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**Thursday
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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Statements 1

Written Answers..... 7

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Thursday, 2 February 2017

Airport Capacity and Airspace Policy

[HLWS450]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Grayling), has made the following Ministerial Statement.

Today I will be laying before Parliament a draft Airports National Policy Statement and beginning a period of extensive public consultation on the policy proposals it contains. National Policy Statements were introduced under the Planning Act 2008 and are used to set out Government policy on nationally significant infrastructure projects. This draft Airports National Policy Statement sets out the need for additional airport capacity, as well as the reasons why the Government believes that need is best met by a northwest runway at Heathrow.

The draft Airports National Policy Statement, Appraisal of Sustainability of the draft Airports National Policy Statement, incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment, an assessment of the policy under the Habitats and Wild Birds Directive, a Health Impact Analysis, and an Equality Impact Assessment will be made available online.

The Airports National Policy Statement, if designated, will provide the primary basis for making decisions on any development consent application for a new Northwest Runway at Heathrow Airport.

For a scheme to be compliant with the Airports National Policy Statement, the Secretary of State would expect Heathrow Airport Ltd. to:

- demonstrate it has worked constructively with airlines on domestic connectivity – the government expects Heathrow to add 6 more domestic routes across the UK by 2030, bringing the total to 14, strengthening existing links to nations and regions, and also developing new connections;
- provide compensation to communities who are affected by the expansion including noise insulation for homes and schools, improvements to public facilities and other measures. This includes establishing a community compensation fund and a community engagement board;
- honour its commitment of payments for those people whose homes need to be compulsorily purchased to make way for the new runway or for those who take up the voluntary scheme of 25% above the full market value of their home and cover all costs including stamp duty, reasonable moving costs and legal fees;
- put in place a number of measures to mitigate the impacts of noise, including legally binding noise targets and periods of predictable respite. The Government also expects a ban of six and a half hours on scheduled night flights;

- set specific mode share targets to get more than half of airport users onto public transport, aimed at meeting its pledge of no more airport-related road traffic with expansion compared to today.

- implement a package of industry-leading measures to limit carbon and air quality impacts both during construction and operation; and

- demonstrate that the scheme can be delivered in compliance with legal requirements on air quality.

I have appointed Sir Jeremy Sullivan, the former Senior President of Tribunals, to provide independent oversight of the draft Airports National Policy Statement consultation process and ensure best practice is upheld.

Consultation on airspace

We need to think about how we manage the rising number of aircraft in an efficient and effective manner. By taking steps now to future-proof this vital infrastructure, we can harness the latest technology to make airspace more efficient as well as making journeys faster and more environmentally friendly.

I am therefore also publishing proposals to modernise the way UK airspace is managed, which will be consulted on in parallel. The policy principles set out in this airspace consultation influence decisions taken later in the planning process for a Northwest runway at Heathrow, if the Airports National Policy Statement were to be designated, including how local communities can have their say on airspace matters and how impacts on them are taken into account.

It is an important issue and one that will define the principles for shaping our airspace for years to come. It is therefore sensible to allow members of the public to consider both matters at the same time.

The proposals being published for consultation today include the functions, structure and governance of an Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise, which we will establish. The Commission would build relationships between industry and communities, embed a culture of best practice, and ensure an even fairer process for making changes to airspace.

The proposed new call-in function for a Secretary of State on airspace changes, similar to that used by the Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government for planning applications, create a democratic back-stop in the most significant decisions, much called for by communities.

The consultation on Airspace policy, new Air Navigation Guidance and the Strategic Rationale for upgrading the UK's airspace will be made available online.

Aviation strategy

The aviation sector is a great British success story, contributing around £20 billion per year and directly supporting approximately 230,000 jobs across the United Kingdom. It also supports an estimated 260,000 jobs across the wider economy.

I want to build on this success. My Department is currently progressing work to develop a new strategy for UK aviation.

This strategy will champion the success story of the UK's Aviation sector. It will put the consumer back at the heart of our thinking. The strategy will also explore how we can maximise the positive role that our world class aviation sector plays in developing global trade links, providing vital connections to both the world's growing economies and more established trading partners. Connections that will only grow in importance as our trading network expands.

I will come back to the House to update you on our plans for the Strategy as they develop over the coming weeks.

Consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny

These two consultations will last for 16 weeks and close on 25/05/2017. At the same time, and as required by the Planning Act 2008, a period of Parliamentary scrutiny (the "relevant period") now begins for the Airports National Policy Statement, ending by summer recess 2017.

