the published Accountability Systems Statement for the local growth fund, and the underpinning LEP assurance framework. These standards are broadly equivalent to much of what we expect of local government, building on, rather than duplicating the existing local government framework set out in the Accountability Systems Statement for Local Government and for Fire and Rescue Authorities.

· In line with this national framework, LEPs and their accountable local authorities have put in place local decision making systems to ensure funds are spent with regularity, propriety and value for money. These arrangements are published in each LEP's own local assurance framework.

· In parallel Government has also developed a coherent approach to the monitoring and evaluation of Growth Deals which LEPs are responsible for. LEPs will report against a range of data on inputs, outputs and outcomes providing clarity to Government and the public about what LEPs have delivered with their Local Growth Fund resources.

### Local Plans

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have to streamline the local plans process; and when they expect to bring those proposals into operation. [I] [[HL2220](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Local Plans play a critical role in determining what development is appropriate and where, and it is therefore essential that plan-making is as simple, quick and accessible a process as possible. On 15 September, my hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing and Planning (Brandon Lewis), announced that we have brought together a panel of experts drawn from across the built-environment sector to help look at ways in which we could radically improve plan-making in practice (see attached). The group will consider all elements of plan-making from policy and procedural requirements of plans to how plan-making is practically undertaken. Their work will conclude in early 2016, after which I will set out to Parliament how we intend to proceed to reform plan-making.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Press Release - 15 September [Planning Minister Brandon Lewis - [HL2220.docx](#)]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-15/HL2220>

### London-Exeter Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the economic, environmental and social effects of converting the railway between Exeter and Salisbury to double-track throughout its length. [[HL2241](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Network Rail identified possible schemes for upgrading the line between Exeter and Salisbury in its Wessex and Western Route Studies, published in August 2015.

Schemes included the creation of additional double track sections, in order to improve journey times and route capacity. The costs and benefits of full line re-doubling were not assessed.

Network Rail stated that the schemes it had evaluated could be an option for delivery in Control Period 7 (2025-2029) or beyond.

### M1

*Asked by Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why there are 50 miles per hour speed restrictions on substantial lengths of the M1 where there is limited repair activity taking place; and what is the estimated cost of congestion and pollution caused by such restrictions over the past 12 months. [[HL2280](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Highways England's primary concern is the safety and wellbeing of the travelling public and road workers. To keep traffic moving safely through works, and create as safe a working environment as possible, mandatory 50mph speed limits are put in place for the duration of the construction, whilst maintaining three running lanes during the daytime. Continually lifting and reinstating traffic management would extend the duration of the road works and add to costs.

In addition, a significant amount of work takes place off site and at night, to minimise the disruption that would otherwise occur. However, we do recognise that the length of roadworks on the M1 impacts on many drivers' journeys and Highways England are looking at how they can use shorter lengths of roadworks on future schemes.

The cost of congestion and pollution effects of these roadworks for the past twelve months has not been quantified.

### Magistrates' Courts

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of whether the present changes to the number and locations of magistrate courts meet the interests of witnesses, in particular regarding their privacy and protection. [[HL1995](#)]

**Lord Faulks:** No decisions have been taken relating to the number and locations of magistrates' courts and all responses to the ongoing consultation on the court estate will be carefully considered before any decisions are made.

Our programme of courts reform will create a more modern and efficient service which works better for victims and witnesses. Witnesses could particularly benefit from such arrangements as we seek to expand existing provision such as video links meaning witnesses do not have to attend court in person increasing their privacy and reducing risk.

### Maternity Services

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the National Health Service Litigation Authority's Sign Up to Safety maternity-related projects include measures to improve the care of multiple pregnancies; and if so, when they expect to report the findings on those projects. [HL2340]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Under the Sign up to Safety Scheme £8 Million has been awarded to 25 maternity units who submitted a successful bid to the National Health Service Litigation Authority incentivisation scheme. Most of the successful bids related to improvements in foetal monitoring (equipment and training) supervision, human factors and team working or a combination of these themes.

All 51 bids (successful and unsuccessful) had to demonstrate a link to their claims. As such none of the bids made a specific reference to multiple births, the focus was on the causes within maternity that resulted in a particular injury outcome, for example resulting in brain damage

A full evaluation of the impact of this scheme will be available next year.

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether NHS England's Maternity Safety Thermometer will be updated to include a function to allow units to compare their data by (1) singleton, and (2) multiple, pregnancies; and if so, how they plan to use this information to drive improvements in care. [HL2341]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Maternity Safety Thermometer includes a function to allow staff to record whether the pregnancy in question was a singleton or multiple pregnancy. National Health Service providers who use the Maternity Safety Thermometer are therefore able to collect and use this information to drive improvements in care.

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Care Quality Commission's final report outlining the findings of their national maternity survey will include

a specific summary setting out the experience of multiple birth mothers. [HL2342]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. The CQC has advised that the responses to the national survey of National Health Service maternity services are currently being collated and analysed. Until all of this data has been analysed it is not possible for the CQC to comment on what will be included in the final report.

### Measurement

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to permit traders to sell goods in imperial units if they and their customers so wish. [HL2215]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government recognises that some traders and consumers prefer or are more familiar with imperial units. Traders are already permitted to use imperial units if they are used alongside metric in dual labelling and consumers can still request imperial quantities. There are currently no plans to make any further changes to the law in this area.

### Metropolitan Police: Recruitment

*Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the policy of the Metropolitan Police Service to prevent individuals who have applied to join the service and have been put into the reserve pool from applying to join other police forces. [HL2268]

**Lord Bates:** Individual police forces in England and Wales are responsible for deciding when and how they run their recruitment and selection processes. This is managed within a national application, assessment and selection framework, in line with national guidance maintained by the College of Policing.

### Middle East: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of collateral damage from air strikes and drone strikes in the civilian areas in Syria and Iraq. [HL2084]

**Earl Howe:** As far as we are aware, there have not been any civilian casualties resulting from UK strikes against ISIL.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have supported any peace or reconciliation efforts in Syria and Iraq. [HL2085]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK strongly supports international and local efforts to seek a comprehensive political settlement in Syria, in particular the political process being taken forward by UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura. The UK is funding discussions between non-state actors representing key interest groups to encourage a Syrian national dialogue, as well as local level peace-building projects to mediate and mitigate local conflicts and to strengthen cohesion and moderate voices in these communities. The UK fully supports Prime Minister Abadi's work to deliver the reforms and political reconciliation needed to persuade all of Iraq's communities – Shias, Sunnis and Kurds – that they have a stake in Iraq's future. In 2015/16 we will provide funding for a number of projects in Iraq designed to support community cohesion and encourage reconciliation, acceptance and tolerance between communities at a grass roots level. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has also deployed or reassigned 20 officers to help better understand and support the political process in Iraq, including efforts to reach out to members of the Sunni community.

### Middle East: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for greater co-ordination of relief efforts by voluntary organisations working with refugees in Syria and the surrounding countries. [HL2115]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has been at the forefront of efforts to push the UN and other agencies to coordinate better and deliver more effectively. There have been substantial improvements in coordination – which saves lives – over the past year. Over four years into the crisis, and with dwindling donor resources, it is critical that UN agencies use the most cost efficient and effective ways to deliver assistance to refugees in the region.

### Mileometers

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect consumers by tackling the use of odometer adjustments to reduce the mileage shown in cars. [HL2289]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Mileage fraud is an offence and is dealt with by local Trading Standards enforcement. Government requires the vehicle mileage to be recorded on the MOT form. This allows consumers to check previous mileages for a vehicle on line at the GOV.UK website.

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to requiring mileage to be declared at the same time as road tax is being renewed. [HL2290]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Mileage information can be declared voluntarily to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). Consideration has been given to making it mandatory for mileage information to be supplied when a vehicle is licensed or when there is a change of keeper. As the DVLA cannot verify the accuracy of any mileage data provided at these stages, there are no plans to make the requirement mandatory as part of the process of collecting vehicle excise duty.

Mileage information is collected however when a vehicle undergoes a Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) roadworthiness test (MOT), when testers have the opportunity to record the mileage shown on the odometer.

### Minimum Wage

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff are employed by HM Revenue and Customs to enforce the national minimum wage; how many cases have been brought since 7 May 2014 in respect of alleged failure to pay the national minimum wage; and what is the total amount of fines (1) imposed, and (2) collected, since 7 May 2014 in respect of cases of failure to pay the national minimum wage. [HL1865]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The government is committed to increasing compliance with minimum wage legislation and effective enforcement of it. Everyone who is entitled to the minimum wage should receive it. Employers who pay workers less than the minimum wage not only have to pay back arrears of wages at current minimum wage rates but also face financial penalties of up to £20,000 per underpaid worker.

There are currently 232 staff working in National Minimum Wage for HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), up from 171 at the start of 2014/15. The government takes the enforcement of National Minimum Wage very seriously and has increased funding from £8m in 2013/14 to £13.2m in 2015/16.

Civil penalties were introduced on 6 April 2009 for employers who are found to have underpaid their workers. The following table provides a breakdown of penalties issued by year:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Penalties issued</i>
2009-10	£111,183
2010-11	£520,568
2011-12	£766,807
2012-13	£776,517
2013-14	£815,269
2014-15	£934,660

The vast majority of employers pay penalties upon being issued with a Notice of Underpayment. Where they do not, HMRC will seek to recover through the civil recovery route.



In the period 2009/10–2014/15, HMRC issued penalties totalling nearly £4m, of which less than 2% is currently uncollected and is being actively pursued through civil recovery processes.

HMRC do not hold data in a format to be able to provide information on unpaid arrears for the time range specified. It is not possible to identify a specific timescale of when a penalty was issued in relation to the time debt management processes took place.

### Ministry of Justice: Telephone Services

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Justice has target times by which members of the public can reasonably expect to get through on the telephone and speak to an official; by what percentage extent there has been a change over the past three years in the number of telephone calls from the public seeking information or assistance from the Ministry of Justice; and what training in communication skills is provided for the officials in that Department. [HL2011]

**Lord Faulks:** Since April 2015 the average answer time for calls to the Public Enquiry Line has been 28 seconds. The Ministry of Justice does not have set target times for call answering.

Calls to the MoJ public enquiry line have decreased steadily since 2012. Volumes reduced by 40% between 2012 and 2015.

Regular training is held for staff for on call handling and customer service.

### Multiple Births

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of multiple pregnancies result in one or more babies with (1) Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, (2) Attention Deficit Disorder, (3) cerebral palsy, and (4) speech and language delays; and what estimate they have made of the additional costs to families and public services in addressing each of those needs. [HL2343]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not collected centrally.

The majority of the conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Attention Deficit Disorder, cerebral palsy and speech and language delays identified in the question would only become apparent later in life. The Hospital Episode Statistics, which are collected by Health and Social Care Information Centre does not hold this data.

There has been no assessment made of the cost to families or public services of the implications of these conditions in multiple pregnancies.

### Muslim Brotherhood Review

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how the Government-sponsored review of the Muslim Brotherhood, led by Sir John Jenkins, has informed Government policy towards the Muslim Brotherhood; and (2) how much the review cost. [HL2031]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The findings of the Muslim Brotherhood Review have been considered by Whitehall Departments in a process led by the National Security Adviser. It has illustrated some of the challenges posed by those whose views may be seen to contribute towards creating the space for more extreme views to flourish. The Government is continuing to develop our broader policy response on this.

The costs of the review were absorbed in routine administrative spend with the exception of Sir John Jenkins' travel which amounted to £8791.79. The Government sought to save travel costs as far as possible through working through our network of Embassies and High Commissions; packaging regional travel to avoid more expensive fares from London; and hosting international partners in London.

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussion they have had with (1) Saudi Arabia, (2) Egypt, and (3) the United Arab Emirates, following the delivery of the Government-sponsored review of the Muslim Brotherhood in March. [HL2032]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have regular discussions with the Governments of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates about various issues including the Muslim Brotherhood Review. We expect the main findings of the Review to be made public in the context of the Extremism Strategy. We will keep Parliament updated on developments.

### National College for High Speed Rail

*Asked by Lord Haskel*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the operating costs of the proposed National College for High Speed Rail; and how those costs will be met. [HL1896]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Business Plan and Capital Application for the National College were submitted to the Department on 16 July. The proposals provide an estimate of the operating costs of the college and potential income sources. As an independent body, the college will be responsible for all decisions about the operations of the college and how these costs will be met. Employers will be expected to contribute towards these costs through investment in training and the provision of equipment.

## National Insurance and NHS Numbers

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) National Health Service numbers, and (2) National Insurance numbers, are currently live; and whether the General Register Office reports deaths to the Department of Health and the Department for Work and Pensions. [[HL2238](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The total number of live National Health Service numbers is approximately 72 million (England and Wales). The latest available figures (August 2015) show that there are approximately 67.6 Million National Insurance records on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Customer Information System.

The Health & Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), on behalf of the Department of Health, receives a weekly feed of death notifications from the General Register Office (GRO). These are applied to the Personal Demographics Service on the Spine, with any non-automatic matches dealt with by the PDS National Back Office within HSCIC.

Upon the death of an individual DWP receives automatic updates from the three GROs. These are sent for England, Wales and Scotland on a daily basis, and for Northern Ireland on a weekly basis.

## National Insurance Credits: Carers

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further steps they propose to encourage up-take of Carer's Credit by those who are caring for others for 20 hours or more per week and who do not qualify for Carer's Allowance. [[HL1931](#)]

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to assess all data held by the Department for Work and Pensions to identify those who may be eligible for Carer's Credit with a view to introducing a media campaign to increase public awareness of entitlement to it. [[HL1932](#)]

**Baroness Altmann:** Ahead of the introduction of the new State Pension in April 2016, we are specifically encouraging people to find out how they could increase their new State Pension, including through National Insurance credits. This includes encouraging people who are eligible but may not be claiming carer's credits at the moment. We are working with the media, local authorities, the NHS, voluntary organisations and charities, including carers' organisations to promote material, including fact sheets and videos, ensuring the right information and advice is available on carer's credits.

