

**Vol. 772**  
**No. 32**



**Monday**  
**5 September 2016**

**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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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<b>Baroness Evans of Bowes Park</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, Department for Transport
<b>Baroness Anelay of St Johns</b>	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development
<b>Lord Ashton of Hyde</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Whip
<b>Lord Bridges of Headley</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union
<b>Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, Wales Office
<b>Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen</b>	Whip and Spokesperson on Cabinet Office Business in the House of Lords
<b>Earl of Courtown</b>	Deputy Chief Whip
<b>Lord Dunlop</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office
<b>Lord Freud</b>	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Lord Gardiner of Kimble</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Baroness Goldie</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Keen of Elie</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland
<b>Lord Nash</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
<b>Baroness Mobarik</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Neville-Rolfe</b>	Minister of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
<b>Lord O'Neill of Gatley</b>	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
<b>Lord Price</b>	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
<b>Lord Prior of Brampton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
<b>Baroness Shields</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sport
<b>Lord Taylor of Holbeach</b>	Chief Whip
<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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# Written Statements

*Monday, 5 September 2016*

## Chemical Weapon Precursors: Libya

[HLWS132]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon), and I wish to make a joint statement about the significant contribution that Her Majesty's Government has made to international efforts to ensure the safe destruction of precursor chemicals from Libya's historic chemical weapons programme.

Libya's chemical weapons stockpile was destroyed under international supervision and verification by 2014. However, a quantity of precursor chemicals remained in Libya. The international community was concerned about the risks that, in the current security situation, these chemicals might be acquired and misused by non-state actors. Earlier this year, the Libyan Government of National Accord asked for support from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the international community to remove the remaining chemicals from Libya and to destroy them in a safe and timely manner in a third country. The UK has played a major role in coordinating international efforts to assist Libya and the OPCW to achieve this, including in the UN Security Council and with practical steps.

On 22 July, I voted on behalf of the UK in the UN Security Council for authority to be given for the chemicals to be removed from Libya for destruction in another country. Subsequently, the Danish Government asked the UK to provide a naval escort to support Denmark's operation to ship the chemicals out of Libya.

The Secretary of State for Defence agreed to provide support, in the same way as the Royal Navy supported Denmark and Norway in the operation to remove chemical weapons from Syria in 2014. During late August, RFA Mounts Bay escorted the Danish task group from Libya through the Mediterranean.

In order to enable the safe transport and destruction of the Libyan chemicals, and to provide verification assistance to the OPCW, experts at the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down were tasked to analyse samples of the chemicals. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has contributed some £500,000 to support both the analysis and destruction of the chemicals.

The UK's contribution to this task is now almost complete. The chemicals are being taken to a specialist facility in a third country, where they will be safely destroyed.

In close cooperation with our international partners – notably Denmark, Germany and the US, who contributed significant funding to the overall destruction effort, as well as with the OPCW – the UK has taken practical and effective action to eliminate chemical weapon risks in

Libya. This reinforces our collective commitment to the people and government of Libya, and, ultimately, to all of us who want to live in a world free from chemical weapons.

## Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry: Appointment of Chair

[HLWS131]

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

I wish to update the House on the change in Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and today is my first opportunity to do so.

This Inquiry was established in March 2015 to consider the extent to which state and non-state institutions have failed in their duty to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, and to make recommendations to protect children from such abuse in future.

On 4 August 2016 the Chair Dame Lowell Goddard wrote to me to offer her resignation which I accepted. I am grateful for all of her work on the inquiry to date.

On 11 August I announced the appointment of Professor Alexis Jay as the new Chair of the Inquiry.

I am firmly of the view that the work of the Inquiry needed to continue without delay. Victims and survivors deserve nothing less. After consultation, I decided that Professor Jay was the best person to provide stability and maintain momentum in the Inquiry's work.

Professor Jay's experience, lifelong dedication to child protection and her outstanding leadership of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham demonstrate her suitability to lead the Inquiry. I am delighted that she has agreed to do so.

## Electoral Law

[HLWS134]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** My honorable friend the Minister for the Constitution (Chris Skidmore) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Government is today publishing its responses to a number of reports published on the administration of the UK Parliamentary General Election and other polls on 7 May 2015. The response to the Electoral Commission's statutory reports on the elections incorporates responses to recommendations made by the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) and the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB).

Recommendations made by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) have been addressed in a separate response.

We are grateful for the analysis and recommendations within the reports from all of these organisations. Their

work helps the Government to monitor the effectiveness of existing electoral provisions, determine where improvements are needed and helps government to set future direction for policy development. The Government will continue to work with electoral administrators and partners to remove burdens and ensure they are supported to carry out the effective running of elections.

We will also be considering any future change in light of the review of electoral fraud undertaken by Sir Eric Pickles and his report published last month. I would like to thank Sir Eric for the work he has undertaken over the past year in producing this detailed and thorough report. It will be an important contribution to our fight against all types of fraud in the UK. We will look closely at the recommendations.

Copies of the Government responses will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

WMS Election Reports [WMS Election Reports Lords.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-09-05/HLWS134/>

## Finance Bill 2016

[HLWS130]

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

I have today published a written submission outlining the Government's analysis of how the English Votes for English Laws principle relates to all Government amendments tabled for Report stage of Finance Bill 2016.

The department's assessment is that the amendments do not change the territorial application of the Bill. The analysis reflects the position should all of the Government amendments be accepted. I have deposited a copy of the submission in the Libraries of the House.

## Govia Thameslink

[HLWS129]

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

I am pleased to inform the House that from today Southern Railway have reinstated 119 train services into the weekday timetable. This means over 9 out of 10 trains on the network will be running in line with the original weekday timetable, and over a third of the 341 trains removed on 11 July as part of the temporary timetable, will be restored this week. This will benefit passengers on inner London services, almost all London Bridge peak trains and restores service to Southern's West London Line. The remaining trains will be reinstated to the timetable incrementally in the coming weeks. This is an issue of vital importance to the Government.

The Government has invested more than £1.6 billion of taxpayers' money in new, longer, and more spacious trains. These new trains are progressively being introduced on existing Thameslink rail services and other routes from May 2017. The new trains are fully equipped with the latest technology allowing drivers to safely operate the doors from the cab.

The introduction of these new trains will mean that conductors, who currently operate the train doors, are freed up to spend their time on the train helping passengers during their journeys. GTR has promised this new on board supervisor role will be open to all conductors and will not result in any job losses or pay reduction. These changes will clearly benefit passengers. Importantly the vast majority of trains that currently have an on-board conductor will keep that staff member in a new on-board passenger focused role.

The Secretary of State recently announced a targeted £20m fund, to be spent by Network Rail under project board authority, and the appointment of one of Britain's most experienced rail industry figures, Chris Gibb, to help get the service back running as it should. His post will be paid for by GTR and will involve heading a new project board, working with the train operator and Network Rail, to explore how to achieve a rapid improvement to services for the public. The board will oversee the £20m fund and closer working between GTR and Network Rail to improve performance for Southern customers. A passenger representative will also be included on this review board to ensure commuters' views are heard and improvements properly reflect passenger demands. The project board will present its plan in the autumn and actions will be implemented as soon as possible.

## Yemen

[HLWS133]

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

This government continues to believe that the best way to achieve stability in Yemen is through a political solution. The UK's priority is to support the UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, in facilitating a credible peace process in Yemen. I deeply regret the failure of the parties to reach an agreement at the UN-led peace talks in Kuwait, and I continue to urge them to find the compromises that will end the current conflict.

There has been a sustained international effort in support of the UN throughout and the UK continues to play an active role. In July I hosted a meeting in London to discuss Yemen with the Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the US Secretary of State where we collectively reiterated our strong support for the role of the UN in mediating a lasting political solution to the crisis. We affirmed that a successful resolution should include arrangements that would require

the withdrawal of armed groups from the capital and other areas, and a political agreement that would allow for the resumption of a peaceful, inclusive political transition. In August, Minister for the Middle East, Tobias Ellwood, represented me in Saudi Arabia for talks with the US Secretary of State, GCC Foreign Ministers and the UN Special Envoy. The discussions focused on finding a way to end the political deadlock in Yemen, humanitarian assistance and ways to support Yemen's precarious economy.

We will continue to support the peace process through our diplomatic efforts. The UK will host a discussion on Yemen at the UN General Assembly later this month with key international partners. In parallel, we continue to press for military restraint on all sides and call for a renewed commitment to a Cessation of Hostilities.

We are aware of reports of alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by parties to the conflict and take these very seriously. We regularly raise the importance of compliance with IHL with the Saudi Arabian Government and other members of the Saudi-Arabian led military Coalition. I raised the issue of IHL compliance with my Saudi counterpart, Foreign Minister Al Jubeir on 22 August. It is important that the Saudi Arabian-led Coalition in the first instance conducts thorough and conclusive investigations into incidents

where it is alleged that IHL has been violated. They have the best insight into their own military procedures and will be able to conduct the most thorough and conclusive investigations. It will also allow the Coalition forces to understand what went wrong and apply the lessons learnt in the best possible way. This is the standard we set ourselves and our allies.

In this respect, Saudi Arabia announced more detail of how incidents of concern involving Coalition forces are investigated on 31 January. The Saudi Arabian-led Coalition Joint Investigations Assessment Team publically announced the outcome of eight investigations on 4 August

The UK Government takes its arms export responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. All export licence applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking account of all relevant factors at the time of the application. The key test for our continued arms exports to Saudi Arabia in relation to IHL is whether there is a clear risk that those weapons might be used in a commission of a serious violation of IHL. Having regard to all the information available to us, we assess that this test has not been met.

# Written Answers

*Monday, 5 September 2016*

## Academies: Sex and Relationship Education

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provisions they have in place to ensure that those studying in academies receive adequate sex and relationships education. [[HL1193](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The government believes that all children should have the opportunity to receive a high quality and appropriate sex and relationship education (SRE). SRE is compulsory in all maintained secondary schools, and many primary schools also teach it in an age-appropriate way.

Academies do not have to teach SRE but many choose to do so as part of their statutory duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. When academies do teach SRE they are required through their funding agreement to have regard to the Secretary of State's Sex and Relationship Education Guidance.

The guidance makes clear that all SRE should be age-appropriate and helps young people to develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgments and behaviour.

## Agricultural Products: ACP Countries

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to continue to recognise EU sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and food safety approvals for imports of agricultural products from the African, Caribbean and Pacific group countries once the UK's exit from the EU is complete, or whether they plan to require exporters from those countries to secure separate SPS and food safety approvals for exports to the UK. [[HL1182](#)]

**Lord Price:** A new Department for Exiting the European Union has been established by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, to oversee arrangements for the UK's exit from the EU after we have triggered Article 50. Until then the UK remains a full member of the EU.

## Agriculture: Subsidies

*Asked by Lord Willoughby de Broke*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 17 June (HL446) and 27 June (HL808), whether when providing those answers they were aware that the payment window had already been extended to October, and if so, why that was not reflected in those answer. [I] [[HL1157](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The deadline for 2015 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments remains 30 June

2016 and as stated in the response of 17 June, this is the deadline the Rural Payments Agency was working towards for the remaining top up BPS payments. On 8 June, Commissioner Hogan confirmed his intention to extend the date by which Member States may make CAP direct payments without the usual reductions in the rate of reimbursement from the EU to the Member States concerned. This does not constitute an extension to the payment window. It means that, subject to a successful request, payments can continue to be made after 30 June without the application of the usual reductions for late payments on the Member State.

We are currently assessing the UK position in terms of the value of payments made by 30 June and the expected value of payments to be made before 15 October for each of the four UK paying agencies. Once this assessment has been completed we will be in a position to decide whether the UK needs to submit a request to the Commission for such penalties to be waived.

*Asked by Lord Willoughby de Broke*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 1 October 2015 (HL2378), in the light of the fact that a substantial number of Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments have not yet been made and that no date for completion of payments has been given, why they stated that the majority of BPS payments would be made in December 2015, and the vast majority by January. [I] [[HL1158](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) achieved the target of making the majority of BPS payments in December 2015, paying 44,408 (50.9%) of eligible claims by the end of December. The agency also delivered on its target of making the vast majority of payments by end of January, paying 66,800 (77%) of eligible claims with a value of around £1bn.

The Government understands the importance of BPS payments for farmers. The targets, 'majority' and 'vast majority', were established in line with the RPA's priority to pay as many farmers as possible, as quickly as possible, from the opening of the payment window back in December.

*Asked by Lord Palmer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 20 July (HL Deb, col 640), whether the UK is going to be fined by the EU as a result of making late payments under the Single Farm Payment Scheme. [[HL1418](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Under normal rules, if the value of payments made after the 30 June deadline exceeds 5% of the value of payments made before the deadline, then penalties apply. The reductions would be 10% on payments made in July, 25% on payments made in August and 45% for payments made in September.

Commissioner Hogan, however, confirmed his intention to extend the date by which Member States may make



CAP direct payments without the usual reductions in the rate of reimbursement from the EU to the Member States concerned.

We are currently assessing the UK position in terms of the value of payments made by 30 June and the expected value of payments to be made before 15 October for each of the four UK paying agencies. Once this assessment has been completed we will be in a position to decide whether the UK needs to submit a request to take up the provisions outlined by the Commission.

### Annuities

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering requiring the providers of pension annuities to increase the rate at which they calculate benefits. [HL1152]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Annuity rates are set by individual providers and can vary in line with market conditions. The amount of income an individual gets each year from an annuity depends on a variety of factors including how much they had in their pension pot when they bought the annuity, whether they are seeking a joint annuity, and their age, health and lifestyle.

As a result of this government's pensions reforms, individuals aged 55 and over with a defined contribution pension are now able to make their own choice about how to use their pension savings. The Government's Pension Wise service provides free, impartial guidance to help people understand their options.

### Apprentices

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the changes that have transferred policy on apprenticeships

and the responsibility for the Institute for Apprenticeships to the Department for Education, how they plan to ensure that employers and business leaders are involved in future development of policy on apprenticeships. [HL1304]

**Lord Nash:** Prior to recent Government changes, the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills were jointly responsible for apprenticeships policy. The Department for Education remains fully committed to working with and involving employers and business leaders in the development and implementation of apprenticeships policy.

The Institute for Apprenticeships will be employer-led and have responsibility for ensuring the quality of apprenticeship standards in England. The board will comprise primarily of employers, business leaders and their representatives. This will ensure that employers are fully engaged and continue to play a key role in improving apprenticeship quality.

Employer-led groups will continue to develop apprenticeship standards that meet their skills needs. Over 1,400 employers are currently involved in designing the new apprenticeship standards.

### Apprentices: Lone Parents

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) female, and (2) male, single parents have (a) started, and (b) completed, apprenticeships in each of the last five years. [HL1207]

**Lord Nash:** Information on whether an apprenticeship is undertaken by a single parent is not centrally collected.

The table below shows apprenticeship starts by gender, 2010/11 to 2014/15:

	2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	
	<i>Starts</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>Starts</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>Starts</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>Starts</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>Starts</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Female	245,990	53.8%	276,220	53.1%	279,000	54.7%	232,940	52.9%	264,750	53.0%
Male	211,220	46.2%	244,360	46.9%	231,210	45.3%	207,480	47.1%	235,140	47.0%
Total	457,200	100.0%	520,600	100.0%	510,200	100.0%	440,400	100.0%	499,900	100.0%

### Apprentices: Part-time Employment

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many apprenticeship placements have been advertised as part-time in each of the last five years. [HL1208]

**Lord Nash:** Information on whether an apprenticeship has been advertised as part time is not collected centrally. Apprenticeships can be advertised in many ways, including on the GOV.UK website.

Apprenticeships are full-time jobs; therefore an apprentice should work at least 30 hours per week. In exceptional circumstances, such as where the apprentice has caring responsibilities, a minimum of 16 hours per week may be agreed between the apprentice and the employer. In circumstances where the apprentice works fewer than 30 hours per week, the duration of the apprenticeship must be extended in proportion so that the minimum duration requirements are still met.

### ARM: Softbank

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consulted experts in the field before publicly welcoming the acquisition of ARM Holdings by SoftBank, and whether they would similarly welcome a rival bid from an international private equity investor. [HL1369]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** SoftBank has made it clear that it intends to invest in ARM, keep its HQ in the UK, and at least double the employee headcount in the UK. The Government welcomes this. No rival bids for ARM have so far been made.

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they propose to enforce the commitments they have obtained from SoftBank in connection with employment and the location of the headquarters of ARM Holdings. [HL1370]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Takeover Panel is responsible for enforcing the post offer undertakings given by SoftBank under the terms of the Takeover Code. Grant Thornton LLP has been appointed as an independent supervisor under the Code to monitor compliance with the undertakings. The Takeover Panel can require SoftBank to submit written progress reports in such form and as frequently as it requires and can take disciplinary action if the undertakings are not fulfilled. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will continue to monitor developments.

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers they have to review the financial capacity of SoftBank to support ARM Holdings, and in particular whether they can require a further injection of capital into ARM Holdings before any takeover occurs. [HL1372]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** It is for the parties to the proposed transaction to consider their relative positions in compliance with the Takeover Code. The board of the target company must take independent advice on the offer, and evaluate its effects on the company's interests, before giving the board's opinion to shareholders.

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have secured any commitments from SoftBank to avoid taking action through royalty payments or increased borrowing costs that would reduce or eliminate corporation tax payments made by ARM Holdings. [HL1417]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government is committed to ensuring that corporation tax applies to profits generated from UK activities. It has taken a number of steps at both a domestic and international level to achieve this, including recently announced measures to protect the

UK tax base from the payment of interest and royalties to overseas companies.

The government is not able to comment on how these steps will apply to individual taxpayers.

### Armed Forces

*Asked by Lord Touthig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the level of recruitment forecast in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, what assessment they have made of the Armed Forces' ability to undertake the range of tasks they face. [HL1238]

**Earl Howe:** The Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 (SDSR 2015) ensured that investment in capability - including personnel - remained in balance with financial requirements, with a focus on matching capability to policy throughout the Review. To fully deliver future Defence commitments, the SDSR also set out plans for investment in an additional uplift of 400 personnel for the Royal Navy and 300 for the Royal Air Force. This will ensure that the Armed Forces continue to have the capabilities and skills needed to meet global obligations.

*Asked by Lord Touthig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what spare capacity the Armed Forces have to respond flexibly and with resilience to unexpected emergencies. [HL1239]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently engaged in 23 operations around the world, which is above the historical norm for operational commitments. While delivering current operations, the MOD continually develops options for wider contingencies as risks to UK national interests emerge. Significant investment in a variety of critical enablers, both before and after the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015, underpins our continued ability to meet demands both in the UK and overseas.

### Armed Forces: Housing

*Asked by Lord Richards of Herstonceux*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to terminate the contract with CarillionAmey for service family accommodation, and if so, what plans they have for the service to be provided in-house. [HL1268]

**Earl Howe:** In response to the 'Get Well Plan' agreed with the Secretary of State for Defence in February, CarillionAmey's performance has improved. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is now seeking assurances that the performance improvements made are sustainable over the life of the contracts for which CarillionAmey is responsible. The MOD will continue to prepare contingency plans, for potential termination, in the event that sustained improvements are not made.



## Arts: Postgraduate Education

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many postgraduate students in England were enrolled in two-year masters' degree courses in (1) 2009–10, (2) 2010–11, (3) 2011–12, (4) 2012–13, (5) 2013–14, (6) 2014–15, and (7) 2015–16. [HL1183]

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many postgraduate students in England were enrolled in two-year masters' degree courses to study (1) applied art and design, (2) art and design, (3) drama, (4) media, film or TV, (5) music, (6) dance, (7) performing arts, and (8) design and technology, in (a) 2009–10, (b) 2010–11, (c) 2011–12, (d) 2012–13, (e) 2013–14, (f) 2014–15, and (g) 2015–16. [HL1184]

**Earl of Courtown:** Information on enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions is collected and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), and the latest academic year for which data are available is 2014/15.

The Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) is the classification of subjects used by HESA. The specific breakdown of subjects requested is not available using the JACS classification, so a breakdown of the Creative Arts and Design category has been provided as an alternative.

The government is for the first time introducing a new £10,000 master's loan to support those wishing to progress into postgraduate study.

First year enrolments <sup>1</sup> to two-year masters <sup>2</sup> degree courses in Creative Arts and Design subjects. English <sup>3</sup> Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Academic years 2009/10 to 2014/15:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Fine art	625	610	700	630	695	700
Design studies	1,025	1,135	1,090	1,085	1,225	1,125
Music	710	700	680	675	680	630
Drama	165	190	205	250	230	255
Dance	55	45	45	35	65	50
Cinematics & photography	350	335	370	445	375	200
Crafts	15	15	20	5	20	10
Imaginative writing	400	360	380	495	370	345
Others in creative arts & design	90	120	105	125	90	110

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Total (Creative arts & design)	3,425	3,515	3,595	3,745	3,750	3,425
Total (all subjects)	39,200	32,995	35,475	33,630	32,885	33,965

Source: BIS analysis of the HESA Student Record

Note: All figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

i) Figures are Full-Person-Equivalents (FPE), so if someone is jointly studying Fine art and Design studies, they would count as 0.5 FPE within each category.

ii) Figures relate to students with an expected study length of less than or equal to two years, but more than one year.

iii) For consistency across years, the Open University is counted as an English HEI.

## Asylum

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to improve the quality of initial interviews and decisions in asylum cases in order to reduce the need for appeals. [HL1146]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office carefully considers all asylum claims on their individual merits and grants protection for those who genuinely need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. In every asylum case the particular circumstances of the individual is considered in light of published country information.

All asylum decision-makers receive extensive training on how to consider asylum claims and are expected to follow published Home Office policy guidance. The 5-week Foundation Training Programme (FTP) for new decision makers trains staff on all aspects of the asylum decision making process. All decision makers are currently receiving credibility training. This course trains decision makers on how to assess the evidential value of their interview questions, the various reasons why someone may not come across as credible in an asylum interview and discusses issues such as speculation and implausibility. Asylum decision-makers carefully assess the protection needs of each asylum claimant following an interview by assessing all available evidence provided by the claimant in light of published country information and policy guidance. The Home Office systematically assesses the quality of asylum decisions against a detailed quality audit framework drawn up and agreed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

We expect asylum claimants to disclose all relevant evidence to support their claim at the earliest opportunity so that we can properly consider their claim. We aim to reduce the appeal rate by analysing the reasons why appeals are allowed and using this to further improve guidance and training. We are committed to continuous improvement.

### Asylum: France

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to enable child refugees and migrants who are now in France but who have close relatives in the UK to make take-charge requests. [[HL1147](#)]

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan (1) urgently to meet with the government of France and the UNHCR to set up systems for providing reliable information for refugees and migrants in Calais and Dunkirk; and (2) to take steps to ensure that the Dublin III Regulations work for family reunion. [[HL1150](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As stated in Written Answer HL649 on 27 June under the UK-France Joint Declaration of 20 August 2015 the UK and France have committed to ensuring that provisions of the Dublin III Regulation are used efficiently and effectively. To assist the handling of such cases, the two Governments have established a permanent official contact group, agreed single points of contact within respective Dublin Units and a UK asylum expert was seconded to the French administration earlier this year to facilitate the improvement of all stages of the process.

We continue to work closely so that both the UK and France can fulfil our respective obligations under the Dublin Regulation to family members, including unaccompanied children, who qualify for transfer to the UK under the Regulation's family unity provisions.

The UK and France are running regular joint communication campaigns in northern France which inform unaccompanied children and others of their right to claim asylum in France and the family reunion process. Whilst the management of migrants in Calais is the responsibility of the French Government, the UK recognises that vulnerable people in the camps are at risk from exploitation and trafficking. This is why the UK Government funds a project, run by a French NGO, to identify and direct vulnerable people to protection, support and advice within France.

### Asylum and Immigration Tribunal: Fees and Charges

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why fees in the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal are to be increased, and what percentage of requests for a waiver of such fees were refused in each quarter since the beginning of 2015 to date. [[HL1364](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The financial challenges faced by the Government means taking tough decisions on reducing public spending across a wide range of services.

That is why the Government consulted on proposals to increase fees in asylum and immigration proceedings.

Breaking down the data requested by quarter would incur disproportionate costs.

### Asylum: Children

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide legal support to children already in the UK who wish to sponsor their parents to join them, and for other complex reunion cases. [[HL1148](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** UK Visas and Immigration issues guidance to help applicants, and the types of evidence requested to accompany an application - such as marriage and birth certificates - will usually be straightforward to collate. For these reasons, there are currently no plans to make changes to the legal aid provision in such cases.

### Asylum: Education

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 14 July (HL1030), how often priority dispersal internal checks occur, and what standard is required to pass those checks. [[HL1438](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office monitors the length of time all applicants spend in initial accommodation and works closely with Migrant Help, a charity that provides independent advice and support to asylum claimants, to ensure that families with children are identified and receive priority assistance to apply for housing and support in order to progress their application through the system quickly.

Daily internal checks are in place to triage and identify applications for prioritising. The Home Office target for processing asylum support applications is 80% of applicants leaving Initial Accommodation in 19 days.

UKVI officials work closely with the service providers to ensure that family applications are prioritised in recognition of the family's needs and in accordance with our duty under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act of 2009.

### AWE

*Asked by Baroness Jolly*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what new arrangements they plan to introduce for the delivery of the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme, and when those arrangements will enter into force. [[HL1366](#)]

**Earl Howe:** I refer the noble Baroness to the Written Ministerial Statement made by the Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon) on 21 April 2016 (HCWS689). The contract between the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Atomic Weapons Establishment Management Limited (AWEML) has been reviewed. As a result of the review,

the MOD has greater control over the programme, while ensuring that AWE continues to deliver value for money for the taxpayer. The contract between the MOD and AWEML also provides the opportunity for higher performance incentives, as well as reductions if targets are not met. These arrangements are now in force.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Atomic Weapons Establishment Contract. [Hansard Extract 21 April 2016, HCWS689.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-20/HL1366>

*Asked by Baroness Jolly*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the current anticipated outturn costs and in-service dates for (1) Project Mensa, and (2) Project Pegasus, at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [HL1367]

*Asked by Baroness Jolly*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much contingency funding has been allocated for (1) Project Mensa, and (2) Project Pegasus, at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [HL1368]

**Earl Howe:** The anticipated outturn costs cannot be provided. The current approved costs and in-service dates for Project Mensa and Project Pegasus are shown below.

