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**Thursday
30 March 2017**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

HOUSE OF LORDS

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 Buscombe	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Dunlop	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Whip
Lord Henley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions, Whip
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
Baroness Mobarik	Whip
Lord Nash	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
Lord O'Shaughnessy	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health, Whip
Lord Price	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
Lord Prior of Brampton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Baroness Shields	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	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

Thursday, 30 March 2017

Architects Registration Board

[HLWS583]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Today, My Hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning and Minister for London (Gavin Barwell), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The UK has a reputation for the high quality of its architectural profession. To maintain that reputation it is important that anyone who hires an architect can be assured of their competence. This is partly why we have a system of regulation under the Architects Act where nobody can use the title of architect unless they are registered with the Architects Registration Board (ARB). However it is critical that the Board conducts its regulatory function in a way that is proportionate, cost effective and transparent and does not impose unnecessary burdens on those wishing to practice as architects.

The ARB has been the subject of a periodic review, in line with Cabinet Office guidance for reviews of arms length bodies. I am today publishing the report of that review. This confirms the decision taken by the last Government to continue light touch regulation of architects based on protection of title to provide protection for home owners, businesses, builders and others commissioning work from architects.

The ARB also acts as the UK Competent Authority Role for Architects under the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive. Whilst the UK remains a member of the European Union, ARB will continue to play that role but this will be kept under review in the light of any arrangements made as the UK leaves the EU.

We have been grateful for suggestions about how to modernise the operation of the Board and the review has identified a number of opportunities to reduce costs and improve services. These include strengthening the Board's governance and accountability and improving the complaints' handling and disciplinary processes. It is the Government's intention to implement these recommendations.

The Review also made a number of recommendations relating to the way in which qualifications are set which entitle people to register as architects. These recommendations could lead to extensive change for UK architects, and architectural education but also relate directly to UK compliance with the EU Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive. The Government has decided that it would be premature to take forward these recommendations at this time but as the UK leaves the EU, we recognise these will need to be addressed. This will minimise disruption and cost to business, architects and the educational sector.

The Government is grateful for the work of the Board in delivering its role. The recommendations of the review will enable the Board to serve both architects and their clients even more effectively and the Government looks forward to working with the Board on implementing them.

I am placing a copy of the review report in the library of both Houses.

Business Rates: Plant Nurseries

[HLWS585]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Today, My Hon Friend the Minister for Local Government (Marcus Jones) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Since at least 1928, plant nursery grounds have been treated by the Valuation Office Agency as exempt from business rates as part of the general exemption for agriculture. However, following a recent Court of Appeal decision, the Valuation Office Agency has started to bring into business rates buildings at nursery grounds including structures such as poly-tunnels.

The exemption for agricultural properties is an important part of the rating system. It ensures that large areas of agricultural land and buildings are not liable to a property tax which could have a significant impact on the cost of farming. I can confirm to the House that the Government's policy is that land and buildings at plant nursery grounds should benefit from the agricultural exemption for business rates.

Therefore, we intend at the soonest opportunity to amend the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to ensure both agricultural land and buildings at plant nursery grounds are exempt from business rates. This will return the law to align with the practice followed by the Valuation Office Agency before the decision in the Court of Appeal.

Cabinet Committees

[HLWS587]

Lord Young of Cookham: My Right Honourable friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Ben Gummer) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today the Government is publishing an updated list of Cabinet Committees and Implementation Taskforces. As part of the changes, the Prime Minister will chair two new Sub-Committees of the European Union Exit and Trade Committee.

The two new Sub-Committees are as follows:

- European Union Exit and Trade (Negotiations) Sub-Committee: to oversee the negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from, and future relationship with, the European Union.
- European Union Exit and Trade (International Trade) Sub-Committee: to focus on issues relating to the UK's trading arrangements with non-European Union countries.

Copies of the associated documents will be placed in the Library of House and published on Gov.uk.

Companies House Public Targets 2017-18

[HLWS577]

Lord Prior of Brampton: I have set Companies House the following targets for the year 2017/18:

- i) To digitally enable 99% of all possible accounts filings
- ii) To achieve an 87% take up of our digital filing services
- iii) To maintain an availability of our digital services of 99.9%
- iv) To reach a compliance level of 75% of confirmation statements filed early or on time
- v) To reach a compliance level of 95% of accounts filed early or on time
- vi) To reduce the costs of our baseline activities by 3.5%
- vii) To achieve a customer satisfaction score of at least 88%

These targets reflect the key priorities for Companies House in the coming year, with a focus on moving customers away from paper to digital channels, and ensuring the register is up to date.