I will be placing copies of all relevant documents in the Libraries of both Houses. Following consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny, and assuming that in the light of these processes the decision is made to proceed, we expect to lay a final Airports National Policy Statement before Parliament for debate and an expected vote in the House of Commons by winter 2017/18.

Avon Fire and Rescue Authority: Statutory Inspection

[HLWS454]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My right hon Friend the Minister of State for Fire and Policing (Brandon Lewis) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

There have been long standing allegations made against Avon Fire and Rescue Authority in respect of its governance.

In June 2016, the Chairman of Avon Fire and Rescue Authority approached the department requesting assistance with launching an inquiry into concerns raised by members of the Authority. That request was subsequently withdrawn by the Chairman. In August 2016, and again in October 2016, I asked the Fire and Rescue Authority to commission a full investigation, independent of the Authority, into the allegations but the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Authority have made clear to me that they do not intend to commission such an investigation.

In light of this response, I have today commissioned a statutory inspection under section 10 of the Local Government Act 1999 into Avon Fire and Rescue Authority's compliance with its duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions in respect of governance are

exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The inspection will focus on the Authority's functions in respect of governance, including, but not limited to, the Authority's duties of accountability and assurance under the Fire and Rescue National Framework.

I consider that the extent, seriousness and persistence of the allegations made against the Authority, together with the alleged failures to properly deal with complaints, if well-founded, would indicate that the Authority is failing to comply with its duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement. Such allegations would suggest that the Authority is unable to deliver economically, efficiently and effectively now or in the future. As a result, I consider that a statutory inspection is appropriate in this instance and is in the public interest. I should make it clear that I express no view about whether or not the allegations are well-founded, as that is a matter which will now be considered by the inspection.

It is in the public interest to ensure that allegations of this seriousness are carefully considered by a suitably qualified person of impeccable standing. Dr Craig Baker will be appointed as the inspector. Dr Baker is an independent consultant who has advised public sector organisations for over 30 years in the UK and overseas.

Foreign Affairs Council: 6 February

[HLWS456]

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

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will attend the Foreign Affairs Council on 6 February. The Foreign Affairs Council will be chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. The meeting will be held in Brussels.

Foreign Affairs Council

The agenda for the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) is expected to include Ukraine, Egypt, Libya and the Middle East Peace Process.

Ukraine

Ministers will focus on the importance of sustained international support for Ukraine's reform process. The UK strongly supports Ukraine's reform agenda which is crucial to build a modern, stable state. We expect discussion will also cover developments in relation to the Minsk Agreements.

Egypt

Ministers will discuss Egypt's bilateral relationship with the EU and Egypt's role in the region. We expect discussions will cover Egypt's political and human rights situation, including the growing restrictions on civil society. Ministers are also likely to discuss how the EU can help strengthen Egypt's internal security, cooperate

on regional stability and work together on combating illegal migration in the region.

Libya

Discussions will cover the latest developments in the Libyan political process. We will encourage the EU to consider how it can best continue to support the Libyan political process.

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers will discuss progress on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) and may reflect on obstacles to peace including incitement, terrorism, demolitions and recent settlement expansion.

Fuller Working Lives: A Partnership Approach

[HLWS451]

Lord Henley: My Right Honourable Friend The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Damian Green MP) has made the following Written Statement.

Today, we are publishing ‘*Fuller Working Lives: A Partnership Approach*’: a new employer led Strategy which outlines the demographic change facing the UK and the opportunities and challenges an ageing workforce presents for employers, individuals, government and for wider society.

We are living on average almost a decade longer than our grandparents. While this is good news, it also has implications for employers and the economy, as well as people’s own personal financial security, health and wellbeing.

In 2010, one in four of the working age population was aged 50 and over; and this is projected to increase to one in three by 2022. By 2035, people aged 50 and over will comprise half of the UK adult population (source: ONS (2014) Population Estimates and 2014-based Population Projections). Fuller Working Lives are important for individuals, employers and the economy.

For individuals, analysis shows that by delaying retirement until 65 instead of 55, a male average earner could have £280,000 extra income and might increase his pension pot by 60%. By retiring at 63 instead of 55, a female average earner who took a 10 year career break, could have £180,000 extra income and might increase her pension pot by 50% (source: DWP modelling, Fuller Working Lives Evidence Base 2017). Moreover, being in appropriate work is good for an individual’s health, both physical and mental.