In-service dates are shown in bandings to avoid prejudice to national security and defence.

The Main Gate business cases for Projects Mensa and Pegasus include estimates for risk and uncertainty, which are contained within the approved costs.

<i>Project</i>	<i>In-service period</i>	<i>Approved cost (£million)</i>
Project Mensa (warhead assembly/disassembly)	2016-20	734
Project Pegasus (uranium components)	2016-20	634

## Bahrain: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the recent actions of the government of Bahrain towards the main Shia opposition group; what is their assessment of the state of human rights in that country; and whether the development of a new Royal Naval base in Bahrain is progressing. [HL1299]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), issued a statement on 17 July expressing concerns about the Bahraini High Administrative Court's decision to dissolve the main Bahraini Shia opposition political society Al Wefaq. We continue to follow the case closely. We have urged the

Government of Bahrain to protect political freedoms and representation for all Bahraini citizens and to encourage all sides to engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue to promote social cohesion and inclusivity.

We regularly discuss human rights and reform with the Government of Bahrain and it is a standing agenda item for the biannual UK-Bahrain Joint Working Group meeting, held most recently in June 2016. The former Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), also raised concerns about recent developments with the Bahraini Foreign Minister on 14 June, and during his visit to Bahrain on 30 May.

We have begun work on the future UK maritime hub at Mina Salman in Bahrain, HMS Juffair, to support Royal Navy deployments. We continue to maintain a naval presence which includes mine countermeasure ships, frigates, destroyers and maritime helicopters to contribute to the stability of the region and to make sure vital sea lanes remain open in the region.

## Bahrain: Prisons

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what conclusions they have drawn from the reports of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Bassiouni Commission on the solitary confinement, torture and ill-treatment of prisoners in Bahrain; and whether they plan to ask the International Committee of the Red Cross to inspect prison conditions in Jaw Central Prison, Al-Hawd Al-Jaf prison and all other prisons and places of detention, and to make recommendations. [HL1082]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government unreservedly condemns torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and it is a government priority to combat it wherever it occurs. We are aware that there have been allegations in Bahrain, and we raise concerns with the authorities. Our support to Bahrain's reform programme focuses on strengthening independent oversight bodies such as the Ministry of Interior Ombudsman and the Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission (PDRC) who provide oversight of police behaviour and detention standards. In May, the PDRC released an independent report which included testimonies of detainees and highlighted a number of key concerns in respect to prison conditions at Jau Prison. We welcome the transparent approach taken by the PDRC, and the Ministry of Interior's commitment to implement all recommendations made in the report. We continue to call upon the Government of Bahrain to agree a visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

## Baltic States: Russia

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the treatment of Russian

minorities in the Baltic States, particularly Lithuania, and (2) whether such treatment would attract a response from Russia; and if so, what type of response that would be. [HL1141]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There are sizeable Russian-speaking communities in Latvia and Estonia, and a smaller community in Lithuania. All EU Member States are obliged to meet the standards for minority rights and are subject to obligations and monitoring mechanisms, such as through the Council of Europe. Our Embassies in the Baltic States have supported programmes run by their host governments and non-governmental organisations to encourage integration, tolerance, diversity and respect for minorities - including programmes to support media plurality and social cohesion.

### **Bangladesh: Radicalism**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of links between the reported recent upsurge of jihadist violence in Bangladesh and Zakir Naik's television channel Peace TV; whether they have discussed with the government of Bangladesh the reasons why it has banned Peace TV broadcasts; whether they have discussed its content with the government of Dubai from where it broadcasts; and whether they have established the veracity of the claims that Zakir Naik has received substantial financial support from sources in the UK to fund his broadcasts. [HL1222]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As with many other countries, Bangladesh has suffered from an increase in violent extremism in recent years. In part this may be motivated by broadcasts and online material of an extremist nature. The British Government has not discussed Peace TV with either the Government of Bangladesh or the Government of Dubai. However, we are in regular dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh about how we can assist and share best practice in combating extremism and in understanding the root causes of why young people in particular are vulnerable to such messaging. In November 2015, the former Prime Minister, my Right Hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), commissioned a review into the funding of Islamist extremism in the UK. The review will improve our understanding of how extremists operating in the UK sustain their activities.

### **Bangladesh: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports of the dousing with gasoline and setting alight of a Catholic woman in the village of Kajura, what representations they have made to the government of Bangladesh and its representatives in London about the protection of atheists, moderate Muslims and religious minorities in Bangladesh and the bringing to justice of

those responsible for recent reported killings and violent attacks. [HL1224]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are in regular contact with the Bangladesh government about extremism, human rights and a range of other issues. The former Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron) most recently spoke to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh about countering extremism in the margins of the G7 meeting in Japan on 27 May. The former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) raised this with Foreign Minister Ali on 5 July. The British High Commissioner regularly discusses these issues with Bangladesh government ministers.

In September 2015 the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief visited Bangladesh. We urge the Bangladesh government to implement the recommendations in his report, which include a call for the government to "protect the vibrant civil society and pluralistic society in Bangladesh".

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the human rights situation in Bangladesh, especially in relation to the right to freedom of religion or belief. [HL1247]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Bangladesh about human rights violations against Hindus and bringing to justice those responsible for the destruction of temples and other places of worship. [HL1248]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our assessment is that the rise in extremist attacks has increased pressure on religious minorities, including Hindus, in Bangladesh.

The former Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), most recently talked to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh about the importance of countering extremism in the margins of the G7 meeting in Japan on 27 May. The former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), raised this with Foreign Minister Ali on 5 July. The British High Commissioner regularly discusses these issues with Bangladesh government ministers.

### **Bank Services**

*Asked by Lord Sharkey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 12 July (HL883), what steps they are taking with regard to the withdrawal of banking services to encourage banks to take a risk-based approach and to ensure that the measures they take are effective and proportionate; and



what assessment they have made of the extent to which that encouragement has been effective. [[HL1196](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government engages regularly with the banking industry and those affected by de-risking in order to facilitate communication. The aim of this is to improve banks' understanding of how affected sectors work and to improve affected sectors' understanding of how they can best meet the banks' requirements for providing services. This process has led to the British Bankers' Association developing tailored 'access to banking' guidance for affected sectors.

The government continues to work with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), who recently published research into the withdrawal of banking services. The FCA are also working with the banking industry to lessen the damaging effects of de-risking without constraining banks' commercial freedom.

Internationally, the UK has been instrumental in making de-risking a priority for the G20 and the Financial Stability Board. The government is working with the Bank of England and the FCA on internationally agreed guidance to financial institutions that will clarify regulatory expectations, making their responsibilities clearer to allow a more risk-based approach and better appraisal of risks.

### **Bank Services: Muslims**

*Asked by Lord Sharkey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 12 July (HL883), which Muslim organisations affected by the withdrawal of banking services they continue "to work closely with...to better understand their experiences and encourage dialogue with the banking sector"; how that working closely manifests itself; and what is their assessment of the outcomes of that close working. [[HL1195](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Ministers and officials have received representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals who have been affected by account closure. Officials have discussed the issue of access to banking with individual Muslim organisations as well as representative groups such as the Muslim Charities Forum and Bond.

The Government remains concerned about the growth of de-risking and the implications it has for NGOs, economic growth, financial inclusion and financial stability. We recognise that this trend remains a global problem, and have taken concrete steps to address this. We put the issue on the G20 agenda in 2015 and, closer to home, we have encouraged the banking sector to produce new guidance to help those affected by de-risking to open a UK bank account, by setting out what information banks will require in order to comply with relevant regulation and the questions they will need to ask. We have encouraged those affected to consider using their bank's formal complaint service or, if they believe they have

been treated unfairly or unreasonably, to consider referring the case to the Financial Ombudsman Service. We have also encouraged those affected to use the Business Account Finder provided by MoneyFacts to locate an alternative account provider.

In order to continue dialogue with the NGO community on these matters, a Government-NGO Working Group will shortly be convened to explore concerns and identify solutions on the impact of regulation and banking practices on NGO operations in fragile states. The group will examine the specific challenges faced in getting aid into hard-to-reach communities.

### **BBC Monitoring**

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 19 July (HL Deb, col 525), what assessment the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence, National Security Council, Joint Intelligence Committee and National Crime Agency have made of the suitability of the planned changes to the provision of reporting by the BBC Monitoring Service. [[HL1377](#)]

**Earl of Courtown:** Government has been working closely with the BBC to ensure the requirements of the MOD, FCO, Cabinet Office, and the intelligence agencies can continue to be met by BBC Monitoring.

### **Berwyn Prison**

*Asked by Lord Wigley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provisions are being made at HM Prison Berwyn to meet the reasonable requirements of Welsh-speaking prisoners. [[HL1176](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** It is a requirement that all staff at HMP Berwyn must show an understanding of the importance of the Welsh language.

All prisoners at HMP Berwyn will have access to Welsh speaking staff and all material will be bilingual. To help support this, we are currently arranging courses for our staff to ensure they have a good understanding of Wales and working in the Welsh context, which includes a section on language.

### **Blood: Contamination**

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they provide a lower level of support for the surviving partners of those infected by hepatitis C through contaminated blood, compared to the surviving partners of those infected by HIV or co-infected, and if so, why. [[HL1424](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Under the reformed ex-gratia payment scheme for infected blood announced on



13 July 2016, the partner/spouse at the time of death of a primary beneficiary will be entitled to a £10,000 one-off lump sum where HIV or hepatitis C infection contributed to the death of their partner/spouse. This will apply to those already bereaved, provided they register before the end of this financial year. Anyone newly bereaved from this year will automatically receive the lump sum. Discretionary support, in an enhanced form from financial year 2018/19, will continue to be available to all bereaved partners/spouses.

### **British Chambers of Commerce**

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their relationship with the British Chambers of Commerce; what assessment they have made of the performance of that organisation; whether they have expressed any concerns to that organisation in the past four years; and if so, what was the nature of those concerns. [[HL1447](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The British Chambers of Commerce is an important stakeholder for government and we engage actively with their senior team and the network of 52 accredited Chambers of Commerce in the UK.

The British Chambers of Commerce is also a delivery partner for the Overseas Business Network initiative – a programme to increase the number and range of private sector partners supporting UK exporters in overseas markets. In 2013/14 and 2014/15, UK Trade & Investment trialled a number of initiatives with the British Chambers of Commerce, including co-ordinating UK-end activity and accrediting the overseas delivery partners.

Following a review in November 2014, it was agreed that responsibility for co-ordinating the UK-end activity would be shifted from the British Chambers of Commerce to UK Trade and Investment's regional delivery contracts with effect from April 2015. The British Chambers of Commerce continue to accredit overseas delivery partners.

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what annual funding they have provided to the British Chambers of Commerce for each of the past four years; whether any payment has been made to that organisation beyond any annual budgetary allocation during each of the past four years; and if so, what was the amount of each such payment, and for what purpose each was made. [[HL1448](#)]

**Lord Price:** During the two-year pilot of the Overseas Business Network initiative (OBNI) (2013/14 and 2014/15), the former UK Trade & Investment trialled a number of initiatives with the BCC for which they were granted £1.6m. This included accrediting the overseas service providers, mainly chambers of commerce, and co-ordinating UK-end activity.

In 2015/16, BCC were contracted to continue to accredit overseas delivery partners and deliver one global conference, for which they received a total of £334,225 (incl. of VAT). They will continue to accredit overseas chambers in the network in 2016/17, under contract up to a maximum value of £157,680 (plus VAT).

BCC were also subcontracted by UKTI's main contractor for its Inward Investment Programme between 2012 and 2014 for a total value of £2,552,704.

The former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills made a number of relatively small payments to the BCC in each of the past four years, for things such as an exhibition stand at the BCC Annual Conferences and a small number of regional events. These payments total around £22,000 across the four years.

### **British Home Stores: Pensions**

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Pensions Regulator about the length of time it will require to report on the BHS pension scheme; and whether they plan to communicate that information to fund managers. [[HL1266](#)]

**Lord Freud:** The right approach is to allow the Pensions Regulator to get on with its investigations into the use of its anti-avoidance powers. There is a clear legal process that must be followed and this can sometimes take a considerable amount of time. The Pensions Regulator's Chief Executive has given a commitment that it will have made significant progress by the end of 2016. It has said that when it becomes appropriate to do so it will consider publishing a report of the case under Section 89 of the Pensions Act 2004. The Regulator is independent and Ministers cannot become involved in its decisions on whether or not to exercise its powers or seek to influence its investigations in any way.

### **Burma: Ethnic Groups**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about (1) land confiscation, (2) military activity, (3) health, (4) education, (5) drug use and its consequences, (6) local drug supply and drug use, (7) the killing of civilians, (8) arbitrary taxation, and (9) the displacement of villagers and forced recruitment, in Burma's Karen state; and whether they plan to discuss those issues with the new government of Burma. [[HL1079](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government follows events in Burma's Karen State closely, including those listed in the noble Lord's question. Staff from our Embassy in Rangoon visit regularly. Many of these issues are connected to the legacy of conflict. We play a key role in international efforts to resolve the conflict across Burma. As part of these efforts, we have supported both the previous and current Governments of Burma, as well

as the Ethnic Armed Groups that are party to the conflict (including the Karen), to find a negotiated political settlement. In addition, the Department for International Development (DFID) has a major development programme in Burma, of which Karen State is a beneficiary, including on health and education. For example, DFID works with several non-government organisations to fund programmes for the prevention and treatment of malaria which is prevalent in Karen State, and to establish community based schools and centres for early childhood development. The UK discusses conflict-related issues with the Government of Burma on a regular basis.

### **Business: Universities**

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the changes that have placed responsibility for universities within the Department for Education and the responsibility for research, including for the research councils and Innovate UK with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how they plan to ensure that businesses and the university sector work closely together to maintain the UK's research and science base, and to make the UK an attractive place to innovate. [HL1306]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** This Government has demonstrated its commitment to the UK's research and science base, protecting £4.7bn funding in real terms at the Spending Review. Our proposals set out in the Higher Education and Research Bill will meet Sir Paul Nurse's ambition to strengthen strategic leadership and maximise the benefit from the Government's investment in research and innovation.

A single minister for Universities and Science whose portfolio spans both departments will ensure coherence and integration across universities, research councils and Innovate UK and have a strong input into our industrial strategy.

### **Cancer: Drugs**

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had about patients' access to rare cancer medicines that have received a marketing authorisation after the closure of the old Cancer Drugs Fund list and before the launch of the new Cancer Drugs Fund on 29 July, but that have not yet been approved by NICE. [HL1339]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** All cancer drugs licensed since July 2015, but unable to undergo assessment by the Cancer Drug Fund (CDF) in 2015-16 on account of its closure to new drugs, have been incorporated into the technology appraisal work programme of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

In addition, NHS England has advised that for all of the indications covered by these newly licensed cancer drugs, there already exist treatment options for patients that are either funded from baseline commissioning or from the CDF.

### **Cancer: Medical Treatments**

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the fact that some NHS Trusts are no longer required to meet the 62-day cancer treatment target in terms of survival rates of different types of cancer. [HL1430]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The cancer waiting times standards have not changed. All trusts are still required to meet the 62-day standard.

### **Children: Day Care**

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to enable those on apprenticeships to claim 30 hours of free childcare under the Childcare Act 2016. [HL1210]

**Lord Nash:** Parents on apprenticeships with three- and four-year-olds are eligible for 30 hours of free childcare under the Childcare Act 2016 in the same way as other working households. They will need to be earning the equivalent of 16 hours work per week at the apprentice national minimum wage rate.

The national minimum wage rates are set out at the GOV.UK website.

Apprentices will need to meet the other eligibility criteria in addition to the minimum earnings requirement in order to qualify. The key eligibility criteria are set out in a policy statement issued in December 2015, which is attached to this answer.

We will set out the eligibility criteria in more detail in forthcoming regulations, and these will be subject to affirmative debates in both Houses.

### **Children: Homelessness**

*Asked by Lord Adebawale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children aged 16 or 17 have presented to their local authority as homeless, and how many of those were accommodated under the Children Act 1989, in (1) 2015-16, and (2) 2014-15. [HL1119]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education does not collect information on the number of children aged 16 or 17 who have presented to their local authority as homeless, or how many have been accommodated as a result of homelessness.

## Children: Social Networking

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have conducted any research into the possible mental and psychological impact on children of using Twitter and Facebook; and if not, whether they plan to do so. [HL1279]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department does not itself conduct research, but funds research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Department's Policy Research Programme (PRP). The NIHR and the PRP have not funded specific research into the possible mental and psychological impact on children of using Twitter and Facebook and have no plans to commission research on this topic. In 2014-15 (the latest year for which data is currently available), the NIHR invested £72.6 million in research in mental health, including the mental health of children.

## Children's Centres

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they still intend to publish the consultation on the future of Sure Start, which they promised to initiate in July 2015, and if so when. [HL1311]

**Lord Nash:** This Government is committed to improving social mobility and extending opportunity so that everyone has the chance to realise their full potential.

Our approach to improving life chances will focus on tackling the root causes of poverty such as worklessness, educational attainment and family stability and we will consider future policy on children's centres as part of this. We will make it clear how stakeholders and members of the public can contribute in due course.

## Civil Disorder: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Rogan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost of policing the disturbance in Hyde Park and Marble Arch on the evening of 19 July. [HL1394]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office has not made any such estimate. The costs of individual deployments are operational matters for individual chief constables, working with their democratically elected Police and Crime Commissioners.

The 2016-17 funding settlement for the police ensures that the police have adequate funding to do their work.

## Common Land

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are proposing for reclaiming lost commons under the Commons Act 2006. [HL1410]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Applications can already be made to register commons which were mistakenly omitted from the register in nine authority areas under the Commons Act Schedule 2 paragraphs 2-4. Together these nine authorities cover over 70% of registered commons and greens in England. In addition, where commons were omitted as a result of a mistake made by a commons registration authority, applications under section 19 of the Commons Act 2006 can be made anywhere in England.

## Commonwealth

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they propose to take to strengthen the capacity of the Commonwealth to prevent and resolve conflicts between or within its members; and whether they will seek to provide the Secretary-General with greater resources for that purpose. [HL1173]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are committed to strengthening the capacity of the Commonwealth towards preventing and resolving conflicts between member states, including through the Secretariat and the Good Offices of the Secretary-General. We welcome the work already done by the Secretary-General in this area, most recently her appointment of a Special Envoy to strengthen multi-party democracy towards inclusive presidential elections in the Maldives in 2018.

We will work closely with Patricia Scotland and partners as we build towards the UK hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Spring 2018. We believe she is the right person to drive through reform, strengthen the Commonwealth's voice and unite members behind the values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.

A key strand of strengthening the Commonwealth's focus on democracy, the promotion of the rule of law and preventing conflict is the Commonwealth Secretariat's work in promoting democratic values, including through election observation missions. We welcome these missions and will work with the Secretary-General to take forward this important programme.

## Community Land Trusts

*Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received representations regarding a specific case in which parish councillors who are also members of a Community Land Trust (CLT) have been told to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest even though the CLT is legally established as a not-for-profit Industrial and Provident Society that requires members to take out £5 par value (not investment) shares and allows no income for members or directors from its activities. [HL1398]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** We are not aware of having received representations on such a case. The national rules on local authority members' pecuniary

interests, as set out in the Localism Act 2011, require local authority members, including parish councillors, to register and disclose certain pecuniary interests, as defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. A guide for councillors on openness and transparency on personal interests is available on my department's web-site. Local authority members who contact my department for advice are directed to the regulations and to the guide and are advised to contact the monitoring officer of their relevant local authority, who can advise them on their specific queries.

### Computer Software

*Asked by Lord Howarth of Newport*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will take action to support users of software that is no longer supported by the original vendor, for example by requiring the release of the source code of unsupported software to a third party. [HL1300]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Under the Consumer Rights Act 2015 software must be of satisfactory quality, which includes durability for a period a consumer can reasonably expect. If it is not, the consumer may be entitled to a remedy under the Act, for example, a repair or replacement of the software or, if this is not possible, the right to demand some money back. The Government has no plans to require the release of the source code of unsupported software to a third party.

### Council Housing

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the reduction in council housing rents on new council housing and the existing stock. [HL1310]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Our decision on social rent reductions was based on the need to put welfare spending on a sustainable footing, whilst protecting the most vulnerable. The housing benefit bill for the social sector in England rose by a quarter over ten years, reaching £13.2 billion in 2014/15. We believe that local authorities and private registered providers will be able to find and make efficiencies to accommodate the new rent settlement. The Government remains committed to delivering 400,000 affordable housing starts by 2021.

### Counter-terrorism

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, under their counter-terrorism policy, it is acceptable to debate the nature of, and to criticise, all religions, including Islam, even if those arguments or criticisms offend adherents to those religions; and if not, whether they

plan to clarify any limits on freedom of speech that that policy might impose. [HL1385]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As the Prevent Strategy explicitly states the Government is absolutely committed to protecting freedom of speech. Section 31 of the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015, for example includes specific protection for universities in this regard, and statutory guidance for schools makes the Prevent duty affirm our commitment that schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive issues.

### Crimes against Humanity

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the imposition of sanctions and penalties on countries that host visits by those indicted for genocide or crimes against humanity such as Omar al Bashir, President of Sudan; and what discussions they have had with other signatories to the creation of the International Criminal Court about that issue. [HL1258]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The International Criminal Court (ICC) has an established procedure for dealing with instances of non-cooperation and reports regularly to the UN Security Council on this matter. We continue to follow closely developments in the ICC, including the level of States' cooperation with the Court, and will consider further measures as appropriate.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to table a resolution for discussion at the UN Security Council drawing attention to the failure of member states to assist the International Criminal Court in bringing to justice those indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide. [HL1259]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The International Criminal Court (ICC) has an established procedure for dealing with instances of non-cooperation and reports regularly to the UN Security Council on this matter. We continue to follow closely developments in the ICC, including the level of States' cooperation with the Court, and will consider further measures as appropriate.

### Degrees

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, between 2013 and 2016 inclusive, how many institutions applied to the Quality Assurance Agency's Advisory Committee on Degree Awarding Powers (ACDAP) with a view to obtaining (1) degree awarding powers, and (2) university title, but did not proceed to full scrutiny of their applications because of the ACDAP's preliminary judgment and feedback; and of those, how many were



(a) public or not-for-profit institutions, and (b) private for-profit providers. [HL1378]

**Earl of Courtown:** The Advisory Committee on Degree Awarding Powers (ACDAP) does not consider applications for university title. In the period 2013-2016, there have been two applications for degree awarding powers that did not proceed to full scrutiny of their application because of ACDAP's preliminary judgement and feedback. One application was from a publicly funded provider and one was from a private for profit provider.

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many institutions received degree-awarding powers in (1) England, and (2) the UK, between (a) 1986 and 2000, and (b) 2001 and 2015. [HL961]

**Lord Nash:** As this is a devolved matter, we can only answer regarding the institutions that received degree awarding powers in England. These figures are based on the information available to us.

(1a) Between 1986 and 2000 in England, 48 institutions were awarded degree awarding powers. At this time there was no distinction between taught and research degree awarding powers, and foundation degree awarding powers were not yet introduced.

(1b) Between 2001 and 2015 in England, 42 institutions were awarded taught degree awarding powers and 4 institutions were awarded foundation degree awarding powers. 8 institutions also added research degree awarding powers to their pre-existing awards of taught degree awarding powers. 46 institutions in total were awarded degree awarding powers.

### **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Departmental Responsibilities**

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will continue to lead on consumer affairs; and if so, which minister has responsibility for that area. [HL1293]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will continue to lead on consumer affairs. Margot James MP is the Minister for Small Business, Consumers, and Corporate Responsibility.

### **Department for Exiting the European Union: Departmental Responsibilities**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to transfer operational command and control of the EU

units from all other departments to the Department for Exiting the European Union. [HL1390]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Department for Exiting the European Union will be made up of staff from various departments across Government, including from the UK's Permanent Representation to the EU.

### **Deportation**

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigration offenders, excluding failed asylum seekers and foreign national offenders, have been removed in each of the last five years for which figures are available, and how many of those first arrived in the UK on a student visa. [HL1143]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.

The information requested regarding Foreign National Offenders and total returns is available in the tables attached.

The Home Office is unable to provide data as requested for those who first arrived in the UK on a student visa as this would involve cross checking databases and incur disproportionate costs.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table 1 - PQ HL1143 [Table 1.xls]

Table 2 - PQ HL1143 [Table 2.xls]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-12/HL1143>

### **Deportation: Young People**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make an assessment of the report by the Refugee Support Network After Return, in particular with a view to preventing hardship and persecution of 18-year-old refugees sent back to their country of origin and to gaining benefits for the UK from the education of those individuals by not insisting on return in all cases. [HL1315]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We do not send refugees back to their country of origin. Those who no longer need protection are not refugees and are expected to apply under other provisions of the Immigration Rules if they want to stay in the UK.

We have noted the content of the report but believe that the current policy framework meets the needs of this group and strikes the correct balance. Decision makers



take into account the specific vulnerabilities of individuals when considering applications for further leave in addition to considering whether there are other exceptional or compassionate reasons to justify granting leave.

## Design and Technology

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to including Design and Technology as a science option within the English Baccalaureate. [HL1273]

**Lord Nash:** Design and Technology (D&T) is a subject that can inspire and equip young people for further study and careers in a range of design and engineering fields. Our reforms to the D&T curriculum and qualifications move the subject on from its craft-based routes to be aligned with high-tech industry practice.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) has been designed to be limited in size to provide a rigorous academic core whilst leaving space in the curriculum for pupils to study other subjects of their choice. On average, pupils in state-funded schools enter nine GCSEs and equivalent qualifications, rising to more than ten for more able pupils. As the EBacc covers up to eight GCSEs, this leaves room for other choices, including D&T.