Convergence Programme

[HLWS582]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (David Gauke) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Article 121 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) requires the UK to send an annual Convergence Programme to the European Commission reporting upon its fiscal situation and policies. The UK's Convergence Programme will be sent to the European Commission by 30 April. This deadline was set in accordance with the European Semester timetable for both Convergence and National Reform Programmes. The UK will continue to have all of the rights, obligations and benefits that membership brings up until the point we leave the EU, and as such the Government will continue to submit the UK's Convergence Programme until that time.

Section 5 of the European Communities (Amendment) Act 1993 requires that the content of the Convergence Programme must be drawn from an assessment of the UK's economic and budgetary position which has been presented to Parliament by the Government for its approval. This assessment is based on the Budget 2017 report and the most recent Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook and it is this content, not the Convergence Programme itself, which requires the approval of the House for the purposes of the Act.

Article 121, along with Article 126 of the TFEU, is the legal basis for the Stability and Growth Pact, which is the co-ordination mechanism for EU fiscal policies and requires Member States to avoid excessive government deficits. Although the UK participates in the Stability and Growth Pact, by virtue of its protocol to the treaty opting out of the euro, it is only required to "endeavour to avoid" excessive deficits. Unlike the euro area Member States, the UK is not subject to sanctions at any stage of the European Semester process.

Subject to the progress of parliamentary business, debates will be held soon in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, in order for both Houses to approve this assessment before the Convergence Programme is sent to the Commission. While the Convergence Programme itself is not subject to parliamentary approval or amendment, I will deposit advanced copies of the document in the Libraries of both Houses and copies will be available through the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

The UK's Convergence Programme will be available electronically via HM Treasury's website prior to it being sent to the European Commission.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme

[HLWS574]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Transport (John Hayes) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

The Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme account for 2015-16 is published today under Section 3 (1) (d) of the Trunk Road Charging Schemes (Bridges and Tunnels) (Keeping of Accounts) (England) Regulations 2003. A copy of the accounts will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Accounts 2015 - 2016 [Dartford.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-03-30/HLWS574/>

Intellectual Property Office: Performance Targets

[HLWS576]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Today my honourable Friend, the Minister for State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation has made the following statement:

As an Executive Agency and Trading Fund of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, we set targets which are agreed by Ministers and laid before Parliament. For 2017-2018 our targets are:

- We will have ratified the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement for international registration of designs by

31st March 2018 and be in a position to launch the service on 6th April 2018 (the common commencement date).

- We will publish 90% of acceptable applications for national trade marks for opposition within 90 days of filing.

- We will offer faster handling of patent applications, by providing an examination report with a search report when both are requested at the application date, and meeting at least 90% of requests for an accelerated two-month turnaround for search, publication and examination.

- We will ensure that overall customer satisfaction is at least 80%.

- We will work with industry and enforcement partners to build a coordinated response to the growth of illicit streaming, including robust analysis of current legal sanctions and developing proposals for change as appropriate.

- We will increase the number of businesses that better understand how to manage their IP: at least 35% of an expected 100,000 businesses we reach will make an informed decision regarding management of their IP.

- We will provide market specific IP advice to 5000 current and prospective British exporters. As part of this work, we will deliver bespoke one-to-one business support activity to at least 200 companies annually.

- We will demonstrate our commitment to diversity by securing external validation for our approach to inclusion for under-represented groups

- We will achieve return of capital employed of at least 4%

- We will deliver an efficiency gain of 3.5%.

Justice Update

[HLWS581]

Baroness Buscombe: My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has made the following Written Statement:

"As I committed on 27th February, when I set the new discount rate, I am today launching a six week consultation on how the Personal Injury Discount Rate, used to help calculate lump sum payments of damages in personal injury claims, should be set in the future. The consultation document is available at: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/personal-injury-discount-rate>.

It is a long standing principle under our system that people who suffer injuries wrongfully at the hands of others should be compensated fully, and put in the financial position they would have been had the injury not happened. Where damages are awarded for future loss in the form of a lump sum, that award is adjusted to take account of the effect of the injured person being able to invest the money before the loss or expense for which it is awarded has actually occurred. The factor by which the award is adjusted is determined by the discount rate.