For employers, in order to meet future demand it will be increasingly important to recruit, retain and retrain older workers. Over the next five years to 2022, there will be just under two million more people aged 50 years and over and three hundred thousand fewer people aged 16-49 (source: ONS (2014) Population Estimates and 2014-based Population Projections). We particularly want to support older workers to remain in and return to the labour market; one in four men and one in three women

reaching State Pension age have not worked for five years or more.

For the economy, adding just one year to people’s working lives could add 1% to GDP per year; that would be equivalent to £18bn in 2015, according to ONS data (2015).

Leading employers have worked with us to identify the steps needed to ensure the retention, retraining and recruitment of older workers. The new Strategy sets out the case for action business to business, as well as the importance of Fuller Working Lives for individuals and the key actions that Government is taking. It is underpinned by analysis of the attitudes, behaviours and experiences of individuals and employers which are integral to the achievement of the Fuller Working Lives ambition. To support individuals aged 50 years and over to remain in and return to the labour market and tackle the barriers to doing so.

I will place a copy of this strategy document and supporting evidence base 2017 in the House Libraries.

Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement

[HLWS455]

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

The first (informal) meeting of EU Interior and Justice Ministers during the Maltese Presidency took place on 26 and 27 January in Valletta. The Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service the rt hon Brandon Lewis MP and I represented the UK.

Interior day began on 26 January with a discussion on reform of the Common European Asylum System. I intervened to reiterate the benefits of separating the proposed relocation mechanism for redistributing asylum seekers between Member States from the draft revised Dublin Regulation (which the Government has not opted into) and to support activity, including engagement with third countries, aimed at controlling inward migration flows. Ministers agreed to take forward further work to define ‘solidarity mechanisms’, and on upstream engagement with third countries.

In the afternoon Ministers discussed IT Systems for Borders and Security. There was broad support for the use of biometric data for law enforcement and border security purposes. I reiterated the Government’s call for more proactive sharing of criminal records and to encourage practical solutions, but warned that proposals for a single EU repository/system for fingerprint and DNA data may infringe on Member State competence.

In the margins of the meeting, the Policing Minister and I held a number of discussions with other Member States on issues including the extension of Passenger Name Records (PNR) exchanges to high speed rail links, and on the impact of the recent judgment of the Court of Justice

of the European Union (CJE) in the *Watson / TELE 2* case. Member States agreed to work together to make progress in addressing both issues.

On Justice Day, Ministers held an exchange of views on the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and moved towards agreeing in principle a text that can subsequently be taken forward by Member States under enhanced cooperation. The UK did not intervene in this discussion as we will not participate in the EPPO. The next General Affairs Council (7 Feb) will be asked to agree to ask the European Council whether this measure can be pursued under enhanced cooperation.

This was followed by discussion on a proposed Insolvency Directive to harmonise insolvency standards. The Policing Minister intervened to support the broad objectives of the measure, which reflect many existing principles of insolvency law in the United Kingdom, but highlighted that we still needed to analyse the detail of the measure. Most Member States who spoke cautioned against over-harmonisation as this is an area where national laws and practices diverge.

Over lunch, the Commission presented their new draft legislation aimed at tackling money laundering and terrorist financing. The Policing Minister expressed support of the aims of the legislation as our criminal law is already in line with the proposal harmonising criminal offences and penalties. However, he reminded Member States that the UK's general position on refusing to be limited by EU common rules in relation to criminal law means we may not choose to opt in.

Local Growth

[HLWS457]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for communities and Local Government (Sajid Javid) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

In the last Parliament, £7.3 billion of the Local Growth Fund was awarded to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) through the first two rounds of Growth Deals. In the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced the regional breakdown of a further £1.8 billion of the Local Growth Fund. Today I am pleased to announce the individual awards that LEPs in the East of England and in London and the South East will receive.

Table A: Growth Deal 3 Funding Awards for LEPs in the East of England and in London and the South East

LEP	Funding Ward (£m)
Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	20.48
Coast to Capital	66.06
Enterprise M3	71.12

LEP	Funding Ward (£m)
Greater Cambridgeshire, Greater Peterborough	37.62
Hertfordshire	43.95
London	141.28
New Anglia	69.06
Oxfordshire	24.16
Solent LEP	31.02
South East LEP	102.65
Thames Valley Berkshire	35.56

This flexible funding sits alongside £475 million for Local Transport Majors and £2 billion long-term funding for housing transactions through the Home Building Fund. This was the most competitive round yet, and allocations were made based on a bidding round that took place last year. This honours our Manifesto pledge to agree an expanded set of Deals to empower the towns, cities and counties across the country to fulfil their potential and create an economy that works for all. The expanded deals will provide LEPs in the East of England and in London and the South East with the power and funding to support local businesses, unlock housing where it is most needed and develop vital infrastructure to allow places to thrive. The funding will also be used to create jobs, equip a new generation with the skills they need for the future and attract billions of pounds of private sector investment. This investment is Government stepping up, not stepping back, building on our strengths to boost national productivity and growth.