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in how many schools Design and Technology is not part of the curriculum. [HL1274]

**Lord Nash:** Design and Technology (D&T) is part of the national curriculum, and is therefore a compulsory subject in maintained schools for pupils aged 5 to 14. The national curriculum is a benchmark of an excellent, academically rigorous education that academies can use and improve upon. The Department does not collect information on how many schools do not include D&T as part of their curriculum.

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have applied to study Design and Technology in teacher training colleges. [HL1275]

**Lord Nash:** The latest published data, from 30 June 2016, shows that 1,370 applications have been submitted for Design and Technology ITT courses, either to a university or a school-led route.

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the contribution of Design and Technology studies to the UK economy. [HL1276]

**Lord Nash:** Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are vital subjects in our modern economy and there is a widespread demand for employees with

knowledge and skills in these subjects. That is why we have worked closely with key organisations in the sector, such as the James Dyson Foundation, the Design and Technology Association and the Royal Academy of Engineering to ensure the content of Design and Technology curriculum and qualifications set out the knowledge and skills sought by leading engineering employers and are aligned with high-tech industry practice. The new GCSE and A level begin to be taught from September 2017.

## Digital Technology: EU Internal Trade

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk to, and effect on, the UK economy and British businesses of the UK being left out of the development by the EU of a digital single market. [HL1305]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The UK remains a member of the EU and will continue to play an active role in the development of the Digital Single Market until the formal and legal process of leaving the European Union has been finalised.

I will be working with colleagues across government to make sure we understand the potential risks and opportunities for our economy.

## Doctors: Migrant Workers

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to implement English language checks on doctors who have come from other EU countries to test their knowledge of clinical English rather than general social English. [HL1281]

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of doctors from other EU countries who have inadequate clinical English language skills. [HL1282]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In June 2014 the General Medical Council (GMC) was given powers to carry out proportionate language controls on all applicants from the European Economic Area (EEA) to ensure that doctors have the necessary English language skills to practise safely in the United Kingdom. In addition the GMC was given powers to take fitness to practise action if a doctor working in the UK has insufficient language skills to carry out their job safely. Doctors must register with the GMC to practise in the UK.

Since June 2014 a total of 1,659 doctors from the EEA have been unable to demonstrate to the GMC that they have sufficient language skills to practise safely in the UK; 564 of those doctors have gone on to reach the standard required by the GMC and have been issued with a licence to practise.

## Doctors: Working Hours

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to issue instructions to NHS Trusts to draw up doctors' schedules that ignore the EU Working Time Directive. [HL1283]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has no plans to issue instructions to ignore the Working Time Directive (WTD).

There will be no immediate changes to our relationship with the European Union. We remain a part of the EU until negotiations are concluded, which could take up two years or more if agreement isn't reached. While the United Kingdom remains a member of the EU, we must meet our obligations as a member of the EU, including the WTD.

It is the responsibility of individual National Health Service trusts to ensure service rotas are compliant with the WTD.

## Domestic Animals: Animal Welfare

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they collect statistics on the number of domestic animals that die as a result of being locked in a car or other motor vehicle either because of lack of oxygen or from heat; and if so, how many such deaths were recorded in the last five years. [HL1352]

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions there have been in the last five years for cruelty to animals arising from the death of a domestic animal being locked in a car or other motor vehicle. [HL1353]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government does not keep records of numbers of animals that die as a result of being locked in cars. Records of prosecutions related to animals dying in vehicles would fall under the general offence of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal which do not provide details of individual cases.

## Domestic Appliances: Fires

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with manufacturers about fires caused by faulty electric tumble dryers. [HL1314]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Whilst the Government continues to meet regularly with representatives from the electrical appliances sector, the enforcement of the relevant legislation is a matter for local Government Trading Standards services. The recent modification programme for tumble dryers announced by Whirlpool is being overseen by Peterborough Council as the Primary

Authority. The Government has asked Peterborough Council to provide regular updates on progress.

## Electrical Safety

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made to bring forward regulations to introduce electrical safety checks, as set out in the Housing and Planning Act 2016. [HL1313]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government is committed to protecting tenants and, as part of this, introduced the enabling power into the Housing and Planning Act 2016, allowing regulations to protect private sector tenants from electrical hazards in the home to be set at a later date.

This is a highly technical area and we need to explore appropriate options with relevant experts in the sector to test the most effective approach. My Department intends to set up a working group to identify what, if any, legislative requirements are needed and envisage this work being completed this year. This will ensure any introductions are beneficial and strike the right balance by protecting tenants while not over burdening the sector.

## English Baccalaureate

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure that there is an adequate supply of history, geography, and language teachers to meet the forecast demand stemming from the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. [HL1189]

**Lord Nash:** We have more teachers in our schools than ever before and the number of teachers has kept pace with changing numbers of pupils. There are more than 456,000 teachers in schools throughout England – up more than 15,000 since 2010. Teaching continues to be a popular profession with more than 14,000 former teachers coming back to the classroom in the last year.

We recognise that as schools increase their entry rates to English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects there will be more demand for specialist teachers, particularly language teachers. That is why we are spending over £1.3 billion up to 2020 to attract new teachers into the profession including continuing to offer teacher training bursaries in history, geography and languages to make sure that we continue to attract the brightest graduates. We have recently announced the expansion of the teacher subject specialism training to include modern foreign languages.

This investment in training the next generation of teachers clearly demonstrates the political will we have to make sure that all schools are able to recruit the teachers they need.

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation took place (1) before the introduction of the English

Baccalaureate in 2010, and (2) before the decision in 2015 to make the measure mandatory; and whether the results of those consultations will be published. [HL1190]

**Lord Nash:** The 2010 schools white paper, The Importance of Teaching, set out that the proportion of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) would be published in the school performance tables.

The Government's consultation on implementing the EBacc ran between 3 November 2015 and 29 January 2016. The Government response to the consultation will be published in due course.

Both papers can be found on GOV.UK and have been attached to this answer.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Implementing\_the\_Ebacc [HL1190 Attachment implementing the ebacc.pdf]

The\_Importance\_of\_Teaching [HL1190 Attachment the importance of teaching.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-13/HL1190>

## EU Action

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to suspend immediately the implementation of all pending and future judgments of the European Court of Justice. [HL1391]

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to suspend immediately all processes for passing into UK law all pending and future EU Directives and Regulations. [HL1392]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The UK remains a member of the EU until our withdrawal is completed. We will exercise our rights and meet our obligations as a member of the EU accordingly.

## EU Action: Parliamentary Scrutiny

*Asked by Lord Boswell of Aynho*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each government department, from January to June 2016, on how many occasions the scrutiny reserve resolution in (1) the House of Lords, and (2) the House of Commons, was overridden, and in respect of how many documents an override occurred in (1) both Houses, or (2) either House. [HL1405]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Between January and June 2016, 484 Explanatory Memoranda on EU documents were submitted for scrutiny.

There were 37 occasions when the Government supported decisions in the EU Council of Ministers before the scrutiny procedures had been completed by either one or both Scrutiny Committees.

In each case the Government explained to the Scrutiny Committees why it was important for the proposal to be supported before the scrutiny process could be completed or where the Committees were unable to provide a waiver for the Government to support the proposal whilst retaining the issue under scrutiny. As with previous six-monthly periods, the largest category of instrument were fast-moving EU restrictive measures where there were 27 such instruments (73% of the total number) which were adopted before scrutiny could be completed.

The figures requested are set out below:

Department	(1). House of Lords Override	(2). House of Commons override	(1). No. of overrides in both Houses	(2). Total no. of overrides
Foreign and Commonwealth Office*	29	28	28	29
Business, Innovation and Skills	3	3	3	3
Culture, Media and Sport	1	1	1	1
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1	1	1	1
Home Office	1	1	1	1
Justice	1	0	0	1
Work and Pensions	0	1	0	1
Totals	36	35	34	37

\* In addition to the formal overrides listed here, there were 27 occasions when Council Decisions were adopted prior to scrutiny by the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee due to their limited marking (ie internal EU limited distribution marking for content not intended to be in the public domain).

## EU Grants and Loans

*Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guarantees are in place to ensure that European structural and investment funding commitments that have already been entered into are honoured. [HL1399]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government remains committed to encouraging economic growth across the regions and nations of the UK. The Government is carefully considering the use of these funds and will make an announcement on EU funding in due course.

*Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their intention to allocate sufficient funding to meet the level

and profile of the current calls by the UK on European structural and investment funding. [HL1400]

*Asked by **Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to commit to future funding that reflects the total level of the 2014–20 European structural and investment funding programme in line with the needs of local areas. [HL1401]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The people of the UK have voted to leave the EU. It would not be appropriate to commit, without due consideration, to continuing to spend money over a long period as if we had not voted to leave the EU. But the Government remains committed to encouraging economic growth across the regions and nations of the UK. The Government is therefore carefully considering the use of these funds and will make an announcement on EU funding in due course.

*Asked by **Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss European structural and investment funding with the Local Government Association and other interested parties. [HL1402]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government meets regularly with representatives of the Local Government Association and other partners, who are members of national and local European Structural and Investment Funds committees where these EU funds are discussed.

## EU Law

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the scale of the task required to separate domestic law from EU law. [HL1413]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** In preparation for negotiations to leave the EU, the Government is undertaking work across a range of areas, including with its legal teams, to establish how best to deliver the government's objectives.

## EURATOM

*Asked by **Lord Teverson***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, whether they plan to negotiate ending the UK's membership of Euratom. [HL1221]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government's guiding principle throughout the process of leaving the EU will be to ensure the best possible outcome for the British people.

## European Commission

*Asked by **Lord Stoddart of Swindon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Sir Julian King will be obliged to swear an oath of allegiance to

the EU, and what assessment they have made of whether that oath will conflict with the decision of the UK to leave the EU. [HL1164]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain a full member of the EU until we leave and it is therefore our right under the treaties to have a Commissioner during that period. On their appointment, Commissioners are required to give a solemn undertaking to respect their obligations as Commissioners and behave with integrity and discretion.

## European Council

*Asked by **Lord Empey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have been advised by the government of Ireland that it intends to represent the people of Scotland at meetings of the European Council. [HL1080]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government of Ireland has not advised Her Majesty's Government that it intends to represent the people of Scotland at meetings of the European Council.

The United Kingdom remains a member of the European Union until it leaves and as such will continue to represent the whole of the UK in the European Council.

## Europol

*Asked by **Lord Kilclooney***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the UK contributes to Europol each year; what assessment they have made of whether the role of Europol will be affected by Brexit; and whether the statement by the Director of Europol, Mr Rob Wainwright, that he was "optimistic" that the re-unification of Ireland would not lead to terrorist activity reflects the policy of the Government and of Europol. [HL1415]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Europol is funded from the general budget of the EU, to which the UK contributes, with UK funding of Europol amounting to £8.4 million per year.

The UK remains a member of the EU until the exit process is concluded. The UK's future relationship with Europol will be one issue that will be considered as part of the Government's overall planning for leaving the EU.

The Europol Director, Rob Wainwright, is not a UK civil servant and does not speak on behalf of the UK Government.

## Exports

*Asked by **Viscount Waverley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish an itemised list, including budgets, of the current export promotion activities of UKTI, broken



down by region and country of the UK; and if not, why not. [HL1445]

**Lord Price:** The central marketing campaign implemented by UKTI over the last year to drive new exporters; Exporting is GREAT, covers the whole of the United Kingdom. As the budget is centrally held and the paid-for marketing activity is centrally procured through a media buying agency it is not possible to detail the breakdown of the budget by region or nation.

The Exporting is GREAT campaign includes multi-channel promotional activity, outreach engagement across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, supported by PR activity to maximise awareness, interest and engagement. A list of the paid-for activity to support this programme is detailed within this response.

*November 2015 Launch:*

*TV, Digital / Social, Search, National Press* – Full National programme targeting first time exporters across the whole UK, including devolved nations

*Radio* – national and specific regional coverage through the Bauer and Global networks.

The regional media was achieved through a mix of Bauer (City 1, City 2 and City 3, Magic, Kiss and more) and Global (LBC, Capital, Heart and Smooth Networks and more) local radio stations across the UK. At the bottom of this outline is a comprehensive list of all the stations that are part of these networks.

*Outdoor advertising* - 689 digital poster sites across key urban metropolitan areas in England, Wales, Scotland and NI.

This includes including large format roadside commuter screens, premium sites in urban centres and sites screens in shopping centres. Examples of premium sites include: the Manchester Digital Bridge, Five Way Island Birmingham, Bristol Great Western Link Inbound and Outbound, Newcastle screen on the Tyne, Leeds Northern Light, Liverpool Media Wall, Manchester Printworks and in NI Castle Court Shopping Centre and Victoria Street Shopping Centre.

*Feb – March 2016:*

*TV, Digital / Social, Search* – Full National targeting first time exporters across the whole UK, including devolved nations

*Radio* – national and specific regional coverage through the Bauer and Global networks.

The regional media was achieved through a mix of Bauer (City 1, City 2 and City 3, Magic, Kiss and more) and Global (LBC, Capital, Heart and Smooth Networks and more) local radio stations across the UK.

*Radio Detail (Launch and Feb-March campaign)*

Bauer City 1

CFM (Cumbria and South West Scotland)

Clyde 1 (Glasgow and the West of Scotland)

Forth 1 (Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife)

Hallam FM (South Yorkshire and the North Midlands)

Key 103 (Greater Manchester)

Metro Radio (Tyne and Wear and Northumberland)

MFR (Scottish Highlands, Moray and Orkney)

Northsound 1 (Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire)

Radio Aire (Leeds and West Yorkshire)

Radio Borders (Scottish Borders and North Northumberland)

Radio City (Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales)

Rock FM (Lancashire)

Tay FM (Tayside)

TFM (Tees Valley, County Durham and North Yorkshire)

Viking FM (East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire)

West FM (Ayrshire)

Bauer City 2

Clyde 2 (Glasgow and the West of Scotland)

Forth 2 (Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife)

Hallam 2 (South Yorkshire and the North Midlands)

Key 2 (Greater Manchester)

Metro 2 Radio (Tyne and Wear and Northumberland)

MFR 2 (Scottish Highlands, Moray and Orkney)

Northsound 2 (Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire)

Radio Aire 2 (Leeds and West Yorkshire)

Radio City 2 (Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales)

Rock FM 2 (Lancashire)

Tay 2 (Tayside)

TFM 2 (Tees Valley, County Durham and North Yorkshire)

Viking 2 (East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire)

West Sound (Ayrshire)

West Sound (Dumfries and Galloway)

Bauer City 3

Clyde 3 (Glasgow and the West of Scotland)

Forth 3 (Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife)

Hallam 3 (South Yorkshire and the North Midlands)

Key 3 (Greater Manchester)

Metro 3 Radio (Tyne and Wear and Northumberland)

MFR 3 (Scottish Highlands, Moray and Orkney)

Radio Aire 3 (Leeds and West Yorkshire)

Radio City 3 (Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales)

Rock FM 3 (Lancashire)

Tay 3 (Tayside)

The Hits (UK-wide on Freeview and online)

TFM 3 (Tees Valley, County Durham and North Yorkshire)

Viking 3 (East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire)

Capital

95.8 Capital FM London

105-106 Capital FM Scotland (Glasgow, Edinburgh)\*



105-106 Capital FM North East (Newcastle Upon Tyne, Sunderland, Durham, Middlesbrough)

105 Capital FM Yorkshire (Leeds, Sheffield, Kingston Upon Hull)

102 Capital FM Manchester

96-106 Capital FM East Midlands (Derby, Leicester, Nottingham)

102.2 Capital FM Birmingham

97.4/103.2 Capital FM South Wales (Cardiff, Newport, The Valleys)\*

103.2 Capital FM South Coast (Southampton, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight)

95-106 Capital North West & Wales (Anglesey & Gwynedd, North Wales Coast, Wirral, Wrexham and Cheshire)

107.6 Capital Liverpool

Heart

Heart London

Heart West Midlands

Heart Watford & Hemel

Heart Four Counties

Heart Cambridgeshire

Heart Essex

Heart East Anglia

Heart Kent

Heart Sussex

Heart Solent

Heart Thames Valley

Heart Wiltshire

Heart South West

Heart Bristol & Somerset

Heart Cornwall

Heart Gloucestershire

Heart North Wales

Heart Scotland

Heart North West

Heart North East

Heart South Wales

Heart Yorkshire

Smooth

Smooth Radio North West (Liverpool, Manchester, Preston)

Smooth Radio London

Smooth Radio North East (Newcastle, Sunderland, Middlesbrough)

Smooth Radio West Midlands (Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Coventry)

Smooth Radio East Midlands (Derby, Nottingham, Leicester)

Smooth Radio Glasgow

Magic

North East

Newcastle Magic 1152

Stockton-on-Tees Magic 1170

North West

Liverpool Magic 1548

Greater Manchester

Piccadilly Magic 1152

Preston Magic 999

Yorkshire

Hull Magic 1161

Leeds Magic 828

Sheffield Magic AM

London

London Magic 105.4

*Outdoor (Launch campaign) Detail*

Primesight Large Format Digital 48 Sheets

Court Shopping Centre, Victoria Street Shopping Centre, London, Barnet, Brent, Croydon, Enfield, Greenwich, Hammersmith, Chelsea, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Newcastle, Birmingham, Bradford, Leeds, Glasgow, Portsmouth, Cardiff, Glasgow, Edinburgh

Ocean Outdoor

Manchester Digital Bridge, Five Way Island Birmingham, Bristol Great Western Link Inbound and Outbound, Newcastle screen on the Tyne, Leeds Northern Light, Liverpool Media Wall, Manchester Printworks

Adshel Live Towns

Birmingham

Bristol

Cardiff

Cheltenham

Exeter

Gloucester

Ipswich

Leeds

Liverpool

Middlesbrough

Newcastle Upon Tyne

Norwich

Oxford

Southampton

Swansea

Kens & Chelsea - London

Aberdeen

Bournemouth

Dundee

Glasgow

Thamesdown

Kirklees

Sefton

Wirral

*Shopping Centres:*

Metro Centre Gateshead

Bluewater Greenhithe, Kent

Meadowhall Sheffield

Lakeside Grays, London

The Manchester Arndale Manchester

High Cross Shopping Centre Leicester

Queensgate Shopping Centre Peterborough

The Luton Arndale Luton

Braehead Glasgow

Golden Square Warrington

Telford Centre Telford

Festival Place Basingstoke

## Female Genital Mutilation

*Asked by Lord MacLennan of Rogart*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of victims of female genital mutilation in each of the four nations of the UK; and what steps they are taking to eradicate that practice throughout the UK. [HL1185]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The most recent NHS data released on 7 June showed 1,242 newly identified cases of FGM within the NHS between January and March 2016. 98% of cases were in adult women, and in the vast majority of these the FGM took place in Asia or Africa.

A 2015 prevalence study part funded by the Home Office estimated that approximately 137,000 women and girls in England and Wales are affected by FGM and 60,000 girls were born to women who had undergone it.

We have significantly strengthened the law through the Serious Crime Act 2015, including introducing FGM Protection Orders to protect girls at risk, and a mandatory reporting duty requiring specified professionals to report known cases in under 18s to the police.

We are improving the response of professionals through the Department of Health's £4m FGM prevention programme, up to £2m from the Department for Education to support the Barnardo's and Local Government Association's National FGM Centre which is strengthening the social care response; and updated multi-agency guidance which we published on the 1 April and which is statutory for the first time.

FGM is a devolved matter and we work closely with the Devolved Administrations in taking forward this work.

*Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women have been admitted to hospital in England and Wales as a result of female genital mutilation in each year between 2010 and 2015. [HL1386]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** This information is not available in the format requested.

## Financial Institutions

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposed EU-wide recovery and resolution frameworks for failed central counterparties, and whether in their assessment there are any outstanding issues. [HL1373]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government welcomes the European Commission's commitment to publish a legislative proposal on a recovery and resolution framework for central counterparties (CCPs) and will assess the proposals once published. Given the global nature of CCPs, the recovery and resolution framework will need to take into account ongoing work by the Financial Stability Board, the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI) and the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

## Firearms

*Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received from interested parties about the recent EU deactivation specification as it applies to deactivated historical firearms as defined in the Policing and Crime Bill. [HL1302]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The EU Implementing Regulation 2015/2403 on deactivation standards which came into force on 8 April 2016 sets new technical specifications for deactivated weapons.

Clause 114 of the Policing and Crime Bill creates a specific new offence to sell or gift a weapon that has not been deactivated to the new EU Deactivation Standard.

We have received representations from a small number of interested parties who have been concerned that the EU specification is not as effective as the previous UK standards. In addition, we were contacted by members of re-enactment and living history societies wishing to travel to France with their firearms to participate in commemorative events linked to the D-Day landings and the Battle of the Somme.

We have published guidance on the Regulation which includes requirements for additional measures for deactivated weapons brought into the UK. These measures, which go beyond the EU specification in a small number of areas, were introduced to align the requirements more closely with the previous UK standards. We have also worked with the UK Proof

Houses to ensure that certification to the new standards is prioritised for re-enactors wishing to travel with their firearms.

### Firearms: Compensation

*Asked by Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the total compensation payments arising from the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 and the Firearms (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1997. [[HL1228](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The rounded total of compensation payments made under the two Acts was £97 million.

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Vaccination

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress is being made in developing better vaccines for foot and mouth disease. [[HL1411](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** There are three vaccines authorised for use in the UK for foot and mouth disease (FMD).

The UK Marketing Authorisation Holder (Merial Animal Health Ltd) is a leading developer of FMD vaccines and a major supplier worldwide.

The decision on whether to develop and market a new product is a commercial one for those pharmaceutical companies wishing to invest the necessary capital. Applications for new products are assessed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate to ensure their safety, quality and efficacy prior to them being authorised.

### Football: Sportsgrounds

*Asked by Lord Faulkner of Worcester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have yet received a report from the Premier League on progress towards the implementation of accessible stadia guidelines by August 2017. [I] [[HL1121](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** Ministers expect to receive the report from the Premier League on progress by their clubs to implement the Accessible Stadia guidelines shortly. Ministers meet the football authorities regularly to discuss a variety of matters, including accessibility.

*Asked by Lord Faulkner of Worcester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Premier League and the Football League about meeting disabled access guidelines at football grounds. [I] [[HL1122](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** Both the Minister for Disabled People and the Minister for Sport have had discussions and corresponded with both the Premier League and the

Football League about improving accessibility at football stadia. The Minister for Sport is meeting the Premier League soon to discuss a range of topics including accessibility and progress with their work plan.

### Foreign Companies: Takeovers

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to introduce legislation restricting the acquisition of key UK companies by foreign investors while they consider their industrial strategy. [[HL1371](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** As we build an economy that works for all, the Government will keep the law on takeovers under constant review.

### Foreign Policy

*Asked by Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 14 July (HL1014), whether it is the policy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to refer to all ministers of foreign countries without using their title or forename, as with Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa; and if so, when that became their policy. [[HL1329](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have amended the record so that it provides Zimbabwean Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa's full title.

### Free Movement of Labour

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when Directive 2014/54/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on measures facilitating the exercise of rights conferred on workers in the context of freedom of movement for workers will be transposed into UK law. [[HL1144](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK already fulfils the obligations set out in the Directive and these are broadly reflected in our domestic laws.

### Gaming Machines

*Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in setting a date for the Triennial Review of gaming machine stakes and prizes. [[HL1290](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** As previously stated in the House of Commons, Government is reviewing the situation and we hope to announce details of a review in due course.

## Gastrointestinal System: Diseases

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the removal of the role of the National Clinical Director for gastrointestinal and liver diseases, what other forms of information and advice on those diseases are available to NHS England. [[HL1089](#)]

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether NHS England will seek advice from specialist gastrointestinal disease societies following the removal of the role of National Clinical Director for that area. [[HL1090](#)]

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanisms they plan to employ to seek advice on workforce planning for gastroenterology following the removal of the role of National Clinical Director for that area. [[HL1091](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In future, NHS England will seek clinical advice on issues relating to gastrointestinal and liver disease from a variety of sources. This will include experts at Public Health England (PHE) for issues which are alcohol related, the National Clinical Director for Obesity and Diabetes for issues relating to obesity induced fatty liver disease as well as through the Clinical Reference Group for hepatitis C and the medical Royal Colleges.

Information on liver and gastrointestinal (GI) diseases is also available from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, PHE Atlases of variation, relevant national audits and regular clinical communication between the national Medical Director, his senior team and the relevant Royal Colleges and specialist societies and with senior professionals.

NHS England continues to run an Endoscopy Stakeholder Group to ensure that all aspects of diagnostic pathways for GI disease are reviewed and clinical advice is taken regarding policy developments to address the current and projected requirement in capacity. The relevant specialist societies are key members of this group. NHS England also supports the national Cancer Implementation Programme on behalf of the arm's length bodies, which includes workstreams on early diagnosis, and on living with and beyond cancer, both of which are addressing many issues that affect patients with GI cancers.

Health Education England will continue to ensure that they engage with employers to forecast how many gastroenterologists they require year on year. The process for making decisions relating to medical training numbers is currently being refined. Medical speciality training post numbers will be reviewed in greater depth with a range of stakeholders on a rolling programme; approximately every two years. Gastroenterology is expected to be reviewed this winter.

## Gender Recognition

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recommendations of the December 2015 report of the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee Transgender Equality, when they plan to publish (1) a new, cross-departmental transgender equality action plan, and (2) a balance sheet of the previous transgender action plan along with a new strategy to tackle those issues which remain unaddressed. [[HL1309](#)]

**Lord Nash:** On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016 the Government responded to the Women and Equalities Select Committee inquiry on transgender equality. In this, we committed to publishing an update on progress against "Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward (2011)"; and "Advancing transgender equality: a plan for action (2011)".

