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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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[I] indicates that the member concerned has a relevant registered interest. The full register of interests can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

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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>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Baroness Anelay of St Johns	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Whip
Lord Bates	Minister of State, Department for International Development
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, Wales Office
Lord Bridges of Headley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union
Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Dunlop	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office
Lord Freud	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Whip
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
Lord Nash	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Baroness Mobarik	Whip
Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Minister of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Lord Price	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
Lord Prior of Brampton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
Baroness Shields	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sport
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Lord Young of Cookham	Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Friday, 21 October 2016

Health Informal Council

[HLWS209]

Lord Prior of Brampton: An Informal Health Council meeting was held in Bratislava on 3-4 October 2016 as part of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council formation. Lord Prior, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, represented the UK.

Food reformulation

During a discussion about food reformulation, the UK updated Ministers on the introduction of a sugar levy on soft drinks and the importance of looking at how to best inform the population on links between sugar and obesity. The UK outlined key parts of the UK Childhood obesity and talked about the importance of focusing on children, and influencing behaviour at an early age. The UK also stated commitment to working with others to tackle different issues whilst taking forward an exit from the EU.

Medicine Shortages

There was widespread agreement amongst Ministers on the importance of working together and sharing information to tackle medicine shortages. There was recognition that shortages occur for a wide variety of reasons and that there is no one solution. The UK explained that there was fragmentation within national systems and expressed caution on whether an EU wide solution to these problems was practically possible. The UK expressed recognition of Member States' concerns about pricing, but stressed the importance of a vibrant life-science sector. The UK also underlined anti-microbial resistance (AMR) as an area where action was needed to ensure the development of new drugs.

Tuberculosis

There was support from Member States for an EU framework on Tuberculosis (TB) which would also include Hepatitis B and C and HIV given the significant overlap between the conditions. There was also agreement on the need to share information, to work with the Eastern Neighbourhood and support for a civil society forum. Current work was outlined, including the EU Joint Action on TB, the European Commission contribution to the Global Fund and the World Health Organisation (WHO) TB Action plan. The UK updated the meeting on the new UK national strategy on TB, which takes a multi-sectoral approach and complements the WHO strategy. The UK also highlighted links with AMR.

Vaccination

During a discussion about how to increase vaccine uptake across the EU, the UK highlighted work undertaken to increase vaccine coverage in the UK – including through action on shortages, communication campaigns and through forecasting and planning. The UK supported further international work on the issue and,

with other member states, agreed on the importance of sharing information. The UK also mentioned links between increased vaccine uptake and tackling AMR.

AOB

The Czech Republic invited Ministers to a joint Ministerial meeting on Health and the Environment in Ostrava on 13-15 June 2017. There was also an item about European Commission work on patient safety.

Justice and Home Affairs Council

[HLWS210]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The first formal Justice and Home Affairs Council of the Slovak Presidency took place on 13 and 14 October in Luxembourg. My rt hon Friend the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, Brandon Lewis, attended Justice Day and I attended Interior Day. My rt hon Friend the Lord Advocate, James Wolffe QC, also attended the Council.

Interior Day (13 October) began with an update from the Presidency on the implementation of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Regulation. The Agency was launched on 6 October. The UK does not participate in this measure.

The Council then discussed IT measures related to border management. The Presidency encouraged Member States to stress to their MEPs the importance of agreeing the Regulation on Systematic Border Checks quickly due to the ongoing risk from foreign fighters. The Presidency also highlighted the Entry / Exit System (EES) as an important security measure and announced that a proposal on the new EU Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) would be published by the Commission in late October. The Commission noted that a proposal revising the Second Generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) would be published before the end of this year. The UK will not participate in Systematic Checks, ETIAS or EES as they are Schengen-building measures. The UK participates in SIS II.

The Commission provided an update on the implementation of agreed migration measures, including hotspots, reception conditions, asylum processing and returns. I reiterated the UK's commitment to supporting efforts to address the migration crisis and increase security across the EU, with a particular focus on upstream migration and the effectiveness of returns.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed developing Partnership Frameworks with third countries to manage migration to the EU, and issues relating to temporary internal Schengen borders.

The Council then turned to the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and the Resettlement Framework. The Presidency outlined its proposed approach, which would focus on the Eurodac and EU

Asylum Agency (EUAA) proposals in particular. The Council agreed that the current Eurodac proposal should aim to simplify law enforcement access to Eurodac. The UK supports this approach.