This adds to the £2.2 billion we have already invested in Growth Deals in the East of England and in London and the South East in previous rounds, providing targeted financial support to locally-determined projects in order to unlock growth.

The Government announced the award of £556 million to LEPs in the Northern Powerhouse on 23 January. We will announce the awards for LEPs in other regions over the coming weeks.

State of the Estate in 2015-16

[HLWS452]

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

I have today laid before Parliament, pursuant to Section 86 of the Climate Change Act 2008, the "State of the

Estate in 2015-16". This report describes the efficiency and sustainability of the Government's Civil Estate. The report is published on an annual basis.

War Pension Scheme: Up-rating 2017

[HLWS453]

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

The new rates of war pensions and allowances proposed from April 2017 are set out in the tables below. The Annual uprating of war pensions and allowances for 2017 will take place from the week beginning 10 April 2017. Rates for 2017 are increasing by 1 per cent in line with the September 2016 Consumer Price Index.

War Pensions Rates

RATES	RATES	
(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	2016	2017
WAR PENSIONS		
Disablement Pension (100% rates)		
officer (£ per annum)	9,298.00	9,392.00
other ranks (weekly amount)	178.20	180.00
Age allowances payable from age 65		
40%-50%	11.95	12.05
over 50% but not over 70%	18.35	18.55
over 70% but not over 90%	26.10	26.35
over 90%	36.70	37.10
Disablement gratuity (one-off payment)		
specified minor injury (min.)	1,136.00	1,147.00
specified minor injury (max.)	8,474.00	8,559.00
1 – 5% gratuity	2,834.00	2,862.00
6 – 14% gratuity	6,300.00	6,363.00
15 – 19% gratuity	10,018.00	11,128.00

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

Unemployability allowance

Personal	110.10	111.20
adult dependency increase	61.20	61.80
increase for first child	14.20	14.35
increase for subsequent children	16.75	16.90

Invalidity allowance

higher rate	21.80	22.00
middle rate	14.20	14.30
lower rate	7.10	7.15

Constant attendance allowance

exceptional rate	134.40	135.80
intermediate rate	100.80	101.85
full day rate	67.20	67.90
Part-day rate	33.60	33.95

Comforts allowance

higher rate	28.90	29.20
lower rate	14.45	14.60

Mobility supplement

Allowance for lowered standard of occupation (maximum)	67.20	67.88
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Therapeutic earnings limit (annual rate)

Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	67.20	67.90
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Severe disablement occupational allowance

Clothing allowance (£ per annum)	230.00	232.00
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Education allowance (£ per annum)	120.00	120.00
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(max)			(c) age 80 and over	43.90	44.35
WIDOW(ER)S BENEFITS			Children's allowance		
Widow(er)s' - other ranks (basic with children) (weekly amount)	135.15	136.50	Increase for first child	21.20	21.40
Widow(er) - Officer higher rate both wars (basic with children) (£ per annum)	7,187.00	7,259.00	Increase for subsequent children	23.75	24.00
Childless widow(er)s' u-40 (other ranks) (weekly amount)	32.37	32.69	Orphan's pension		
			Increase for first child	24.25	24.50
Widow(er) – Officer lower rate both wars (£ per annum)	2,496.00	2,521.00	Increase for subsequent children	26.55	26.80
Supplementary Pension	90.41	91.31	Unmarried dependant living as spouse (max)	132.80	134.15
Age allowance			Rent allowance (maximum)	50.90	51.40
(a) age 65 to 69	15.40	15.55	Adulorphan's pension (maximum)	103.85	104.90
(b) age 70 to 79	29.60	29.90			

Written Answers

Thursday, 2 February 2017

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any proposals to change the terms of reference, budget or membership of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. [[HL5077](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no plans to review the role, duty and constitution of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) as set out in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The budgets for the ACMD are reviewed annually as part of the Home Office business planning round. There are no current plans to change significantly the ACMD budget from current levels although we will continue to ensure the service is value for money in future.