The Government also committed to producing a new action plan on transgender equality.

The Government will publish both of these documents in due course.

## Global LGBTI Human Rights Conference

*Asked by Lord Cashman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who is representing them at the LGBTI Human Rights Conference taking place in Montevideo and what update they can provide about the proceedings of that Conference. [[HL1243](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK was represented at the Montevideo conference by Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and by a representative from the Kaleidoscope Trust, a UK civil society organisation working to promote the advancement of the rights of LGB&T people globally. The conference brought together representatives of governments, civil society organisations and multilateral organisations and agencies. It discussed: diplomatic efforts to promote and protect the equal rights of LGB&T and intersex people; their social inclusion; efforts to ensure the commitment made in the Sustainable Development Goals to 'leave no one behind' is fulfilled; and ways to coordinate donor funding to best support these objectives.

*Asked by Lord Cashman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the Equal Rights Coalition, which was agreed at the Global LGBTI Human Rights Conference. [[HL1244](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The establishment of the Equal Rights Coalition, to which the United Kingdom was pleased to become a signatory at its launch at the Global LGBTI Human Rights Conference in Montevideo (13-15 July), is a positive step. Her Majesty's Government believes that the Equal Rights Coalition has

the potential to become a useful forum for exchanging ideas and best practice and for advocating progress in LGB&T rights. The Government looks forward to the further elaboration of the Coalition's objectives in the coming months and supports the aim of widening its membership.

## Government Departments: Procurement

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage, by total value, of government departments' procurement contracts for relevant construction projects meet or exceed the mandatory Government Buying Standard level in 2014–15; and why that data was not included in the Greening Government Commitments annual report for 2014–15. [HL1140]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Greening Government Commitments annual report for 2014-15 sets out the data reported by departments on the proportion of government procurement contracts in a number of key product groups which met or exceeded Government Buying Standards in that year. The information specifically on construction contracts is set out in Annex 2, procurement table 3 of the annual report. As with previous years' annual reports, the available data is presented by department, rather than for the whole of government. It is not possible to provide a figure on the proportion which met or exceeded the Government Buying Standards for the whole of government, as not all departments were able to report complete information.

It is the responsibility of each Department to put the Government Buying Standards into practice in its own procurement activity.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what changes to government procurement rules they envisage as a result of the referendum on 23 June to leave the EU. [HL1160]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** Until we leave, the UK remains a full member of the EU, with all of the rights and obligations. There will be no immediate change to the way our goods can move or the way our services can be sold.

The Prime Minister has established a Department for Exiting the European Union for overseeing negotiations to leave the EU and establishing the future relationship between the UK and EU.

## Green Belt

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 13 July (HL1065), which are the 24 local authorities that have adopted new green belt boundaries and what is their estimate of (1) the subsequent loss of greenbelt

land, and (2) how much greenbelt land has been lost in England during the last five years. [HL1437]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The list of 24 local authorities (see below) that have adopted new Green Belt boundaries in the last five years will be placed in the Library of the House. This includes an estimate of the increase or decrease in Green Belt area in each case. Over the last five years the area of Green Belt nationally decreased by 0.2 per cent, and overall the Green Belt is larger than it was in 1997 if we disregard land reclassified as national park.

2014-15	Area of designated Green Belt land 2014/15 (hectares)	Change from 2013/14 (hectares)
Bath and North East Somerset	24,690	-100 (0%)
Bolton	7,230	-50 (-1%)
Broxtowe	5,130	-20 (0%)
Cheshire West and Chester	39,170	-60 (0%)
Christchurch	3,270	-200 (-6%)
East Dorset	16,720	-160 (-1%)
Gateshead	8,530	-150 (-2%)
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,980	-410 (-9%)
Rushcliffe	16,570	-670 (-4%)
Solihull	11,870	-40 (0%)
Three Rivers	6,720	-110 (-2%)
2013-14	Area of designated Green Belt land 2013/14 (hectares)	Change from 2012/13 (hectares)
Rochford	12,570	-190 (-2%)
South Gloucestershire	23,030	-210 (-1%)
West Lancashire	34,470	-150 (0%)
2012-13	Area of designated Green Belt land 2012/13 (hectares)	Change from 2011/12 (hectares)
Ealing	310	-20 (-6%)
Manchester	1,280	-430 (-25%)
Purbeck	8,200	+460 (+6%)
Wakefield	23,500	-400 (-2%)
2011-12	Area of designated Green Belt land 2011/12 (hectares)	Change from 2010/11 (hectares)
Chelmsford	12,850	-35 (0%)
Hyndburn	3,990	-41 (-1%)



2011-12	Area of designated Green Belt land 2011/12 (hectares)	Change from 2010/11 (hectares)
Thurrock	11,920	-51 (0%)
2010-11	Area of designated Green Belt land 2010/11 (hectares)	Change from 2009/10 (hectares)
Enfield	3,060	-30 (-1%)
Vale of WH	8,310	+5 (0%)
Slough	860	+30 (+3%)

### Guo Feixiong

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of China about the case of Guo Feixiong; and what response they have received. [HL1078]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), raised the case of Guo Feixiong with the Chinese Ambassador on 3 December 2015, who said the case was being handled according to Chinese law. More recently, we supported an EU statement on 22 June 2016. That statement called for Guo, along with several other individuals detained for seeking to protect the rights of others, such as their right to freedom of expression, to be released.

We continue to monitor Guo's case and report on it via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy. We will raise Guo's case at the next round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue.

### Hate Crime: Nottinghamshire

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the authority of Nottinghamshire Police to categorise wolf-whistling as a hate crime rather than a public nuisance; and whether they consider that such a decision may derogate from the seriousness of classification of hate crime. [HL1265]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The five strands of monitored hate crime (race, religion, sexual orientation transgender identity and disability) are the minimum categories that police officers and staff are expected to record. There are, however, many other groups in society who have been targeted with hostility and crime. Any specific incidents of Hate Crime are an operational matter for the police.

### Health: Poverty

*Asked by Baroness Hollins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made, or are planning to make, of the cost to the health service of poverty-related ill health. [HL1172]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department has not made, and is not planning to make, an estimate of the cost to the health service of poverty related ill health. However, in 2008 the Department commissioned Professor Michael Marmot of University College London to chair an independent strategic review of health inequalities in England from 2010. The Review, *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*, estimated that, in 2010, direct NHS healthcare costs in England associated with treating the consequences of inequality amounted to £5.5 billion per year for treating acute illness, mental illness and prescriptions. This estimate does not cover all health service activity, including primary care costs.

The review also estimated the wider costs of health inequalities, with £31-33 billion worth of productivity losses resulting from inequalities in illness, and between £20-32 billion in lost taxes and higher welfare payments. A copy of the review has been placed in the Library.

### HIV Infection: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Cashman*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had on access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and the Department of Health's role in ensuring that NHS England provides continuity of access to PrEP to those currently using the drug. [HL1245]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The PROUD trial participants continue to receive pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) at the current time. We are working with Public Health England to ensure that the on-going needs of these individuals are taken into account in planning for the PrEP trial sites in which NHS England has agreed to invest up to £2 million.

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 13 July (HL1006), whether they have any plans to monitor private access to (1) Truvada for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) from clinics within England, and (2) generic versions of Truvada for PrEP online from overseas. [HL1349]

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risks to individual and public health of significant numbers of individuals accessing generic versions of Truvada for pre-exposure prophylaxis online from overseas. [HL1350]

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether individuals using generic versions of Truvada for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) obtained online from overseas can access free at the point of need the appropriate monitoring and tests that are required, including as necessary tests for the pharmacological efficacy of the generic drugs they are taking, even though Truvada for PrEP has not been commissioned by NHS England. [HL1351]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** It would not be possible or practical to monitor how individuals choose to access medicines or services outside of the National Health Service or to assess the impact on that individual. Registered pharmacies that operate online and that may supply drugs for use as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) are the responsibility of the General Pharmaceutical Council. We are aware that some local authority commissioned sexual health services are offering monitoring of the pharmacological efficacy of generic PrEP however this is a matter for local decision.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers the Secretary of State has to direct NHS England to commission the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis. [HL1425]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Work on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is on-going and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has been asked to conduct an evidence review of Truvada for PrEP in groups at high risk of HIV. The NICE evidence summary will inform a pilot programme that will see £2 million invested over the next two years to target those at highest risk of HIV. This evidence review and pilot programme signifies the next steps forward and will inform any subsequent decisions about commissioning PrEP.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what modelling has been undertaken to investigate the effect of pre-exposure prophylaxis being made available to homosexual men to prevent the transmission of HIV, and what were the results of that modelling in terms of lives saved, healthy years gained and savings to the NHS and other public services. [HL1426]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence is developing an evidence summary on the use of Truvada for pre-exposure prophylaxis that is expected to be published in the autumn. The evidence summary will consider the evidence for effectiveness, safety, patient factors and resource implications.

## HIV Infection: Health Services

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent on treatment by AIDS and HIV services in 2011–12, 2012–13 and 2013–14. [HL1427]

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been spent on AIDS and HIV services by local authorities in 2011–12, 2012–13 and 2013–14. [HL1428]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** According to National Health Service data, the following is the estimated expenditure in relation to HIV treatment and care services:

2011-12 - £642 million  
2012-13 - £630 million  
2013-14 - £570 million

Data for financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13 are from NHS programme budgeting estimates. Data for financial year 2013/14 are a combination of programme budgeting estimates and NHS England expenditure data on specialised services. Data between these years are not comparable, as responsibility for the commissioning of some services relating to HIV and AIDS and related public health services transferred from primary care trusts (PCTs) to local authorities on 1 April 2013, and are therefore excluded from NHS figures from this date forward. In addition, price reductions and the availability of generic HIV medicines has seen the per patient spend on treatment reduce in 2013/14, despite an overall increase in the number of patients requiring care and treatment.

In addition, data between these years are not comparable, as responsibility for the commissioning of some services relating to HIV and AIDS and related public health services transferred from PCTs to local authorities on 1 April 2013, and are therefore excluded from NHS figures from this date forward.

Information on spend by local authorities on HIV prevention is not collected centrally. Public Health Resource Allocation (RA) returns from local authorities identified £82,658,000 was spent on sexual health advice, prevention and promotion in 2015/16 and some of this funding will have been allocated to HIV prevention activities.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been spent by Public Health England on AIDS and HIV services in 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15. [HL1429]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Since 2013, AIDS and HIV treatment and care services have been commissioned by NHS England specialist commissioning groups.

Between 2012 and 2015, national HIV prevention activities were funded by the Department. The information is shown in the following table.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Spend</i>
July 2012- March 2013	£1,835,500
2013/2014	£2,450,000
2014/2015	£2,450,000

## Home Shopping

*Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what regulations protect the contact details of vulnerable people being passed to other commercial agencies when purchasing a product online or having one purchased on their behalf. [HL1262]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The UK Government takes the protection of people's personal data very seriously. The handling and sharing of personal data is primarily governed by the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), which establishes a legal framework of rights and obligations that protect individuals' personal information.

The Information Commissioner's Office, who is the independent regulatory body responsible for enforcing the DPA in the UK, has produced the guidance for the general public on such matters. This guidance can be found on its' website at; [www.ico.org.uk/for-the-public/is-my-information-being-handled-correctly/](http://www.ico.org.uk/for-the-public/is-my-information-being-handled-correctly/)

## Homelessness: Children

*Asked by Lord Adebawale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children aged 16 or 17 have presented to their local authority as homeless in (1) 2015–16, and (2) 2014–15, and how many of those were (a) assessed under the Housing Act 1996, and (b) assessed and then accommodated under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996. [HL1120]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** One person without a home is one too many. That is why we have maintained and protected homelessness prevention funding for local authorities through the local government finance settlement totalling £315 million by 2019/20. We have also increased central government funding to tackle homelessness to £139 million over the next four years.

The causes of youth homelessness are highly complex and our priority is to ensure that young people at risk of homelessness get the support they need. That is why we have also invested in the development of a Positive Pathway framework to help local authorities and their partners support young people to remain in the family

home (where it is safe to do so) through a collaborative and integrated approach, as well as identifying the relevant support services needed should they become homeless. This includes supported accommodation as a starting point for 16 and 17 year olds.

Since 2002, 16 to 17 year olds have been classed as a priority need category and are owed a main homeless duty by their local authority. The number of 16 or 17 year olds who applied and were accepted as homeless was 580 in 2014-15, and 530 in 2015-16 (falling from 2,190 in 2009-10). All of these cases were dealt with under the homelessness provisions of Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.

We do not hold details on the age of applicants who reported to their local authority but were ineligible or not homeless.

## Horn of Africa: EU Immigration

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure a positive and constructive role for Sudan as part of the Khartoum Process. [HL1252]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is engaging with the Sudanese Government to tackle the full range of migration issues. As part of the Khartoum Process, we are discussing the challenges faced by all countries in the region, including the Sudan, and we welcome the constructive contribution they have made so far, in particular in hosting a meeting on smuggling and trafficking in May.

## Horn of Africa: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they and the UNHCR plan to take to protect Eritrean and Somali families now in Ethiopia, the Sudan, or South Sudan without legal status. [HL1149]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Irregular migrants in Africa are extremely vulnerable. We are working through the Khartoum Process, of which the UK is currently chair, and bilaterally to improve conditions for all migrants in the Horn of Africa. The Khartoum Process is a regional initiative bringing together the Governments of Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Libya and the EU, the UK, Italy, France, Germany and Malta to better manage migration in the region, including the protection of irregular migrants. The Khartoum Process is part of a plan of action agreed between African nations and the EU and its member states in Valletta in November 2015. The protection of migrant rights is a critical element of that plan.

In Sudan, we are advocating through the Khartoum Process for increased rights for refugees in national legislation, including work permits for Eritreans in Sudan. Alongside this, DFID contributes through the European Development Fund to the €100 million EU Trust Fund

(EUTF) package of Special Measures for Sudan, which aims to protect and address the development needs of refugees in Eastern Sudan. The EUTF has been supporting UNHCR and local law enforcement efforts over the past 18 months to make camps in the East of Sudan more secure. With this EU support, UNHCR also hosts a unit for unaccompanied minors (UM) in Shagarab Camp, which works to return them to their families in Eritrea wherever possible, houses them separately from other migrants in purpose built dormitories, and provides free meals for all the children.

In April 2016, the UK together with World Bank and UNHCR signed up to a set of principles on programming to support long term refugees. These principles recommend increased support to a shift from relief provision for refugees towards a more sustainable approach. In line with this, DFID in Ethiopia is providing £125 million over the next five years for basic service and economic opportunities alongside protection programming, working with both refugees and host communities. Research into push and pull factors around migration also forms a part of DFID's package of support.

### Housing

*Asked by Lord Inglewood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether Brexit will increase, decrease, or have no material impact on, the need for more housing in England. [HL1301]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** It is too early to say. Whatever the impact, this government remains committed to increasing the supply of homes for the 86 percent of people who aspire to own their own home. The Spending Review doubled the housing budget and set out the most ambitious affordable housing programme since the 1970s, which will help us to achieve our ambition of delivering one million homes.

### Housing: Sales

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will launch a consultation on improving the home buying process, and if so, when. [HL1229]

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the obstacles to improving and speeding up the home buying process. [HL1230]

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to mandate the timescale by which the Leasehold Property Enquiries form must be completed. [HL1231]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** At Spending Review 2015, the Government announced its plan to publish a call for evidence looking at the process of buying a selling a

home. We understand that there are complexities involved and, therefore, will assess the evidence received in response to the call for evidence to determine what changes have the potential to make the greatest impact. The call for evidence will include consideration of the impact of leasehold on buying and selling homes, and will be launched in due course.

### Human Trafficking: Children

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, Karen Bradley MP (HC Deb, cols 33WH–54WH), on independent advocates for trafficked children, (1) what is the timetable for establishing early adopter sites of independent child trafficking advocates, (2) what geographic areas will constitute a site for these trials, and (3) what mechanisms will be put in place for monitoring the outcomes of children who received an advocate in the first phase of these trials. [HL1303]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is in the process of identifying a provider of independent child trafficking advocates and three early adopter sites.

To ensure we assess the revised independent child trafficking advocates model appropriately, early adopter sites will cover areas with different demographics as well as having a range of experiences of working with trafficked children.

Officials are developing an outcomes framework with support from a wide selection of academics and professionals who have expertise and experience in working with local authorities and trafficked children.

### ICT: Education

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have in place to ensure that the digital skills of UK citizens are viable in the global marketplace and can compete with those of Brazilians and Indians, in the light of the recent study commissioned by Barclays which rated the digital skills of Brazil and India as greater than those in the UK. [HL1441]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The recent Barclays' study on digital skills ranked the UK favourably overall for digital skills (4th), ahead of both Brazil (9th) and India (7th).

High-quality and relevant skills underpin productivity and growth and give people confidence to make the most of modern technology. Ensuring digital skills keep up to date with the pace of technological change is a challenge for all developed countries. We have therefore made significant improvements to education and training, including reforming the computing curriculum so all young people are taught coding in school.

We will continue to take action to ensure the UK is developing the digital skills individuals and businesses need. Reforms to our technical education system will



provide people with the necessary digital skills as set out in our Post-16 Skills Plan. We have also recently introduced new innovative digital degree apprenticeships to enable young people to get an honours degree, alongside on the job training.

### Ilois: Resettlement

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the comments by Lord Mance in the Supreme Court's judgment in *R (on the application of Bancoult) (No 2) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs* [2016] UKSC 35 that a refusal to allow resettlement of the Chagos Islands could be judicially reviewed as potentially "irrational, unreasonable and/or disproportionate", what steps they plan to take to reach a reasoned decision on the issue of resettlement as quickly as possible. [HL1270]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In the last Parliament, the Cabinet asked for further detailed work to understand the uncertainties around cost and demand for resettlement of the British Indian Ocean Territory. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence, have refined uncertainties around costs, and a 12 week public consultation was carried out to clarify demand. The results of the consultation were published in January 2016. Officials are now carrying out remaining work on the options available before the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), takes a final decision on the policy. There is no date yet when an announcement on possible resettlement will be made. Developments will be announced to Parliament and the public in due course.

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will support the resolution from Mauritius at the forthcoming UN General Assembly calling for the matter of the resettlement of Chagos islanders to be referred to the International Court of Justice. [HL1271]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are not aware of any plans by Mauritius for a resolution at the next UN General Assembly regarding the resettlement of Chagos islanders to be referred to the International Court of Justice (ICC). On 17 May the Prime Minister of Mauritius expressed to the Mauritian Parliament his intention to seek a referral by the UN General Assembly to the ICC this autumn, in order to obtain an advisory opinion in relation to sovereignty of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). We would not support any such resolution as we are in no doubt about British sovereignty over BIOT.

### Immigrants: Disability

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who are classed as having a disability have been (1)

deported, and (2) detained for immigration purposes, in each of the last 10 years. [HL1174]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The information requested is not held by the department.

### Immigration Controls: Newcastle upon Tyne

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in order to welcome tourists to Scotland and the North of England, they plan to instruct the Border Agency to reduce its processing time of vehicles at Newcastle arriving off the ferry from Amsterdam. [HL1272]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Border Force has carried out a significant transformation programme at Port of Tyne to improve border security and customer service. Joint investment with the port operator in new infrastructure has significantly reduced passenger processing times and the port operator has confirmed a noticeable improvement compared to previous years.

### In Vitro Fertilisation

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has made of research published in *Nature* regarding mitochondrial and nuclear DNA matching shapes metabolism and healthy ageing; and how that assessment relates to the recommendations contained within guidance note 33.23 on the HFEA website. [HL1096]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The noble Lord appears to be referring to the recent work by Latorre-Pellicer et al (2016). The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that this research will be considered by the reconvened Expert Panel which will assess the safety and efficacy of mitochondrial donation techniques more widely.

The guidance referred to by the noble Lord refers to haplotype matching in the provision of mitochondrial donation treatment. At present, no clinics in the United Kingdom are licenced to provide such treatment. The HFEA has further advised that the research published in *Nature* is consistent with that guidance. The HFEA will continue to advise clinics to keep themselves up to date with the scientific research in this area.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Public Health, Jane Ellison, on 1 June (HC38011 and HC38012), which members of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's (HFEA) Executive who provided administrative support to the work of the expert panel convened by the Authority might have in turn passed on any unredacted information that was provided in confidence to the

expert panel to non-members; and whether each of the individuals concerned continue to be employed by the HFEA in a similar capacity. [[HL1097](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) convened Expert Panel is comprised of scientific experts in the relevant fields and supported by a small team of Authority staff. The HFEA has advised that in order for the Panel to carry out its work it is essential for members of the Panel and Authority staff to be able to exchange information.

It is entirely proper that all involved in reviewing the information have access to all the relevant documentation. All HFEA staff who were involved in supporting the Expert Panel continue to work for the Authority and have the full confidence of the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Public Health, Jane Ellison, on 1 June (HC38011 and HC38012), why the content of the personal email exchange between Professor Grifo and a member of the expert panel had to be provided in confidence to the expert panel convened by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority if wider disclosure of such unredacted information would not breach patient confidentiality; and why the relevant information in question was not sought from Professor Grifo until sometime after the third Scientific Review of the safety and efficacy of methods to avoid mitochondrial disease in 2014. [[HL1098](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** As the noble Lord is aware, the email exchange between Professor Grifo and the Expert Panel member was private and provided in confidence. That email will not, therefore, be made public. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has advised that the information in question was not sought in the previous reviews because the abstract published by Professor Grifo was not submitted to the Authority as part of any formal calls for evidence.

### International Monetary Fund

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports have, since 2006, (1) commented on the state of the UK economy; (2) commented on the state of the UK economy and have been shown to be erroneous; and (3) made comments on the state of the UK economy that the IMF have had to revise or retract due to the inaccuracy of the forecast. [[HL1389](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The information requested in relation to the evaluation of comments and forecasts about the UK could only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, the Independent Evaluation Office of the IMF produce a report evaluating the forecasts of the

organisation and the most recent one was published in 2014.

The UK economy is assessed by the IMF on an annual basis as part of the Article IV process. The IMF also produce quarterly forecasts for the UK economy in their World Economic Outlook (WEO) reports and WEO Updates.

Article IV reports and World Economic Outlooks and Updates are readily available on the IMF website and include recent revisions to forecasts.

### Iran: Baha'i Faith

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an assessment of the report by the Baha'i International Community published in October 2015 on the economic oppression of Baha'is in Iran; whether they plan to continue to make representations to the government of Iran about that issue and in particular about the return of confiscated properties; and whether they will ensure that the full facts of economic and religious persecution are reflected in guidance to interviewers and others dealing with asylum applications in the UK. [[HL1316](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials attended the UK launch of the October 2015 report by the Baha'i International Community on 19 July and delivered a speech highlighting the Government's concerns over the Iranian government's actions against the Baha'i community. We share the desire to see Iran fulfil its human rights obligations and cease harassment of all religious minorities. We have repeatedly raised our concerns about the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran with the Iranian government and will continue to do so. The Home Office has responsibility for carefully considering all asylum claims on their individual merits. Published guidance for Home Office staff on interviewing and consideration of asylum claims on religious grounds is regularly reviewed and takes into consideration the views of religious groups and other stakeholders.

### Iraq Committee of Inquiry

*Asked by Lord Richards of Herstoncux*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report by Sir John Chilcot on the Iraq War, whether they have any plans to reform the decision-making process within the Ministry of Defence and place the Armed Forces under the command of the Chief of Defence Staff. [[HL1269](#)]

**Earl Howe:** We are studying the report of the Iraq Inquiry in detail to identify how further to improve our structures, policies, procurement and training. Since 2010, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has implemented wide-ranging reforms to how it is structured and managed. This has clarified responsibilities, strengthened accountability

and empowered the single Services. The Defence Secretary confirmed to the Defence Select Committee on 19 July that he has established a team to go through the report and make sure that the proper lessons are learned. This team will identify all of the areas where MOD needs to take action to improve its performance in the light of Sir John Chilcot's findings.

### **Iraq: Internally Displaced People**

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to the Kurdish authorities to help them cope with the number of people who have fled fighting in Iraq and are now displaced within the region. [HL1323]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In response to the crisis in Iraq, since summer 2014 the UK has pledged £129.5 million of humanitarian support. This includes £50 million of additional assistance announced on 20 July 2016. To date, we have provided cash assistance, access to clean water, food, medicines and other life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable – irrespective of race, religion or ethnicity. This funding has supported the response in northern Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), as well as helping other vulnerable people across the country.

Given the importance of a coordinated response, we have provided £1 million of funding to UNDP to support the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Joint Crisis Centre (JCC), as well as its equivalent for the Government of Iraq, the Joint Crisis and Monitoring Centre (JCMC). In close collaboration with the JCMC, the United Nations, donors and non-governmental organisations, the JCC is leading humanitarian efforts in the Kurdistan Region.

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to ensure that people from Iraq who have been displaced as a result of the current fighting in that country have access to assistance. [HL1324]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UN's latest assessment is that over 3.3 million Iraqis have been internally displaced, with over 10 million people across Iraq requiring some form of humanitarian assistance. The UK is working with the Government of Iraq, Kurdistan Regional Government, United Nations, and non-governmental organisations to make sure that humanitarian support is provided to the most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Since summer 2014, the UK has pledged £129.5 million of humanitarian support for Iraq. This includes £50 million of additional assistance announced on 20 July 2016. Through our contribution, as the largest donor to the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund, UK funding has helped a number of programmes supporting IDPs leaving Fallujah.

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to stop the further displacement of civilians in Iraq, particularly in Mosul, due to continued military action by coalition forces there. [HL1325]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is working with the Government of Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government, the UN and international partners to ensure that all Coalition-supported military operations against Daesh in Iraq are under-pinned by comprehensive plans to minimise and manage expected displacement, and provide humanitarian assistance and stabilisation support. The Foreign Secretary, my Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), raised these issues with international partners at the counter-Daesh Coalition Ministerial meeting in Washington on 20-21 July.