Under the Damages Act 1996, the Lord Chancellor has the power to set the discount rate from time to time. The rate must be set in accordance with the Act and the applicable legal principles set out in case law, particularly the 1998 House of Lords case of *Wells v Wells*. The principles in *Wells v Wells* lead to the conclusion that the discount rate should be based on the investment portfolio that offers the least risk to personal injury claimant investors in protecting an award of damages against inflation and against market risk. A change to the current legal framework would need primary legislation.

The power to set the discount rate was used first in 2001, when Lord Irvine set the rate at 2.5% by reference to a three year average of real yields on index-linked gilts (ILGs). Following a review, I announced a change to the rate on 27 February this year to minus 0.75%, which came into force on 20 March. In doing so, I pledged to review the current law to consider: whether the rate should in future be set by an independent body; whether more frequent reviews would improve predictability and certainty for all parties; and whether the methodology – which in effect assumes that claimants would invest only in virtually risk-free ILGs – is appropriate for the future.

The consultation document I am publishing today covers these points, and includes a call for evidence on how investors in the position of personal injury claimants are likely to invest. The consultation document explores what an appropriate investment risk profile could look like for such investors, and what the effect would be of moving from the current virtually risk-free model, to a low-risk model. Whilst my responsibility extends only to England and Wales, the principles and method for setting the rate have read across to all jurisdictions in the UK, and the consultation is produced in partnership with the Scottish Government.

We must have a justice system that works for all. I fully recognise the impact that the discount rate has, not just on claimants (including some of the most vulnerable in society), but also on defendants in both the public and private sectors, and the further impact this has on consumers' insurance premiums and taxpayers. The consultation I am launching today will look at the way the rate is set in future, and I am inviting anyone with evidence and expertise to take part. The consultation will close on 11 May."

Light Dues 2017-18

[HLWS578]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Transport (John Hayes) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

A strong and growing maritime industry is vital to the economy of the United Kingdom and it is critical that we treasure and protect this vital artery if we are to remain a world-leading maritime centre.

The work of the General Lighthouse Authorities, which provide and maintain marine aids to navigation and respond to new wrecks and navigation dangers in some of

the busiest waters in the world, is crucial to underpinning that vision whilst maintaining our vigorous safety record and continuously improving standards of safety.

Reductions in the three General Lighthouse Authorities' running costs has already enabled the UK to reduce light dues for three successive years.

For 2017-18 I intend to cut light dues by a further half a penny to 37½p per net registered tonne. This will mean that light dues will have fallen by 25 per cent in real terms since 2010.

Light dues rates will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the General Lighthouse Authorities are challenged to provide an effective and efficient service which offers value for money to light dues payers while maintaining the highest levels of safety for mariners.

MCA Business Plans

[HLWS580]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Transport (John Hayes) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

I am proud to announce the publication of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) business plan for 2017-18. The MCA does vital work to save lives at sea, regulate ship standards and protect the marine environment. The Agency affects not just those working on the coast or at sea, it upholds the legacy of our great maritime nation.

The business plan sets out:

- i) the services that the agency will deliver and any significant changes it plans to make;
- ii) the resources the agency requires; and
- iii) the key performance indicators, by which its performance will be assessed.

This plan allows service users and members of the public to assess how the agency is performing in operating its key services, managing reforms and the agency finances.

The business plan will be available electronically on GOV.UK and copies will be placed in the libraries of both houses.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

MCA Business Plan [MCA business Plan 2017-18.PDF]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-03-30/HLWS580/>

Motoring Agencies Business Plans

[HLWS579]

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

I am pleased to announce the publication of the 2017-18 business plans for the Department for Transport's Motoring Agencies - the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA).

The business plans set out:

- i) the services each agency will deliver and any significant changes they plan to make;
- ii) the resources they require; and,
- iii) the key performance indicators, by which their performance will be assessed.

These plans allow service users and members of the public to assess how the agencies are performing in operating their key services, managing reforms and the agency finances.

The business plans will be available electronically on GOV.UK and copies will be placed in the libraries of both houses.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

DVLA [DVLA Business Plan 2017-18.pdf]

DVSA [DVSA Business Plan 2017-2018.pdf]

VCA [VCA Business Plan 2017-18.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-03-30/HLWS579/>

Personal Independence Payment

[HLWS575]

Lord Henley: My honourable Friend The Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work (Penny Mordaunt MP) has made the following Written Statement.