The Home Office expects to begin an appointment round for the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in 2017 in line with Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Air Pollution

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many national air pollution episodes there have been since May 2014; how many days in total those episodes covered; and what is their estimate of the health impacts in terms of deaths and hospital admissions as a result of those episodes. [[HL4795](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: An air pollution episode is defined as a period during which the level of any measured pollutant monitored by the UK's network of air pollution monitoring sites has recorded High or Very High against the Daily Air Quality Index (DAQI). Also, when Ozone is measured to have breached the Information threshold of 180 micrograms per cubic metre for 1 hour (as defined in Air Quality legislation) this is classified as an air pollution episode. Since the beginning of May 2014 there have been 27 air pollution episodes which have affected parts of the UK and have lasted for a combined total of 57 days.

No two air pollution episodes are the same. They vary in duration, intensity, geographical spread and the nature of the pollutants involved. For these reasons it is not possible to give a reliable estimate of the combined health impacts resulting from the 27 episodes in terms of deaths and hospital admissions.

A 2016 study undertaken by Public Health England in collaboration with the Met Office, looked at two air pollution episodes (related to particulate matter, PM2.5) from 12 to 14 March and 28 March to 3 April 2014. The study found that over the 10-day duration of the two

episodes, around 600 deaths were brought forward from short-term exposure to PM2.5 (3.9% of total mortality during these days). We would expect around 300 of these deaths to be brought forward had there been more typical springtime concentrations of PM2.5. The total burden of emergency hospital admissions for respiratory and cardiovascular causes associated with short-term exposure to PM2.5 was estimated to be around 1500 across the UK (around 3.5% of total emergency respiratory and cardiovascular hospital admissions). Around 785 of these would be expected from more typical pollution levels at this time of year.

The Government is firmly committed to improving the UK's air quality and cutting harmful emissions. That is why we have committed more than £2 billion since 2011 to reduce transport emissions and the autumn statement provided a further £290 million to support greener transport. We will also be consulting on a new national plan for nitrogen dioxide by 24 April.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Touthig

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 20 January (HL4640), what are the short- and long-term plans they have in place to ensure that the offer of military service in the armed forces continues to be competitive. [[HL4954](#)]

Earl Howe: The 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review committed Defence to develop a new Armed Forces offer (remunerative and non-remunerative) for new joiners from April 2019, which better meets the expectations of future recruits and targets resources on the people we need most. It will better reflect the realities of modern life and the UK's current financial position, whilst taking account of the unique demands that military service imposes on its people.

A range of major People Change Programmes are currently underway, which will collectively ensure we are well positioned for future strategic challenges. This is a challenging portfolio of projects with tight timelines for delivery and includes the New Employment Model (NEM), Future Reserves 2020 (FR20), the Defence Diversity and Inclusion Programme (DDIP) and the Armed Forces People Programme (AFPP). The AFPP comprises four projects: Future Accommodation Model (FAM); Flexible Engagements System (FES); New Joiner Offer (NJO); and, Enterprise Approach (EA).

Arts: Exports

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will research and publish the figures for UK creative industry exports to every European country, including those outside the EU. [[HL4789](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Following the release of the DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates publication in August 2016, we issued a consultation which included a question on the countries for which users would like us to publish exports of services figures. The DCMS response to this consultation will be published in February 2017, and will provide details on any additional breakdowns we will publish in future. As these estimates are based on survey data, the extent to which we can publish results for individual countries may be constrained by sample sizes.

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government which countries are categorised as being within Europe in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport 2016 spreadsheet Creative Industries: Focus on Exports of Services. [\[HL4791\]](#)

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The following countries were categorised as being within Europe in the 2016 DCMS Creative Industries: Focus on Exports of Services publication:

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Irish Republic
Isle of Man
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland

The Channel Islands

Asylum: Children

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to maintain contact with asylum-seeking minors who were dispersed from the camps in Calais and Dunkirk in Autumn 2016. [\[HL4994\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The responsibility for unaccompanied children in France lies with the French authorities. The UK Government can only contribute in ways agreed with our French partners.

We have been working closely with the French authorities to bring children eligible to come here under the Dublin Regulation and the wider criteria of the Immigration Act since the clearance of the Calais camp in October 2016. Our focus has always been to transfer these children quickly and safely.

Since 10 October 2016, more than 750 children have arrived. This is in line with the commitments made by the Home Secretary to Parliament on 24 October 2016.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors have been reunited with family members in the UK in each of the past 12 months. [\[HL4995\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am sorry but this answer could only be provided by a manual check of case data and therefore cannot be answered for reasons of disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Russia

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many LGBT people seeking asylum have been deported to Russia. [\[HL5110\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Code of Practice for Official Statistics has established common standards to ensure a coherent and trustworthy service to the user of statistics.