On 20 July, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), announced £10.5 million in additional UK funding for stabilisation in Iraq, we expect a significant proportion of our contribution to support efforts in and around Mosul. This announcement brings the UK's Iraq contributions on immediate stabilisation to £9.25 million, and on explosive hazards to £7.75 million.

Since summer 2014, the UK has pledged £129.5 million of humanitarian support. This includes £50 million of additional assistance announced on 20 July 2016.

### **Iraq: Politics and Government**

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Iraq about building a socially, religiously and politically inclusive society in that country. [HL1322]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We strongly support the Iraqi government in its efforts to build a more inclusive society, including uniting Iraq's communities against Daesh and extremism, restoring public trust in the state, and delivering the services and opportunities that all Iraqis want and deserve. We welcome the commitments that the Government of Iraq has made to inclusivity, to protecting Iraqi citizens, and addressing human rights abuses and holding those responsible to account. We continue to promote progress against these commitments in our engagements with the Government of Iraq at both official and ministerial levels, emphasising the importance of political reconciliation to defeating Daesh and eradicating radicalism.

For the 2016/17 financial year we have allocated £3.7 million from the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund towards reconciliation in Iraq. This funding will support efforts to encourage political reform and reconciliation, including the passage and implementation of legislation. And following our announcement at the Iraq Pledging Conference on 20 July the UK is contributing £9.25m to

the UN's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilisation. This will help the Iraqi government stabilise areas recently liberated from Daesh and re-establish security, basic services and inclusive local governance.

### Islamic State

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what hard evidence they have collected that Daesh is using small commercial drones for surveillance and for conveying explosives. [HL1117]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government has a range of material, including images, that provides evidence that Daesh has used small, commercially available unmanned aerial vehicles in Syria and Iraq to extend their surveillance capability, produce propaganda material and carry small improvised explosive devices.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to participate in the conference about the attacks on Yazidis, Christians and others by ISIS organised by the US State Department in Washington DC on 29 July; if so, who will represent them and whether whilst attending that conference they will explain why they have not supported the genocide declarations passed by the House of Commons and the US Congress. [HL1254]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK will attend the State Department Consultation on Threats to Religious and Ethnic Minorities under Daesh on 28 and 29 July. It will be represented by a senior official from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The consultation will be used to discuss what countries are doing to protect minorities under Daesh and what more can be done. As the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) made clear during his visit to Washington on 21 July, the Government is fully committed to working with international partners to ensure Daesh is held to account for its crimes.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they now recognise that a genocide is underway against minorities in Syria and Iraq; and whether the opinion set out in The Sunday Telegraph on 27 March that ISIS "are engaged in what can only be called genocide of the poor Yazidis" by the new Foreign Secretary reflects their official position. [HL1255]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** This Government shares the House of Commons' condemnation of Daesh atrocities against all civilians, including Christians, Mandeans, Yazidis, and other minorities, as well as the majority Muslim population in Iraq and Syria who continue to bear the brunt of Daesh's brutality.

It is a long-standing Government policy that any judgements on whether genocide has occurred are a

matter for the international judicial system rather than governments or other non-judicial bodies. Our approach is to seek an end to all violations, and to prevent their further escalation, irrespective of whether these violations fit the definition of specific international crimes.

We are fully committed to working internationally to ensure Daesh is held to account for its crimes. Ultimately, the best way of preventing future atrocities is to defeat Daesh and its violent ideology. That is why the UK is playing a leading role in the Global Coalition of more than 66 countries and international organisations united to defeat Daesh.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports of new rules of engagement for Israeli police allowing the use of live ammunition in response to stone throwing. [HL1111]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not made representations to the Government of Israel on this specific issue, we have an ongoing dialogue with the Israeli authorities in order to understand their rules of engagement and express our concerns where necessary.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding reports of the confiscation and sinking of fishing boats by Israeli forces in the past three months. [HL1112]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Whilst we have not raised this specific issue with the Government of Israel, officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have expressed our concern previously over the Israel Defence Forces' use of live fire against fishermen and also about the confiscation of their boats.

### Israel: Teachers

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about reports of its intention to reduce the budget for Arab teacher training colleges in Northern Israel to half that of the budget allocated to Jewish teacher training colleges. [HL1115]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the need for equal treatment of all of Israel's citizens with the Israeli government. Although we have not raised this particular issue, we recognise the importance of equality regarding teacher training, access to education and the role of education in building understanding between communities.



### Jobcentre Plus: Training

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to ensure that Jobcentre staff and Jobcentre Plus advisers understand fully, and respond effectively to, mental health problems. [HL1317]

**Lord Freud:** The Department for Work and Pensions supports its staff in developing the skills required to identify and effectively support claimants with mental health conditions. A number of learning products such as 'Introduction to Working with People with a Mental Health Condition' and 'Supporting Customers with a Vulnerability' have been specifically developed to build capability for Jobcentre staff. Jobcentre staff also promote "Disability Confident" which is an initiative that includes working with employers to show that employing disabled people, including those with mental health conditions, is good for the individual, business and society.

### Judges: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Keen of Elie on 18 July (HL948 and HL949), how many judges in HM Courts and Tribunals service who are over 50 years of age are from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. [HL1330]

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord Keen of Elie on 18 July (HL948 and HL949), what assessment they have made of the factors contributing to the low number of black, Asian and ethnic minority candidates being recommended for judicial appointments; how those factors are being addressed; and whether they plan to support the development and introduction of pre-appointment training for those from under-represented groups seeking judicial appointments. [HL1331]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The Government recognises that judges from a Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic (BAME) background are under-represented in the judiciary in England and Wales when compared with the general population. We are committed to continue working with the judiciary and all others concerned to make sure that, while appointments will always be made on merit, the pool of candidates is as diverse as possible.

On average over the last 5 years, 11 per cent of candidates recommended for judicial appointment were from BAME groups. Meanwhile, 10 per cent of appointed judges aged over 50 were from BAME backgrounds on 1 April 2015.

The Government is committed to working with other members of the Judicial Diversity Forum, including the Judicial Appointments Commission, the judiciary and the legal professions, to explore ways of increasing the

percentage of judges from under-represented groups, including individuals from a BAME background, whilst continuing to safeguard the fundamental principle of appointment on merit. The Forum is considering the feasibility of proposals around pre-application training. The Government fully supports such work and is strongly committed to the judicial diversity agenda.

### Kashmir

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of India about the reported killing and injuring of civilians by the Indian security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir. [HL1197]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I am deeply saddened by recent reports of unrest in Kashmir and offer my condolences to the victims and their families. Our High Commission in Delhi is monitoring the situation closely and we have updated our travel advice. We have not made any representations to the government of India on this issue.

### Leasehold

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to extend the requirements of the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 and the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 to require landlords of leasehold properties to belong to a redress scheme. [HL1233]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government is not persuaded that more burdensome approaches to regulate landlords would be effective. Leaseholders in dispute with their landlord can apply to the First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) in England and the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal in Wales to seek redress.

The Government is extending leaseholders' access to redress by including provisions in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 that will address an irregularity concerning the inability of courts and tribunals to restrict recovery of a landlord's legal costs from leaseholders as administrative charges, where they consider a restriction on recovery to be just and equitable. The Government plans to introduce related secondary legislation by summer 2017.

### Leasehold: Sales

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review the costs charged by a landlord to the purchaser of a leasehold property of providing (1) the notice of assignment or charge, (2) the certificate of compliance, (3) the deed of covenant, and (4) the stock transfer. [HL1232]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** At Budget 2016 the Government announced its plan to publish a call for evidence looking at the process of buying a home including the process of purchasing a leasehold property. The Government will assess the evidence received to determine what changes to the homebuying process can make the greatest impact including the transactional costs incurred by leaseholders.

### Level Crossings

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to implement the recommendations made by the Law Commission in 2013 regarding level crossing legislation. [[HL1348](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport is close to finalising its response to the Law Commission's recommendations on the reform of level crossing legislation.

This is a complex area and it has been necessary to explore all the available options in detail. Whilst this has taken time, I am confident that we will be able to come forward with proposals for a cohesive package of improvements shortly.

### Libya: Military Intervention

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether UK troops are now present in Misrata, Libya. [[HL1414](#)]

**Earl Howe:** Part of our support to the political process in Libya includes providing military and diplomatic advisers. We cannot go into detail about these engagements for security reasons.

### Literacy: Young People

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve teenage literacy, in the light of the 2016 OECD report *Building skills for all: A review of England*, which stated that the UK has the lowest literacy rates among 16 to 19 year-olds out of 23 developed countries. [[HL1034](#)]

**Lord Nash:** We are pleased that the OECD recognises in their review the changes we have made in recent years to ensure that all young people leave full-time education with a high standard of English.

The primary National Curriculum emphasises the teaching of early reading through systematic phonics and the importance of accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar. At secondary school pupils are expected to read a wide range of texts fluently and with good understanding.

We have reformed GCSEs to ensure they are more stretching and provide greater assurance of core literacy

than the old GCSE. We are also taking action to improve the rigour and relevance of English Functional Skills qualifications, which are taken by many students and apprentices aged 16 and over.

To ensure all young people have every opportunity to secure proficiency in English, since 2014 we have required every 16-19 year old not holding a good pass in GCSE English and mathematics to continue to study these subjects as part of their 16-19 study programme. We have also embedded English and mathematics into our work-based training programmes such as apprenticeships and traineeships.

Last summer's GCSE results show that over 4,000 more students aged 17 and over secured GCSE English at grades A\*-C than the previous year.

### Local Enterprise Partnerships

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the transparency of decisions taken by Local Economic Partnership (LEP) members, such as requiring registers of members' interests or the publication of a conflict of interest policy. [[HL1188](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is clear that Local Enterprise Partnerships should operate transparently: giving people confidence that decisions made are proper, based on evidence, and not biased by conflicts of interest.

How each Local Enterprise Partnership is achieving this is set out in their own local assurance framework, and verified by their accountable local authority. We are reviewing every framework as part of the criteria for the current round of growth deals, and again through annual performance conversations with each Partnership.

### Local Government Finance

*Asked by Lord Bird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recommendations of (1) the report published by the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations *Remaking the State*, and (2) the report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation *The Cost of the Cuts*, what assessment they have made of the impact of the cuts to preventative services over the course of the last Parliament. [[HL1404](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Preventative services can cover a wide range of areas, including adult and children's social care, public health, crime, and homelessness. The Government has continually given local authorities more powers and flexibility, so they can target local services more effectively, because local authorities are best placed to determine how to deliver services in the light of local circumstances and available resources. Indeed, expenditure on homelessness prevention has for example increased by 83% between 2010 and 2015.

Over the current spending review period, local government income sources like council tax receipts and business rates are forecast to increase. Overall, local government spending is forecast to be broadly flat in cash terms. Within this:

- Homelessness prevention funding for local authorities through the local government finance settlement is protected totalling £315 million by 2019/20.

- Funding for Disabled Facilities Grant has doubled to over £500 million by 2019-20, which would fund around 85,000 home adaptations that year. We expect this to prevent 8,500 people from needing to go into a care home in 2019-20.

- New measures announced at the spending review will mean a further £3.5bn for social care by the end of the Parliament.

- Total local government spending continues to include over £1bn each year for early intervention.

The Government is also continuing to invest in key initiatives for children, including the Healthy Child and Troubled Families programmes. The latter has so far helped turn around the lives of over 100,000 of the hardest to reach families and will work with up to 400,000 more during this Parliament.

## London Stock Exchange: Deutsche Borse

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the consequences for financial stability of combining four large central counterparties (CCPs), LCH.Clearnet Ltd, LCH.Clearnet SA, Eurex and CC&G, when the London Stock Exchange and Deutsche Borse merge; whether adequate recovery and resolution frameworks will be in place for each of these CCPs; and whether those frameworks will be ring-fenced from each other. [[HL1374](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** LCH.Clearnet Ltd, LCH.Clearnet SA, Eurex Clearing and CC&G are separate CCPs regulated under European Regulation No 648/2012 (EMIR) by their respective regulators. The London Stock Exchange Group and Deutsche Borse have publicly stated their intention that "[t]he existing regulatory framework of all regulated entities within the Combined Group would remain unchanged" following the merger. Once notified by the companies of their proposal to merge, the Bank of England will assess the proposal for a change in control of LCH.Clearnet Ltd in line with the criteria set out in EMIR.

## Lone Parents: Low Pay

*Asked by Baroness Manzoor*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) female, and (2) male, single parents earn less than the median average income. [[HL1209](#)]

**Lord Freud:** Estimates for the numbers of female and male single parents who earn less than the median average income are shown in the table below:

*Millions, 2014/15, United Kingdom*

	<i>Below 2014/15 median household income</i>
Number of female Lone Parents in work:	<b>0.8</b>
Number of male Lone Parents in work:	<b>0.1</b>

Average income is defined as the median equivalised net household income, where median income divides the population of individuals, when ranked by income, into two equal sized groups.

These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income analysis.

## Ministers: Pay

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many ministers (1) in the House of Lords, and (2) in the House of Commons, are presently unpaid. [[HL1376](#)]

**Earl of Courtown:** In the present Government there are five unpaid Ministers who are members of the House of Lords and three unpaid Ministers who are members of the House of Commons.

## Ministry of Defence: Staff

*Asked by Lord Touthig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the impact of the proposed 30 per cent reduction in Ministry of Defence civilian staff as set out in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, in the light of the recommendation of the report of the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy published in July. [[HL1235](#)]

*Asked by Lord Touthig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the proposed 30 per cent reduction in Ministry of Defence civilian staff as set out in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, what assessment they have made of the impact of that reduction on the formulation and delivery of policy. [[HL1236](#)]

*Asked by Lord Touthig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the proposed 30 per cent reduction in Ministry of Defence civilian staff as set out in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, what assessment they have made of the ability of the Ministry of Defence to deliver major programmes. [[HL1237](#)]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to meeting its obligations set out in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, including the aim to reduce our civilian workforce by 30 per cent. The Chief

of Defence People has been appointed Senior Responsible Owner, and work is in hand within the single Services, Joint Forces Command, and other organisations within the MOD to develop detailed plans. As we develop these plans we will continually assess their impact to ensure that the Department continues to have the skills and capabilities required to deliver our Defence outputs, including policy development and management of major programmes.

The Government will respond in due course to the report by the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy.

### **Monarchy: EU Law**

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the heir to the throne is subject to EU law. [HL1443]

**Earl of Courtown:** In general, under UK law the Heir Apparent occupies the same legal status as a private citizen. The European Court of Justice has held that EU law must be interpreted in the light of the relevant rules of international law. As such, when abroad, the Heir Apparent may enjoy a specific status accorded to Heads of State and to the members of their family and household.

### **Motorways: Driving Offences**

*Asked by Lord Snape*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many motorists have been prosecuted for the inconsiderate use of the middle lane on the motorway network since the announcement that the police would take appropriate action to discourage such behaviour. [HL1387]

**Earl of Courtown:** This information is not held centrally and can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### **Museums and Galleries: Fees and Charges**

*Asked by The Earl of Clancarty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to maintain their policy of universal free access to the UK's national museums and galleries. [HL1346]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** Yes. The Government recognises the benefits that free access to the national museums and galleries brings to the public and to the UK economy. The Spending Review 2015 committed to continued free access to the permanent collections of the national museums and galleries as part of a settlement that maintained funding in cash terms for museum and galleries over the Spending Review period. Museum policy is a devolved matter for their respective administrations although the National Museums of Wales and Scotland are also free of charge, as are the National

Armed Forces museums sponsored by the Ministry of Defence.

### **Namibia: Germany**

*Asked by Baroness Stern*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Germany about its recognition of the killings of Herero and Nama people in 1904–08 as genocide, and whether in the light of those discussions they have any plans formally to recognise those events as genocide. [HL1154]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government have not discussed the killings of the Herero and Nama peoples with the Government of Germany.

It is the policy of the Government that any judgment on whether genocide has occurred is a matter for judicial decision, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies.

### **Natural Gas**

*Asked by Baroness Featherstone*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether in negotiating the UK's exit from the EU they plan to seek for the UK to be included in any EU regulations on the security of gas supply in times of crisis, as set out in the European Commission's Proposal for a Regulation concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU) No 994/2010. [HL1126]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** While the UK remains a member of the EU the existing rules apply and new legislation that applies to the UK will be implemented.

It will be for the new Prime Minister to decide on our future relationship with the EU, including on matters of energy.

### **North Korea: Sanctions**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the US Treasury decision to impose sanctions on North Korean senior officials in the light of reported human rights abuses; and whether they plan to impose similar sanctions. [HL1077]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The US decision to designate senior members of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) regime follows its decision to introduce the US North Korea Sanctions Policy Enhancement Act in February 2016. The British Government shares the objective of maintaining pressure on the DPRK to fulfil its international human rights obligations and is deeply concerned by the human rights situation in the DPRK. It regularly consults with partners such as the US, the EU and regional partners on the best way to achieve this.



## Obesity: Children

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish their strategy on tackling child obesity; and whether that strategy will include a commitment to children taking part in sports activity, as well as the monitoring and regulation of the advertising of sugary products. [HL1333]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Our forthcoming Childhood Obesity Strategy will look at everything that contributes to a child becoming overweight and obese. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet will be working over the coming days and weeks to establish their priorities and how we deliver on these commitments.

## Occupied Territories: Housing

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the most recent Quartet Report's statement that Israel's "continuing policy of settlement and construction" was "steadily eroding the viability of the two-state solution", what specific actions they plan to take in response to the recent decisions by the government of Israel to approve new settlements and to provide a further \$18 million to support settlements. [HL1129]

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what specific action they are taking in response to the number of Israeli settlers in occupied Palestinian territories. [HL1130]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 5 July, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), issued a statement expressing deep concerns about the announcement of new Israeli settlement units in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesperson statement, on 22 June, also expressed concern about Israel's decision to provide an additional £12 million of funding for settlements. The position of the UK on Israeli settlements is clear: they are illegal under international law, an obstacle to peace and make a two-state solution, with Jerusalem as a shared capital, harder to achieve. We will continue to raise our objections to settlements with the Israeli government.

## Offences against Children: Rotherham

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 27 June (HL Deb, col 1352), what assessment they have made of whether, when referring to cases such as the Rotherham sexual abuse case, it is more accurate and appropriate to

refer to the perpetrators as "Muslim" or "Islamist", rather than as "Asian". [HL1382]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Tackling cases of child sexual exploitation, including those that have occurred in Rotherham, is a top priority for this Government. People who abuse children must be stopped – their race, age or gender is irrelevant.

Child sexual exploitation is not exclusive to any single culture, community, race or religion.

The previous Home Secretary launched the report 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation' in March 2015. This report sets out a national response to the failures we have seen in Rotherham and elsewhere, where children were let down by the very people who were responsible for protecting them.

## Office for Students

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to include a dedicated place for a student representative on the Board of the Office for Students, and if so what arrangements they plan to make to ensure that that member has a democratic mandate from the students they represent. [HL1191]

**Earl of Courtown:** Schedule 1 of the Higher Education and Research Bill requires the Office for Students (OfS) to consider the desirability of including members with experience of representing or promoting the interests of individual students, or students generally in higher education.

The appointment of OfS members will be made by the Secretary of State in accordance with the standard guidelines on public appointments, ensuring fair and open competition.

## Official Cars: Parliamentary Estate

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they give to drivers of ministerial cars waiting for passengers on the Parliamentary Estate regarding idling engines, in the light of Rule 123 of the Highway Code. [HL1403]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Guidance is given to Government Car Service drivers that they are governed by the same laws as all other road users and that they must have read and understood all sections of the Highway Code applicable to them. Specific reminders are sent out regularly about parking and waiting on the Parliamentary Estate and not to leave the engine idling.

## Olympic Games: Brazil

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the athletes who have been chosen

to represent Great Britain at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro are fully briefed about the dangers or otherwise of contracting the Zika virus. [[HL1234](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The UK Government, the National Travel Health Network and Centre and the British Olympic Association and British Paralympic Association have issued guidance and advice on Zika for those competing and attending the Rio Games. All organisations continue to review and update this guidance and the Government will take into account World Health Organisation guidelines should they be revised following their latest risk assessment.

My department and the Department of Health recently convened an Olympic and Paralympic health advisory group including academic experts and cross-government representatives to support the British Olympic Association (BOA) and British Paralympic Association (BPA) in updating their guidance to athletes and staff travelling to Brazil for the Olympics. The Foreign Office will link this to their wider consular campaign ‘Stay ahead of the Games’.

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, in the light of the allegations of widespread doping by Russian athletes, whether they intend to back calls by the US and Canada anti-doping agencies for all Russian athletes to be banned from the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. [[HL1332](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** While this is solely a decision for the International Olympic Committee, the scale of the evidence in the McLaren report arguably pointed to the need for stronger sanctions rather than leaving it to the international federations at this late stage.

There is clearly more work to be done to protect the integrity of sport on a global scale. No stone should be left unturned to ensure that athletes can compete on a level playing field.

### **Omar al-Bashir**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions they have held with the government of Rwanda about the visit to that country by Omar al Bashir, President of Sudan, who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide and crimes against humanity. [[HL1256](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Rwanda is not a State party to the International Criminal Court (ICC). It is important that fugitives from international justice do not enjoy impunity and we note the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1593) has urged all States to cooperate fully with the ICC and its Prosecutor with regards to the situation in Darfur. We continue to follow closely developments in the ICC, including the level of States’ cooperation with the Court, and will consider further measures as appropriate.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions they have held with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth about recent visits to Rwanda and Uganda by Omar al Bashir, President of Sudan, who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide and crimes against humanity. [[HL1257](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not held any discussions with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth on this matter. However we continue to believe that State cooperation, in particular with respect to enforcement of arrest warrants is vital for the International Criminal Court to be effective in fulfilling its mandate to achieve justice for the victims of atrocities. We look forward to future meetings and discussions with the Secretary General on shared priorities for the Commonwealth.

### **Opencast Mining: Northumberland**

*Asked by Baroness Featherstone*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they plan to call in the decision by Northumberland County Council to approve plans for an opencast coal mine at Highthorn in the light of recent government commitments to phase out the use of coal. [[HL1125](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Members of the public and MPs have requested that this application is called in, and we are currently considering that request.

### **Out-patients**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what progress they are making in ensuring that the NHS collects data on whether return out-patient appointments are being delayed beyond the clinically recommended time due to insufficient capacity or targets for new patients that are prioritised over returns. [[HL1342](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** There are no plans to collect additional data on out-patient appointments.

Many patients will require further planned stages of treatment after their waiting time clock has stopped. This treatment should be undertaken without undue delay and in line with when it is clinically appropriate and convenient to the patient to do so.

Patients requiring initial or follow-up appointments for clinical assessment, review, monitoring, procedures or treatment must be given a clear expectation of the timeframe for this, as required by best clinical evidence. If the planned procedure is then delayed beyond that timeframe, a new waiting time clock should start and be reported in the waiting time statistics, to ensure that these patients are kept in sight.

## Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, how they plan to ensure that UK universities are still attractive institutions to study at for students from the EU. [HL1220]

**Earl of Courtown:** The UK has a long established system that supports, and therefore attracts, the brightest minds, at all stages of their careers. We fund excellent research wherever it is found, and ensure there is the freedom to tackle important scientific questions. The UK remains a member of the EU until our withdrawal is completed. There is no immediate effect on UK universities and their students and staff from EU countries. EU students currently eligible to receive funding from the Student Loans Company will continue to do so for courses they are currently enrolled on, or about to start this Autumn. The Higher Education and Research Bill reforms in England will enhance the reputation of our world-class HE system and drive up innovation, diversity, quality and capacity, ensuring we remain attractive internationally.

## Overseas Trade

*Asked by Lord Chidgey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the potential effects on investment of uncertainty around issues of future market access, whether they plan to commit to (1) extending bilaterally the duty- and quota-free access that the least developed countries have had to the UK market since 2001 once the UK's exit from the EU is completed; (2) honouring the duty- and quota-free market access granted to Caribbean countries since 2008 until new bilateral trade agreements have been concluded; and (3) unilaterally extending the duty- and quota-free access granted to sub-Saharan countries under the transitional arrangements established since 2008 until new bilateral trade agreements have been concluded. [HL1181]

**Lord Price:** While the UK is still a member of the EU, all rights and obligations will apply. There will be no initial change in the way we trade with developing countries. The new Department for International Trade will work with the Department for International Development on the structure and access to the UK's markets to be offered to developing countries. This will reflect the UK's longstanding support for Least Developed Countries and other developing country trading partners including through preferential trade agreements. This recognises that trade can be an effective way of growing economies and reducing poverty internationally.

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what revenue they received, per country, for the Overseas Market

Introduction Service in each of the past four years. [HL1446]

**Lord Price:** The table below sets out for each of the last four years, revenue generated based on the value of key activities delivered in all markets via UK Trade & Investment's Overseas Market Introduction Service.