Under Any Other Business, there were updates on a Belgian project on returns (EURES CRIM), and from the Presidency on the Ministerial Conference of the Prague Process held on 19 and 20 September in Bratislava.

Justice Day (14 October) started with a discussion on the Protection of the Union's Financial Interests Directive (PIF), specifically the inclusion of VAT fraud in the Directive. The Presidency concluded that the majority of Member States supported the inclusion of certain serious cross-border VAT fraud in the PIF Directive. The UK does not participate in PIF.

The Commission presented a cost-benefit analysis of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), concluding that the benefits would significantly outweigh the costs. The Presidency concluded that there was 'broad conceptual support' for the four provisions under discussion: relationship with Eurojust; judicial review; relations with third countries; and relations with non-participating Member States. The Presidency aims to reach agreement on the Council position on EPPO at the December JHA Council. The UK will not participate in the EPPO.

At lunch, the Presidency led a discussion on the role of Eurojust in combating terrorism, with a focus on data sharing.

Under Any Other Business, the Presidency updated Ministers on current legislative proposals and the

Commission presented a note on hate crime in the EU. The Policing Minister supported the Commission's message that hate crime has no place in our society, and set out UK measures to combat hate crime.

Successor Submarines

[HLWS208]

Earl Howe: Minister of State in the House of Lords,
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 the next generation of nuclear-armed submarines will be known as the Dreadnought Class, and that the first is to be named HMS DREADNOUGHT. Construction of the first submarine formally began on 5 October 2016.

Dreadnought is a name with an excellent historical pedigree, traditionally used for powerful and innovative ships and submarines at the leading edge of technology and is a fitting name both for the class and the first submarine of that class. There have been nine Royal Navy vessels of the name, the most recent being Britain's first nuclear-powered submarine, launched on this day, Trafalgar Day, in 1960 following her build at Barrow. The new Dreadnought submarines continue Barrow's long association with submarine construction.

These submarines, the first of which we expect to enter service in the early 2030s, will replace the current Vanguard Class submarines as the ultimate guarantee of our nation's safety.

Written Answers

Friday, 21 October 2016

Academies: Pay

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the salaries paid to chief executives of multi-academy trusts in the last academic year for which figures are available. [HL2310]

Lord Nash: Information about the salaries of chief executives is not held. However, academy trusts' financial statements disclose the number of employees whose remuneration (including any termination payments) exceed £60,000, in £10,000 bandings. The financial statements also disclose trustees' remuneration, which may include the chief executive. The financial statements are published online by the Department for Education (available by searching "Department for Education" AND "Compare school and college performance") and at Companies House (available by searching "Companies House service").

Bangladesh: Terrorism

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the increase in jihadist attacks in Bangladesh; and what discussions they have had with the government of Bangladesh to ensure that the country does not become a new centre for jihadist violence. [HL2266]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The British Government is concerned by the increase in terrorist and extremist-related violence in Bangladesh. Since the 1 July 2016 attack on the Holey Bakery Café in Dhaka, targeting foreign nationals, the Government has continued to raise its concerns over security directly with the Bangladeshi government. I did so with Prime Minister Hasina's Defence and Security Advisor, Major General (rt) Tarique Ahmed Siddique on 8 September. This issue was also raised by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Mr Sharma) when he met with the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister, Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, on 23 September.

We will continue to engage with regional partners and the wider international community to support efforts to address terrorism, extremism, and to promote human rights in Bangladesh.

Ilois: Resettlement

Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 2 August (HL1270) concerning resettlement of the

Chagos Islands, whether the remaining work is now completed and when an announcement on possible resettlement will be made. [HL2274]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have consulted a range of stakeholders as we work towards a decision on the question of resettlement of the British Indian Ocean Territory. The Government is still considering its policy in this area and will announce developments to Parliament and the public by the end of the year.

Local Government: Elections

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to retain the right of non-British EU citizens to vote in local government elections once the UK has left the EU; and, if so, by what legislative means. [HL2113]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: This issue will be a matter for the EU exit negotiations.

Middle East: Military Intervention

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any British forces in either Iraq or Syria are under the command of US officers. [HL2326]

Earl Howe: The coalition's counter-Daesh military response in Iraq and Syria is directed by the US commander of the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF).

All UK forces in Iraq and Syria remain under national command, apart from UK military personnel embedded into coalition posts in the CJTF. However, embedded personnel are still bound by UK law, policy and guidance on response in an armed conflict.