The Second Independent Review of the Personal Independence Payment Assessment by Paul Gray is being published today. This is the second of the two Independent Reviews as required by the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

Building on the recommendations from the First Independent Review, Paul Gray has explored how closely the on-going implementation of the Personal Independence Payment reflects the policy intent. He has considered:

- How effectively further evidence is being used to assist the correct claim decision, and the speed and effectiveness of information-gathering;
- The degree of claimant confidence and transparency in the claim process; and
- How to further promote quality and consistency to produce fair outcomes for all.

The Government welcomes the publication of the Review and will consider its findings and issue a detailed response in due course.

Primary Assessment in England

[HLWS584]

Lord Nash: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Education (Justine Greening) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Last October, I made a statement to Parliament about the primary assessment and accountability system in England. In that statement, I reaffirmed the importance of a good primary education, and particularly the importance of mastering the basics of literacy and numeracy, to ensure that every child is given the best chance to succeed in life, whatever their background. I also recognised that we must move to a settled system which is ambitious, supports teachers to help every child to reach their potential, allows schools to benchmark their own performance, and enables them to be held to account in a way that is fair and accurate.

Since then, we have taken a number of steps to improve the operation of the assessment system. We have worked with the teaching profession to produce new guidance for the moderation of teacher assessment, to improve the quality and consistency of that moderation, and we have provided additional training for local authority moderators. We have also taken steps to improve the test experience for pupils this year.

We have also talked to headteachers, teachers and others about the longer-term issues that need to be resolved to establish a settled, sustainable system. We are today launching a public consultation on the primary assessment system in England. Our consultation document, *'Primary Assessment in England'*, sets out wide-ranging proposals for improving our primary assessment system. These include how the system can help to prepare children to succeed at school, the starting point from which to measure the progress that children make in primary school, how we can ensure that the primary assessment system is proportionate, and how end of key stage assessment can be improved, particularly in the case of the statutory teacher assessment frameworks.

It is important that our assessment system can assess the progress and attainment of children of all abilities. The report of the independent Rochford Review, also published last October, set out a number of recommendations to improve the way that the attainment and progress of children working below the level of the national curriculum tests is assessed in primary schools. The recommendations, if adopted, would result in significant changes and it is important that we hear the views of those who would be affected, and particularly teachers and others working with children who have special educational needs. That is why we are today also publishing a consultation document on the Rochford proposals and their possible implementation.

During the consultation period, which will last for 12 weeks, we want to hear from as many headteachers and teachers as possible to gather their views and feed them into our final decisions. I would encourage all those with an interest in primary education to engage with these consultation exercises and to share their opinions and insights.

Copies of these consultation documents have been placed in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

UK Anti-Doping Tailored Review

[HLWS586]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage (Tracey Crouch) has made the following Statement:

I am announcing today the start of a tailored review of UK Anti-Doping (UKAD).

The principle aims of Tailored Reviews are to ensure public bodies remain fit for purpose, are well governed and properly accountable for what they do: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tailored-reviews-of-public-bodies-guidance>

UK Anti-Doping is the UK's National Anti-Doping Organisation responsible for ensuring sports in the UK are compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code. UKAD is sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and implements and manages the Government's National Anti-Doping Policy.

The Review will consider UKAD's position and its status as a DCMS-sponsored Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), and if the functions of UKAD are appropriate. If they are found to be, then the review will go on to consider UKAD's efficiency, effectiveness and governance; and how it is preparing for the future.

The review process and findings will be examined by a Challenge Group, chaired by DCMS Non-Executive Director, Matthew Campbell-Hill.

In conducting the review, officials will engage with a broad range of stakeholders across the UK (and further afield) in sport, science, medicine, law enforcement and education, and they will explore best practice in the public and private sectors. The review will follow guidance published in 2016 by the Cabinet Office: 'Tailored reviews: guidance on reviews of public bodies'. The Terms of Reference for the review and a public survey consultation about the work of UKAD can be found on gov.uk.

I will inform the House of the outcome of the review when it is completed and copies of the report of the review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Answers

Thursday, 30 March 2017

Atrial Fibrillation

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 13 June 2016 (HL459), whether the National Institute for Health Research project HTA-14/141/01 on screening strategies for atrial fibrillation is still expected to be published in spring 2017. [HL6361]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The researchers involved in National Institute for Health Research project HTA 14/141/01 are currently considering how to disseminate their findings most effectively. As a result, the project findings will not be available in spring 2017. Further information will be available when the publication timeline is clarified.