The Department does not hold information that would allow us to identify individuals who might be eligible for

the carer's credit. We use a range of methods to signpost the carer's credit to individuals who contact us about other benefits who might be potentially eligible, including when someone has claimed but is not entitled to Carer's Allowance. Departmental officials promote the carer's credit at carers' events, including Carer's Week, and amongst support organisations. Information on the credits is available on the government's website GOV.UK and also on carers' organisations websites.

## National Security Council: Chiefs of Staff

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the House of Commons Defence Committee's conclusion in its report Decision-making in Defence Policy that the Chiefs of Staff should be constituted as the Military Sub-Committee of the National Security Council. [[HL2377](#)]

**Earl Howe:** The Government has made clear in its September response to the House of Commons Defence Committee that we believe the current structure to be sufficient. The Chief of the Defence Staff attends the National Security Council with the remit to present the views of all three Services collectively. The Chiefs of Staff Committee is already the UK's senior military committee and feeds into the Chief of Defence Staff's preparation for National Security Council meetings.

## Nature Conservation

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reverse the decline in wild bird populations in the United Kingdom and the Overseas Territories. [[HL2173](#)]

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect and conserve all forms of wild flora and fauna in the United Kingdom and the Overseas Territories, including rare and endangered species. [[HL2174](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The UK is committed to protecting wildlife in accordance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives through domestic legislation and the designation of Special Sites of Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation.

Biodiversity is a devolved matter. In England, we will take forward our manifesto commitment to produce a 25 year strategy for the environment, which will include biodiversity. Over the next five years we will be investing more than £3 billion in environmental outcomes as part of the Rural Development Programme for England (2014-2020). This funding will enhance England's countryside, enabling us, among other things, to clean up our rivers and lakes, protect drystone walls and hedges, and help birds, bees and other species to thrive.

Biodiversity is one of the main objectives in the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme, to be funded under the Rural Development Programme. The Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package options within the scheme will be of particular benefit to wild pollinators, farmland birds and other species.

We will ensure that our public forests and woodland are kept in trust for the nation and plant another 11 million trees.

Since 2010, we have created over 67,000 hectares of priority habitats such as arable field margins, wetlands and woodlands. We have also maintained over 95% of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest – our most important sites for wildlife – in favourable or recovering condition and put in place Marine Conservation Zones to supplement the stretches of our sea that are already marine protected areas.

UK Overseas Territory (OT) Governments are constitutionally responsible for the protection and conservation of their natural environments. The UK Government cherishes the environmental assets of the OTs and we work in partnership with OT Governments to identify where our support can be most effective, including through access to expertise, technical advice and training and through the Overseas Territory Environment and Climate Fund (Darwin Plus).

Through Darwin Plus, the UK Government has committed approximately £5.2 million since 2012 to help protect the natural environment in the OTs. Projects currently being funded range from conserving four keystone tree species in St Helena, to an assessment of the conservation status of the endangered Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross on Tristan da Cunha.

Joint UK Government and South Atlantic OTs funding also supports a co-ordinating post based in the Falkland Islands to help meet obligations arising from the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and to assist with the planning and implementation of albatross and petrel conservation work.

### **Network Rail: Planning Permission**

*Asked by Lord Krebs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or any other legislation, confers on local planning authorities powers to enforce conditions that they have imposed upon Network Rail when approving a planning application. [HL1855]

*Asked by Lord Krebs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or any other legislation, confers on local planning authorities powers to enforce speed restrictions they have set as a condition of granting planning approval to Network Rail. [HL1856]

*Asked by Lord Krebs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or any other legislation, confers on local planning authorities powers to enforce sound and vibration monitoring requirements they have set as a condition of granting planning approval to Network Rail. [HL1857]

*Asked by Lord Krebs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or any other legislation, confers on local planning authorities powers to enforce a requirement to install rail dampers to reduce noise that they have set as a condition of granting planning approval to Network Rail. [HL1858]

*Asked by Lord Krebs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or any other relevant legislation, confers on local planning authorities powers to enforce limits on the number of day and night movements of freight and passenger trains that they have set as a condition of granting planning approval to Network Rail. [HL1859]

*Asked by Lord Krebs*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they give to local planning authorities about the time period that should be included in a reasonable planning scenario for applications from Network Rail. [HL1860]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Where development is proposed and requires a planning application, local planning authorities have broad powers to impose conditions and enforce where they consider that conditions have been breached. Conditions must meet the policy test in the National Planning Policy Framework which states that planning conditions should only be imposed where they are necessary, relevant to planning and to the development to be permitted, enforceable, precise and reasonable in all other respects. Whether enforcement action against breach of a condition is justified is a matter of their discretion for Local Planning Authorities.

### **Network Rail: Reviews**

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to receive the results of the review by Sir Peter Hendy of Network Rail projects in Control Period 5; whether those results will be subject to a period of consultation; and if so, who they plan to consult on them. [HL2219]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Sir Peter Hendy will report back to the Secretary of State for Transport this autumn with a proposal for re-planning the Control Period 5 enhancements in a way that is efficient, deliverable and affordable.

As part of this re-planning exercise Network Rail is consulting widely, including with train and freight operators.

### Neurofibromatosis: Research

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that medical researchers are encouraged to work in the field of neurofibromatosis type 1. [HL2061]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** There are currently no initiatives encouraging research into this area. The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. It is an independent research funding body which receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In keeping with the Haldane principle, decisions on specific research priorities and funding are taken by the Research Councils based on advice from the research community through peer review. The MRC welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding. Awards are made according to their scientific quality and importance to human health.

### New Businesses

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage more accelerators and incubators outside London to support all entrepreneurs across the country. [HL2007]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We encourage business support across the country by investing in projects in many regions. The Government is investing £15m in 4 University Enterprise Zones (UEZs) to test how university-led incubators, with associated business support, can contribute to economic growth and productivity gains. The pilot UEZs are in Bradford (Leeds City Region), Bristol, Liverpool and Nottingham. The Government is also investing £4.8m capital to support the development of a new spin-out centre for small high tech businesses in the life sciences sector, based at Cambridge Science Park.

### NHS: Fees and Charges

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will introduce National Health Service numbers that differentiate between those who are entitled to the full facilities of the National Health Service without charge and those for whom such services are available on payment. [HL2237]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** National Health Services numbers are a patient safety measure, and do not indicate

either entitlement to free NHS care or chargeable status. Changes to the NHS record are being made to enable the NHS to supplement that record with information that will support a decision about whether a patient is chargeable or not when they present for NHS care.

### NHS: Finance

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what account they are taking of the submission by the Nuffield Trust on National Health Service funding in the 2015 Comprehensive Spending Review. [HL2344]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has been clear that it wants to engage and harness a wider range of expertise as part of the 2015 Spending Review process and accordingly welcomes the submission of the Nuffield Trust.

Rising demands and continued fiscal constraint means that the National Health Service faces challenges in ensuring that it remains financially sustainable in the future. The Government believes that the answer to these challenges lies in changing the way services are delivered and keeping people well and independent for longer.

This is why the Government has committed to fully meeting the additional funding requirement – £8 billion per year over and above inflation by 2020-21 – identified by the NHS Five Year Forward View.

### NHS: Managers

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the most recent annual figure for the turnover of chief executives of National Health Service organisations. [HL2345]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not held centrally.

However, leadership experience and stability are an important factor in running successful National Health Service organisations. This is precisely why one of the new functions of NHS Improvement, working with other organisations such as Health Education England, will be to create and support the new generation of NHS leaders.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average length of tenure of chief executives in the National Health Service. [HL2346]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not collected or held centrally.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many National Health Service organisations currently have vacancies for chief executive posts. [HL2347]



**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not held centrally by the Department.

### Nigeria: Boko Haram

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of progress in combating Boko Haram in Nigeria; what assessment they have made of how many deaths and acts of terror that group has been responsible for over the past year; and how many of the girls who have been abducted by Boko Haram have been rescued to date. [HL2311]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we welcome progress made by Nigeria and its neighbours, Boko Haram remains a threat to security in North East Nigeria and the wider region. Due to the nature of Boko Haram attacks, which often take place in remote areas, it is difficult to provide accurate and reliable figures relating to their activities, including the numbers of people killed and abducted. However we estimate that over 20,000 people have been killed, 2.2 million internally displaced and 4.6 million affected by the insurgency.

We are aware of several hundred women and children being released by Boko Haram this year. We have stressed to the Nigerian authorities the importance that they are provided with appropriate support.

### Northern Ireland Executive: Borrowing

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current amount of borrowing by the Northern Ireland Executive as a result of the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative. [HL2329]

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what they expect the amount of borrowing by the Northern Ireland Executive as a result of the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative to be by the end of 2015–16. [HL2330]

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much borrowing has been incurred by the Northern Ireland Executive since the beginning of the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative, broken down by financial year. [HL2331]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** A breakdown of the Northern Ireland Executive's Reinvestment and Reform Initiative (RRI) borrowing for the years 2003-2004 to 2014-15 is provided in the table below.

2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
£million					
79	169	163	206	105	260

£million					
2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
246	200	375	151	196	259
Total					2,409

So far this year, the Executive have drawn down £80 million of RRI borrowing. The maximum possible drawdown for 2015-16 is £327 million. Of that total, £100 million is additional capital borrowing provided by the Stormont House Agreement. Accessing this additional borrowing is dependent on continuing implementation of that Agreement.

### Northern Ireland Government

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of the Irish Republic stating that it cannot take part in, or attend, Strand 1 talks with the parties in Northern Ireland, as agreed in the Belfast Agreement 1998. [HL2308]

**Lord Dunlop:** The involvement of the Irish Government in cross-party talks is in accordance with the established three-stranded approach to Northern Ireland affairs and the 1998 Belfast Agreement. A commitment always to uphold the three-stranded approach was also contained in the Government's Northern Ireland manifesto at the General Election.

### Obesity

Asked by *Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have calculated the cost of obesity to the NHS; and whether they will put in place preventative schemes to reduce childhood obesity. [HL2154]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** An analysis of the economic burden of a range of risk factors for chronic disease estimated that overweight and obesity cost the National Health Service £5.1 billion per year. We will put forward our plans for a childhood obesity strategy before the year end.

A copy of the analysis *The economic burden of ill health due to diet, physical inactivity, smoking, alcohol and obesity in the UK: an update to 2006-07 NHS costs* is attached and available at:

<http://jpubhealth.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2011/05/11/pubmed.fdr033.full.pdf+html>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Economic Burden of ill health analysis [J Public Health-2011-Scarborough-pubmed\_fdr033.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-10/HL2154>

### Origin Marking: Israel

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress is being made in securing a European Union decision on the labelling of products from Israeli settlements. [HL2160]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The issue of correct labelling of settlement produce is a subject of ongoing work with our EU partners. We believe that EU-wide guidelines on the labelling of settlement produce would be an important step to ensure correct and coherent implementation of EU consumer protection and labelling legislation, which is in fulfilment of our previous commitments and is fully consistent with long-standing EU policy in relation to illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In April 2015, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), signed a joint letter, with 15 other foreign ministers, to EU High Representative Federica Mogherini calling on the EU to follow through on longstanding policy to ensure the clear labelling of goods produced in Israeli settlements. At the May/June/July Foreign Affairs Councils the Foreign Secretary also pressed the High Representative to implement EU wide labelling guidelines.

### Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Lipsey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether new spending on migrants will count towards the statutory target of spending 0.7 per cent of gross national income on overseas aid. [HL2008]

**Baroness Verma:** In his statement to Parliament on 7 September the Prime Minister stated that, in full accordance with internationally agreed rules, the UK will ensure that the full cost of supporting thousands of Syrian refugees in the UK will be met through our aid spending for the first year.

### Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Wallace of Saltaire*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimates they have made of the proportion of international students from outside the European Union who have graduated from United Kingdom universities between 2005 and 2010 who remained within the United Kingdom (1) one year, (2) two years, and (3) five years, after graduation. [HL1982]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The information requested is not available. Currently net migration of students is measured via the International Passenger Survey (IPS) which estimates volumes of students arriving and leaving,

based on their stated main reason for entering the UK at time of arrival (which may not correspond with their visa) and their stated answer to the question of why they originally came to the UK when surveyed at the time of departure. It does not measure the type of institution attended, the level of course studied, whether the student graduated or how long it has been between finishing the course and departing from the UK. Once exit check data are available (from Autumn/ Winter 2015), it may be possible to start using visa data to estimate the balance of those coming, those staying legitimately and those departing. However to get a full picture may take several years and will depend heavily on the ability to match the exit data with visa data. The data will not take into account whether a student graduated or not.

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what quality assurance measures are in place for the International Foundation programmes run by United Kingdom universities or by partnerships between such universities and private education providers. [HL2230]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** Publicly funded higher education providers are currently reviewed by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). These reviews look at the adequacy of a provider's system to maintain academic standards and ensure quality across all its provision; irrespective of where it is delivered. The reviews check that expectations set out in the UK Quality Code for Higher Education are being met.

In addition, QAA have been leading sector work on how to strengthen the assurance of UK higher education delivered overseas. They have recently published a report detailing

how external quality assurance processes can be adapted to support UK higher education institutions in both maintaining their reputation in delivering high quality education overseas and in growing their provision. The report can be found on the QAA website at

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2978#.VfKp1fnF98E>

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many international students have come to the United Kingdom to study in the period 2010–15; and how many international students have remained in the United Kingdom following the conclusion of their studies in the same period. [HL2271]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [HL2271 UKSA Reply.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2271>

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of potential measures to reverse the recent decline in the number of overseas students coming to the United Kingdom to study or work, in particular those from India. [HL2326]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The Government values the contribution that international students make to the UK's economy, and to making our education system one of the best in the world. According to the OECD's Education at a Glance we remain, by some way, the second most popular destination in the world for international higher education students.

The UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) aims to enhance mutually beneficial educational links between India and the UK. Both Governments have agreed to continue this highly successful programme into a third phase to begin in 2016.

BIS has established a regular tripartite dialogue with colleagues from the Home Office and the Indian High Commission.

The British High Commission in Delhi (BHC) and the British Council in Delhi are also working hard to promote the message that the UK is open to all genuine students and that there is no limit on the number of international students who can study at our world leading universities. For example, through the GREAT campaign we have a strong digital and social media campaign with a focus on the employability of Indian students who have graduated from UK HEIs and on countering common visa myths.

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how frequently, and in what way, they monitor and compare their performance in attracting overseas students to study and work in the United Kingdom with that of other countries; and following such analysis, whether they plan to make adjustments to their current policies. [HL2327]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** Overseas students are welcome in the UK and there is no cap on the number of such students. The OECD's Education at a Glance, published annually, compares our performance with that of other countries. In 2012, the UK was estimated to have a 13% share of the international student market (OECD, 2014), second only to the US. The Government is committed to increasing education exports from £18bn in 2012 to £30bn by 2020 and our International Education strategy is helping to achieve that.

*Asked by The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what comparisons they have made between their current and previous schemes to encourage foreign students to prolong their studies and take up employment with United Kingdom business and industry; and whether, as a result, they plan to amend their current scheme. [HL2328]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** Prior to 2012 international students who successfully completed a degree at a UK institution could apply for permission to work in the UK for two years. This Post-Study Work route was closed from 6th April 2012 as it granted unrestricted access to the UK labour market for two years to non-EEA nationals at a time when a large number of British graduates were unable to find work. The route was also found to be heavily abused with many people taking up low-skilled work rather than the intended graduate level roles. There are no plans to reintroduce this scheme.

The UK has an excellent offer for overseas students graduating from UK universities wishing to remain in the UK. Those with an offer of a graduate-level job, paying a salary of at least £20,800, can take up sponsored employment for up to six years. In 2014 some 11,000 international students switched to skilled work. PhD students can stay in the UK for an extra year, under the Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme, to look for work or start their own business. Graduate entrepreneurs can stay on for up to two years to develop their business in the UK. The Government has also made provisions for graduates wishing to undertake a period of professional training or a corporate internship related to their qualifications, before pursuing a career overseas.

## Overseas Students: Immigration Controls

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to exclude overseas students in institutions of further education from their net migration target. [HL2208]

**Lord Bates:** International students are included in net migration statistics that are produced by the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). In line with the internationally agreed UN definition, these statistics define a migrant as someone changing their normal place of residence for more than a year. Students are therefore included in the same way as other migrants. Other countries, such as the United States, Canada, and Australia also include students in their net migration figures. Like other migrants, students who stay for longer than 12 months have an impact on communities, infrastructure and services while they are here, so it is right that they are included in the net migration count. The ONS estimates that in the year ending March 2015 there was a difference of 96,000 in the number of non-EU students coming to and leaving the UK. Therefore student emigration, or the lack of it, is a key driver of overall net migration.

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to change their net migration target to exclude international students; and what assessment they have made of whether the current system of including international students in the target is having a negative

effect on the United Kingdom position as a destination for international students. [HL2272]

**Lord Bates:** Published Home Office immigration statistics record data on all people coming to the UK or remaining here who are subject to immigration control. This includes all non-EU students. International students are also included in net migration statistics that are produced by the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). In line with the internationally agreed UN definition, these statistics define a migrant as someone changing their normal place of residence for more than a year. Students are therefore included in the same way as other migrants. Other countries, such as the United States, Canada, and Australia also include students in their net migration figures. Like other migrants, students who stay for longer than 12 months have an impact on communities, infrastructure and services while they are here, so it is right that they are included in the net migration count. The ONS estimates that in the year ending March 2015 there was a difference of 96,000 in the number of non-EU students coming to and leaving the UK. Therefore student emigration, or the lack of it, is a key driver of overall net migration. We have an excellent offer for international students, and as a result we remain the second most popular destination in the world for international higher education students. The latest figures show that visa applications from university students are now 17% higher than they were in 2010 and visa applications to Russell Group universities are 33% higher than in 2010.

### Overseas Trade: Iran

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice and clarification on trading sanctions they have given to United Kingdom businesses wishing to develop trading opportunities in Iran. [HL2228]

**Lord Maude of Horsham:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is working with Foreign Office, BIS, the Export Control Organisation, HMRC and HMT to provide coordinated communications to UK industry on sanctions. Activities include 1:1 meetings with major UK companies; group briefings held at the Foreign Office; clear sanctions guidance and FAQs on GOV.UK.

UKTI has tailored its outreach to reflect the needs of business as reflected in its survey of over 1000 companies earlier this year. BIS Helpline operators and Trade Advisors have been briefed on the latest sanctions information.

### Packaging

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish the final report on the review of the enforcement of the Consumer Protection from Unfair

Trading Regulations 2008 in respect of copycat packaging. [HL1887]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We intend to publish the Report in the next few weeks.

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish their response to the consultation on the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 regarding misleadingly similar packaging. [HL2183]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We will announce the Government's response when we publish the Report on the consultation in the next few weeks.

### Pakistan: Christianity

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current assessment of the number of Pakistani Christians who have fled to Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka through fear of persecution. [HL2256]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We gather information on this issue from external sources and have not conducted our own assessment of the numbers involved.

We continue to urge the Government of Pakistan to fulfil the human rights obligations set out in the Constitution of Pakistan and international law, including those relating to religious minorities.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conditions in the detention centres where Pakistani Christians are detained in Bangkok, and whether the inmates include babies, children, lactating women and the infirm; what international obligations exist in regard to the detention of children in such circumstances; whether they have made representations to the UNHCR and the government of Thailand about those conditions; and if so, what response they have received. [HL2257]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not conducted a specific assessment of the detention centres where Pakistani Christians are detained. However, consular officials visit prisons and Immigration Detention Centres in Bangkok regularly to carry out their consular duties with respect to British citizens. Their assessment is that conditions are generally poor and they are aware that women and children are also detained.

A number of international obligations exist in regard to the detention of children including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We have raised our concerns with the Thai Minister for Justice and senior officials. The Thai authorities have shown themselves willing to cooperate on work to improve prison conditions and we are ready to



share our experience and expertise. We maintain a regular dialogue with many senior prison officials to address specific concerns.

We meet the UN High Commissioner for Refugees regularly to discuss how we can assist their work, including around conditions of detention.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how the conditions in detention centres where Pakistani Christians are detained in Bangkok compare with the conditions in prisons in Thailand. [HL2258]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not conducted a specific assessment of the detention centres where Pakistani Christians are detained. However, consular officials visit prisons and Immigration Detention Centres in Bangkok regularly to carry out their consular duties with respect to British citizens. Their assessment is that conditions in prisons and detention centres are generally poor.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings of the report commissioned by the British Pakistan Christian Association, entitled Education, Human Rights Violations in Pakistan and the Scandal Involving UNHRC and Asylum Seekers in Thailand; and whether, in the light of this report, they plan to review the risk of the persecution of Christians in Pakistan and update their guidance document Pakistan: Christians and Christian Converts. [HL2312]

**Lord Bates:** The Home Office will be considering the report commissioned by the British Pakistani Christian Association alongside a range of other material to make a full assessment of the situation of Christians in Pakistan, and will revise its country information and guidance if necessary.

The Home Office considers that the treatment of asylum seekers in Thailand is primarily a matter for the Thai authorities.

## Pakistan: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they have been able to provide for refugees fleeing persecution in Pakistan in resolving their applications for asylum; and what is their estimate of the average time likely to elapse between an applicant lodging a claim for asylum in Bangkok and being resettled. [HL2259]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We work closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Thailand on a wide range of refugee issues. We do not intervene in specific cases but aim to support the rights of those fleeing persecution as a whole. From our

conversations with UNHCR we understand that the time taken to assess asylum applications in Thailand varies and can be anything from a few months to a couple of years, depending on the individual circumstances of each case. We understand the majority of applicants from Pakistan who seek refugee status are successful and they are then eligible for resettlement. The time taken for resettlement varies as it is dependent on each specific situation.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to work with the British Council to examine ways of assisting the children of Pakistani refugees to receive schooling and educational opportunities while their asylum cases are being considered. [HL2260]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The main problem refugees face in accessing appropriate opportunities for education in Thailand is the lack of proper documentation explaining their status. Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on refugees, therefore any documents provided by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are not necessarily accepted. We are working with UNHCR to support their requests to the Thai government to develop a form of documentation for refugees. This would allow refugees to access appropriate schooling and other opportunities. We work closely with the British Council in Thailand and have discussed this issue with them.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risks of those Pakistani refugees who are living without legal status while their asylum claims are being assessed in Bangkok falling victim to trafficking and exploitation. [HL2261]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Thailand is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on refugees and as such those people claiming asylum through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Thailand have no formal legal status. Once any form of legal immigration status expires they are then deemed to be illegally in the country. Many are detained in Immigration Detention Centres awaiting deportation, or resettlement by the UNHCR should they qualify. Others live a vulnerable life as urban refugees open to trafficking and exploitation.

We continue to work closely with the UNHCR in Thailand on a wide range of refugee issues. We are in contact with UNHCR to support their requests to the Thai government to develop a form of documentation for refugees, including those of Pakistani Christian origin, to assist their legal status in Thailand.

## Parades Commission

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have discussed, or plan to discuss, with the Northern Ireland Parades Commission the case for making public, along

with each decision it makes, (1) a full disclosure of evidence received, including from whom it was received, and (2) all other factors involved in the Commission's determination; and if not, why not. [HL2351]

**Lord Dunlop:** This Government has had no discussions with the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland regarding the disclosure of evidence received, or on any other factors which are into account when making determinations.

This is an operational matter for the Commission acting independently of Government.

### **Parades Commission: Finance**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the amount of each year's budget for the Northern Ireland Parades Commission since its establishment. [HL2350]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Parades Commission is responsible for the management of its own budget and, in line with the Public Processions Act (NI) 1998, it is also responsible for the publication of its Annual Report and Accounts. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is responsible for ensuring that the annual report is laid in Parliament. The total expenditure for the Parades Commission for each year since its establishment in 1998 is listed below:

*Financial Year (£000s)*

2015/16 810 (projected)

2014/15 969

2013/14 916

2012/13 1,373

2011/12 958

2010/11 1,023

2009/10 1,032

2008/09 1,130

2007/08 1,062

2006/07 1,740

2005/06 1,460

2004/05 1,166

2003/04 1,292

2002/03 1,296

2001/02 1,308

2000/01 1,138

1999/2000 1,055

1998/99 1,147

### **Parades Commission: Freedom of Information**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all the material used in making determinations by the Northern

Irish Parades Commission is subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and if not, why not. [HL2209]

**Lord Dunlop:** The disclosure of information relating to decisions made by the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland is an operational matter for the Commission acting independently of Government.

The Noble Lord may wish to write to the Parades Commission directly on this matter.

### **Peers: Ministerial Policy Advisers**

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the convention that peers who are ministerial special advisers do not speak on the floor of the House was first established. [HL2151]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** It has been accepted practice under successive administrations that special advisers can vote but not speak.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by the Lord Privy Seal on 7 September (HL Deb, col 1213) that a Peer who is a special adviser will be able to vote but not contribute to debates, by whose authority this rule was established, and on which occasions it has been applied. [HL2236]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** It has been accepted practice under successive administrations that special advisers can vote but not speak.

### **Penguins: British Overseas Territories**

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the population trends of penguins in the Overseas Territories. [HL2175]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** UK Overseas Territory (OT) Governments are constitutionally responsible for the protection and conservation of their natural environments. Through the UK Government-funded Overseas Territory Environment and Climate Fund (Darwin Plus) we have committed approximately £5.2 million since 2012 to supporting environment projects in the OTs. A number of these have helped to conserve penguins.

Darwin Plus has funded projects to create a regional database of penguin tracking data, population analysis and modelling and to deploy autonomous camera units to monitor penguin populations in the British Antarctic Territory and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands.

In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office recently funded a project led by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to carry out the first ever stocktake of species in the OTs. The study, completed between January 2013 and March 2014, with further work in 2015, brought together all known species records and

conservation assessments. Although only a few OTs have permanent penguin populations, it found that the islands of the OTs include more penguins than any other nation on earth, holding an estimated 36% of the world's population of southern rockhopper penguins and 34% of gentoo penguins.

### Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

*Asked by Lord Northbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to build self-confidence in children and young people in secondary schools, especially those who do not perform highly in academic subjects. [HL2273]

**Lord Nash:** The Government has high aspirations for all children. In order to achieve their potential all children need strong academic skills as well as a complementary set of character attributes, such as resilience and grit, which underpin success in education and employment. That is why we have invested £5 million to expand the capacity of schools and voluntary organisations to deliver character education.

The Government is also committed to expanding the National Citizen Service so that every 16 and 17 year old is guaranteed a place on the programme. Participation in the National Citizen Service gives young people the chance to develop skills for work and life beyond school.

*Asked by Lord Northbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent it is their policy that maintained secondary schools and academies have a duty to develop the social and interpersonal skills of all pupils in their care. [HL2274]

**Lord Nash:** Schools have a duty to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of their pupils. This may be done through the curriculum, extra-curricular activities, or the whole school ethos. Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is a non-statutory subject that can contribute to the development of pupils' social and interpersonal skills. All schools should teach PSHE, drawing on good practice, and we have made this expectation clear in the introduction to the new national curriculum.

We also want to ensure that all young people develop a range of skills and attributes, such as team-working, resilience and grit, which underpin success in education and employment. This is why the Department for Education is investing £5 million to expand the capacity of schools and voluntary organisations to deliver character education.

The Department for Education has published guidance on promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils for both maintained and independent schools, which can be found online.