Home Office officials are continuing to review and assess information on the number of people claiming asylum where sexual orientation may form the basis of the claim, in order to ensure that any statistics produced meet the principles on both assured methodology and quality (ensuring statistical methods are consistent with scientific principles) and governing user needs.

Asylum: Young People

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers were deported upon reaching 18 years of age in (1) 2012, (2) 2013, (3) 2014, and (4) 2015. [\[HL4993\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The number of enforced returns by age is published in table rt_03 (returns data tables) in 'Immigration Statistics, July - September 2016', available from the Home Office website at:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572380/returns2-q3-2016-tables.ods.

The table has also been attached to this answer.

The term 'deportations' refers to a legal definition of a specific set of returns. Deportations are a specific subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. The deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked. Published information on those deported is not separately available. As such, the question has been interpreted as referring to enforced returns. In an enforced return, it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK. They have declined to leave voluntarily and the Home Office enforces their departure from the UK.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Immigration Data Table [HL4993 Table Data.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-25/HL4993>

Business: Billing

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps will be taken to ensure that data to be collected under the draft regulations on the duty to report on payment practices and policies will be made accessible to (1) small firms, and (2) third party intermediaries. [HL4938]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government will provide a web service for businesses to publish information about their payment practices and performance. This will be available from April 2017 and will be part of the Gov.uk website. Small firms, suppliers, and other interested parties will be able to view the information as soon as a business publishes it. The web service is currently being developed with input from potential users to ensure it is easy to access.

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the data to be provided by large firms under the draft regulations on the duty to report on payment practices and policies will be verified for accuracy. [HL4939]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The information must be approved by a company director (or designated member of an LLP) before the large business publishes it. Suppliers using the information can raise any concerns about its accuracy with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will investigate. It

will be a criminal offence to publish a report or information that is misleading, false or deceptive.

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether data to be provided by large firms under the draft regulations on the duty to report on payment practices and policies will be collated and then published in a format which will allow for comparison between those firms. [HL4940]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government will provide a web service for businesses to publish information about their payment practices and performance. The reports will be available online for anyone to scrutinise.

The web service is currently being developed with input from potential users. Data collation and comparison is being investigated as part of this. We expect that collated data will be downloadable and/or available on data.gov.uk.

Asked by Lord Foster of Bath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the penalties for large firms that fail to comply with the duty to report on payment practices and policies. [HL4941]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Failure to publish a report as required will be a criminal offence. The company and its directors, or LLP and its designated members, will be liable. It will also be an offence to publish false or misleading information.

These offences will be punishable on summary conviction (in the Magistrates' court) by a fine. If a concern is raised with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy that a large business might not have complied, the business will usually be contacted to remind them to comply and seek an explanation for non-compliance or discrepancies.

Cancer

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect publication of Health Education England's review of the cancer workforce. [HL4830]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with NHS England and Health Education England regarding staff shortages in the cancer workforce. [HL4831]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase training places for key cancer workforce roles including (1) endoscopists, (2) radiologists, (3) diagnostic radiographers, and (4) clinical nurse specialists. [HL4832]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Health Education England (HEE) is developing its cancer workforce strategy for consultation from March 2017 onwards. HEE produced an initial workforce baseline review in 2016 and shared it with partners, such as the National Cancer Advisory Group, Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support, as a starting point for conversations around the cancer workforce.

Ministers regularly meet with HEE to discuss workforce matters, including the progress HEE has made on its commitment to deliver a workforce with the right skills and competences to deliver high-quality modern cancer services. HEE also has representation on the National Cancer Transformation Board, the body responsible for implementing the recommendations of the independent Cancer Taskforce.

Clinical Pharmacologists: Training

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take to prevent Health Education England decommissioning five training posts for clinical pharmacologists. [HL4828]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Health Education England (HEE) have conducted an in-depth nation-wide review of clinical pharmacology and therapeutics (CPT).

The report has been discussed with the representatives from each specialty at the Royal College of Physicians Small Specialty Review Workshop to capture their input. HEE Deans have also considered all the proposals from an expert clinical perspective and came to a collective agreement of the final recommendations.

Following this work, CPT will be incorporated into Dual Certificate of Completion of Training programmes and become a 'credential' for many others. This will embed CPT across all specialties and deliver much greater system expertise to support the research agenda.