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to help prevent renewed political violence in Bahrain, in the light of recent reports of executions, arrests and deprivations of citizenship in that country. [HL6131]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We continue to urge the Government of Bahrain to guarantee and protect political freedoms for all its citizens. We also work closely with the Government of Bahrain to encourage progress on human rights and to encourage the development of effective and accountable institutions, strengthening the rule of law and justice reform. In particular the UK continues to support oversight institutions, such as the Ministry of Interior Ombudsman and the Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission, in order to provide independent oversight of police behaviour and detention standards.

The Government of Bahrain is fully aware of our opposition to the use of capital sentences in all circumstances. The Foreign Secretary reiterated this in his public statement on 15 January. We will continue to raise this issue, and other human rights concerns, with the Bahraini authorities.

Cameroon: Internet

Asked by Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Cameroon, in the light of reports regarding the suspension of internet and email services from the English-speaking regions of that country. [HL6137]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The British High Commission in Yaoundé has petitioned the Government of Cameroon to restore the internet as soon as possible to areas in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon as soon as possible. We have reiterated the obligation to uphold human rights standards and called on the authorities to allow all Cameroonians to voice their concerns peacefully and without hindrance.

Child Rearing

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent by the Social Mobility Commission on preparing and publishing its report *Helping Parents to Parent*, published in February 2017. [HL6309]

Lord Nash: We welcome the Commission's 'Helping parents to parent' report, published in February. The report was commissioned by the Social Mobility Commission to bring together evidence on parenting behaviours and the extent to which public policy can support parents. It examined 28 interventions and programmes in the United Kingdom and internationally.

The research was tendered in an open competition process and the successful bid was put forward by the market and social research agency, Family Kids and Youth, which carried out the research. The amount for this research contract is £10,350 (exclusive of VAT) and this is in line with the total project spend.

Children: Poverty

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government in the light of An evidence review of the drivers of child poverty for families in poverty now and for poor children growing up to be poor adults (Cm 8781), published in January 2014, which stated that much of the difference in attainment between pupils relates to their individual characteristics rather than the effectiveness of the school they attend, and the closure of the Child Poverty Unit, what steps they are taking in respect of children's primary school tuition, other than ensuring an effective education, to improve the outcomes of poor children and alleviate the cycle of poverty. [HL6149]

Lord Nash: Since 2011 schools have received significant extra funding through the pupil premium to accelerate the progress and development of their poorest pupils. Schools assess the needs of each eligible pupil and, using the evidence of what works best, choose the most effective approaches to overcome barriers to achievement. The government has established the Education Endowment Foundation to research how best to accelerate progress and share the findings with schools.

Since the introduction of the pupil premium the gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers has decreased by 9.3% in primary schools. By introducing a new progress measure for pupil performance in 2016 we

are ensuring that schools focus on realising the potential of every one of their pupils, rather than concentrating on achievement alone.

Climate Change

Asked by Lord Donoughue

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 14 March (HL5780), whether their statement that the increase in global average surface temperatures is not consistent with natural internal variability is supported by evidence that is not based upon computer simulation of the climate. [HL6226]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Our statement reflects the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report that it is virtually certain (>99% probability) that natural internal variability alone cannot account for the observed increase in global surface temperatures. This statement is based on computer model simulations, which capture both the observed magnitude and spatial patterns of warming only when both human and natural forcings are included. Further, reconstructions of past climate variability from records such as ice cores also reveal that recent temperature changes are clearly distinct from natural variability. These records show that temperatures over the last 50 years in the Northern Hemisphere (where records of past climate are most comprehensive) were unusually high relative to the last 1000 years.

Applicants for visas for study at Higher Education Institutions using sponsor acceptances

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<i>Applications for Visas</i>							
UK-based Higher Education Institutions	143,177	152,536	156,627	167,990	168,562	166,356	167,554
<i>Of which</i>							
Russell Group	54,520	58,230	61,474	68,424	70,972	75,628	80,360

Source: Immigration Statistics, October to December 2016, table cs_09 and underlying datasets

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applicants for a Tier 4 (General) student visa, or its previous equivalent, have been interviewed as part of the application process in each year since 2006. [HL6313]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am sorry but the information requested is not included in statistics published by the Home Office.

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications were received in each year from 2010 to 2016 for a Tier 4 (General) student visa using sponsor acceptances from a Russell Group higher education institution. [HL6315]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the total number of applicants for visas for study at Higher Education Institutions using sponsor acceptances is published in Sponsorship table cs_09 in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics, October - December 2016', available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/list-of-tables#sponsorship>

The requested information is provided in the table below.