### Petitions: Freedom of Information

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies to the names, addresses and other personal information, in whole or in part, that forms part of a petition that has been delivered to a public authority to which that Act applies. [HL2186]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies to all information held by a public authority. However the Act contains an exemption that would protect the names, addresses and other personal information within petitions submitted to and held by public authorities.

### Pets: Animal Welfare

*Asked by Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there are regular inspection regimes, based on good husbandry practice, for all pet suppliers including shops, breeders and re-homing centres. [HL2235]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Local authorities are required by law to license anyone selling animals as a business and dog breeders. Before issuing a licence the local authority must inspect the premises concerned. Clear guidance and model conditions are available to assist this process. Powers are also available to local authorities to re-inspect including in response to concerns about poor welfare.

Re-homing centres are not subject to a specific regulatory regime but local authorities have powers under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to investigate if there are concerns about poor animal welfare.

### Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what rebate payments have been paid by the pharmaceutical industry in each quarter since the commencement of the current Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme; and what proportion of those payments has been reinvested in innovative medicines. [HL2281]

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of comments by the NHS National Clinical Director for Specialised Services in July stating that the NHS was unlikely to be able to afford increasing costs for specialised drugs, whether they plan to investigate why NHS England Specialised Services have not received any additional funding to spend on new products through the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, and where those available funds have been spent within NHS England. [HL2282]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The following table includes information on aggregate payments received by the Department since the beginning of the Pharmaceutical Scheme 2014. The Department publishes quarterly information on the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) sales and payments on the Government's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pprs-quarterly-net-sales-and-payment-information>

<i>Year and Quarter (Q)</i>	<i>Aggregate Payments Received by the Department of Health</i>
2014 Q1	£74 million
2014 Q2	£76 million
2014 Q3	£79 million
2014 Q4	£81 million
2015 Q1	£208 million
2015 Q2	£209 million

The Department ensures that all the income it receives from PPRS payments in England is reinvested in the National Health Service for patients' benefit. The Department includes the expected PPRS payments in setting the NHS England allocations in advance of each year.

As a statutory organisation, it is for NHS England to ensure that its actions are in line with its statutory duties. NHS England is responsible for allocating its overall budget (which includes expected income from PPRS payments in England) across commissioning areas, including specialised commissioning and clinical commissioning groups. Following normal Government accounting rules, there is no separately identified or ring-fenced funding stream associated with the PPRS payments.

The Government believes that NHS commissioners and providers are best placed to decide how to allocate their budgets to deliver improvements in the outcomes for patients. The PPRS includes a number of commitments for improving patient outcomes by improving access to clinically and cost effective medicines.

### Police National Computer

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) was granted direct read-only access to the Police National Computer; and whether there are limits to the information to which the SSPCA has access. [HL2239]

**Lord Bates:** The SSPCA were granted access to PNC for the sole purpose of assisting them with the investigation, prosecution and detection of serious animal welfare related crime (e.g dog fighting, badger baiting and the animal trade). Their access is strictly limited and excludes access to information which they are not specifically entitled to see.

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions during 2014 the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, under their information-sharing agreement, was given access to information held on the Police National Computer. [HL2240]

**Lord Bates:** The RSPCA does not have direct access to PNC. If the RSPCA need a PNC check they will contact the relevant local police force under the data sharing agreement. There is no central record of the number of enquiries made.

### Primary Education

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote education on careers and work in primary schools. [HL2231]

**Lord Nash:** The government wants to see improvements to the extent and quality of the careers advice, guidance and inspiration that young people receive throughout their education, helping them to be better prepared for the world of work and able to take advantage of the opportunities available to them. Children who can see the relationship between what they are learning and the possibilities it opens up for them in later life are likely to be far more motivated to achieve and we are committed to broadening their aspirations to do this.

It is not easy for children of primary age to make a connection between what they learn in the classroom and how it relates to the world of work. The government is delighted to support Primary Futures, a programme which is intended to change that. The national initiative, led by the Education and Employers Taskforce and the National Association of Head Teachers, enables volunteers from a wide range of professions to visit primary schools to inspire pupils.

### Private Rented Housing

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the pilot scheme in the West Midlands under which landlords were required to conduct checks to establish the right of prospective tenants to rent private dwellings. [HL1863]

**Lord Bates:** The Government has conducted an evaluation of the first phase of the right to rent scheme in the West Midlands which is currently being assessed. The Government has also sought the views of experts in the private rented sector which will be considered together with the findings in deciding the expansion of the scheme. The Government will make a formal announcement in due course.



*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the evaluation of the West Midlands pilot scheme that requires landlords to check the immigration status of tenants. [HL1935]

*Asked by Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to roll out the scheme for landlords to check the immigration status of tenants to Scotland, and over what period. [HL1936]

**Lord Bates:** The Government is considering the findings of an evaluation of the first phase of the right to rent scheme. The Government has also sought the views of experts in the private rented sector which will be considered together with the findings in deciding when and where the scheme is rolled out further. The Government will make a formal announcement in due course.

## Public Expenditure

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether decisions on the next Comprehensive Spending Review will be taken before the outcome of the next Strategic Defence and Security Review. [HL1945]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Spending Review will be published on 25<sup>th</sup> November, and work is currently underway on the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) which we expect to publish before the end of the year. These reviews will be closely aligned, recognising that economic security and national security are two sides of the same coin.

At the Summer Budget, the Government committed to increased spending on defence and security, and to meet the properly measured NATO pledge to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence every year of this decade. The allocation of a Joint Security Fund of up to an additional £1.5 billion per year by 2020/21, available to the Armed Forces and Security and Intelligence agencies, will also be based on the conclusions of the SDSR.

## Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have advised the Northern Ireland Executive of the control totals available to it for financial year 2015–16; if so, when that advice was communicated to the Northern Ireland Executive; and what response was received. [HL2021]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Chief Secretary to the Treasury regularly advises the Northern Ireland Minister for Finance and Personnel of the Northern Ireland Executive's current control totals through correspondence, including any changes which need to be

incorporated through the course of the year following fiscal events and Estimates rounds. There are also regular discussions between officials. There is no formal requirement for the letters to be acknowledged by Northern Ireland Ministers.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the financial difference between the control totals for the Northern Ireland Executive for financial year 2015–16 and the budget passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly in July 2015. [HL2022]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer (HL839) that I gave to him on 7 July 2015 with regard to the Northern Ireland Executive's control totals for 2015–16. Details regarding the budget passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly are published by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland, and by the Assembly itself.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to allow the Northern Ireland Executive to spend in excess of its control totals for financial year 2015–16. [HL2023]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer (HL321) that I gave to him on 8 June 2015.

## Public Sector Debt

*Asked by Lord Kinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each year from 2003–4 to 2014–15 inclusive, (1) what was the national debt, expressed in (a) monetary terms, and (b) as a percentage of gross domestic product, and (2) what interest was paid on that debt, expressed in (a) monetary terms, and (b) in per capita terms. [HL2119]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** In 2010 the coalition government inherited a deficit of 10.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) – the largest since the Second World War. With such a high deficit, it is inevitable that debt has continued to rise. Over the last parliament the government made substantial progress towards stabilising the public finances, halving the deficit from its post-war peak to 5 per cent of GDP in 2014–15. The Office for Budget Responsibility have forecast that debt as a percentage of GDP peaked in 2014/15, and this year will fall for the first time in 14 years as a result of the government's actions.

The table below provides Public Sector Net Debt (excluding public sector banks) and debt interest expenditure figures for each year in the period 2003/04 to 2014/15. For net debt, the figures are provided in both nominal terms and as a percentage of GDP; for debt interest, the figures are given in nominal terms and pounds sterling per capita.

	<i>Public Sector Net Debt</i> <sup>1</sup>		<i>Debt Interest</i> <sup>2</sup>	
	<i>£ billion</i>	<i>% of GDP</i>	<i>£ billion</i>	<i>£ per capita</i>
2003/04	394.2	31.8	22.0	367
2004/05	449.2	34.4	24.6	407
2005/06	492.0	35.5	26.3	432
2006/07	529.3	36.2	28.6	466
2007/08	561.5	36.9	31.2	505
2008/09	727.7	49.2	31.5	506
2009/10	959.8	62.2	31.6	503
2010/11	1102.5	68.8	46.6	736
2011/12	1192.0	72.3	49.7	780
2012/13	1300.0	76.8	48.9	762
2013/14	1403.2	79.1	48.7	753
2014/15	1486.5	80.8	45.2	696

1: Excluding public sector banks; by convention, GDP is a 12 month average centred at the financial year end. Source: ONS.

2: The per capita figure is calculated by dividing debt interest in £'s by the ONS estimate of the size of the UK population at the financial year end. Note that the population estimate for 2014/15 is a forecast, based on the latest ONS projections. Source: ONS.

## Public Sector: Strikes

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to change the rules for public servants so that senior public officers who work during strikes do not get extra payments, as was the case with three senior officers of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service during strikes in 2014–15. [HL2367]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Pay policy for members of staff is the responsibility of individual fire and rescue authorities.

The Government is grateful to those members of staff who worked to ensure the safety of their communities during periods of strike action by members of the Fire Brigades Union.

## Radicalism

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they define extremism, other than violent extremism, as mentioned in the Statement of 7 September regarding Syria (HL Deb, cols 1246–50). [HL2187]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Since 2011, we have consistently defined extremism as 'Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

## Recovery of Costs

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many acquitted defendants who had costs orders claimed their legal costs from central funds in (1) magistrates' courts, and (2) Crown Courts, in each of the last five years, and what was the cost of meeting such claims in each category of court. [HL2265]

**Lord Faulks:** This information is not recorded centrally and can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

## Refugees

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what conversations they have had with the devolved administrations about plans to resettle Syrian and other refugees in the United Kingdom. [HL2111]

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations they have had with relevant charitable relief organisations based in the United Kingdom about the future resettlement of Syrian and other refugees in the United Kingdom. [HL2112]

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to involve charitable relief organisations in the long-term arrangements for resettling Syrian and other refugees in the United Kingdom. [HL2113]

**Lord Bates:** The plans to resettle refugees, in particular under the expanded Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme announced on 7 September, will be a national effort involving all parts of the UK.

The Prime Minister and First Minister have already exchanged correspondence on the issue and the Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Scotland will work closely with the Scottish administration on the arrangements for resettling refugees, with a Home Office official attending the Scottish refugee taskforce. Further discussions are intended with representatives of the administrations of Wales and Northern Ireland.

We are consulting a range of external partners and charitable organisations on refugee resettlement options and they will need to play a full part in the success of the expanded scheme.

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have formulated guidelines for voluntary charitable organisations involved in the settlement of Syrian and other refugees in the United Kingdom; and if not, whether they plan to do so. [HL2114]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government is seeking a solution to the crisis in Syria and contributing over £1 billion of humanitarian aid. We are proposing that the UK resettles 20,000 Syrian refugees over the rest of this Parliament. The Home Office, local authorities and civil society partners are leading work on resettlement.

The Minister for Syrian Refugees and the Minister for Civil Society recently hosted a roundtable discussion with leading charities to agree with our partners how best to harness the strong desire expressed by the public, and a range of organisations, to welcome Syrian refugees to the UK. This was part of the wider co-ordination and cross-government work that the Home Office is leading.

There are currently no plans to formulate any formal guidelines for charities but we have provided further information via GOV.UK and charity websites on how members of the public and civil society organisations can contribute to helping Syrian refugees.

We will continue to work with leading charities to support a coordinated effort.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to set out the steps and timescale by which the refugees currently in Hungary, Austria, Italy, and Germany would have the unfettered right to move to the United Kingdom. [HL2318]

**Lord Bates:** The United Kingdom does not participate in the border aspects of the Schengen acquis and continues to operate border controls with other EU Member States. Individuals granted refugee status in another Member State will therefore be subject to the same entry clearance requirements as third country visa nationals resident in the EU if they wish to enter the United Kingdom. Free movement rights can only be obtained once a refugee becomes a citizen of an EU country. This process varies from Member State to Member State.

### Refugees: Legal Aid Scheme

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have responded, or plan to respond, to the British Red Cross report *Not so Straightforward: the need for qualified legal aid support in refugee family reunion*; if so, whether they will place copies in the Library of the House; and whether they plan to simplify the current application form for entry to the United Kingdom for family reunion and to provide clear and consistent guidance about it. [HL2222]

**Lord Bates:** Following the publication of the report, I wrote to the British Red Cross to confirm that we are reviewing our process for dealing with applications for refugee family reunion in consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Justice.

We are working closely with the British Red Cross and are considering the recommendations in detail.

We are in the process of improving our guidance so that it is clear, consistent and accessible. We are also redesigning the application form to ensure that applicants better understand the process and what is required of them.

Once the policy review is complete, we will provide a consolidated response to the report and place a copy in the Library of the House.

### Refugees: Mediterranean Sea

*Asked by Lord Higgins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Royal Navy's decision to instruct migrants rescued from the Mediterranean to disembark from the ships inside rather than outside the European Union is consistent with their policy of discouraging people trafficking. [HL2307]

**Lord Bates:** Under international law the UK has a duty not to return people who are rescued at sea to countries where they would be at risk of serious harm. That is why people rescued at sea are taken to Italy as this is considered the nearest safe country.

However, we need to break the link between getting on a boat and automatically achieving residence in Europe. The UK is playing a leading role in pushing for action through the EU and the UN to tackle the causes of illegal immigration to discourage people from making the perilous journey in the first place. The UK is also pursuing and disrupting the organised crime groups profiting from the people smuggling trade, including through the creation of an Organised Immigration Crime Task Force.

If migrants do reach the EU they need to be stopped, processed and screened when they arrive to control their movement and to distinguish between genuine refugees and economic migrants. The UK fully supports the EU's 'hotspots' initiative which will help give effect to this.