Companies: Registration

Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 19 December 2016 (HL4007) and 28 December 2016 (HL4008), what due diligence is undertaken to guard against international scams where a new company sets up in the UK with only an overseas bank account or credit card, and no domestic banking arrangements. [HL4834]

Lord Prior of Brampton: A company incorporated in the UK which has banking arrangements overseas but not in the UK would be subject to the due diligence checks by the bank required by the local law where the branch of the bank is located. A company which incorporates in the UK but carries on its business outside the UK may still use the services of UK agents, who may carry out due diligence checks, whether voluntarily or as required by UK law.

Convention on Choice of Court Agreements

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to ratify the 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements on behalf of the UK in its own right. [HL4814]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Government recognises the importance of the mutual recognition of choices of law and courts, and the enforcement of judgments across borders, for maintaining confidence in international trade and business. We will work to ensure the best outcome for the UK, including its consumers and businesses.

It is in the interests of all countries who want to do business here that we maintain a system of civil judicial cooperation when we leave the EU.

Drugs: Misuse

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish their new drugs strategy. [HL5076]

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will be consulted in relation to the forthcoming new drugs strategy. [HL5078]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The new Drug Strategy will be published soon.

We are developing our new Drug Strategy, which will build on work to date to prevent drug use in our communities and help dependent individuals to recover, working across Government and with key partners, including commissioners, treatment providers, service users and our independent experts, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, to identify what further steps we can take to tackle this issue.

Enterprise Advisers

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools in England engage with Enterprise Advisers. [HL5115]

Lord Nash: We are investing £90m over this Parliament to ensure that every young person has equal access to the life-changing advice and inspiration that they need to fulfil their potential and succeed in life. This includes funding for The Careers & Enterprise Company.

The Company is continuing to make excellent progress towards transforming the provision of careers, enterprise and employer engagement experiences for young people. Over 1,300 secondary schools and colleges across the country have signed up to the Company's Enterprise Adviser Network. Of those that have signed up, 1,200 are secondary schools, with 957 matched with an Enterprise Adviser volunteer.

EU Defence Policy

Asked by Lord Touhig

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UK's future involvement in the EU's foreign security and defence missions. [HL4956]

Earl Howe: The UK is one of Europe's biggest military powers: we make a significant contribution to Common Security and Defence Policy SDP military operations and civilian missions; we are committed to spending 2 per cent of our GDP on Defence, with 20 per cent of that on upgrading major equipment; and we spend a further 0.7 per cent of our GNI on international development. In addition, our diplomatic, security, and intelligence services are world class, and, as a nuclear power, and one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, we have major global reach and influence.

The nature of our future relationship with the EU on foreign, security, and Defence issues remains under consideration. We are, however, clear that we will continue to play a leading role in European and wider global security, and wish to continue to cooperate with European partners to tackle shared challenges.

Female Genital Mutilation

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish a national action plan on female genital mutilation in England; and if so, when. [HL4864]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Female Genital Mutilation is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls. That is why our work to end this practice is an integral part of the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy, published March 2016.

The strategy sets out how we will support a transformation in service delivery and a step change in social action to ensure a reduction in the prevalence of these crimes, including FGM. Specific actions to address FGM include working with faith leaders, improving police data collection on FGM, continuing the outreach work of the FGM Unit, and addressing the mental health needs of those affected.

Many of the issues addressed by the VAWG strategy are cross-cutting, including engaging men, ensuring a whole family approach and improving the commissioning of services. We will ensure that tackling FGM is integral to these actions and is also addressed as part of our work to strengthen early intervention and transform service provision.

Free School Meals

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Department for Education's electronic eligibility checking system to encourage more parents to take their child's free school meal entitlement. [HL4897]

Lord Nash: The Department for Education introduced the eligibility checking system (ECS) to reduce administrative burden and bureaucracy; speed up the eligibility checking process; and to encourage take-up of Free School Meals (FSM) by removing stigma from the application process. The ECS has been incredibly successful and is used by every local authority in England. The introduction of the ECS has reduced the time normally taken to check eligibility from several weeks to a matter of minutes in most cases, massively speeding up the process to ensure free meals are swiftly made available to the most disadvantaged students. No research has been conducted specifically looking at the link between the introduction of the ECS and FSM take-up, however, we do know that under-registration dropped by 3 percentage points[1] from 2012 to 2013.