Health Services: Learning Disability

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the commitment made in Transferring Care for People with Learning Disabilities - Next Steps, published in January 2015, to establish a reconfiguration taskforce to support local leaders to reshape services in the north of England, what progress they have made in this regard. [HL6172]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Since January 2015 significant progress has been made against this commitment in the North of England.

Work was undertaken in the summer of 2015 in designated 'Fast Track' areas, including in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Cumbria and the North East region. Funding was provided to these areas to pilot the transformation of services in line with the new Building the Right Support (BRS) service model. Each Fast Track area focussed on the development of different services elements, but all demonstrated the local leadership and governance required to reshape services in these areas. To support this work, additional resources were provided for dedicated NHS regional teams in both the North and Midlands and East regions. Learning from this work in 2015 informed the broader roll-out of the BRS strategy from April 2016.

Transforming Care Partnerships (TCPs) were rolled out from April 2016 nationally, with 10 being developed in the North. In the past 12 months, each TCP has developed a leadership and governance structure, set out a transformation plan, and begun developing services as part of a three year programme of delivery. At the regional level, a North Transforming Care Board is attended by all relevant TCP Senior Responsible Officers, with senior representation from all partnership bodies including NHS England, the Local Government Association, voluntary sector partners as well as people with lived experience. This Board is key for assuring and challenging the planning and delivery undertaken by TCPs. It also provides an opportunity for shared learning and development.

Health: Screening

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Clinical Commissioning Groups have added pulse checking to GP- or pharmacy-enhanced services for people aged over 65. [[HL6363](#)]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: This information is not held by the Department or NHS England, as general practice and pharmacy contracts do not mandate pulse checks as part of the existing enhanced services for people over 65.

In England, however, all local authorities are required to offer the NHS Health Check programme, with the large majority commissioning general practice to provide them on their behalf. Between 2014 and 2018, over 15 million people aged 40–74 are, have been or will be eligible for an NHS Health Check. The programme's best practice guidance recommends that a pulse check is carried out as part of the process of taking a blood pressure reading and that those individuals who are found to have an irregular pulse rhythm should be referred for further investigation.

Higher Education and Research Bill

Asked by Lord Triesman

To ask Her Majesty's Government which consultancies or associated companies were retained to advise on any part of the reforms introduced in the Higher Education and Research Bill; what briefs were provided to those companies; and what fees were agreed. [[HL6188](#)]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: No consultancies were retained in the preparation of the reforms or to provide advice on the reforms during the passage of the Higher Education and Research Bill. Some consultancy advice has been sought on specific areas to support the implementation of the Bill, including the provision of expert HR advice to support the ministerial appointments and advice on the IT requirements for the new Office for Students. Advice was also commissioned from Deloitte to undertake preliminary organisational design work ahead

of the establishment of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Asked by Lord Triesman

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish all research and consultancy reports prepared by consultancies or associated companies on any aspect of the preparation of reforms introduced by the Higher Education and Research Bill in the last three years. [[HL6189](#)]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The policy work that underpinned the reforms introduced by the Higher Education and Research Bill (HER Bill) was largely undertaken by civil servants and drew on previous published material including, for example, the Gaskell Review that was prepared for Universities UK. This material was referenced in the Green Paper published in October 2015 and again in the White Paper in May 2016 that preceded the introduction of the HER Bill.

BEIS commissioned Deloitte to undertake preliminary organisational design work ahead of the establishment of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), working with BEIS, the UKRI Interim Chair and senior leaders from the existing Partner Organisations which will form UKRI. The brief was to set out high level organisation design principles, assumptions and options for UKRI consistent with the framework set out by the White Paper and the HER Bill. The work was completed in October 2016 as preliminary specialist advice for BEIS officials and ministers to inform further organisational design work being carried out within BEIS and hence it is not planned to publish the commissioned report.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 23 March ([HL6077](#)), whether they will prepare and publish a draft bill with a view to its introduction as soon as agreement on the rights of EU citizens to remain in the UK has been reached. [[HL6327](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Securing the status of EU nationals in the UK, and UK citizens in the EU, is one of the Government's twelve key objectives for exit and we are looking to reach agreement on this point as early as possible once formal negotiations begin.

We will publish further information on this issue in due course.