*Asked by Lord Higgins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to take steps to ensure that the United Kingdom can decide where to land migrants rescued from the Mediterranean by the Royal Navy, so as to ensure that they are not landed in the European Union. [HL2339]

**Lord Bates:** Under international law the UK has a duty not to return people who are rescued at sea to countries where they would be at risk of serious harm. That is why migrants rescued at sea are taken to Italy as this is considered the nearest safe country.

But we are pushing for the swift establishment of 'hot spot' screening centres and action to return those who do not need our protection to their countries of origin.

### Refugees: Syria

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to identify medical practitioners and other qualified

health professionals amongst Syrian refugees and make arrangements for them to enter the United Kingdom and continue their practice here. [HL2107]

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to work with medical schools to enable Syrian refugees who are medical students to continue their studies in the United Kingdom. [HL2108]

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to work with the medical, nursing and midwifery Royal Colleges, the General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, and the regulators of other healthcare professions to enable Syrian refugees who are qualified health professionals to enter practice in the United Kingdom. [HL2109]

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to identify biomedical researchers and academics amongst Syrian refugees and make arrangements for them to enter the United Kingdom and to assist them in finding relevant employment. [HL2110]

**Lord Bates:** The Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement (VPR) scheme will continue to prioritise the most vulnerable: people requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of torture and violence, and women and children at risk. We are discussing with the UNCHR and other partners the extent to which the current criteria should be extended to ensure that a greater number of people qualify for the scheme.

Beneficiaries of the scheme will have full right to work in the UK and will be able to seek employment subject to meeting appropriate professional standards. There are no plans specifically to target medical practitioners, medical students or any other professional group because the scheme is a humanitarian one based on the protection needs of individual refugees, not their professional qualifications.

*Asked by Lord Mawhinney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of how many Syrian refugees will arrive in the United Kingdom for resettlement in the next 12 months. [HL2122]

**Lord Bates:** We intend to resettle 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament. We will continue to work closely with the UNHCR to identify appropriate cases, prioritising the most vulnerable. As the expanded scheme is based on need and reliant on the UNHCR and other partners to make it work, it is not possible or appropriate to set any sort of annual target, but we are clear that we want to help people as quickly as possible.

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to the webpages of the Communities and Local Government and Home Office sections of gov.uk entitled Syria refugees: what you can do to help, how many responses they have had in the first week from (1) the general public, (2) local authorities, (3) education providers, and (4) religious organisations, offering help under each of the headings; and what system they have set up for dealing with those responses. [HL2335]

**Lord Bates:** The response of the British public has been one of overwhelming generosity. In order to harness that response, the Government has established a webpage on gov.uk containing useful information on where to find further advice to frequently asked questions. The webpage has generated significant traffic in the last week, and aims to direct the public towards the most relevant information or bodies through which they can help, such as the Local Government Association website, or the websites of relevant charities and Non Governmental Associations. We are working closely with key partners to ensure that the offers received are captured by the appropriate organisation or body.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which sections of United Kingdom immigration regulations are, or will be, relaxed for Syrian refugees under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. [HL2362]

**Lord Bates:** The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme has been running for around 18 months already, and has not involved any relaxation of the UK's immigration rules. The Prime Minister announced on 7 September an expansion of that scheme.

## Registration of Burials Act 1864

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Ministry of Justice last reviewed the provisions of the Registration of Burials Act 1864 under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. [HL2313]

**Lord Faulks:** The Ministry of Justice does not exercise any functions under the provisions of the Registration of Burials Act 1864 and has not therefore undertaken such a review. Should the Government amend the Act in the future, however, it would have to take account of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

## Religious Hatred

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent attacks on Muslims and their places of worship in the light of the recent statistics from the Metropolitan Police Service showing an



increase of 70 per cent in such attacks since July 2014. [HL2278]

**Lord Bates:** The Government takes the security of the Muslim and all other communities extremely seriously, and deplores all forms of hate crime. The Government is committed to stamping this out to ensure the safety and security of all our communities. Our new Counter-Extremism Strategy, due to be published later this year, will outline how we will further protect British Muslims, including communities worried about poisonous far right extremists who may be planning crimes such as attacks on mosques.

Ensuring that there is effective security at crowded places and potentially vulnerable sites, such as mosques, remains a priority for the Government. We work with the police to ensure the safety and security of all communities, and considerable advice and guidance has already been provided to mosques, madrassahs, synagogues, and other religious sites; for example, we have drawn upon the expertise of Bradford Council of Mosques and the Community Security Trust to develop security guidance for all mosques in the light of the 2014 incursions by Britain First.

The Department for Communities and Local Government also chairs a cross-Government working group on anti-Muslim hatred, which includes community organisations and representatives, to consider and develop initiatives to seek to combat hate crime.

Police forces continue to be alert to combating and responding to crimes being committed against members of the Muslim community, and to taking appropriate steps to safeguard people and property. Monitoring of the security situation and specific threats to communities remains under regular review, and if there is a need to consider additional measures to ensure the security of the Muslim or any other community, then these will be undertaken as and when it is appropriate to do so.

### Remand in Custody: Young People

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many nights were spent on remand in youth detention accommodation by children and young persons from each local authority in the years (1) 2012–13, (2) 2013–14, and (3) 2014–15. [HL2263]

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding allocations have been made available to individual local authorities in the years (1) 2013–14, (2) 2014–15 and (3) 2015–16, to meet the costs of young people made subject to secure remands. [HL2264]

**Lord Faulks:** The total number of youth remand bed nights fell by 27% between 2012/13 and 2014/15. The total value of youth remand funding provided to local authorities, which is based on historic remand use, was reduced by 27% between 2013/14 and 2015/16.

Data on the number of remand bed nights by the Court Designated Local Authority has only been collected since responsibility for remand budgets was devolved in April 2013. Table 1 shows the number of remand bed nights by the Youth Offending Team for 2012/13. Table 2 shows the number of remand bed nights by the Court Designated Local Authority for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time. The data for 2013/14 and 2014/15 is 'live' data and is subject to change.

Table 3 shows the secure remand funding allocation for individual local authorities for the years 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Levels of Remand [Table HL2263 and HL 2264.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2263>

### Residues

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the maximum residual levels of glyphosate and the constituent chemicals in Roundup formulations in proteins for animal feed. [HL2243]

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many tests for Roundup residue have been conducted in the last five years; and how many samples were found to exceed the maximum residue levels. [HL2244]

*Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many tests have been conducted on home-grown corn and rape seeds that have been sprayed with Roundup as a pre-harvest desiccant in the last five years, and how many of those tests have shown that maximum residue levels have been exceeded. [HL2245]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Maximum residue levels (MRLs) are set so as to reflect the highest amount of pesticide residue expected in food when a pesticide is used in accordance with its authorisation. This means that a residue level above the relevant MRL does not necessarily indicate an unacceptable risk for consumers.

'Roundup' is the trade name of one product among many herbicides which contain the active substance glyphosate. The Government has undertaken 2,046 tests for glyphosate in the last five years. During 2011, 17 samples of lentils and three samples of pulses contained residues above the permitted MRL. An assessment of these findings found no concerns for human health from these residues. The MRL for lentils did not reflect

glyphosate use permitted outside the EU. After proper technical assessment, that MRL was subsequently raised to accommodate such use. All the earlier lentil samples contained residues below the new MRL. Results are published online by the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food.

Crops or proteins produced exclusively for animal consumption are not currently subject to EU MRLs. However, crops such as soya that are grown for both human and animal consumption are subject to MRLs set under Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. The current MRLs set for glyphosate are published in Commission Regulation (EU) No 293/2013.

The Government has not conducted any analytical tests for glyphosate on corn (maize) or rape seeds. Commodities tested include bread, flour, oats, wheat, noodles, cereal bars, infant food, beer, soya products, rice, lentils and pulses.

### Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 30 July (HL1654), whether HM Revenue and Customs has target times by which members of the public can reasonably expect to get through on the telephone and speak to an official; and by what percentage extent there has been a change over the past three years in the number of telephone calls from the public seeking information or assistance from that Department. [HL2014]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** As stated in an earlier response (HL897), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publishes its performance data quarterly on the gov.uk website.

HMRC handles 50 million calls a year from customers. It aims to answer 80 per cent of all calls and accepts that it is not currently delivering on that aspiration. HMRC published a press release on 25 June in which it apologised for the poor service, acknowledged that some customers were struggling to get through on the telephone and outlined a number of initiatives it is putting in place to improve performance.

### Rights of Accused

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the compatibility of the current United Kingdom law with the European Union Directives on the right to information in criminal proceedings, and on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings. [HL2090]

**Lord Faulks:** The UK Government opted into these Directives, on 22 October 2010 and on 8 March 2010 respectively, and in transposing them into domestic law undertook careful analysis of the state of the existing law

and whether any new measures were required to ensure compliance. As a result of this assessment, in England and Wales transposition included several new legislative measures, subsequently approved by Parliament, and the Devolved Administrations made similar arrangements. A full transposition table was provided to the European Commission as is normal practice. As with all Directives, the Government keeps compliance under review.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the funding allocated for the Northern Powerhouse will be spent on (1) repairs of potholes and damaged carriageways, and (2) other highway maintenance that would normally come out of annual revenue budgets; and how much of such spending will be allocated to (a) the Highways Agency, and (b) local highways authorities. [HL2336]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport is allocating £1.3 billion capital funding between 2015 and 2021 to local highway authorities that fall within the Northern Powerhouse for local highways maintenance. This funding can be used to repair potholes. The funding is not ring-fenced and it is entirely for each highway authority to decide, based on their needs and priorities, as to how this funding is spent. In addition the funding the Department for Transport allocated to local highway authorities in England to improve road conditions was £1 billion more over the last Parliament compared to what was provided between 2005 and 2010.

Local authorities are able to use revenue funding for maintaining their local highways and this is allocated by the Department of Communities and Local Government through the Revenue Support Grant.

The Department for Transport is funding a local highways maintenance project in Sheffield as well as street lighting schemes in Blackpool, Knowsley, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Oldham, Redcar & Cleveland, Rochdale, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Wakefield, through the Private Finance Initiative.

In addition we are also allocating £2.9 billion for improvements to the strategic road network within the Northern Powerhouse managed by Highways England as set out in the Road Investment Strategy published in March 2015 for the period between 2015 and 2020.

### Rugby: Tickets

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken regarding the sale of tickets for the 2016 RBS 6 Nations series that are being offered for sale before being released by the organisers on secondary-market websites that do not provide the details required under the Consumer Rights Act 2015. [HL2136]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Trading Standards are the designated enforcers for the ticketing provisions in Chapter 5 of Part 3 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and cases of non-compliance should be brought to their attention. Consumers can report the matter through the Citizens Advice consumer helpline (03454 04 05 06) who will pass complaints onto Trading Standards where appropriate.

where the issue is one of fraud or e-crime, this should be reported to Action Fraud the UK's national fraud and internet crime reporting centre, ([http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud)).

This applies to the RBS 6 Nations Series as well as other future events.

### Self-employed Contributions

Asked by **Baroness Kramer**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who pay (1) Class 2, and (2) Class 4, National Insurance contributions below the Lower Profits Limit also employ (a) one person, (b) two people, (c) three people or (d) fewer than 10 people. [[HL1973](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Kramer**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average amount paid in Class 4 National Insurance contributions below the Lower Profits Limit in each of the last five years. [[HL1974](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Kramer**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people with profits smaller than £10,000 paid (1) Class 2, and (2) Class 4, National Insurance contributions in each of the last five years, and what was the average amount paid. [[HL1975](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Estimates of the number of self-employed individuals who employ other people are not available.

No Class 4 National Insurance Contributions (NICs) are paid on profits below the Lower Profits Limit (LPL). Class 4 is only charged on profits above the LPL.

Estimates of the number of individuals paying self-employed National Insurance Contributions on profits below £10,000 and the average of their contributions are in the table attached.

Tax Year	Number of individuals with profits of £10,000 or less paying NI Contributions (thousands)		Average paid by individuals with profits of £10,000 or less paying NI Contributions (£)	
	Class 2 NIC	Class 4 NIC	Class 2 NIC	Class 4 NIC
2010-11	1,600	865	103	144
2011-12	1,720	575	107	107

Tax Year	Number of individuals with profits of £10,000 or less paying NI Contributions (thousands)		Average paid by individuals with profits of £10,000 or less paying NI Contributions (£)	
	Class 2 NIC	Class 4 NIC	Class 2 NIC	Class 4 NIC
2012-13	1,830	565	113	95
2013-14	1,890	494	116	89
2014-15	1,860	467	117	80

The level of the LPL for these years is in the table below.

Tax Year	Class 4 NIC Lower Profit Limit (LPL)
2010-11	£5,715
2011-12	£7,225
2012-13	£7,605
2013-14	£7,755
2014-15	£7,956

### Severn River Crossing

Asked by **Lord German**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the last major maintenance work was undertaken on the first and second Severn crossings, and what was the cost of that work. [[HL2332](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In September 2013 Severn River Crossing Plc (SRC) carried out major refurbishment of the movement joint and structural connection between the Wye Bridge and the Beachley Viaduct on the M48 Crossing. The estimated cost to SRC of this work is £0.75m.

Since 2006, SRC has been repainting the steel truss of the cable stayed bridge on the M4 Second Severn Crossing. This work is programmed to be completed before the end of the concession and to date the estimated cost to SRC is £5.1m

Asked by **Lord German**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the annual cost of maintaining the first and second Severn crossings in each of the last 10 years. [[HL2333](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Severn River Crossing Plc (SRC) is required to maintain and repair both Severn Crossings. This includes performing regular maintenance and inspections work and carrying out any necessary repairs.