<i>Delivery Market</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2012-13</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2013-14</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2014-15</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2015-16</i>
Algeria	£23,100.00	£17,936.00	£1,470.00	£5,250.00
Angola	£25,440.00	£58,856.00	£15,270.00	£22,290.00
Argentina	£51,520.00	£39,719.00	£12,732.00	£8,148.00
Australia	£165,561.23	£189,077.00	£41,820.00	£40,995.00
Austria	£90,195.00	£165,394.00	£49,599.00	£49,728.00
Azerbaijan	£16,775.00	£17,298.00	£10,664.00	£7,140.00
Bahrain	£21,410.00	£36,866.00	£35,646.00	£26,460.00
Bangladesh	£33,720.00	£39,230.00	£9,804.00	£20,790.00
Barbados	£7,740.00	£2,240.00	£2,916.00	£4,410.00
Belgium	£61,445.00	£57,808.50	£24,752.72	£39,270.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	£8,655.00	£6,732.00	£8,700.00	£2,940.00
Brazil	£428,418.05	£482,047.00	£110,976.00	£82,018.20
Bulgaria	£22,025.00	£31,707.00	£9,791.58	£9,030.00
Burma	£12,285.00	£10,572.00	£12,108.00	£1,470.00
Cambodia	£0.00	£14,744.00	£0.00	£0.00
Cameroon	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,100.00
Canada	£81,641.63	£126,106.00	£81,874.00	£64,848.00
Chile	£53,985.00	£65,915.00	£29,064.00	£10,920.00
China	£698,212.83	£668,480.00	£464,761.92	£114,905.84
Colombia	£49,335.00	£54,933.00	£19,704.00	£2,090.00
Costa Rica	£14,515.00	£14,658.00	£3,780.00	£5,460.00
Croatia	£17,251.80	£19,992.00	£5,628.00	£9,030.00
Cuba	£16,925.00	£11,026.00	£5,040.00	£17,640.00
Cyprus	£7,630.00	£3,468.00	£6,072.00	£1,890.00
Czech Republic	£59,718.33	£27,644.00	£9,132.00	£6,342.00
Denmark	£108,135.00	£98,416.00	£65,513.40	£51,446.28
Dominican Republic	£16,905.00	£14,892.00	£11,922.00	£16,590.00
Ecuador	£11,121.68	£12,767.00	£10,020.00	£4,620.00
Egypt	£61,375.00	£58,749.00	£24,408.00	£29,190.00

<i>Delivery Market</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2012-13</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2013-14</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2014-15</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2015-16</i>
Estonia	£16,995.00	£26,489.00	£15,516.00	£17,304.00
Ethiopia	£15,680.00	£14,432.00	£23,634.00	£9,450.00
Finland	£35,795.00	£48,512.00	£41,460.00	£26,040.00
France	£206,644.94	£221,023.00	£128,271.92	£105,762.72
Germany	£249,214.96	£255,350.00	£149,347.50	£72,166.08
Ghana	£59,175.00	£81,456.00	£24,900.00	£24,780.00
Greece	£38,540.00	£39,845.00	£17,160.00	£19,519.92
Guinea	£0.00	£1,428.00	£0.00	£0.00
Guyana	£200.00	£5,712.00	£948.00	£0.00
Hong Kong (SAR)	£145,191.08	£124,931.00	£30,481.00	£47,412.00
Hungary	£35,950.00	£48,087.00	£9,558.00	£3,360.00
Iceland	£15,115.00	£5,460.00	£0.00	£630.00
India	£435,225.81	£433,528.37	£48,331.95	£15,749.58
Indonesia	£76,890.00	£86,181.00	£62,292.00	£13,818.00
Iraq	£47,605.00	£26,078.00	£3,894.00	£0.00
Ireland	£49,310.00	£49,485.00	£11,682.00	£15,540.00
Israel	£28,660.00	£32,637.00	£14,000.00	£8,400.00
Italy	£142,610.00	£131,258.00	£61,138.00	£79,193.10
Jamaica	£2,265.00	£5,481.00	£1,452.00	£1,680.00
Japan	£391,130.02	£310,469.00	£67,835.00	£156,564.00
Jordan	£59,360.00	£49,785.00	£12,036.00	£5,880.00
Kazakhstan	£33,513.33	£34,064.00	£12,540.00	£18,270.00
Kenya	£50,187.52	£46,045.00	£15,804.00	£20,160.00
Korea (South)	£158,095.00	£147,025.00	£70,898.00	£86,692.20
Kuwait	£54,538.33	£24,494.00	£36,618.00	£43,554.00
Latvia	£15,480.00	£26,276.00	£15,516.00	£13,230.00
Lebanon	£24,070.00	£19,383.00	£420.00	£7,308.00
Libya	£29,100.00	£14,766.00	£0.00	£0.00
Lithuania	£23,260.00	£30,335.00	£23,958.00	£9,660.00
Luxembourg	£1,150.00	£3,618.00	£3,360.00	£5,880.00
Malaysia	£129,835.00	£118,779.00	£56,058.00	£28,602.00
Mexico	£229,660.00	£245,240.00	£159,522.00	£99,319.50
Mongolia	£0.00	£16,544.04	£10,080.00	£10,871.70
Morocco	£30,210.00	£21,420.00	£19,950.00	£8,400.00
Mozambique	£3,120.00	£13,172.00	£5,568.00	£6,930.00

<i>Delivery Market</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2012-13</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2013-14</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2014-15</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2015-16</i>
Netherlands	£63,722.52	£60,640.00	£11,295.00	£15,330.00
New Zealand	£35,077.20	£40,299.00	£12,624.00	£8,526.00
Nigeria	£78,585.00	£100,839.34	£34,812.00	£51,876.00
Norway	£66,065.00	£70,176.00	£51,932.00	£24,990.00
Oman	£58,095.00	£50,244.00	£18,840.00	£25,916.10
Pakistan	£52,400.00	£54,555.00	£23,292.00	£28,770.00
Panama	£35,565.00	£25,080.00	£12,278.00	£12,760.02
Papua New Guinea	£0.00	£1,950.00	£0.00	£0.00
Peru	£28,745.00	£30,528.00	£4,560.00	£4,950.00
Philippines	£59,265.00	£62,027.00	£19,716.00	£8,022.00
Poland	£114,100.00	£100,380.00	£15,612.00	£15,750.00
Portugal	£84,375.00	£88,698.00	£70,494.00	£60,060.00
Qatar	£81,105.00	£105,486.00	£36,714.00	£40,260.00
Romania	£79,385.00	£72,032.00	£71,860.98	£3,822.00
Russia	£338,630.01	£401,078.00	£108,740.28	£114,212.28
Saudi Arabia	£186,370.00	£172,625.00	£83,622.00	£68,526.00
Serbia	£18,160.00	£15,042.00	£5,607.00	£4,200.00
Singapore	£154,790.00	£154,944.00	£82,102.34	£47,153.82
Slovakia	£8,745.00	£3,672.00	£0.00	£0.00
Slovenia	£14,985.00	£2,376.00	£1,260.00	£0.00
South Africa	£153,035.00	£135,935.00	£91,974.00	£47,754.00
Spain	£153,630.00	£154,478.00	£63,714.00	£75,175.02
Sri Lanka	£13,725.00	£18,456.00	£4,190.00	£3,570.00
Sudan	£5,370.00	£390.00	£0.00	£0.00
Sweden	£107,455.00	£123,362.00	£57,355.92	£55,851.60
Switzerland	£75,047.52	£88,306.00	£67,188.00	£73,920.00
Taiwan	£93,625.00	£113,218.00	£41,910.00	£30,624.00
Tanzania	£28,422.52	£34,041.00	£19,020.00	£13,965.00
Thailand	£95,638.33	£104,259.00	£64,812.00	£15,072.00
Trinidad and Tobago	£32,165.00	£51,646.00	£4,748.00	£5,826.00
Tunisia	£19,705.00	£17,364.00	£0.00	£0.00
Turkey	£183,445.00	£137,643.00	£65,820.00	£39,918.00
Turkmenistan	£0.00	£1,220.00	£1,260.00	£1,470.00
Uganda	£23,130.00	£18,741.00	£2,448.00	£7,245.00
Ukraine	£28,577.52	£20,400.00	£22,890.00	£23,898.00



<i>Delivery Market</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2012-13</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2013-14</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2014-15</i>	<i>Total Revenue 2015-16</i>
UKREP	£26,575.00	£27,630.00	£18,834.00	£21,210.00
United Arab Emirates	£208,503.33	£241,732.01	£129,981.60	£136,197.60
United States	£605,718.52	£652,752.00	£279,708.00	£347,662.68
Venezuela	£25,830.00	£28,356.00	£3,672.00	£0.00
Vietnam	£97,855.00	£102,435.00	£55,632.00	£29,190.00
Zambia	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£420.00

### **Pakistan: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last raised with the government of Pakistan the issues of (1) the honour killing of women, (2) the exclusion of minority communities from full citizenship, and (3) the imprisonment of citizens under the blasphemy laws; and what response they received. [\[HL1307\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain concerned by ongoing reports of so-called honour killings, the persecution of minority communities and the misuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan. We regularly raise human rights with the Government of Pakistan. The former Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), pressed Pakistan to guarantee the rights of all its citizens during his visit to Islamabad in March. He also attended an event to stimulate debate about honour killings. It is encouraging that Pakistan has enacted laws to protect religious minorities. We urge Pakistan to implement this legislation, uphold the rule of law and ensure the rights of all citizens are respected regardless of gender, ethnicity or religious belief.

### **Pakistan: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the current level of violence against Hindus in Pakistan. [\[HL1246\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We remain concerned by ongoing reports of the persecution of the Hindu community in Pakistan. These include incidents of abduction, forced conversion and the forced marriage of Hindu women to Muslim men. We regularly raise our concerns about the treatment of religious minorities, including Hindus, with the Government of Pakistan. The former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), pressed Pakistan to guarantee the rights of all its citizens, including minority religious communities, during his visit to Islamabad in March. We continue to urge Pakistan to honour in

practice its human rights obligations, including on freedom of religion or belief, and to uphold the rule of law.

### **Palestinians: Water Supply**

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Verma on 7 July 2016 (HL799), what discussion they have had with the Palestinian Authority about its non-attendance at meetings with Israeli officials on the Joint Water Committee. [\[HL1388\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Continuity of water supply to the West Bank is essential for both the basic needs of Palestinians and for stability and security more widely. The UK regularly raises the issue of water in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Palestinian Authority and Government of Israel. We encourage both parties to find a swift resolution to this issue and to reconvene the Joint Water Committee.

### **Passports**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to (1) change the colour of the current British passport from maroon to dark blue, and (2) remove the words "European Union" from British passports. [\[HL1278\]](#)

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There are no immediate plans for changes to the format or colour of the UK passport. Parliament will be informed of any changes to the passport following UK withdrawal from the European Union

### **Peers: Email**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask the Chairman of Committees, further to his Written Answer on 14 July (HL958) concerning the Parliamentary Digital Service, how members of the House are informed of the Acceptable Use Policy regarding using the Parliamentary Network. [\[HL1395\]](#)

**Lord Laming:** All users of the Parliamentary Network are informed about the Acceptable User Policy every time they log on. Members are also asked to confirm that they have read and agree to the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy on hardware request forms.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask the Chairman of Committees, further to his Written Answer on 14 July (HL958) concerning the Parliamentary Digital Service, which Parliamentary officials or employees are authorised to manage the MessageLabs service contracted by the Parliamentary Digital Service. [\[HL1396\]](#)

**Lord Laming:** Authorised personnel from the Digital Service manage the MessageLabs service.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask the Chairman of Committees whether he will place in the Library of the House a copy of the Acceptable Use Policy or policies for Parliamentary emails. [HL1397]

**Lord Laming:** The Acceptable Use Policy for Lords Members and staff is available on the intranet ( <https://intranet.parliament.uk/Documents/computers-equipment/Working-securely/Good-digital-citizen/Acceptable%20Use%20Policy%20v1.2.pdf> ) and at the Digital Service Drop-in. A very similar policy is in place for MPs; the Digital Service is currently working on a single Acceptable Use Policy.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Acceptable Use Policy [Acceptable Use Policy.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-20/HL1397>

## Pensions

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an estimate of the cost of their monetary policy on the solvency of pension schemes, and whether they plan to use the profit made from quantitative easing to strengthen the financial position of the Pension Protection Fund. [HL1186]

**Lord Freud:** The UK's monetary policy framework gives operational responsibility for monetary policy to the independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at the Bank of England. Decisions on setting monetary policy are for the judgement of the Monetary Policy Committee.

The Government is sensitive to the fact that there will be those who gain and those who lose from any particular monetary policy decision. Such distributional effects typically balance out over the course of a policy cycle.

Over the last six years low interest rates have helped households and businesses through challenging economic times. Furthermore, as the Bank of England has explained in its article entitled "The distributional effects of asset purchases" published in its 2012 Q3 Quarterly Bulletin: "Without the Bank's asset purchases, most people in the United Kingdom would have been worse off. Economic growth would have been lower. Unemployment would have been higher. Many more companies would have gone out of business. This would have had a significant detrimental impact on savers and pensioners along with every other group in our society."

The Pension Protection Fund is financially sustainable and there are no plans to further strengthen it. The PPF 2015/16 annual report said that the Fund has over £23 billion assets under management and is 116.3 per cent funded.

## Philippines: Offences against Children

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of the Philippines regarding the enforcement of the Anti-Child Pornography Act 2009, in particular the provisions requiring internet service providers to filter and block images of child abuse. [HL1081]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Philippines is a committed partner in the WePROTECT Global Alliance and is serious about tackling child sexual exploitation online and offline. We have ongoing and regular dialogue with the Philippine Government on child sexual exploitation, including the implementation of the Anti-Child Pornography Act 2009. The Philippine Government is working to ensure the Act is fit for purpose. The Philippine Interagency Council against Child Pornography has requested that the Department of Justice order internet service providers to comply with the Act.

In April 2016, the British Embassy participated in an Online Child Sexual Exploitation technical working group, hosted by the Philippine Committee for the Special Protection of Children. Experts from the Philippine Department of Justice, prosecutors, representatives from UNICEF, other diplomatic missions and foreign law enforcement also participated. The Act and other legislation formed part of the discussion. In June 2016, the National Crime Agency participated in further discussions on the Philippine Government's strategy and the WePROTECT national model.

We have supported the Philippine Government's participation at the WePROTECT Summits in London and most recently in Abu Dhabi. The National Crime Agency also works closely with Filipino partners in the fight against child sexual exploitation and provides training on the forensic analysis of digital media.

## Police: Biometrics

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what legislation currently governs the retention of facial custody images. [HL1153]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I apologise that I did not answer Parliamentary Question HL905 on 12th July. Due to administrative error this question was grouped with HL906 but only one answer was provided. The use and retention of facial custody images is governed by the Code of Practice on the Management of Police information (MOPI), guidance contained within the College of Policing's Authorised Police Practice (APP) and the Data Protection Act 1998.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many facial images are held on the Police National Database. [HL1211]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As of 15th July 2016 there were over 19 million custody images, which may include images other than of faces, uploaded by forces onto the PND. Of these, 16,644,143 had been enrolled in the facial image recognition gallery and are searchable using automated facial recognition software.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many facial images have been added to the Police National Database since the High Court ruling in the case of *R (RMC and FJ) v MPS* [2012] EWHC 1681(Admin). [HL1212]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Since 22nd June 2012 - 12 million custody images, which may include images other than of faces, have been uploaded by forces onto the PND. Of these, as of 15th July 2016 - 9,941,293 have been enrolled in the facial image recognition gallery and are searchable using automated facial recognition software.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many facial images held on the Police National Database are of individuals who have not been charged with an offence. [HL1213]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office does not hold this information.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the present system of up-loading, storage and searching of facial images on the Police National Database complies with the Human Rights Act 1998. [HL1214]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Review on the Use and Retention of Custody Images will examine the current legal and operational framework governing custody images, including the Human Rights Act 1998. This Review will be published in due course.

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider a facial digital image or photograph to be a biometric identifier. [HL1215]

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they define the lowest quality photograph that can be used as a biometric identifier. [HL1216]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** • Whilst a digital facial image can be used to help identify individuals to a high degree of probability, this is dependent on (a) quality of the biometric and (b) quality of the algorithm, which is rapidly developing in this area. There are no common standards for digital facial images, but we generally use ICAO standards for passport and immigration purposes. We will publish a Biometrics Strategy covering our use of digital facial images in due course.

## Prisons: Private Sector

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have undertaken an analysis of the risks and benefits of profit-making companies managing custodial institutions in the light of the serious allegations against some members of the G4S staff at Medway Secure Training Centre and the subsequent transfer of that centre to government control. [HL1419]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The allegations at Medway STC are shocking and completely unacceptable. Decisive action has already been taken, which includes the appointment of a new centre manager and senior management team. G4S have been removed from the running of Medway and since 1 July the centre has been under new leadership.

The safety and rehabilitation of young offenders is extremely important. We will be responding to the Charlie Taylor review with our plans for reform shortly.

Well-run prisons are fundamental to the proper functioning of our justice system, and a vital part of our reform plans.

Private providers play an important role in the prison estate. Performance of all providers is closely monitored and we will not hesitate to take action where standards fall short. Our providers are contractually required to cooperate with performance monitoring and audit by the Ministry.

## Privy Council

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the size of the Privy Council on 13 July; and how many appointments had been made to it up to that date since 11 May 2010. [HL1264]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** The information is set out in the table below.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of Privy Counsellors</i>
13th July 2016	657
Appointments since 11th May 2010	179

## Pupils: EU Nationals

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the outcome of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, what steps they are taking to reassure young pupils from European backgrounds who fear that they may be forced to leave the UK. [HL1070]

**Lord Nash:** As a matter of principle all children resident in the UK receive a free state-school education. We want to reassure European citizens living in the UK

that there will be no immediate changes in their circumstances.

*Asked by **Baroness Goudie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the referendum on the UK membership of the EU, whether school children from other EU countries enrolled in British schools will be able to complete their education in the UK without interruption. [HL923]

**Lord Nash:** As a matter of principle all children resident in the UK are entitled to receive a free state-school education. We want to reassure European citizens living in the UK that there will be no immediate changes in their circumstances.

## Radicalism

*Asked by **Lord Pearson of Rannoch***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 27 June (HL Deb, col 1352), what assessment they have made of whether action to combat the threat of terrorism could be helped by a clearer use of language, for example by explaining the actual meaning of words such as "extremism", "radicalisation", and "fundamentalism". [HL1380]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The 2011 Prevent strategy and statutory guidance on the exercise of the Prevent duty both contain glossaries which explain the meaning of terms used.

*Asked by **Lord Pearson of Rannoch***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 27 June (HL Deb, col 1352), whether when they use the words "extremism", "radicalisation" and "fundamentalism" they are usually referring to extreme, radical or fundamental Islam; and if not, to what they are referring. [HL1381]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST), the Prevent strategy was revised in 2011 to address all forms of terrorism.

*Asked by **Lord Pearson of Rannoch***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in clarifying their definition of "non-violent extremism". [HL1384]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The definition of extremism is set out in the Counter-Extremism Strategy published on 19 October 2015 and is: 'The vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of the armed forces as extremist.' This definition covers both violent and non-violent extremism.

## Radicalism: Schools

*Asked by **Lord Storey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many instances of radicalised behaviour have been reported by teachers as a result of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 coming into force. [HL1218]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Information from the police is that between 1st July 2015 and 30th March 2016, around 1080 referrals were made from schools which related to concerns about vulnerable people potentially being drawn into terrorism. It is not possible to determine how many of these were as a result of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which places no legal obligation on teachers to make such referrals. Many referrals need no further action after careful assessment, and others receive support for concerns unrelated to terrorism. Individuals assessed as being at risk may be offered support through Channel, the voluntary and confidential support programme for those who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism

## Railways

*Asked by **Baroness Randerson***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that the rail sector will be compliant with the Consumer Rights Act 2015 by the earliest possible date. [HL1421]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** It is for the rail industry to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Consumer Rights Act when the services provisions of the Act come into force. Train companies, working with the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), are currently reviewing their working practices to ensure that this is the case. The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) is a statutory enforcement body for the Consumer Rights Act for this sector.

The Department for Transport, ATOC and the ORR are working together to co-ordinate industry wide improvements in the way that rail passenger compensation schemes are publicised and administered.

The reasons for seeking the temporary 12 month exemption were published on 7 July 2016 in the Government's response to the consultation on applying the Consumer Rights Act to the transport sector, which is attached for ease of reference.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Consumer Rights [rail-aviation-maritime-consumer-rights-act.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-21/HL1421>

*Asked by **Baroness Randerson***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the earliest date by which they expect the rail sector to be



compliant with the Consumer Rights Act 2015. [HL1422]

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they are seeking an additional exemption from the Consumer Rights Act 2015 for the rail sector, as announced on 4 April, and what assessment they have made of the impact of doing so on the rights of passengers. [HL1423]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** It is for the rail industry to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Consumer Rights Act when the services provisions of the Act come into force. Train companies, working with the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), are currently reviewing their working practices to ensure that this is the case. The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) is a statutory enforcement body for the Consumer Rights Act for this sector.

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## Railways: Freight

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish their latest rail freight strategy. [HL1347]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government will publish its Rail Freight Strategy in due course.

## Railways: Safety

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the policy of the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) and of the Office of Road and Rail (ORR) on the circumstances in which Driver-Only Operation can safely be implemented; and whether they have had discussions with RSSB and ORR on that issue. [HL1298]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Trains where the driver has responsibility for all aspects of operation, including the doors (known in the industry as 'Driver Only

Operation') have been in service in Great Britain for over 30 years.

The Office of Rail and Road (ORR), in its role as the independent railway safety regulator, has scrutinised this approach and is satisfied that, with suitable equipment, proper procedures and competent staff in place, it is a safe method of working.

A number of projects have been published by RSSB on various aspects of Driver Only Operation on passenger trains. Its research has concluded that, when properly managed, there are no increased risks from dispatching a train without a guard being present.

Department for Transport officials regularly meet with ORR and RSSB representatives to discuss a variety of railway safety issues including Driver Only Operation.

## Recall of Unsafe Products Review

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 4 July (HL751), whether they plan to publish (1) the terms of reference, and (2) the minutes, of the steering group set up as a result of their response to the independent review by Lynn Faulds Wood. [HL1412]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Recall Review Steering Group is led by Industry and its work is supported by officials from my department. It is for the Group to consider whether they wish to publish material relating to its meetings.

## Red Arrows

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 12 July (HL921), what changes the Red Arrows offered to make to their original programme; and what, if any, safety advice was received by the Red Arrows and from whom. [HL1260]

**Earl Howe:** The Red Arrows did not offer to make any changes to their original, approved routine or display sequence. However, they did liaise with the event organisers, who are responsible for mitigating risks to those on the ground and those in boats in the local estuary, on where best to locate the display. To avoid flying over anyone in the estuary, the Red Arrows were prepared to display over the sea.

The Red Arrows did not receive any safety advice specifically relating to a display at Fowey Regatta.

## Refugees

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they provide to refugees before they are settled in the UK. [HL1200]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UN High Commission for Refugees counsels refugees before they are resettled to the UK.

Additional advice is provided through cultural orientation sessions with practical information about life in the UK and rights and responsibilities.

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the evaluation of the moving on period for those granted refugee status, announced during the passage of the Immigration Act 2016. [HL1295]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that new recognised refugees apply promptly for any welfare benefit for which they may be eligible and receive the first payment of any benefit for which they qualify before their Home Office support ends.

We plan to publish our evaluation of this work later this year and will bring forward a change to the current 28-day move-on period if the evaluation shows that to be necessary.

### Refugees: Children

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average age of the child refugees they propose to take in from the conflicts in Syria and North Africa; what assessment they have made of the dominant religion of those children; whether it is their policy that priority should be given to Christian children; and, if not, why not. [HL1383]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme prioritises the most vulnerable Syrian refugees, including families with dependent children of any age. Of the 1,602 Syrians who arrived between October 2015 and March 2016, around half were aged under 18. The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme, announced in April, will resettle vulnerable children under the age of 18 from the Middle East and North Africa region, with their families or carers where appropriate. One of the reasons for creating the scheme was to allow the inclusion of children at risk from nationalities other than Syrian, including, for example, Yazidis from Iraq.

For both schemes, we work closely with the UNHCR, who identify refugees for resettlement using their established vulnerability criteria rather than seeking to include children of a particular age. While membership of a minority religion is not in itself one of the vulnerability criteria, members of minority religions may qualify under one of the vulnerability headings. It is important that we base our selection criteria on those most in need, rather than on the basis of membership of a particular religious group.

### Refugees: English Language

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what UK-led English language classes are available in the refugee camps in Calais, Dunkirk and Turkey. [HL1201]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The provision of services in the migrant camps in France and Turkey is the responsibility of the respective Governments.

### Refugees: Families

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the British Red Cross report Not So Straightforward and its campaign to reunite refugee families, Torn Apart. [HL1263]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** 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 made in the Not So Straightforward report in detail.

We have now improved our guidance on processing family reunion applications so that it is clear, consistent and accessible. We intend to publish this in the next few weeks. We have also committed to redesigning the application form to ensure that applicants better understand the process and what is required of them.

There are no plans to extend the family reunion criteria as called for in the British Red Cross Torn Apart campaign. The current family reunion policy meets our international obligations and strikes the right balance. Where family members cannot meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules, such as in the case of an 18 year old applying to join their refugee parents in the UK, we consider whether there are exceptional circumstances or compassionate reasons to justify granting entry clearance outside the Rules.

### Refugees: Syria

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Keen of Elie on 12 July (HL Deb, col 124), how many Syrian refugees have been settled in each of the 71 local authorities so far. [HL1199]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Progress on resettlement in each local authority is indicated in quarterly immigration statistics. The last set of statistics, published on 26 May 2016, showed that 1,602 Syrians were resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme between October 2015 and March 2016 and sets out how many were located in each local authority.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their programme and timetable for the reception of 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020. [HL1202]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We continue to work with local authorities and International Partners to deliver the Government's commitment to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by the end of this Parliament. We are on track to do this. The number resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the availability of suitable accommodation and support in the UK. Progress on resettlement is indicated in quarterly immigration statistics.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to establish a working group of voluntary organisations and officials to help the 20,000 Syrian refugees to settle successfully in the UK. [HL1203]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Refugee Resettlement Programme has established a strategic engagement group consisting of representatives from the programme, NGOs, the Syrian diaspora and service providers for resettled refugees. The group meets quarterly and has a number of objectives including providing targeted expertise that will help inform policy and operational delivery of the UK's resettlement routes and promoting a better understanding of the factors that contribute to successful resettlement. The group is chaired jointly by the Resettlement Programme and the Refugee Council.

## Research: Finance

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, what assessment they have made of the impact on funding for scientific and medical research at UK universities, and what plans they have to address any such impact. [HL1241]

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, what plans they have to make up any shortfall in funding for scientific and medical research. [HL1242]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government intends to maintain and enhance the strength of our research and innovation base. This is why we have protected the science resource budget in real terms from its 2015/16 level of £4.7 billion for the rest of the parliament.