Indian Ocean: Piracy

Asked by Lord Luce

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the level of piracy in the Indian Ocean off the coast of (1) Yemen, (2) Somalia, and (3) Kenya, in each of the last five years. [[HL6133](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The number of acts of piracy in the Western Indian Ocean has reduced sharply in recent years. According to the EU's counter-piracy mission, EUNAVFOR Operation Atalanta, there were 11 reported piracy related attacks on commercial vessels in the region in the last five years. Of those, only one – an attack against a Comoros flagged oil tanker, the *Aris 13*, on 13 March 2017 – was successful. By contrast, in 2011, there were 176 reported piracy attacks.

Israel: Gaza

Asked by Lord Polak

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of renewed construction of tunnels into Israel by Hamas; and of the impact of those tunnels on progress towards a two-state solution. [HL6140]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We remain deeply concerned by Hamas attempts to rearm and rebuild militant infrastructure, including the tunnel network in Gaza. Hamas rearmament undermines efforts to improve the situation in Gaza and harms the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East.

Motorcycles: Theft

Asked by Viscount Goschen

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many instances of motorcycle theft have been reported in each of the past three financial years; and how many successful prosecutions have been brought over the same period. [HL6230]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not hold the requested information centrally.

Statistics on theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle, which will include motorcycles, are regularly published by the Office for National Statistics. This can be found in Table A4 of the latest Crime in England and Wales publication.

Information on prosecutions is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. They have informed us that they do not hold the requested data.

Overseas Students: Loans

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of methods of recovery of student loans from overseas students. [HL6303]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Student Loans Company publishes an annual statistical first release on student loans in England that provides statistics on loan outlays, repayment of loans and borrower activity. The latest release is attached.

In addition to this, in February 2016 the Department published a Joint Repayment Strategy which includes an assessment of actions to trace borrowers and to recover loans where avoidance or evasion is identified. This publication is also attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Debt_and_repayment_statistics_England_2016
[Debt_and_repayment_statistics_England_2016.xlsx]

Student-loan-repayment-sustainable-higher-education [Student-loan-repayment-for-sustainable-higher-education-strategy-February-2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-27/HL6303>

Religious Freedom

Asked by Baroness Berridge

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy will be allocated in 2017–18 to projects on freedom of religion or belief. [HL6121]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Projects that directly support freedom of religion or belief remain an important element of the Magna Carta Fund programme. In 2017/18 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will spend £758,717 across six freedom of religion or belief projects. This equates to 7.2 percent of next year's Magna Carta Fund allocation and represents an increase on the funding awarded in 2016/17. This demonstrates Her Majesty's Government's continued commitment to supporting freedom of religion or belief worldwide.

Schools

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they define (1) public schools, (2) grammar schools, (3) academy schools, and (4) high schools. [HL6354]

Lord Nash: 1) 'Public school' is not a term set out in legislation, but is used commonly to refer to an 'independent school,' as defined with Section 463 of the Education Act 1996.

2) 'Grammar schools' are the 163 schools which were designated as such within the Education (Grammar School Designation) Order 1998 (as amended). Originally all grammar schools were maintained grammar schools, however, 140 have now become wholly selective academies.

3) Academy schools are State funded independent schools, as defined in Section 1A of the Academies Act 2010 (as amended).

4) 'Higher school' is not a term set out in legislation, but is used commonly to refer to a 'secondary school' that caters mainly for key stage 4 pupils and perhaps key stage 5 pupils.

The attached table provides the full definition of each type of school as set out in legislation.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Definition_of_different_types_of_school
[Definition_of_different_types_of_school (HL6354).docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-27/HL6354>

Sex and Relationship Education

Asked by Lord Northbourne

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the recently introduced obligation requiring all secondary schools to teach sex and relationship education requires schools to teach pupils about important relationships other than sexual relationships, particularly the relationships between fathers and sons. [HL6269]

Lord Nash: The government announced on 1 March 2017 proposals for statutory Relationships Education in primary schools, Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools (RSE) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE), subject to careful consideration, in all schools. We want all pupils to be taught how to recognise and build healthy relationships of all kinds, including family relationships, friendships and, at the appropriate age, sexual relationships.

We plan to undertake a comprehensive programme of engagement with stakeholders about future provision in these areas. A key element of the engagement process will be gathering views and evidence to enable us to get the balance of subject content right, including through statutory guidance, enabling schools to design appropriate lessons. Regulations and statutory guidance will be subject to a full public consultation later this year and the regulations will be subject to debate and vote in Parliament.

The government's plan is for schools to teach statutory Relationships Education, RSE, and PSHE (subject to consideration and consultation), from September 2019.