Separate maintenance costs are not available. The figures below for both crossings show all of SRC's operational expenditure including maintenance on both crossings.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Operational expenditure (including maintenance) £m</i>
2005	8.75
2006	9.90
2007	10.62
2008	10.65
2009	10.71
2010	10.70
2011	13.03
2012	13.05
2013	14.37
2014	13.16

### Shipping: Registration

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many ships were on the United Kingdom register in 2005, and in each year thereafter to date. [[HL2352](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The number of ships over 100 GT on the UK register in 2005 and to date are detailed below. All totals were correct at 31st December in the respective year.

December 2005 1,438

December 2006 1,456

December 2007 1,481

December 2008 1,550

December 2009 1,553

December 2010 1,503

December 2011 1,469

December 2012 1,401

December 2013 1,360

December 2014 1,327

The figure for 2015 - 1,328 is up to and including 31st August.

*Asked by Lord MacKenzie of Culkein*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the regulations governing ship registration in the United Kingdom with a view to increasing the number of ships in the world fleet on the UK register without reducing standards. [[HL2353](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There are no specific plans yet.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is currently recruiting a new Director of the UK Ship Register (UKSR) for whom an early task will be to review current regulations in light of the aspiration to grow the UKSR, and make any appropriate recommendations.

### Small Businesses

*Asked by Baroness Kramer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many meetings (1) the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, (2) ministers within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and (3) civil servants at the level of private secretary or above in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, have had with companies employing fewer than 50 employees since May. [[HL2430](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

### Small Businesses: Competition

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to support small businesses through changes to competition law. [[HL2166](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:**

Through the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 and the establishment of the Competition and Markets Authority, we have ensured that businesses of all sizes, including small businesses, benefit from a simpler competition regime designed to provide greater certainty and improve the speed of decisions.

In addition, when our reforms of private actions for competition damages and the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) rules come into force on 1 October they will assist small businesses who currently find it too costly to seek compensation for breaches of competition law. These include a cost-capped 'fast track' procedure to enable small businesses to challenge anti-competitive behaviour, and voluntary redress schemes to encourage faster, easier access to redress.

### Small Businesses: Government Assistance

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to raise awareness of government projects designed to help small businesses. [[HL2005](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is already undertaking steps to raise awareness of government projects designed to help small businesses.

For those firms looking to export, UK Trade and Investment provides tailored advice, information and support to small businesses, whether exporting for the first time or more experienced exporters seeking to expand their business into new but challenging markets.

UKTI runs events for small businesses in towns and cities across the country, providing access to support and information locally and discussions with trade advisers. It also works with partner organisations such as the



Business Growth Service, Growth Hubs, the major banks, and chambers of commerce to help small businesses export. UKTI delivers thousands of international business opportunities for companies to access online and also runs online exporting webinars with 15,000 companies expected to attend 500+ events this year. Support is also made available through [gov.uk/ukti](http://gov.uk/ukti) and across UKTI social media channels.

Building on this the Government is launching Exporting is GREAT (part of the award-winning GREAT campaign) during Export Week in November 2015. The Government's most ambitious export campaign ever, it aims to inspire and support 100,000 new British businesses to sell their goods and services overseas by 2020. Export Week itself will see over 90 events across the UK, attracting over 5000 companies to attend exporting related activities in a single week

For advice on hiring apprentices, the Government works with the Skills Funding Agency to encourage businesses of all sizes to recruit apprentices and trainees through its free online vacancy filling system.

The offer includes the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers, which provides a £1,500 grant for employers with less than 50 staff for each of their first five apprentices aged 16-24, supporting small businesses who want to recruit apprentices in this age group. By joining forces with HMRC more than 90,000 businesses of all sizes are made aware of our apprenticeships offer every month.

We also work with the Federation of Small Businesses and the British Chambers of Commerce to encourage more small businesses to embrace apprenticeships.

For other general business support, we have established a network of regional Growth Hubs which offer support and advice at the local level, as well as the online Business Growth Service, designed to help high growth companies reach their full potential.

### **Small Businesses: Stress**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the findings of the recent survey by insurance provider Simply Business, how they plan to support small business owners who have fallen ill due to stress and overwork. [[HL2194](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We understand the pressures faced by small business owners. This year we launched Fit for Work. While primarily aimed at helping employers with employees who are facing long term sickness absence, the self-employed can access free, impartial work related health advice through the advice element of the scheme. Fit for Work is a free service which provides both a supportive occupational health assessment and general health and work advice to employees, employers and General Practitioners (GPs), to help individuals stay in or return to work.

We are committed to making it easier for small business owners to run their business. We are helping small businesses access the finance they need to startup and grow with British Business Bank programmes already supporting £2.3 billion of finance to 40,000 smaller businesses. Small businesses have less regulation to follow, with savings to businesses of £10bn of red tape in the last Parliament, and have better access to business advice and support through [GREATbusiness.gov.uk](http://GREATbusiness.gov.uk). The 'My Business Support Tool' helps businesses find the support they need quickly, and businesses can speak to or webchat with a helpline adviser direct using our Business Support helpline. Going forward, we have announced a new Small Business Commissioner to help small businesses to settle disputes and challenge unfair payment terms.

### **Social Rented Housing: Rents**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 September (HL2049) which committed to helping to protect taxpayers from the rising cost of subsidising rent, what steps they are taking to achieve this commitment. [[HL2315](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have included provisions in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill currently before Parliament to reduce social rents in England by one percent a year for four years from April 2016. We estimate that by 2020/21 there will be an in-year saving to the tax payer of some £1.4 billion, so helping to protect taxpayers from the rising cost of subsidising rents through housing benefit.

### **Social Security Benefits: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Mawhinney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it remains their policy that state benefits in Northern Ireland, and the qualifications to receive such benefits, should remain the same as those in England. [[HL2123](#)]

**Lord Dunlop:** Welfare is a devolved matter in Northern Ireland. The Government is clear that we will not fund a more generous welfare system in Northern Ireland than elsewhere in the United Kingdom. The Northern Ireland Executive is, however, free to make more resources available for welfare from within its block grant.

### **Somalia: Corruption**

*Asked by Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about the alleged misappropriation of public funds involving United Kingdom companies cited in Annex 5 to the Somalia report of the United Nations

Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea published in October 2014 (S/2014/726). [[HL1870](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There were no specific allegations of misappropriation of public funds involving UK companies in the UN Monitoring Group's October 2014 report. However, the report notes the phenomenon of "secret contracting" involving Somali natural resources and national assets. The rise of this phenomenon is particularly concerning. The British Government works in close partnership with the Somali authorities and other international partners, such as the World Bank, to improve the overall transparency and accountability of public financial management in Somalia. We recognise that much has been done over the last two years to improve the very poor financial management systems that the Federal Government of Somalia inherited in 2012. We welcome in particular the introduction of an automated financial management information system and the establishment of a "Financial Governance Committee (FGC)", a forum which has enabled the International Financial Institutions to give advice on reform of asset management, public sector procurement, and public financial management. The FGC also reviews government contracts, which has resulted in the termination and renegotiation of some major contracts. We continue to monitor closely and support efforts to improve Somalia's public financial management.

### Spirits: Excise Duties

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the Health Impact Assessment of the two per cent cut in spirits duty announced in the March 2015 Budget. [[HL2039](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government published its assessment of the impacts of the spirits duty change in the Tax Information and Impact Notes published alongside the Budget document. Copies of Budget related documentation are available in the Printed Paper Office.

### Students: Loans

*Asked by Baroness Sharp of Guildford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the proportion of student loans awarded to students undertaking (1) full-time, and (2) part-time, bachelor degrees that will never be repaid. [[HL2227](#)]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** (1) We estimate that the proportion of the value of full time loans which will not be repaid is around 45%.

(2) Our current published estimate is that around 65% of the value of part time loans will not be repaid. We will update our estimate as we get more information on the characteristics of the students taking out these loans, and, in due course, actual repayments.

The Department does not produce separate estimates for different levels of Higher Education qualifications. The figures mentioned above cover all higher education loans.

### Sudan: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have taken, if any, in response to the most recent arrests of members of the Sudan Congress Party, and more broadly regarding the treatment of members of civil society, political activists and journalists in Sudan since the election in April. [[HL2309](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Whilst we have not raised this specific case, we regularly highlight our concerns over the treatment of political parties, civil society and the media with the Government of Sudan, most recently with a member of the National Congress Party in September this year.

### Sunday Trading

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the statement from the Association of Convenience Stores that longer trading hours on Sundays would harm small retailers. [[HL2165](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Devolving the power to extend Sunday trading hours will enable local areas to determine the Sunday trading hours that best reflects the needs of local people, providing greater choice over when and where they shop. There are many reasons why people may continue to choose small retailers. They offer a diverse range of products and services from convenient locations. This is one of the reasons why the convenience stores sector last year saw the opening of two new stores a day and growth in turnover of 5%.

### Syria

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2165 regarding Syria, in particular regarding the action or inaction of the governments of Russia and China. [[HL1987](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As required by UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2139, the Secretary General has produced monthly reports to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria. UNSCR 2165 and its successor, UNSCR 2191, also continue to be implemented. According to the UN Secretary General's most recent report, by 31 July 2015, the UN and its partners had delivered 154 shipments of aid into Syria. The UK has allocated £233 million for the provision of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, to be delivered through our UN and non-governmental organisation partners. However, the delivery of aid in Syria is complicated by the continued obstruction of aid delivery by the Assad regime, as well as by the regime's indiscriminate attacks on population centres, especially through the use of barrel bombs. Countries with influence

over the Syrian government, including Russia, must use that influence to press the Assad regime to comply with its responsibilities under international humanitarian and human rights law.

### Syria: Armed Conflict

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what strategy they have to help to end the conflict in Syria in view of the current migrant crisis in Europe. [HL2029]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** An inclusive political transition in Syria is the only way to end the conflict and to alleviate Syria's humanitarian crisis. The UK continues to call on the Syrian regime and its supporters to engage seriously in the political process. Violence in Syria, particularly on the part of the Assad government's deliberate targeting of civilians, is the root cause of the current refugee crisis. Over four million Syrians have had to flee their homes and a quarter of a million Syrians have been killed. The UK will continue to work with the UN Special Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, and our international partners to press for a political settlement to resolve the conflict in Syria in line with the Geneva Communiqué.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the protection of civilians from war crimes committed in the conflict in Syria. [HL2247]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have a long-standing commitment to accountability for human rights violations and abuses. We will continue to press for the protection of civilians in the UN Security Council where we have secured vital resolutions to improve humanitarian access and seek accountability for chemical weapons attacks. These resolutions have also consistently called for an end to attacks on civilians.

We continue to support the UN Commission of Inquiry's investigations into human rights violations and abuses in Syria. In partnership with other donor countries, we are funding the collection of documentary evidence for use in possible legal processes in the future. Last year the UK co-sponsored a UN Security Council resolution to refer all those responsible for war-crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, regardless of affiliation, to the International Criminal Court. Russia and China chose to veto this resolution.

### Syria: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to improve access for humanitarian agencies to deliver aid to civilian populations in Syria. [HL1988]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK is committed to supporting the most vulnerable people in need inside Syria wherever they are, in accordance with international humanitarian principles. The UK co-sponsored and lobbied hard for UN

Security Council Resolutions 2165 and 2191 which enable the UN to deliver aid across border, without the consent of the regime, to assist those in the hardest to reach areas.

### Syria: Military Intervention

*Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had in the Security Council and other UN organisations about the involvement of British troops in Syria. [HL2072]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There have been no discussions in the Security Council or UN fora about the involvement of British troops in the ongoing Syria conflict.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what legal authority they obtained before conducting the drone attack in Syria that was announced on 7 September. [HL2081]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. friend the Defence Secretary authorised this operation. The Attorney General was consulted in advance and advised that there would be a clear legal basis for action in international law.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were killed during the drone strike on Raqqa on 21 August. [HL2082]

**Earl Howe:** As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced to the House on 7 September, Reyaad Khan was killed in a precision air strike carried out in Raqqa on 21 August by an RAF remotely piloted air system. In addition to Reyaad Khan, two ISIL fighters were also killed.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any civilians were killed in the drone strike on Raqqa on 21 August. [HL2083]

**Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend The Prime Minister confirmed in his statement to the House on 7 September that there were no civilian casualties resulting from the precision air strike in Raqqa on 21 August 2015.

### Syria: Overseas Aid

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that targeted aid reaches civilians in communities and towns under siege in Syria. [HL2248]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK is deeply concerned that, according to UN figures, 422,000 people currently live in besieged areas in Syria. DFID works with trusted

humanitarian organisations that endeavour to assist these populations and others in hard-to-reach areas.

The UK strongly condemns and calls for an end to the unlawful denial of access to impartial humanitarian partners. We have been instrumental in securing the passage of three UN Security Council Resolutions – 2139, 2156 and 2191 – demanding that all parties respect international humanitarian law and allow unhindered humanitarian access.

### Syria: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for preventing the stagnation of Syrian refugees in external camps; and what assessment they have made of the case for involving Syrian teachers in education for both children and adults in such camps. [HL2066]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has been at the forefront of the response to the crisis in Syria and the region and has pledged over £1 billion, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. The UK has allocated £519 million to support refugees in the region and vulnerable host communities to date, including £279 million in Lebanon and £183 million in Jordan. Whilst addressing the immediate needs of refugees and vulnerable members of host communities, UK aid is also supporting their longer term resilience and stability through funding to Lebanese and Jordanian municipalities for the running of essential public services, such as education.

The UK is also supporting the No Lost Generation Initiative in support of Syrian children across the region and funding to UNICEF includes the construction and refurbishment of schools, the provision of school supplies, psycho-social support to children and incentives for Syrian teachers both in camps and in host communities. However, the decision to what extent Syrian teachers can be involved in the provision of education is determined by host Governments.