North Korea: Embassies

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the direct costs of the British Embassy in Pyongyang, broken down into (1) locally employed staff, (2) estate expenditure, (3) security, (4) vehicle costs, (5) travel, (6) subsistence and (7) allowances; and what is the cost of Foreign and Commonwealth Office funded activities broken down by individual projects in North Korea for 2016. [HL2196]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The total budget allocation for the British Embassy in Pyongyang this financial year is £203,627, which is used to cover a variety of costs including the estate, local travel, fuel and vehicle maintenance and local staff wages. For operational and security reasons we do not disclose the precise breakdown of the costs of maintaining certain posts. The bilateral programme fund budget for the British Embassy Pyongyang this financial year is approximately £235,000, which includes £200,000 for the British Council English Language Programme, £9,456 for

a project to support disabled people in South Hamgyong and North Pyongan province, and £16,691 to provide a secure supply of drinking water to a remote North Korean community.

North Korea: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 16 June (HL392), whether the British Embassy in North Korea had presented a copy of the report of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to North Korean officials by 10 October. [HL2193]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: As stated in answer HL392, the British Embassy in Pyongyang presented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) with a statement supporting the UN Commission of Inquiry's (COI) findings from the former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire). This statement was rejected by the MFA. The DPRK is fully aware of the COI report's findings, but refuses to substantively engage on human rights issues and regularly denounces the UN COI report as a politically motivated fabrication.

North Korea: Sexual Offences

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 8 June (HL359) and 16 June (HL388) on the subject of violence against women and girls, whether the British Embassy in Pyongyang or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have raised the issue of rape and sexual violence of women and girls by North Korean public officials with North Korea since June 2016. [HL2192]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this specific issue since the previous answers (HL359 and HL388) in June 2016. However, we continue to raise our concerns on human rights directly with the regime of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Most recently, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office my Honourable Friend the member for Reading West (Mr Sharma), summoned the Ambassador for the DPRK to the Foreign Commonwealth Office, where Mr Sharma made clear our concerns that the regime was prioritising its nuclear and ballistic missile programme ahead of the welfare of its people. In addition, we are currently working with partners at the UN General Assembly Third Committee on a strong resolution to maintain international attention on the human rights situation in the DPRK.

Prime Minister

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what new units have been established and which units have been closed in 10 Downing Street since the appointment of the new Prime Minister. [HL2281]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: There have been no substantive changes in 10 Downing Street since the appointment of the new Prime Minister.

Schools: Health Education

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of the school curriculum in educating children and young people about health promotion and preventing avoidable chronic disease in later life. [HL2205]

Lord Nash: All schools are required to teach a broadly balanced curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and prepares them for adult life.

The national curriculum focuses on the essential knowledge children need so that teachers can design a wider school curriculum that is responsive to the needs of their pupils. This teaching can include a range of topics, including lessons about health and chronic disease. These topics can fall under Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. We have made it clear in the introduction to the national curriculum that all schools should make provision for high quality; age appropriate PSHE.

To help schools plan their provision, the PSHE Association has produced a suggested programme of study for schools to follow, which includes content about 'Health and Wellbeing'.

Syria: Military Intervention

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government who authorised the use of RAF aircraft in the 17 September air attack on Syrian government ground forces at Deir ez-Zor in Syria and why; and how many members of the Syrian government military forces were (1) killed, and (2) wounded, in that attack. [HL2323]

Earl Howe: A coalition investigation into the 17 September air attack which inadvertently targeted Syrian government ground forces is ongoing. It would be inappropriate to comment before that process is completed

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the use of the UK's air power against armed forces of the Syrian

government has been authorised by Parliament. [HL2324]

Earl Howe: The UK does not deliberately use air power against the armed forces of the Syrian government and therefore Parliament has not been asked to authorise such a requirement.

UK Membership of EU

Asked by Lord Inglewood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the annual tax revenues derived from business activities dependent upon membership of the

European Single Market; and what is the UK's annual net contribution to the EU budget. [HL2121]

Lord Young of Cookham: As noted in the previous written answer in question (HL131), there have been no new estimates made for the impact on tax revenue since the EU referendum.

Details of UK net contributions to the EU Budget over the period 2011-12 to 2015-16 can be found in Table C1, page 194, of the 2016 Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Cm 9322) which was published in July. This is available in the House library.

This table also includes the Office for Budget Responsibility's March forecast of UK net contributions to the EU Budget for the period 2016-17 to 2019-20.

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