While the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU funding arrangements continue unchanged, including those that apply to students, researchers, and businesses. We remain fully open to scientists and researchers from

across the EU. We hugely value the contribution of EU and international staff and there are no immediate changes to their rights to live and work in the UK.

## Research: International Cooperation

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, how they plan to ensure that UK universities and research institutions do not face barriers to international research co-operation. [HL1217]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The UK has a long established system that supports and attracts the brightest minds, at all stages of their careers. We fund excellent science wherever it is found and ensure there is the freedom to tackle important scientific questions.

While the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU arrangements continue unchanged, including those that apply to students, researchers, and businesses. We remain fully open to scientists and researchers from across the EU. We hugely value the contribution of EU and international staff and there are no immediate changes to their rights to live and work in the UK.

## River Helford: Fish Farming

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to protect and promote oyster farming on the banks of the Helford River in Cornwall. [HL1416]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The shellfish industry is an important contributor to the UK economy and is worth over £250 million annually.

Government policy is to facilitate industry-led growth in this sector; it is for private enterprise and the owners of sites to consider the benefits of oyster farming on the banks of the Helford River in Cornwall.

Public funds are currently available to support economic growth in the aquaculture sector through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). In November 2015, the UK Government published a Multiannual National Plan for Aquaculture which outlines areas of growth earmarked for support under the EMFF.

In addition, the Shellfish Act 1967 exists to encourage the setting up and management of private and natural fisheries through Several and Regulating Orders, which grant exclusive fishing or management rights within a designated area.

## RMS St Helena

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the planned schedule for RMS St Helena for the next 12 months. [HL1166]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The current planned schedule for the RMS St Helena up to June 2017, which is available on the official RMS St Helena website, is attached for the convenience of the Noble Lord.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PQ HL1166 [PQ HL1166.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-13/HL1166>

## Russia: Sanctions

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action, if any, they plan to take in the light of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus on 7 July calling for an end to the trade and economic sanctions imposed on Russia by the EU, and what their current policy is regarding those sanctions. [HL1110]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The EU remains united in its strategy of resolving the Ukraine crisis through diplomacy underpinned by robust sanctions pressure. The UK fully supports this policy and will continue to play a central role in calling for a firm response to Russia's aggression in Ukraine. On 1 July the EU unanimously agreed to renew economic sanctions on Russia for a further six months, in line with the March European Council's commitment that the duration of sanctions should be clearly linked to the full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

## Rwanda: Civil Liberties

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are supporting the government of Rwanda in its work to provide civil and political rights for its citizens. [HL1337]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Rwanda has made impressive gains in securing economic and social rights; we want to see these continue. We support the Government of Rwanda's Vision 2020 development programme which sets out their commitment to "the rule of law and the protection of human rights".

We speak candidly with Rwanda, publicly and privately, and have been clear that Rwanda needs to do more to make these aspirations a reality. For example, we submitted recommendations on media freedoms and political space during the Universal Periodic Review on Rwanda. The Department for International Development's work in Rwanda is underpinned by an agreement on four Partnership Principles, which include respect for human rights and promoting good governance. Our regular private discussions with the Government of Rwanda are reinforced at Ministerial level, including during visits to Kigali by the former Minister of State at the Department for International Development, my Rt

Hon Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), in September and the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) in December last year.

We are also delivering training in partnership with the Rwandan National Police on a range of topics from public order management to gender based violence. This training supports the security forces to carry out their role of protecting the population in a human rights compliant manner.

## Rwanda: Health Services

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are supporting the government of Rwanda in its work to provide reproductive health choices to women and girls in Rwanda. [HL1335]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** DFID is supporting the Rwandan Ministry of Health to implement a Girls Empowerment Programme which is enabling 92,000 girls over three years to meet in safe spaces across the country. This programme is closely aligned with the Government of Rwanda's own Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy. Girls are mentored and guided through a curriculum that includes sexual and reproductive health, prevention of violence and guidance on staying safe and healthy. The programme also includes 'learning journeys' during which girls have the opportunity to visit local health centres and to learn about the services that are available to support them, in particular around adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

Interim findings show that the programme is successfully building girls' knowledge around sexual and reproductive health, as well as giving them the confidence and awareness of how to access more information and services.

## Rwanda: Rape

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are supporting victims of rape in Rwanda. [HL1336]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** DFID places the empowerment of girls and women at the heart of all its programmes in Rwanda spending £4.6 million over the four years 2014-2018 on a programme aimed specifically at combatting the triggers of gender based violence. The Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey reported a 6.7% decrease between 2010 and 2015 in the number of women experiencing physical violence.

## Saudi Arabia: Capital Punishment

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of



Saudi Arabia about the use of the death penalty against minors. [HL1354]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made this year to the government of Saudi Arabia regarding the use of beheading and crucifixion as criminal punishments. [HL1355]

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision by the Specialised Criminal Court in Saudi Arabia to sentence Ali Mohammed Baqir Al-Nimr, Abdullah Al-Zaher and Dawood Al-Marhoon to death by crucifixion for seeking democratic reforms in that country. [HL1357]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and in every country, especially for crimes other than the most serious and for juveniles, in line with the minimum standards set out in the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty of 2008 and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

We continue to raise the cases of Ali Al-Nimr, Dawood Al-Marhoon and Adullah Al-Zaher with the Saudi authorities at the highest levels, including during the former Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond)'s most recent visit to Saudi Arabia on 29 May. We expect that Ali Al-Nimr and the two others who were convicted as juveniles will not be executed.

### **Saudi Arabia: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the levels of discrimination experienced by Shia citizens in Saudi Arabia in the fields of public education, government employment and religious freedom. [HL1356]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We frequently raise religious freedom as part of our dialogue with the Saudi authorities on a wide range of human rights issues, including freedom of thought, conscience and religion. We pursue this dialogue through a variety of means, including diplomatic channels and Ministerial visits. The Saudi Arabian authorities are encouraging reforms at a pace that is acceptable to Saudi society.

### **Schools: Vocational Guidance**

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Nash on 13 July (HL1032), how many teachers have (1) the Qualification in Career Guidance, (2) the Level 6 Diploma in Career Guidance and Development, and (3) both qualifications. [HL1439]

**Lord Nash:** Schools have a legal duty to secure independent careers guidance for all pupils in years 8-13. Statutory guidance which underpins the duty states that schools should have a strategy for careers guidance which is developed in accordance with the needs and circumstances of their pupils. Schools should consider a number of principles for good practice, including the role that careers professionals can play in supporting pupils as one element of a varied careers programme.

The statutory guidance encourages schools to search for qualified careers practitioners in their area on the UK Register of Career Development Professionals. Individuals providing careers development services can apply to join the register if they are professionally qualified in a career development subject to a minimum of Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) Level 6, adhere to the Career Development Institute Code of Ethics and undertake and record a minimum of 25 hours continuing professional development each year. As at August 2016 there were over 1,200 people on the register.

### **Secure Accommodation: Private Sector**

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage profit-making companies to run Secure Children's Homes. [HL1420]

**Lord Nash:** The Government has worked closely with the Association of Directors of Children's Services, Local Government Association, the Youth Justice Board and the Secure Accommodation Network to consider how the operation of the secure children's homes system could be better planned and co-ordinated to meet children's needs.

We are currently considering the commissioning arrangements for all children's homes as part of our response to recommendations made in Sir Martin Narey's independent review of residential care. We also await the outcome of Charlie Taylor's review of the youth justice system in England and Wales. Work will continue through to the end of this year to identify the best long-term commissioning arrangements for secure children's homes.

### **Security of Tenure: Domestic Violence**

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they propose to lay regulations concerning the right to security of tenure for victims of domestic violence under the Housing and Planning Act 2016, and whether they will first consult organisations working with victims of domestic violence. [HL1294]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** We have introduced fixed term tenancies for all new council tenancies to ensure we get the best use out of our social housing stock and focus this valuable resource on those who need it the most for as long as they need it. This is essential with 1.24 million households on council waiting lists. The

changes will apply to new tenants, but will not apply to existing lifetime tenants who remain in their own home.

We are preparing the regulations which will set out the circumstances in which local authorities may exercise discretion to offer tenants seeking transfer further lifetime tenancies in limited circumstances. These will include where tenants downsize into a smaller home, move for work or to escape harm, including domestic violence. We will ensure that relevant organisations including those working with victims of domestic abuse will be able to feed in their views into the draft regulations.

We aim to lay the regulations in the Winter.

### Smoking

*Asked by Lord Young of Cookham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the lower life expectancy of those on low incomes is due to the higher rates of smoking in that group. [HL1194]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The independent review into health inequalities in England undertaken by Professor Sir Michael Marmot culminated in the publication in 2010 of *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*. A copy of the review has been placed in the Library. The review identified the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England and made the following recommendation:

"Tobacco control is central to any strategy to tackle health inequalities as smoking accounts for approximately half of the difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest income groups. Smoking-related death rates are two to three times higher in low-income groups than in wealthier social groups."

### Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they are making in reforming benefit sanctions and in preventing hardship to children and other dependent family members. [HL1319]

**Lord Freud:** We keep the operation of the sanctions processes under constant review to ensure they continue to function effectively and fairly, to promote positive behaviours. Where we identify an issue, we act to put it right.

Following the recommendations from the Oakley Review and the subsequent report 'Benefit sanctions policy beyond the Oakley Review' by the Work and Pensions Select Committee, we have made a number of improvements to the Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanction systems, particularly around communications to claimants and safeguarding measures for those who maybe vulnerable.

We are now focussing our efforts on continuing with the current improvements in JSA and ESA, to ensure that all the agreed recommendations and improvements can continue to be delivered in Universal Credit.

We also have a well-established system of hardship payments, available as a safeguard if a claimant demonstrates that they cannot meet their immediate and most essential needs, including accommodation, heating, food and hygiene, as a result of their sanction.

### South Sudan and Sudan

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the South Sudan Troika plans to issue a comprehensive statement on its priorities in Sudan and South Sudan. [HL1104]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK, along with our Troika partners (the United States and Norway), has been active in supporting efforts to resolve the crisis in South Sudan. This includes working with the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development and regional partners.

We are deeply concerned about the recent fighting and will continue to work with our troika and regional partners to resolve the crisis.

### South Sudan: Armed Conflict

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the renewed conflict in South Sudan, whether they plan to conduct further diplomatic efforts through regional channels and a further review of UK participation in the UN peacekeeping mission. [HL1187]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The United Kingdom welcomes the unified and strong response from regional leaders to help end the violence in Juba and secure a ceasefire. UK officials attended the 11 July meeting of Foreign Ministers in Nairobi and we continue to use our diplomatic network to encourage the region to put more pressure on South Sudan's leaders to end the crisis. The UK strongly supports UN peacekeeping and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). We will continue to work closely with the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations to determine how the UK can best provide support to the rapidly evolving situation in South Sudan.

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the government of Sudan's attitude and approach towards the conflict in South Sudan, and whether it will contribute to peace and stability in South Sudan. [HL1284]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government of Sudan played a constructive role in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development peace process in South Sudan and the recent meeting of regional Foreign Ministers on

11 July in Nairobi. We are working closely with all regional countries to end the violence in South Sudan.

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the support and help that Sudan provided to ease the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan by opening its border, allowing refugees to enter Sudan, and reducing the oil levy. [HL1436]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Sudan has facilitated the delivery of emergency humanitarian supplies into South Sudan. In 2014 the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Food Programme which has enabled 47,000 metric tons of emergency and nutrition assistance to be delivered to more than 200,000 South Sudanese in the Upper Nile State.

There are over 230,000 South Sudanese refugees in Sudan. Until March the government of Sudan allowed refugees to move freely, work, and live in host communities, but South Sudanese arriving since then have been classed as 'foreigners', thereby restricting their movements within Sudan. We are not aware of any formal agreement by Sudan to reduce the payments it levies on South Sudan's oil exports.

### South Sudan: Conflict Resolution

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role they have taken since 2011, and are now taking, to resolve the conflict in South Sudan. [HL1432]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has, and continues to maintain, a prominent role in the peace process in South Sudan. Since conflict broke out in 2013 we, along with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and our Troika (US and Norway) partners, have provided substantial political, technical and financial support to both the peace talks and the implementation of the August peace agreement.

Following the latest outbreak of violence in Juba, our immediate efforts are focused on the stabilisation of the country. We remain firmly committed to the people of South Sudan and call on the leaders to re-establish the peace process as soon as possible.

### South Sudan: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the agreement between the governments of Sudan and South Sudan and the World Food Programme to transport humanitarian assistance to South Sudan via Sudan, in the light of that agreement's extension. [HL1286]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On the basis of an agreement between the World Food Programme (WFP)

and the governments of Sudan and South Sudan, the WFP have been working with relevant government authorities in both countries and the region to ensure that their planes are able to deliver much needed humanitarian supplies into South Sudan. For instance, from January to June 2016 alone WFP managed to deliver close to 21,300 metric tons of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil to Upper Nile state. With the six-month extension to this agreement, WFP plans to deliver another 10,000 metric tons of food from Sudan to South Sudan. This represents a pragmatic approach to delivering vital humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict in South Sudan, and we welcome the support of the Government of Sudan in facilitating the delivery of food assistance across the border.

DFID Sudan and DFID South Sudan are monitoring the situation in relation to the ongoing crisis in South Sudan, and will keep working closely with WFP to help maintain essential transport corridors for humanitarian assistance.

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent of the humanitarian crisis resulting from the conflict in South Sudan. [HL1433]

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what help and support they are providing to deal with humanitarian issues in South Sudan. [HL1434]

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there is further need for support in South Sudan and of the form that it should take. [HL1435]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Prior to the eruption of fighting in Juba in early July 2016, the humanitarian situation in South Sudan was already dire, with unprecedented levels of food insecurity and one in five people displaced. In the aftermath of the recent crisis, we assess that the situation is now worse than it has ever been since independence in 2011. Six million people, over half the population, need urgent humanitarian assistance. The UK is the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor, contributing £242 million since the start of the conflict in December 2013. In December 2015, DFID approved a significant five year (2015-2020) humanitarian programme for South Sudan. This programme has been structured to enable DFID and our partners to respond to rising or changing needs.

In addition it is likely to prove necessary to scale up urgent humanitarian assistance in order to maintain vital food and nutrition supply lines, and reduce the risk of famine. We will also continue to ensure that South Sudan's most vulnerable people are able to access vital health and education services. Our humanitarian partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNICEF (who both receive DFID funding) were able to mobilise responses for those displaced by the recent

fighting in Juba, including the provision of water, food and health services. Other partners are continuing to operate outside Juba, supporting urgent health, protection and food security interventions.

### South Sudan: Peace Negotiations

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the preliminary ceasefire agreed in South Sudan on 11 July continues to hold; what steps they are taking to ensure that those displaced by the violence in South Sudan receive humanitarian protection and that the existing infrastructure in place at the Tamping base of the UN Mission in South Sudan is adequate; and what representations they have made to both the first Vice President Riek Machar and President Salva Kiir to encourage constructive political dialogue. [HL1226]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge), issued a statement on 14 July calling on President Kiir and First Vice-President Machar to ensure their troops abide by the ceasefire and refrain from further violence. We are now working with our regional partners to support this. At the UN Security Council we continue to make clear that the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) needs to be strengthened and an arms embargo and targeted sanctions should be applied.

The UK's humanitarian partners are providing water, food and health services to those affected by the recent fighting in Juba. Our humanitarian programme continues to deliver assistance across South Sudan to support the 1.6 million internally displaced people. We are also working to ensure that UNMISS has the equipment and unrestricted access it needs to fulfil its mandated task of providing a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of South Sudan's first Vice President Riek Machar's control over his military forces; what steps they are taking to include all parties in a resolution to the conflict including the Sudan People's Liberation Army's Chief of General Staff Paul Malong; and what steps they are taking to help resolve the delay of payments to soldiers. [HL1227]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The security situation remains fluid, but several opposition commanders have made clear that they remain under the command of Riek Machar. It is therefore imperative that Machar, as well as other South Sudanese leaders, takes responsibility for his forces' actions and refuses to engage in further fighting. Through the UN Security Council and our engagement with regional partners we continue to put pressure on the parties to immediately bring an end to the violence, and to

ensure their troops respect the ceasefire of 11 July. Payments to soldiers is a matter for the transitional government of national unity.

### South Sudan: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the political situation in South Sudan in the light of inter-tribal conflict between supporters of President Salva Kiir and First Vice President Riek Machar. [HL1431]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Following recent fighting, the political situation in South Sudan remains tense. We continue to call on the leaders to demonstrate their commitment to the peace agreement and re-establish the peace process as soon as possible.

### South Sudan: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what humanitarian support and assistance they have (1) provided, and (2) plan to provide, for South Sudanese refugees in Sudan. [HL1285]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Since 2014, DFID Sudan has provided £10.4 million to address the humanitarian needs of South Sudanese refugees arriving in Sudan. The assistance has been in the areas of emergency food distribution, water and sanitation, education, and protection activities in the areas of White Nile State and Kordofan states. We are currently discussing with humanitarian partners in Sudan further contributions of approximately £3 million to be disbursed in the coming months.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide further support if required.

### Southern African Development Community: Economic Partnership Agreements

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to ratify the Economic Partnership Agreement between the Southern African Development Community and the EU signed on 10 June. [HL1018]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We will make a decision on the ratification of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union at a later date, in accordance with the best interests of the UK. We remain full members of the EU for now, and while the UK is still a member of the EU all existing rights and obligations will continue to apply. The Agreement will provisionally apply to the UK once it has been ratified by the European Parliament and SADC member states, irrespective of any UK ratification.



## Sovereignty: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what conditions have to be met before they would consider triggering a Border Poll in Northern Ireland, and whether those conditions currently exist. [HL1406]

**Earl of Courtown:** The UK Government remains fully committed to the Belfast Agreement. This includes the obligation for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to call a border poll if he believes there is majority support for a united Ireland. However, it is the Secretary of State's view that a majority of the people of Northern Ireland continue to support the current political settlement, including Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to discuss with other member states the matter of holding a Border Poll in Northern Ireland as part of their negotiations about the UK leaving the EU. [HL1407]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The UK Government will continue to abide by its commitments in the Belfast Agreement. It remains the case that the requirements in the Belfast Agreement for a border poll are not met. Our efforts need to be focused on getting the best deal possible for the UK in the negotiations with the EU.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have had, or intend to have, discussions with the government of the Republic of Ireland about the possibility of holding a Border Poll. [HL1408]

**Earl of Courtown:** The Government regularly meets representatives from the Government of Ireland to discuss a range of issues. We will continue to hold such meetings throughout the process of negotiating our exit from the European Union. The UK Government remains fully committed to the Belfast Agreement. This includes the obligation for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to call a border poll if he believes there is majority support for a united Ireland. It is however the Secretary of State's clear view that a majority of the people of Northern Ireland continue to support the current political settlement, including Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom. As the Government's Northern Ireland manifesto at the last election set out, the circumstances requiring a border poll are, therefore, not satisfied.

## Special Educational Needs

*Asked by Lord Lingfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to respond to the findings published in June in Reporting on the HCP process: Bren Prendergast's

parent participatory research, in particular in relation to the rights of children and young people with disabilities and their parents and carers. [HL1326]

**Lord Nash:** We are monitoring Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans in a number of ways and have put in place a range of measures to help drive up their quality. In producing EHC plans, local authorities must take account of the views, wishes and feelings of children, young people and parents and engage them fully throughout the process.

We annually survey local authorities to identify, for example, the number of EHC plans in place, how many have been completed within the statutory deadline, and how many statements of Special Educational Needs have been reviewed and replaced by an EHCP. The data is attached and available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2016>

Our team of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) advisers regularly visit local authorities to assess how well they are implementing the SEND reforms, and to offer support and challenge. In early 2016, we provided free training for all local authorities, which parents also attended, on producing quality EHC plans. Between July and October this year, we will conduct a large-scale national survey to assess the experiences that young people with SEND, and parents, have of EHC plans.

Departmental officials regularly meet groups of parents, and young people, to discuss a range of things in relation to SEND, including EHCPs. Bren Prendergast's report provides helpful additional information.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Statements\_of\_SEN\_and\_EHC\_plans\_England\_2016 [HL1326 attachment 270716.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-19/HL1326>

*Asked by Lord Lingfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to address delays in the production of education, health and care plans in cases where (1) plans are produced by a local authority outside the timescale specified in regulations, and (2) plans are not produced for the start of a new school or academic year where a young person is transferring to a new stage of education at the age of (a) 16, and (b) 18. [HL1327]

*Asked by Lord Lingfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which local authority performance targets for special educational needs teams, or individual staff within those teams, align with current legislation and guidance, in particular in relation to (1) the production of education, health and care plans, and (2) the number of placements in special

schools; and what actions they propose to take in response to that assessment. [HL1328]

**Lord Nash:** Local authorities are responsible for fulfilling the statutory duties on special educational needs (SEN) and disability placed upon them by the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice. This legal framework sets out clearly the process and timescales for producing Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans; and the process for determining the school placement of children and young people with EHC plans.

Local authorities must issue final EHC plans within 20 weeks of commencing an assessment. Data published in May showed that 59.2% of EHC plans were issued on-time, excluding exception cases. Some areas are managing 100%. We have emphasised to local authorities that, where there are delays, they need to communicate clearly about them with families.

The SEND Code of Practice is clear that EHC plans must be issued in sufficient time prior to a child or young person moving between key phases of education, to allow for planning and, where necessary, commissioning of support and provision at the new institution. The Children and Families Act 2014 (Transitional and Saving Provisions) (Amendment) (No.2) Order 2014, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014 (Transitional and Saving Provisions) (Amendment) Order 2015, require local authorities to prioritise the review of statements of SEN or Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs) for children and young people approaching the end of an educational phase.

Young people aged 19-25 are only able to draw on high needs funding from the Education Funding Agency where they have an EHC plan. Because some local authorities may not complete all the necessary transfers from LDAs to EHC plans by 1 September, EFA-funded institutions can continue to deliver programmes to 19-25 year olds where the young person has a Learning Difficulty Assessment and is receiving high needs funding, and where the local authority is in the process of an EHC assessment but has not finalised the EHC plan.

The Department does not set targets for the performance of individual local authorities. The Department monitors very closely nationally-published data on local authority performance on SEN and disability and provides support and challenge as appropriate.

## Special Educational Needs: Visual Impairment

*Asked by Lord Blunkett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of funding for those units set up to provide assistance to children with visual impairments (1) in multi-academy trusts, (2) in individual schools, or (3) supported directly by local education authorities, on the education provided to those children. [HL1100]

**Lord Nash:** We commissioned the ISOS Partnership to research the use and impact of funding for special educational needs and disability, although they did not consider in detail the impact of funding on the education of children with visual impairments who receive assistance in special units. Their research report was published in July 2015.

As set out in their school inspection handbook, Ofsted inspectors will consider and report on any differences between the progress and attainment of pupils in resource-based provision (such as specialist units for pupils with visual impairments) and those with similar starting points who are disabled or have special educational needs in the main school. Inspectors also consider the progress of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs in relation to the progress of all pupils nationally with similar starting points, and examine the impact of funded support for them on closing any gaps in progress and attainment.

## Sports Competitors: Gender Recognition

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) decision to allow transgender athletes to compete at the Olympic Games; what consultation they have had with the British Olympic Association about that issue; what rules apply in the UK regarding transgender athletes competing in sport; and whether they consider the IOC's ruling to be a disadvantage to non-transgender female athletes. [HL1109]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** We have had no such discussions with the British Olympic Association. Sports competition regulations are a matter for the governing body.

Home Nation Sports Councils published the attached guidance in 2013 for national governing bodies of sport entitled "Transsexual people and competitive sport".

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Transsexual People and Competitive Sport  
[TranssexualPeopleandCompetitiveSportGuidanceforNationalGoverningBodies.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-11/HL1109>

## Sportsgrounds

*Asked by Lord Faulkner of Worcester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the governing bodies of sports other than football about meeting disabled access guidelines at sports stadia. [I] [HL1123]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** Ministerial meetings have taken place with the Rugby Football Union and at official level

with the Rugby Union Premier League on accessibility. Ministers are aware that there is both good and bad practice on stadium accessibility across a range of other sports. Ministers expect all sports, and all clubs, whose grounds do not make the reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled spectators as set out in the Equality Act 2010 to take action to fulfil this legal obligation.

*Asked by Lord Faulkner of Worcester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for revising the terms of reference for the Sports Grounds Safety Authority to ensure that they encompass disabled access requirements at licensed sports stadia. [I] [[HL1124](#)]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** As set out in our Sports Strategy, we will enable the Sports Grounds Safety Authority to take on a more formal role in helping sports grounds reach the required standards for accessibility. We are currently in discussions with the SGSA on what role they will play in delivering accessible sports grounds.

### St Helena: Aviation

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what meetings they have had with councillors from St Helena about the provision of air services to the island. [[HL1167](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Minister Duddridge discussed the provision of air services to St Helena with Councillor Lawson Henry in December 2015.

DFID officials work closely with the Governor of St Helena on all issues to do with air access to the island. The Governor is in regular direct contact with the Councillors on this issue.

### St Helena: Transport

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Verma on 27 June (HL Deb, cols 1358–59), when they plan to provide a briefing to members on transport services to St Helena. [[HL1170](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Baroness Verma offered a briefing for Peers from DFID officials. Arrangements are being made for such a briefing to take place after the summer recess

### State Retirement Pensions: Females

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the continuing impact of the alterations to the state pension age on women born in the 1950s, on or after 6 April 1951. [[HL1291](#)]

**Lord Freud:** The decision to equalise the State Pension age for men and women dates back to 1995 and addresses

a longstanding inequality. Since April 2010, women's State Pension age has been gradually increasing for those born after 6 April 1950. Following sharp increases in life expectancy projections, and therefore the increase in the number of people living longer in retirement, this timetable was accelerated by the Pensions Act 2011.