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on the treatment of Syrian refugees living outside refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Tunisia. [HL2071]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has allocated £500 million to support Syrian refugees in the region, the majority of who live in host communities. Our support has reached hundreds of thousands of people in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt and helped host governments deal with the influx of refugees. As well as meeting immediate needs of refugees and vulnerable members of host communities, we are helping build the longer term resilience of refugees through funding to local municipalities for essential public services, such as education. Syrian refugees in Tunisia are being supported by UNHCR.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the UNHCR fails to protect Christians from discrimination in the refugee camps set up to help those fleeing Syria. [HL2106]

**Baroness Verma:** DFID continues to work with the UN and the international community to ensure all minorities' rights are protected and our aid reaches those in greatest need. UNHCR have informed us that they are not aware of any discrimination in any of the camps that fall under their responsibility. UNHCR monitors camps and have given assurance that if there were reports of discrimination they would look into these matters closely.

All UK funded assistance is distributed on the basis of need to ensure civilians are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, religion, or ethnicity.

*Asked by Lord Mawhinney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance and restrictions they have given to the UNHCR about the selection of Syrian refugees for resettlement in the United Kingdom. [HL2120]

**Lord Bates:** The UK will continue to use the established UNHCR process for identifying and resettling refugees. We are in discussion with the UNHCR on the precise criteria for selecting cases for the expanded resettlement scheme. However, we are clear that the most vulnerable cases will be prioritised and we will only resettle those people that we and the UNHCR agree require resettlement in a country like the UK.

*Asked by Lord Mawhinney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of how diplomatic and political relations with France would be affected if they continue with their policy of admitting to the United Kingdom for resettlement only those refugees from Syria who are presently in camps near that country. [HL2121]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Relations with France on migration issues continue to be strong. At the end of July, we hosted a joint inter-ministerial conference in London to discuss how we can tackle migration pressures upstream (including from Syria) together. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), have been in close touch with their French counterparts in recent weeks. We share a moral responsibility to help refugees and Britain is playing its part. UK ships remain in the Mediterranean and have rescued 6,700 people. The UK is contributing more than £1 billion to tackle the humanitarian crisis in Syria and we will resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees over the next five years.



*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of their decision to accept additional refugees from Syria, whether they have taken into account reports that many Christian refugees have sought refuge in private homes and churches rather than in UN refugee camps; and whether in their discussions with UNHCR they will make representations to ensure that there is no indirect discrimination against Christian refugees. [HL2148]

**Lord Bates:** The UK will continue to use the established UNHCR process for identifying and resettling refugees. We are in discussion with the UNHCR on the precise criteria for selecting cases for the expanded resettlement scheme. However, we are clear that the most vulnerable cases will still be prioritised and we will only resettle those people that we and the UNHCR agree require resettlement in a country like the UK.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking regarding the increase in reported cases of typhoid amongst Palestinian refugees in Syria. [HL2195]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has been supporting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's (UNRWA) to ensure that the needs of highly vulnerable Palestinians are addressed inside Syria and in neighbouring countries. To date, the UK has allocated over £38 million to UNRWA to provide food parcels, relief items, hygiene packs, education and cash assistance for Palestinian refugees affected by the violence in Syria and the region. This includes £5 million of un-earmarked funding towards UNRWA's appeal in Syria in 2015, which allows UNRWA to allocate funding to priority areas.

In August 2015, UNRWA was able to provide basic healthcare in Yalda on four occasions, treating 54 suspected cases of typhoid. UNRWA also distributed 400,000 water purification tablets provided by UNICEF.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Development Assistance Committee codes they will use to report on United Kingdom official development assistance allocated to local councils to support Syrian refugees. [HL2234]

**Baroness Verma:** All UK spend in line with the OECD Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) directives on in-donor refugee costs are reported using the type of aid code 'H02 – Refugees in donor countries' and purpose code '93010 - Refugees in donor countries'.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the merits of developing a Marshall Plan to assist Syria's neighbours in meeting the humanitarian needs of civilians displaced by the conflict in Syria. [HL2250]

**Baroness Verma:** To date, the UK has pledged over £1 billion in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and the region. The UK has allocated £519 million to support refugees in the region and vulnerable host communities to date, including £279 million in Lebanon and £183 million in Jordan. In Turkey, the UK has allocated £29 million for programmes supporting Syrian refugees including food, shelter and primary healthcare. The UK is also working in partnership with multiple Turkish institutions on targeted projects to build their capacity to tackle irregular migration.

We have been working intensively in recent weeks to lobby the EU and Member States to develop a substantial package of measures on migration and economic development between now and 2020. The UK has called for a €10 billion development-focused EU migration package focusing on upstream work in source and transit countries to address the lack of jobs and opportunities for those who rightly aspire to a better life. The UK government is working with partners right across Europe to ensure that, collectively, we are able to deliver a significant and comprehensive development response to this crisis.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of Palestinians amongst refugees fleeing Syria. [HL2368]

**Baroness Verma:** The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates that 80,000 Palestinian refugees have left Syria since the onset of the conflict; 44,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria are confirmed in Lebanon and 15,800 are confirmed in Jordan, with the remainder in Egypt (5,000), Turkey and beyond.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning Israel offering refuge to Palestinians fleeing Syria. [HL2369]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not made any representations to the Government of Israel on this issue.

The UK has pledged £1 billion to date – our largest ever humanitarian response to a single crisis – to provide humanitarian assistance and long-term support to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people living in Syria and refugees across the region, which includes Palestinian refugees who have also been affected by the crisis.

## Syria: Russia

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether Russia is establishing, or is planning to establish, a forward air operating base in

Syria; and whether they have discussed this issue with the government of Russia. [HL2270]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of reports that Russia may have deployed military personnel and aircraft to Syria, and we are monitoring those reports closely.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), discussed the situation in Syria with Foreign Minister Lavrov in June in the margins of the E3+3 talks with Iran, and discussions continue at official level. The Foreign Secretary continues to co-ordinate closely with regional and international partners on Syria and has had recent discussions with US Secretary of State John Kerry and Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir.

### Taiwan: Prisoners

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to sign the prisoner exchange agreement with the government of Taiwan. [HL2276]

**Lord Faulks:** Negotiations between the UK and Taiwan Authorities on an arrangement to facilitate the transfer of prisoners between the respective jurisdictions are moving forward. Plans will be made for signature once the text has been agreed.

### Taxation: Soft Drinks

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take in response to the recently introduced taxes on sugary drinks by the governments of Mexico, France, Finland and Hungary. [HL2152]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government has no plans to introduce new taxes on sugary drinks. The Government is committed to using a range of approaches to promote health outcomes, and will publish a Childhood Obesity Strategy by the end of the year.

### Teachers: Training

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total number of those on Teach First schemes in 2014–15, and how many of them (1) did not take up a teaching career, and (2) did not continue a teaching career after their first year of teaching. [HL2229]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The Teach First Leadership Development Programme lasts for two years. The first year is school-based initial teacher training (ITT) where trainees teach a reduced hours timetable; the second year is teaching as a newly-qualified teacher (NQT). Its focus is on bringing into teaching high-quality graduates who are trained to make an impact on

children's attainment over the two-year duration of the scheme.

In the 2014 cohort, 1,387 trainees started Summer Institute training. Of these, 1,372 started teaching in schools in September and 1,272 completed year one and gained qualified teacher status (QTS).

### Terrorism: Travel Restrictions

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to ensure that steps taken to stop British terrorism suspects from travelling do not continue to affect them once the suspicion has been removed. [HL2188]

**Lord Bates:** There are a number of safeguards to ensure that steps taken to stop British terrorism suspects from travelling do not continue to affect them once suspicion has been removed: The return of a passport after a maximum of 30 days where it has been confiscated under Schedule 1 powers; the issue of a passport on application where a passport has previously been withdrawn or refused as a result of the exercise of the Royal Prerogative; and the ability to travel or apply for a passport at the end of a Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures notice when it has either expired or been successfully challenged by judicial review.

### Thames Tideway Tunnel

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to commission a third-party audit of the Thames Tideway Tunnel, to be made available to assist water companies to adopt best practice when managing contracts for new reservoirs, in particular regarding the optimal use of outside contractors and specialist companies capable of constructing reservoirs. [HL2359]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government has not planned any third party audit. We note the National Audit Office published a report in June 2014 on the risks and governance of the Thames Tideway Tunnel and may choose to write a further report. Copies of the strategic and economic case for the TTT, cost-benefit analysis and peer reviewed supporting evidence will be placed in the House Library.

In respect of contracts for new reservoirs, Ofwat have said with reference to the Thames Tideway Tunnel that it is keen to explore whether this delivery model could work for other big projects in the water sector. We are not aware of any ongoing applications to construct new reservoirs.

### Tickets: Sales

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the European Commission to ascertain whether it would be in accordance with the

EU Consumer Rights Directive for both primary- and secondary-market ticket sellers to have to provide a unique reference number so that event organisers can track sales of tickets. [HL2137]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Her Majesty's Government is satisfied that it has a clear understanding of the constraints on legislation imposed by the Consumer Rights Directive and has not to date sought discussions with the European Commission on this matter.

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering increasing the maximum penalty that can be imposed on secondary-market operators for breaching the Consumer Rights Act 2015. [HL2138]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We have no plans to change the enforcement provisions of the secondary ticketing rules in the Consumer Rights Act 2015 which only came into force on 27 May 2015.

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to announce the chair, membership and terms of reference of the group conducting the statutory review into the secondary ticketing market; and whether they plan to include representatives from the Rugby Football Union, the Glastonbury Festival, and the security management team at The O2 on the proposed panel of experts. [HL2139]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The review which we will announce shortly will welcome contributions from all stakeholders in the sector.

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of the total number of websites that have been shut down with the help of City of London Police to date; and how many websites have agreed to remove Rugby World Cup tickets from their websites as a result of secondary-market operators being in breach of the Consumer Rights Act 2015. [HL2140]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** It is not possible to give an estimate of the total number of websites that have been shut down with the help of City of London Police. In the financial year 2014-15, 6029 websites were disrupted with the assistance of the City of London Police; and in 2013-14, 2365 websites were disrupted.

Trading Standards have lead responsibility for enforcing the online secondary ticketing provisions of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and information on interventions in relation to websites is not held centrally.

### **Transport: Finance**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make provision in the spending review for five per

cent of transport spending to be for cycling and walking, in order to encourage those undertaking short journeys, in particular children going to school, to cycle or walk. [HL2269]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government intends to announce spending review provisions in November 2015 followed by a *Confirmation of Statement of Funds Available*, setting out the financial provision for cycling and walking, in December 2015.

This Government has a legislative obligation in the Infrastructure Act 2015, to make provision for cycling and walking. The Act provides a duty on the Secretary of State to set a Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) as soon as practicable; which must specify (a) objectives to be achieved during the period to which it relates, and (b) the financial resources to be made available by the Secretary of State for the purpose of achieving those objectives.

Government has commenced work to develop the first CWIS and will be engaging with interested parties during the development phase.

### **Undocumented Migrants**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to detect people from Iraq, Pakistan, Palestine and Albania using stolen Syrian passports to enter the United Kingdom. [HL2171]

**Lord Bates:** Border Force uses a range of methods to detect and deter those seeking to enter the UK using stolen passports. This includes the use of advanced technology to identify those attempting to travel to the UK on lost or stolen documentation. Immigration Enforcement operates a network of overseas liaison officers whose role includes working with transport operators to identify imposters and prevent them from travelling to the UK. At the UK border, Border Force Officers, with expertise in forgery and imposter detection, carry out comprehensive checks on all passengers arriving at passport control to establish authenticity and whether the passenger is the rightful holder.

### **Undocumented Migrants: Calais**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of possible jihadists amongst the migrants at Calais attempting to enter the United Kingdom. [HL2169]

**Lord Bates:** The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) supports the Government and law enforcement agencies by analysing and assessing all intelligence relating to international terrorism at home and overseas. It would not be appropriate to comment on those assessments, but the Government can give an assurance that JTAC continuously assesses the threat to the UK and

its interests from international terrorism in whatever form that threat takes.

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been spent since 2010 to deter illegal immigration in Calais and the surrounding region. [HL2360]

**Lord Bates:** Since 2010 Her Majesty's Government has spent £196m in Calais and the surrounding locations to secure the border, which includes day to day activity such as carrying out passport checks on all passengers, searching for illicit goods, as well as stopping and deterring illegal migration. Part of this figure includes the recent investment to reinforce security through infrastructure improvements at Border Force's controls in Northern France. This has included £7 million for fencing at Coquelles, which will help protect Eurotunnel's freight approach road, a £2 million upgrade of detection technology and boosting our dog searching capability by £1 million.

Her Majesty's Government is also supporting the Port of Calais to create a secure waiting area for UK-bound lorries and has committed to funding additional security guards at the Eurotunnel site in the area.

The Home Office and its partners, including the National Crime Agency, also fund wider activity to stop and deter illegal migration in Calais; however, it is not possible to attribute a specific amount to spending in the Calais area alone.

### Undocumented Migrants: EU Countries

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there are jihadists amongst the migrants entering Hungary, Austria and Germany. [HL2170]

**Lord Bates:** The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) supports the Government and law enforcement agencies by analysing and assessing all intelligence relating to international terrorism at home and overseas. It would not be appropriate to comment on those assessments, but the Government can give an assurance that JTAC continuously assesses the threat to the UK and its interests from international terrorism in whatever form that threat takes.

### Vacancies

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of current job vacancies in each region in England. [HL2301]

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of current job vacancies in (1) Scotland, (2) Northern Ireland, and (3) Wales. [HL2302]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK Statistics Reply [HL2301 & HL2302 Lord Roberts UKSA Reply.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2301>

### Visas: Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Stevenson of Balmacara*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in (1) the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015, (2) 2014, and (3) 2013, how many credibility interviews of potential international students were undertaken by UK Visas and Immigration; in which countries those credibility interviews took place; and what percentage of students who had been issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies and were subject to a credibility interview were refused a visa to study in the United Kingdom. [HL1937]

**Lord Bates:** The number of point of application credibility interviews of Tier 4 applicants conducted by UK Visas and Immigration during the time periods requested can be found in the table below. All of these interviews were conducted via video conference by staff based in the UK.