All pupils currently have the opportunity to learn about relationships in the non-statutory PSHE, or as part of the wider school curriculum. Schools are free to draw on the non-statutory programme of study produced by the PSHE Association in planning their provision. The programme of study includes topics, such as relationships and the value of family relationships.

Social Mobility Commission

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been spent on the running of the Social Mobility Commission since it was first established as the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. [HL6307]

Lord Nash: The Commission's first full year of operation was 2013-14 and they have spent a total amount

of £2,029,695 to date. This figure includes spend on commissioned research. To note that this is based on spend up until 29 March 2017 and does not cover full spend for 2016-17.

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been spent on research commissioned by the Social Mobility Commission since it was first established as the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. [HL6308]

Lord Nash: The Commission's first full year of operation was 2013-14 and they have spent a total of £337,913 on commissioned research to date. To note that this is based on spend up until 29 March 2017 and does not cover full spend for 2016-17.

Social Services: Finance

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 28 December 2016 (HL4038), what allocations from the Better Care Fund will have been made by the end of 2017-18 to each named local authority in England with responsibility for adult social care; and what further resources from this Fund will remain available for distribution in 2018-19 and 2019-20. [HL6248]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Allocations for the improved Better Care Fund in 2017-18 (£105 million), 2018-19 (£825 million) and 2019-20 (£1.5 billion) were published (attached) alongside the Local Government Finance Settlement in February 2017: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/core-spending-power-final-local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018>.

The additional £2 billion announced at Budget tops up the improved Better Care Fund and the allocations for all three years were published (attached) on 9 March: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-allocations-of-the-additional-funding-for-adult-social-care>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Core Spending Power [170327 Explanatory note on Core Spending Power - HL6248.pdf]

additional funding for adult social care [170327 additional funding for adult social care - HL6248.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6248>

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 23 December 2016 (HL4036), (1) what was the extra amount raised by the social care precept in 2017-18; (2) what is their estimate of the amount that will be raised

in 2017–18; and (3) alongside those figures, what are the estimated costs to local authorities for funding the National Living Wage for employees providing adult social care on behalf of local authorities in 2016–17 and 2017–18. [HL6250]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: For estimates of the amount that could be raised in 2017-18, I refer to the Department's response to the written question (attached) HL4037 answered on 28 December 2016, which sets out the potential revenue raised for all local authorities: www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-12/HL4037/.

My department has made no assessment as to (3). Spending Review decisions on social care services took into account a range of financial and economic factors, including projections and data including on the National Living Wage from the Office of Budget Responsibility and Skills for Care.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Written question - HL4037 [HL4037.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6250>

South Sudan: Famine

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the declaration by UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organisation that 100,000 civilians are at risk of starvation in two counties in South Sudan, and that one million are on the brink of famine, what assessment they have made of the actions by the leadership of South Sudan to resolve those issues. [HL6132]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We remain deeply concerned by the increasingly desperate humanitarian situation in South Sudan. The continued obstruction of aid agencies by the Government of South Sudan, and restrictions on humanitarian access across the country, is particularly troubling. In addition, the proposal to increase the cost of work permits would hinder the response to the worsening famine. Together with our international partners we raised these issues with the South Sudanese First Vice President on 15 March, and made clear that the Government of South Sudan has a responsibility to stop the suffering of its own people, and allow full humanitarian access across the country. The Foreign Secretary made these points when he chaired a Security

Council meeting on South Sudan in New York on 23 March.

Syria: War Crimes

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the UN General Assembly adopting resolution 71/248 establishing an independent mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for war crimes committed in Syria, what steps they will take to ensure that its terms of reference are wide enough to cover crimes committed by anti-government groups of all kinds. [HL6129]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The terms of reference, which have been approved by the UN Secretary General, set out that the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism will assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons without any distinction based on their affiliation or official capacity. The Mechanism will look at those responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011.

Taxation

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (HC Deb, col 821) where he referred to the "death tax", what is the meaning of that term. [HL6155]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The term "death tax" was used to refer to a levy applied to all estates in order to fund adult social care.

The government will set out proposals to reform the social care system in a green paper in due course. However, proposals do not include, and never have included, any kind of death tax.

Yesh Din: Grants

Asked by Lord Polak

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made of the value for money to the UK taxpayer of the 690,189 shekels (£154,000) grant given to Yesh Din in 2016. [HL6139]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Each project funded by the UK is in line with British Government policy. The money allocated to Yesh Din supported our objective of preserving the viability of a two-state solution.

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