The Government listened to concerns expressed by those affected by the Pension Act 2011 changes, and took action to limit the maximum change to State Pension age to 18 months, a concession worth over £1 billion.

All those affected by the faster equalisation timetable will reach State Pension age following the introduction of the new State Pension, which is more generous for many women who have historically done poorly under the current system.

The average woman reaching State Pension age in the first forty years of the new State Pension is estimated to receive 10 per cent more State Pension over her lifetime than the average man.

Women retiring today can still expect to receive the State Pension for 26 years on average – several years longer than men. And this generation of women will spend a higher proportion of their lives in retirement than any before.

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the calls by Women Against State Pension Inequality for transitional state pension arrangements for women born in the 1950s, on or after 6 April 1951. [[HL1292](#)]

**Lord Freud:** Transitional arrangements are already in place. At the time of the Pensions Act 2011 the government introduced a concession worth £1.1 billion to limit the impact of the rising state pension age on those most affected. The concession capped the maximum delay that anyone would face in claiming their State Pension to 18 months rather than two years, relative to the previous timetable.

### Stem Cells

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 11 July (HL859), why they do not routinely monitor the timing of the publication of any scientific papers describing the derivation of stem cells; and what assessment they have made of what the maximum time interval should be between publication of any scientific papers describing the derivation of stem cells and the deposit of corresponding samples in the UK Stem Cell Bank. [[HL1159](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The UK Code of Practice for the Use of Human Stem Cell Lines does not require monitoring of the timing of scientific publications arising from the derivation of stem cell lines. A copy of the Code of Practice is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Code of practice for the use of human stem cell [Code of practice for the use of human stem cell lines.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-12/HL1159>

### Strategic Projects Team

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the National Audit Office investigation into the collapse of the Uniting Care Partnership Contract in Cambridge and Peterborough, whether they plan to dismantle the Strategic Projects Team. [HL1343]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the National Audit Office (NAO) investigation into the collapse of the Uniting Care Partnership Contract in Cambridge and Peterborough, whether they intend to hold to account (1) the Strategic Projects Team, (2) Monitor, and (3) NHS England, for the failings identified in the NAO's report. [HL1344]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the National Audit Office investigation into the collapse of the Uniting Care Partnership Contract in Cambridge and Peterborough, what further reviews are being undertaken into the circumstances of the failure, and whether the outcomes of those reviews will be published. [HL1345]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department welcomes the National Audit Office (NAO) report. Decisions about the Strategic Projects Team (SPT) are, however, for NHS England. Following an internal review and the NAO report, NHS England identified concerns about the work of the SPT. As a result, the SPT will close and all its ongoing commitments will be reviewed with a view to bringing them to a conclusion.

NHS Improvement advises that it also welcomes the NAO report and is working closely with NHS England and the Department to consider assurance processes for such complex transactions. NHS Improvement further advises that its focus since May has been liaison with the NAO on its report and joint consideration with NHS England of the assurance issues raised.

NHS England confirms that the NAO investigation supports the findings of its previously published independent review. Before the NAO investigation, NHS England had already commissioned a follow-up review focusing on the role of external advisors, the effectiveness of the Gateway review process, and the role of the clinical commissioning group leadership and governing body. This work continues and NHS England expects to publish findings later this summer.

More widely, NHS England has been undertaking assessments of current and planned novel contracts and is developing an assurance framework for contracts of this sort. This is being informed by the findings of the Uniting Care reviews.

### Students: Loans

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have in place to ensure that the Student Loans Company does not continue taking payments after graduates have paid off the balance of their debt. [HL1219]

**Earl of Courtown:** There is a risk that borrowers coming towards the end of their loans may repay to much, as a result of a time lag between HMRC making deductions and their being reported to the Student Loans Company (SLC). In such cases, borrowers are advised to monitor their own repayments so they know when they are likely to come to the end of repaying their loan, as they could over repay otherwise. They are also encouraged to inform SLC that they wish not to have any remaining repayments through the PAYE system but repay their loan through a direct debit.

Any amounts that are overpaid are refunded with interest by the SLC when borrowers' accounts are reconciled at the end of the financial year.

### Sudan: Counter-terrorism

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the positive contributions made by Sudan, particularly in regard to combatting terrorism and radicalisation. [HL1250]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As part of the strategic dialogue with Sudan, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Africa Director Neil Wigan visited Khartoum in March to discuss a range of issues, including tackling extremism. We welcome the Sudanese Government's interest in cooperating on such issues of mutual concern.

### Sudan: Foreign Relations

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK–Sudan strategic dialogue initiated in March represents a change of approach in foreign policy towards Sudan, and whether that dialogue will continue. [HL1249]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our objectives in Sudan have not changed. The British Government continues to work with its partners to end the conflicts, improve the serious humanitarian and human rights situation and tackle migration. The launch of the strategic dialogue underlines our commitment to discuss these and other issues with the Government of Sudan.



*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the visit by the US's Special Envoy for Sudan, Donald Booth, to Sudan in June, and of any lessons that could be learnt from that visit for UK–Sudan relations. [[HL1287](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK continues to work closely with its Troika partners the US and Norway. The visit by the US's Special Envoy to Sudan underlines the benefits of the ongoing strategic dialogue between the UK and the Government of Sudan, which allows us to raise issues of concern directly with the Government of Sudan.

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to promote stronger educational and cultural links between the UK and Sudan. [[HL1289](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Council already has a number of projects in Sudan which aim to strengthen cultural and educational relations. They have over 200 partner schools, engage with over 250,000 people in a national English teacher training programme and have provided English language training to 500 leading journalists. Sudan has also been added as a priority country for the British Council's new £30m Cultural Protection Fund, and the British Council office in Khartoum is in discussion with a range of partners to develop proposals. Our Embassy in Khartoum also oversees the Chevening scholarship programme for highly talented Sudanese with leadership potential to pursue masters degrees in the UK.

### **Sudan: Peace Negotiations**

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ceasefire declarations by the government of Sudan and the rebel movements in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan. [[HL1251](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcome the Sudanese Government's announcement of a cessation of hostilities for the Two Areas last month, and the opposition's announcement in April. We are aware of recent allegations of breaches and our Ambassador in Khartoum raised this issue with the Chief of Staff for the Sudanese Armed Forces on 18 July who reiterated the government's commitment to upholding the cessation of hostilities. We continue to call on all sides to ensure the declarations are respected and allow full humanitarian access.

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, as part of the troika, to persuade opposition movements in Sudan to sign the African Union's Roadmap for Peace, and to encourage the government of Sudan's commitment to it. [[HL1253](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Together with our Troika partners, we issued a statement on 27 May supporting the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel. We welcome the Sudanese Government's signing of the roadmap agreement and continue to urge the opposition to do the same. The UK's Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan and our Ambassador in Khartoum are in regular contact with the government and opposition groups.

### **Sudan: Radicalism**

*Asked by Lord Sheikh*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the efforts by the government of Sudan to prevent the influence in Sudan of groups such as Daesh, Boko Haram, and Al Shabaab. [[HL1288](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Sudan has an important role in tackling the threat of the various extremist groups that operate in region. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Africa Director discussed countering extremism with the Government of Sudan during his visit to Khartoum in March, and we are encouraging them to play a constructive role.

### **Syria: Armed Conflict**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the humanitarian needs of the civilians living in the rebel-held areas of Aleppo, and of reports that those civilians are facing starvation. [[HL1308](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is at the forefront of the humanitarian response to the Syria crisis. We have pledged over £2.3 billion to date, our largest ever response to a humanitarian crisis.

The Syrian regime and Kurdish forces have cut the main access route into opposition-held eastern Aleppo City. The UN reports that up to 300,000 people are trapped there, with humanitarian assistance unable to get in. The UN and humanitarian partners have prepositioned some food supplies and rationing of supplies has begun. Further life-saving aid is needed urgently. In other areas of Syria prolonged denial of humanitarian access has led to cases of acute malnutrition and, in some cases, starvation.

There is no excuse for not allowing humanitarian supplies into east Aleppo City and doing so is a violation of International Humanitarian Law. The Syrian Regime approved the UN's request to deliver humanitarian supplies to East Aleppo City as part of its July humanitarian convoy plan. We call on the Regime to live up to this commitment. We are working with the UN and other humanitarian partners to find ways to alleviate the situation.

## Tax Yields

*Asked by Lord Inglewood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 8 June (HL258), whether that estimate of the effect of leaving the EU single market on total UK tax revenue still applies, and if not, whether they will provide updated figures. [HL1321]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The previous Written Answer in question (HL258), cited the estimated impacts of leaving the EU upon UK tax revenues as laid out in the Treasury's analysis on both the long-term and immediate economic impact of EU membership and alternatives, published in April and May respectively.

There have been no new estimates made for the impact on tax revenue since the EU referendum. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) will produce an updated forecast for receipts revenues (Public Sector Current Receipts) at the Autumn Statement later this year.

## Teachers: Resignations

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of teachers left that profession (1) less than one year from starting teaching, and (2) within five years of starting teaching, between 2011 and 2016. [HL1192]

**Lord Nash:** We recognise that it is vital for schools to be able to retain good teachers – that is why we have made policy interventions in the areas that teachers tell us matter most such as improving pupil behaviour and reducing unnecessary workload.

The Department publishes statistics showing the percentage of qualified teachers who enter teaching within a year of completing their training and who remain in service each year afterwards. This information is available in Table 8 of the 'School Workforce in England: November 2015' statistical release which was published on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The latest statistics show that 87% of qualified teachers that entered service during 2014 were still in post one year later. The following table shows the one-year retention rate has remained within one percentage point of this level during the last five years.

<i>Year qualified</i>	<i>Recorded in service by</i>	<i>Still in post after one year</i>
2010	November 2010	87%
2011	November 2011	88%
2012	November 2012	88%
2013	November 2013	87%
2014	November 2014	87%

The latest available statistics also show that 70% of qualified teachers that entered service during 2010 were still in post five years later.

<i>Year qualified</i>	<i>Recorded in service by</i>	<i>Still in post after five years</i>
2006	March 2007	73%
2007	March 2008	74%
2008	March 2009	74%
2009	March 2010	72%
2010	November 2010	70%

Over the longer-term five year retention rate has remained stable, of the cohort of newly qualified teachers who entered teaching in 1996, 71% were still teaching in the state-funded sector five-years later.

## Territorial Waters: Security

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 14 June (HL325), how government departments and agencies decide who should take executive action to prosecute a series of contacts of interest. [HL1118]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Each of the Government departments and agencies represented at the National Maritime Information Centre has a specific remit and depending on what the nature of the operational scenario in question is, the department or agency with the legislatively proscribed lead responsibility for investigating activity of that kind will take the necessary action. Other departments and agencies will provide support to the lead department or agency as required.

## Third Sector

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the implementation of the concept of the Big Society is still part of their programme, and if so, which initiatives remain and where departmental and ministerial responsibility now lies. [HL1409]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Big Society programme remains a key manifesto commitment of the government and is a responsibility of all departments.

The government's vision is to have a more engaged nation where we take greater responsibility for ourselves and for our neighbours.

Programmes such as the National Citizen Service are helping to build a more responsible and more engaged society along with programmes such as Community Organisers, which is bringing local people together to take action on issues they care about. These are two examples of the current initiatives that are taking place.

## Thyroid Cancer: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to consider providing interim funding for innovative treatments for patients with radioactive-iodine refractory differentiated thyroid cancer where there are treatments available but they are yet to be reviewed by NICE. [HL1340]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) already provides access to sorafenib as a treatment option for the systemic therapy of locally advanced or metastatic differentiated radioiodine-refractory thyroid cancer.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has been asked to develop technology appraisal guidance on the use of sorafenib and lenvatinib for this indication.

NHS England published its new standard operating procedure for the CDF in July 2016 and a copy is attached.

NHS England has advised that it considered carefully the issue as to which drugs should be given interim funding and concluded, with the support of the majority of stakeholders, that interim funding should only be possible for those drugs that had been granted a marketing authorisation and were in receipt of a draft positive appraisal recommendation or a draft recommendation for use within the CDF from NICE.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

CDF SOP [HL1340 cdf-sop.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-19/HL1340>

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that patients suffering with radioactive iodine-refractory differentiated thyroid cancer are not denied treatment due to the timeframes applied by NHS England for access to the new Cancer Drugs Fund. [HL1341]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS England has advised that systemic therapy is available for patients with radioiodine-refractory thyroid cancer through the continued funding of sorafenib for this indication via the Cancer Drugs Fund. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has been asked to develop technology appraisal guidance on the use of sorafenib and lenvatinib for this indication.

## Trade Agreements

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to establish a scheme to retrain as trade negotiators

people with experience of high level intergovernmental and global institutional practice. [HL1267]

**Lord Price:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has created the Department for International Trade, which is responsible for promoting British trade across the world and ensuring the UK takes advantage of the huge opportunities open to us. We are building up our trade policy capability. The Department has begun a process to recruit and train staff to work on the UK's trade policy. We will adapt the resource devoted to trade policy in line with future demands.

## Trade Promotion

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the procedure by which an Overseas Business Network is appointed; and who (1) administers the performance of, and (2) approves the budget for, each network. [HL1449]

**Lord Price:** The Overseas Business Network Initiative was launched in November 2012 to deliver trade support through partners, including overseas Chambers of Commerce. Overseas posts in selected emerging markets were asked to nominate potential partners via a business case process. Working closely with the British Chambers of Commerce, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) Ministers and officials reviewed the business cases and selected partners against set criteria.

Heads of Trade and Investment in individual markets administer the performance of each Overseas Business Network partner, reporting back to UKTI HQ. The UKTI HQ team approve the budget for each network partner.

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what amount they have paid for, or directly to, each of the Overseas Business Networks in each of the past four years. [HL1450]

**Lord Price:** The annual budgets for the Overseas Business Network Initiative were as follows:

£12m in 2013/14

£15m in 2014/15

£12m in 2015/16

£11m allocated for 2016/17

## Trading Standards

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have conducted a review of trading standards this year and, if so, when they plan to publish the outcome of that review. [HL1312]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The evidence and material from the recent Review of Trading Standards will be taken forward as part of the Cutting Red Tape Review of Local Authority Regulation and Enforcement. This review has closed for general comments and further evidence is being gathered and analysed. The Government will publish the findings from the Cutting Red Tape Review in due course.

### Trident Missiles

*Asked by Baroness Jolly*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the in-service date for the UK Trident Mark 4A nuclear warhead; what are the estimated costs of the Mark 4A programme; and what progress has been made to date in delivering that programme. [HL1365]

**Earl Howe:** I am withholding details of the date of the Mk 4A's component's entry into service, progress to date and the cost of the programme, for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

### Trolleybuses: Leeds

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the planning inspector of the public inquiry into the Leeds New Generation Transport schemes visited any European city operating trolley bus systems to ascertain whether its system could be emulated in Leeds, and if not, why not. [I] [HL1136]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** I can confirm that as part of the public inquiry into the Leeds New Generation Transport Scheme the Inspector did not visit any European city operating trolley bus systems to see if its system could be emulated in Leeds. The Inspector had regard to all the evidence put to the inquiry, this may have included information about other trolley bus schemes in the world, however the Inspector's remit was to look at the scheme for Leeds specifically put forward by the Applicant, having regard to the evidence submitted by all parties to the case.

### Turkey: Kurds

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the collapse of the Dolmabahçe Agreement, whether they will discuss with the government of Turkey the proposal by Open Democracy of 15 steps for Turkish-Kurdish peace. [HL1083]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We understand that the Government of Turkey did not commit itself to specific undertakings following the talks at the Dolmabahçe Palace in February 2015. We have been very clear that the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) violence must end in order to create the conditions for political resolution of the difficulties in the south east.

## Turkey: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 30 June (HL759), in which areas of reform in Turkey they believe there has been "significant backsliding". [HL1205]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government has stressed to the Government of Turkey the importance of freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and the independence of the judiciary. In meetings with the Turkish Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and others during a recent visit to Turkey the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Sir Alan Duncan) emphasised the UK's unequivocal condemnation of the coup attempt and our support for Turkey's democratic institutions. The Minister of State also emphasised the need for Turkey to respect human rights and the rule of law and urged continued focus on the Daesh threat, emphasising the need to protect British tourists.

### UK Trade with EU

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what tariff levels UK exports of goods and services would be subject to if the UK traded under WTO regulations with the remaining 27 countries of the EU, listed by category. [HL1161]

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what tariffs would apply to imports to the UK from the 27 member states remaining in the EU if trade between the EU and the UK was conducted in accordance with WTO regulations, listed by category. [HL1162]

**Lord Price:** If the UK were to leave the EU without having negotiated a preferential trade deal, then under WTO rules neither the UK nor the EU could offer each other better market access than that offered to all other WTO members.

The bound levels of access for goods and services into the EU under WTO rules are set out in the EU's schedules of commitments and are publicly available on the WTO website.

The bound levels of access for goods and services from the EU into the UK under WTO rules would be an issue for the government to consider in due course.

### UK Withdrawal from EU

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to invoke Article 50 of the TEU immediately; and whether they will negotiate to withdraw from the EU



within months, and not later than March 2017. [HL1132]

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to accelerate negotiations to leave the EU to ensure that they are completed before July 2017 when the UK is due to take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU. [HL1135]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government has no such plans.

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what instructions they have given to ensure that UK representatives in the EU Committee of Permanent Representatives (1) do not commit the UK to any new policies prior to withdrawal from the EU, and (2) facilitate a swift and effective withdrawal from the EU. [HL1133]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials at the UK Permanent Representation act on the basis of Ministerial instructions, which will continue to be the case in the run up to and throughout the period of negotiations to exit the EU. The UK remains a full member of the EU until our leave withdrawal is completed. Consequently, rights and obligations in the EU Treaties and other EU law continue to apply until that time.

*Asked by Lord Inglewood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether holding a second referendum is an essential constitutional precondition to invoking Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. [HL1320]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Article 50 explicitly recognises that a Member State may decide to withdraw "in accordance with its own constitutional requirements". It is for the Member State concerned to determine what those constitutional requirements are. The Government does not consider that a second referendum is necessary, or required to invoke Article 50.

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their position that leaving the EU is in the British national interest. [HL1375]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We will make a success out of leaving the European Union. We will protect and strengthen the national interest.

## UN Population Fund

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the progress of the UN Population Fund Supplies programme. [HL1334]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As with all programmes in which DFID invests, the UNFPA Supplies programme

is subject to thorough Annual Reviews, which were conducted in December 2014 and again in December 2015. The programme has expanded from 12 to 46 focus countries and has been found to be achieving value for money in procurement of contraceptive commodities. The recommendations from these Annual Reviews are being taken forward with UNFPA.

## Universities

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many institutions received the title of university in (1) England, and (2) the UK, between (a) 1986 and 2000, and (b) 2001 and 2015. [HL962]

**Lord Nash:** As this is a devolved matter, we can only answer regarding the institutions that received degree awarding powers in England. These figures are based on the information available to us.

(1a) Between 1986 and 2000 in England, 33 institutions were awarded University Title. All of these were awarded to former polytechnics as a result of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992.

(1b) Between 2001 and 2015 in England, 36 institutions were awarded University Title.

## Universities: Antisemitism

*Asked by Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports of increasing anti-Semitism in the UK, whether they will consult university Vice-Chancellors about what action they can take on the decision of the National Union of Students (NUS) to prevent the Union of Jewish Students from recommending a representative on the NUS Anti-Racism, Anti-Fascist Task Force. [HL1444]

**Earl of Courtown:** There is no place in our society for bigotry, hatred or any form of racism such as anti-Semitism.

Higher Education Institutions are committed to challenging intolerance on campus. They have a clear responsibility under the 2010 Equality Act to provide a safe and inclusive environment.

Student clubs, societies and associations, with a membership of over 25, are covered by the applicable requirements of the Equality Act 2010. This means they cannot discriminate, harass or victimise protected groups, as an employer, or in the provision of goods services and facilities, or as members or guests.

We would expect all bodies representing students in English universities to be clear that there is no place for anti-Semitism in higher education. They should be doing everything they can to tackle anti-Semitism as they would all forms of racism.

In response to growing concerns over hate crime Universities UK have established a Harassment Taskforce

to consider further measures to address harassment on campus including religion and belief. Government has asked the UUK Taskforce to consider a number of specific actions in relation to anti-Semitism:

- The need for an improved data collection of incidents by institution, to ensure Universities are recording incidents effectively;
- The importance of a complaints process that protects the identity of students who are fearful of coming forward;
- The need for better training to help University staff understand the different forms anti-Semitism can take.

The taskforce will provide a range of recommendations and actions in its report to ministers in the autumn.

## Vaccination

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how best to evaluate the impact of vaccination programmes to prevent rare diseases of high severity, and in particular the cost-effectiveness of the vaccination of children. [HL1358]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government bases its evaluation of vaccination programmes on the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), other expert groups and evidence from a wide range of epidemiologists and other experts. Their considerations include the impact of rare diseases, immunisation, and impacts on children. The methodology used to assess cost-effectiveness of regular (i.e. non-emergency) immunisation programmes is based on published National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance *Guide to the methods of technology appraisal 2013*. A copy of the guidance is attached.

The Cost Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurements (CEMIPP) working group has reviewed whether any changes to the methodology might be appropriate for immunisation and the Government is considering the advice.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Guide to the methods of technology appraisal 2013 [guide-to-the-methods-of-technology-appraisal-2013.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-20/HL1358>

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the scope of the Cost Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurements working group has shifted from its original purpose, and if so, why. [HL1359]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No, the Terms of Reference have not changed.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Cost Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurements working group's final report has been provided to the Department of Health, and if so, when that report will be published. [HL1360]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Cost Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurements working group's recommendations will be subject to public consultation, and if so, when. [HL1361]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department received the Cost Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurements report on 20 July 2016. The report will be published in due course. A decision on consultation has not yet been made.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) operating differently to other health technology assessment bodies, such as NICE, as stated in the minutes of the June JCVI meeting, in the event that the recommendations of the Cost Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurements working group are adopted. [HL1362]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure consistency between the recommendations of the Cost Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurements working group and those of the Department of Health's Appraisal Alignment Working Group on similar issues. [HL1363]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The report of the Cost Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurement (CEMIPP) review was received in the Department on 20 July. The Department is considering this report and its potential implications.

## Visas: Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what avenue of complaint members of the public have if they believe that government information, such as that provided in the document Tier 4 sponsors whose status appeared as revoked from 2010 to 2014, is not adequately clear, precise, or accessible. [HL1442]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Information about UK Visas and Immigration's complaint process, including both electronic and postal contact routes and guidance is available online at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about/complaints-procedure>.

## Volkswagen

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the investigations into diesel emissions by Volkswagen vehicles conducted by prosecutors in Germany and the US Department of Justice, what action they are taking to pursue any compensation and recompense that may be sought by UK consumers, and whether they plan to support any joint legal action against Volkswagen. [HL1393]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Prosecuting authorities from across Europe are liaising and coordinating their investigations through Eurojust. The Department for Transport is engaged in this process and is considering all possible options to reach a resolution on this issue.

## Waleed Abulkhair

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they made on 19 May to the government of Saudi Arabia about the case of Mr Waleed Abu Al-Khair; what response they received; and whether there has been any progress on that case since then. [HL1145]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are not aware of progress in the case of Walid Abu Al-Khair since last raised with the Saudi Arabian authorities on the 19 May. We believe that we will be more successful in discussing cases privately with Saudi Arabia and we will continue to follow this case closely and will raise when appropriate.

## Welfare Assistance Schemes

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of England is covered by Local Welfare Assistance Schemes; and what assessment they have made of whether those schemes have the necessary resources to make known the emergency financial support that is available to benefit claimants suffering from delays or other problems connected with Universal Credit. [HL1318]

**Lord Freud:** From April 2013, non-ring fenced funding was passed to local authorities in England and to the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales, who all now administer Welfare Assistance Schemes on a devolved and localised basis. How those local authorities administer this support is for them to decide and outside of my Department's remit.

In 2014 the Department undertook a review of this change and confirmed that local authorities were delivering targeted support more effectively than was the case with the previous provision under the Social Fund. This confirmed the Government's wider view that local authorities are best placed to deliver help and support at a

local level, ensuring effective provision for those who need it most, and coherent links with wider social care.

Further support is available from Universal Credit and Universal Support for claimants who are in financial difficulty or who are awaiting a Universal Credit payment. This includes advance payments, Alternative Payment Arrangements (more frequent payments, split payments within a household and the payment of rent direct to landlords) and Personal Budgeting support.

## Zakir Naik

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government following the decision to ban Zakir Naik from visiting the UK what discussions they have had with other governments about the nature and content of the broadcasts for which he is reportedly responsible and his ability to travel to their jurisdictions. [HL1223]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Since the decision to exclude Zakir Naik from the UK, the British Government has had no discussions with other governments about the nature and content of his broadcasts, nor his ability to travel to their jurisdictions.

## Zimbabwe: Financial Services

*Asked by Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the government of Zimbabwe's previous breaches of domestic and international commitments, what assessment they have made of the risk of it breaching the commitments required for re-entry to the global financial system. [HL1013]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Zimbabwe's re-engagement with the International Financial Institutions will only be possible once it has demonstrated a clear commitment to economic and political reform. We, along with the wider international community, have made this clear to the Zimbabwean government.

## Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 14 July (HL1012) in which they stated that the IMF "noted Zimbabwe's good progress and encouraged further reforms", what policies or actions they classify as examples of Zimbabwe's good progress on either economic or political reform. [HL1297]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Following its May 2016 Article IV Consultation with Zimbabwe, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) noted that "despite the adverse environment, the authorities have reduced the fiscal deficit in both 2014 and 2015. They have started to rationalise public expenditures by implementing recommendations from the 2015 civil service audit. They

are also amending the Public Financial Management and Procurement Acts. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has taken measures to restore confidence in the financial

sector. All banks in operations now have capital buffers above the minimum requirements". The IMF assessment did not cover political reform.



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