We are unable to provide information on the percentage of students issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies; interviewed and subsequently refused Entry Clearance. We do not hold this data in a format which would allow us to answer the question, and have estimated that to obtain the necessary information would incur disproportionate cost.

We are able to provide the overall refusal rates for student applications for the time periods requested.

*Number of Tier 4 credibility interviews conducted\**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Interviews</i>
Apr-13 to Dec-13	102,635
Jan-14 to Dec-14	125,580
Jan-15 to Jun-15	17,330

\*Data is taken from unpublished management Information and is therefore subject to change.

*Overall refusal rates for Tier 4 applications*

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Refusal rate</i>
Q2 2013	8%
Q3 2013	5%
Q4 2013	13%
Q1 2014	15%
Q2 2014	7%



*Overall refusal rates for Tier 4 applications*

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Refusal rate</i>
Q3 2014	5%
Q4 2014	11%
Q1 2015	14%
Q2 2015	5%

**Warfarin***Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients on long-term Warfarin prescriptions now have access to self-monitoring technology; and whether Clinical Commissioning Groups support moves towards further patient self-management. [HL2147]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Information on the number of patients on long-term Warfarin prescriptions who have access to self-monitoring technology is not collected centrally.

NHS England and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) have responsibility for commissioned services for patients who receive anticoagulation treatments. It is for individual CCGs to commission treatment and services for patients on anticoagulation treatment or other medications which require monitoring, as they are best placed to identify what is needed in their local areas.

There is guidance in place to support CCGs in planning services for patients who receive anticoagulation treatments. Under its Diagnostics Assessment Programme, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published guidance on self-monitoring of anticoagulation treatments which is attached and also available at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/dg14>

NICE has also published quality standards on the management and treatment of atrial fibrillation which set out that self-monitoring should be offered as an option to appropriate patients. The guidance is also attached and available at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs93/chapter/Quality-statement-6-developmental-Selfmonitoring-of-anticoagulation>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Atrial Fibrillation Guidance [guidance-atrial-fibrillation-treatment-and-management-pdf.pdf]

Self monitoring Anticoagulation treatments [NICE CoaguChek XS.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-10/HL2147>

**Water Abstraction: Licensing***Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to bring forward legislation for a new water abstraction licensing regime; and whether they propose to introduce a one-size-fits-all approach to reform of the sector. [HL2357]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We are currently working on finalising the legislative approach to abstraction reform. We remain on track to deliver abstraction reform in the early 2020s.

Our aim is to introduce fairer, more flexible and more efficient systems to manage water abstraction tailored to differing catchments within a national approach.

**Water Companies: Competition***Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are on target to deliver retail competition for non-household water and sewerage services in England in April 2017; whether they plan to publish a clearly defined timetable and a schedule of the trigger points necessary to meet this deadline; and whether Ofwat are able to impose financial penalties for breaches of licence conditions on companies which are not ready to become a licensee for the provision of retail services for all non-household customers by that date. [HL2358]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We are on track to open the non-household retail market for water and sewerage services in April 2017. All partners in the Open Water programme (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ofwat and Market Operator Services Limited), are strongly committed to meeting this date. A clear timetable of the activities, which will need to be completed before the market can open, is published on Ofwat's website and updated each month. Market Operator Services Limited is working closely with all relevant companies to ensure that they will be ready for market opening in April 2017. Incumbent water companies who want to compete in the new national retail market will need to establish a separate legal entity and apply for a Water and Sewerage Supply Licence, although they are not under any obligation to do so. Ofwat sought views on the appropriate conditions for licensees operating in the new retail market through its consultation on new Water and Sewerage Supply Licences in June 2015. It will be able to impose financial penalties on licensees who do not comply with these conditions.

**Water Supply***Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, as part of their water resource management responsibilities, water companies have been asked to look beyond their

boundaries to secure sufficient water supply to satisfy future customer demand. [HL2354]

*Asked by Lord Moynihan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish best practice guidelines as part of water resource management plans to ensure that the right solutions can be delivered at competitive prices. [HL2356]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ofwat and the Environment Agency published joint water resources management planning guidance in 2012. This included the expectation that water companies should consider all options to balance supply with demand, including water trading, cross boundary solutions and third party supplier solutions. Updated guidance is currently being prepared for publication for the next planning round.

### Water: Pollution

*Asked by Viscount Hanworth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current state of the monitoring in the United Kingdom of the industrial chemicals present in groundwater and river water, in particular pseudo-oestrogens (xenoestrogens) and those substances itemised in Directive 2008/105/EC. [HL2203]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In England, the Environment Agency has an extensive monitoring network over both surface and groundwaters, to comply with European groundwater legislation (2006/118/EC) and requirements under the EU Priority Substances Directive (2008/105/EC and its update, 2013/39/EU). It monitors surface waters for priority substances (set at EU level), and also certain other chemicals of a national, but not European, concern.

The Environment Agency are developing a programme to monitor priority substances that accumulate in biota (e.g. in fish or shellfish) at a number of freshwater sites in England.

The Environment Agency is shortly to start contributing to the European-wide surveillance of a number of emerging substances of concern (the watch list) required under Directive 2013/39/EU. This monitoring will include the xenoestrogen ethinyloestradiol.

### West Bank

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of the United States about the number of United States nationals currently living in settlements in the West Bank. [HL2126]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government has not made and is not planning to make any representations to the Government of the United States

about the number of US nationals currently living in settlements in the West Bank. However, we are in regular dialogue with the US about the harmful effects of continued Israeli settlement activity. The UK position on this is clear. Israeli settlements are illegal under international law and present an obstacle to peace which takes us further away from a two state solution.

### West Bank: Arson

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning the lack of progress in arresting the people responsible for the Duma village arson attack in July 2015. [HL2199]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised the issue of the investigation with the Israeli Defence Minister on 10 September. We have called on the Israeli authorities to ensure that those responsible for this crime are brought swiftly to justice.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contact, if any, Ministers and diplomats have had with the Dawabsha family following the death of three members of that family in an arson attack in Duma village in July. [HL2200]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Consul-General in Jerusalem visited the village of Duma on 4 August to express our condolences to the relatives of the Dawabsha family and the local community. On 31 July, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), issued a press statement strongly condemning the attack. We have called on the Israeli authorities to ensure that those responsible for this crime are brought swiftly to justice.

### West Bank: Crimes of Violence

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about the progress of the investigation into the death of Ali Saeed Dawabsheh in Duma village near Nablus. [HL2127]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised the issue of the investigation with the Israeli Defence Minister on 10 September. We have called on the Israeli authorities to ensure that those responsible for this crime are brought swiftly to justice.

### West Bank: Water

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of

Israel concerning its imposition of restrictions on access to water for Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. [HL2124]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK regularly raises the issue of water supplies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Israeli authorities. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), did so with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu during his visit to the UK on 10 September.

### World Food Programme

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the European Union, the United States of America and other development partners, about the funding of the UN World Food Programme in the light of budgetary pressures ensuing from the refugee crisis in Syria. [HL2053]

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to increase the United Kingdom's contribution to the UN World Food Programme in response to the refugee crisis in Syria. [HL2054]

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UN World Food Programme's decision to reduce assistance provided to 1.6 million Syrians in refugee camps owing to budgetary constraints. [HL2055]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK has a proud record of leadership on the humanitarian response to the Syria crisis, having pledged a total of £1 billion. The UK has provided over £169 million to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) since the start of the crisis.

WFP, like all our partners, is under intense pressure to respond to massive needs in the region and has had to make some tough choices. The UK strongly supports WFP's efforts to target the most vulnerable in this crisis, particularly women and children. The UK is closely monitoring the situation across the region, alongside other key donors, to understand how this reduction in support will impact the lives of Syrian refugees.

The UK does not lobby other donors on behalf of any specific agency, but to focus their attention and their resources on supporting the overall Syria crisis response. The UK is by far the largest bilateral donor in Europe, and second only to the United States, to the Syria crisis. However the UK, the US and the European Union cannot do this alone and other donors must do more to support the needs of millions of Syrians across the region.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask the Leader of the House what explanation she has received from the Ministry of Justice about the failure to answer Lord Falconer of Thoroton's Question for Written Answer tabled on 21 July, before Wednesday 9 September, 25 working days after an answer was due. [HL2143]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** My office makes regular contact with all Government departments that are unable to meet the 10 working day target within which to answer Questions for Written Answer. Every effort is made to address delays and to remind departments of their responsibilities to Parliament.

I have recently taken the opportunity to discuss the need for timely answers with all members of the Government front bench in this House, and written to the five departments with the greatest proportion of late responses in the 2014/15 session to make clear the House's expectations and to stress the importance of timely responses. My office will continue to work with all departments to ensure prompt and satisfactory answers to Questions for Written Answer.

The delay in the particular case to which the noble Lord refers related to delays in gathering the required data. The question tabled by Lord Falconer of Thoroton on 21 July has now been answered.

### Yemen: Armed Conflict

*Asked by Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current assessment of the conflict in Yemen. [HL2015]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government of Yemen and Saudi-led Coalition have made military gains in recent weeks against the Houthis and forces loyal to former president Saleh. We hope this will help build a base for the future return of the legitimate Yemeni government. A political solution is the best way to achieve long-term stability in Yemen, and we remain fully supportive of the UN's efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire and resumption of an inclusive political process. The humanitarian situation remains dire, with eighty per cent of the population in need of assistance. The Department for International Development has allocated £55 million, through UN agencies and humanitarian non-governmental organisations, to support Yemenis affected by the crisis. We remain extremely concerned by reports of alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and continue to raise the importance of compliance with all parties to the conflict. The risk of terrorist groups, such as al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Yemen, exploiting the instability is also a major concern. We continue to work with regional and international partners to tackle the threat.

## Yemen: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the humanitarian needs of the people of Yemen; and what humanitarian assistance is being provided to them. [HL2016]

**Baroness Verma:** According to the UN, 21 million people - more than 80% of the population - are in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen. Of those, over 6 million people are facing severe food shortages, with households struggling to meet their daily needs. In particular, 1.8 million children are most at risk and require access to life-saving nutrition services. In Hodeidah city alone, UNICEF have warned that 96,000 severely malnourished children are at risk of dying.

The UK is one of the largest donors to the crisis in Yemen and has announced £55 million to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, focused on the most urgent life-saving needs. UK aid will provide emergency shelter, healthcare, water, food and nutrition assistance for at least half a million Yemenis, as well as supporting UN work to co-ordinate the international humanitarian response.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the state of the latest humanitarian truce in Yemen, in the light of the airstrikes by the Arab states coalition led by Saudi Arabia. [HL2255]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK fully supports the UN Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed's efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire in Yemen to ensure life-saving assistance can reach all populations in need.

During the humanitarian pause in Yemen from 12 to 17 May 2015, according to the UN, humanitarian partners were able to deliver: a month's worth of food to more than 400,000 people; access to safe water for 1.2 million people; emergency shelter and medical supplies for more than 400,000 patients; and nutritional supplies to treat almost 35,000 malnourished children.

## Yemen: Saudi Arabia

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any assessment of the intervention by Saudi Arabia in Yemen, and whether they are aware of any war crimes committed in relation to that intervention. [HL2251]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The UK is supportive of the Saudi Arabian-led Coalition military intervention, which came at the request of President Hadi, to deter aggression by the Houthis and forces loyal to the former president Saleh, and allow for the return of the legitimate Yemeni government. We are aware of reports of alleged

violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Yemen by all sides to the conflict and take these very seriously. We have raised our concerns with the Saudi Arabian government and have received repeated assurances of IHL compliance and continue to engage with them on those assurances. We have also raised our concerns with the Houthis on the importance of compliance with IHL and international human rights law. A political solution is the best way to bring long term stability to Yemen and avoid a humanitarian catastrophe. The UK fully and actively supports the UN's efforts to achieve an end to the conflict.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of attacks by the Royal Saudi Air Force on the world heritage sites in Yemen; and whether the United Kingdom supplied any of the arms used in those attacks. [HL2252]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** Both Saudi Arabia and Yemen are parties to the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict, and to the 1972 World Heritage Convention. The UK is supplying a range of precision-guided weapons and munitions to assist the Royal Saudi Air Force under pre-existing arrangements. We are aware of reports of alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Yemen by all sides to the conflict and take these very seriously. We have raised our concerns, including protection of cultural property, with the Saudi Arabian government and have received repeated assurances of IHL compliance and continue to engage with them on those assurances. A political solution is the best way to achieve long-term stability in Yemen, and we remain fully and actively supportive of the UN's efforts to bring an end to the conflict.

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the BBC Newsnight report of 10 September that presented evidence of attacks on civilians in Yemen by the Royal Saudi Air Force. [HL2253]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** We are aware of reports of alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Yemen by all sides to the conflict and take these very seriously. The British Government has always been clear that any action, including military, must be in accordance with IHL. We have raised our concerns with the Saudi Arabian government and have received repeated assurances of IHL compliance and continue to engage with them on those assurances. We have also raised our concerns with the Houthis on the importance of compliance with IHL and international human rights law. A political solution is the best way to bring long term stability to Yemen and avoid a humanitarian catastrophe. The UK fully and actively supports the UN's efforts to achieve an end to the conflict.



*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are supporting any peace initiatives between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. [[HL2254](#)]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** A sustainable and inclusive political solution is the best way to bring long-term stability to Yemen and avoid a humanitarian catastrophe. The UK actively and fully supports the UN's efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire and a mechanism for

the withdrawal of forces, release of political prisoners and the resumption of an inclusive political process in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2216. We urge all sides to work together and engage in good faith in the UN process. We regularly discuss the conflict in Yemen with Saudi Arabian and Yemeni interlocutors; the Special Envoy to Yemen, Sir Alan Duncan, visited Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates from 16 – 21 September to demonstrate the UK's continued support for a political solution to the crisis in Yemen.

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