There are numerous reasons why a parent/child might not claim for a free meal to which they are entitled, and we are exploring what opportunities exist in the longer term to improve the way in which disadvantaged pupils are identified and to make the free school meals registration processes even more efficient.

[1] Further details are available in the attached document.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Pupils_Not_Claiming_Free_School_meals_-_2013
[Pupils_not_claiming_Free_School_Meals_-_2013.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-23/HL4897>

Free Schools

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the procedure for increasing the previously agreed size of a particular free school. [HL5113]

Lord Nash: All schools have a capacity number written into their funding agreement. Should an academy, including a free school, wish to increase their capacity by 30 places or more, they must apply for approval of a physical expansion of the academy premises. This is set out in the 'significant changes to an existing academy' guidance.

If they change their admission arrangements at the same time, they must follow the requirements of the 'school admissions code'.

Both guidance documents are published on gov.uk copies have been attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Making_significant_changes_to_an_academy
[Making_significant_changes_to_an_open_academy.pdf]

School_Admissions_Code_2014
[School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-30/HL5113>

HMS Queen Elizabeth

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Earl Howe on 12 January (HL Deb, col 2159) concerning the future capability of the armed forces, whether HMS Queen Elizabeth will sail for sea trials in March, and enter Portsmouth for the first time before the summer solstice. [HL4999]

Earl Howe: I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Procurement (Harriett Baldwin), on 23 January 2017 to Question 60000.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

60000 - WQnA extract on HMS Queen Elizabeth [Hansard Extract 23 January 2017 HOC 60000 (1).docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-25/HL4999>

Human Trafficking: Children

Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children under 16 years of age were identified as potentially trafficked through the National Referral Mechanism in each year between 2010 and 2014. [HL4964]

Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children under (1) 12 years of age, and (2) 10 years of age, were identified as potentially trafficked through the National Referral Mechanism in each year between 2010 and 2015. [HL4965]

Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 12 January (HL4245), what is the breakdown of the countries of origin of the 365 children who were removed from premises where they were being exploited as modern slaves in the year 2015. [HL4966]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government views the slavery, including trafficking, of children as a

very serious offence, and one which it is committed to tackling. The NRM is the UK's identification and support mechanism for potential victims of modern slavery. The table below shows:

a) the number children under the age of 16 that were referred to the NRM as potentially trafficked in each year between 2010 and 2015;

b) the number children under 12 years of age that were referred to the NRM as potentially trafficked in each year between 2010 and 2015;

c) the number children under 10 years of age that were referred to the NRM as potentially trafficked in each year between 2010 and 2015.

Year	Total Potential Victims under 16 at Time of Referral (NB. This does not include those aged 16.)	Total Potential Victims under 12 years (NB. This does not include those aged 12 years)	Total Potential Victims under 10 years (NB. This does not include those aged 10 years)
2010	70	14	9
2011	95	35	27
2012	126	52	41
2013	172	47	34
2014	293	88	68
2015	365	61	39

The table below provides the breakdown of the countries of origin of the 365 children who were identified as potentially trafficked via an NRM referral in the year 2015.

Nationality/ Country of Origin	Total
Afghanistan	24
Albania	51
Angola	5
Bangladesh	7
Bulgaria	5
Cameroon	1
China	2
Czech Republic	7
Democratic Republic of the Congo	6
Egypt	4
Eritrea	9
Ethiopia	2
Ghana	3
Guinea	1
Guinea / Portugal	1
India	1
Iran	4

Iraq	4
Israel	1
Ivory Coast	1
Latvia	1
Lithuania	2
Nigeria	17
Pakistan	2
Poland	2
Portugal	1
Romania	13
Serbia/Kosovo	1
Slovakia	8
Somalia	1
Spain	2
Sri Lanka	3
Sudan	4
Syria	3
Timor - Leste	3
Tunisia	1
Turkey	1
Uganda	1
United Kingdom	55
United Kingdom/Vietnam	1
United States of America	5
Unknown	3
Vietnam	93
Zambia	2
Zimbabwe	1
Total	365

Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Lord Bruce of Bennachie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) spent on humanitarian assistance for each of the last three financial years; and what proportion of ODA was comprised of humanitarian assistance in each of the last three financial years. [HL5054]

Lord Bates: The amount of UK bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) spent on humanitarian assistance for the last three calendar years, and the proportion of UK ODA, is set out in the table below.

Table: Total UK bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) spent on humanitarian assistance, 2013-2015, £ million

	Humanitarian assistance (£ million)	Total UK bilateral ODA (£ million)	Humanitarian assistance as a % of total UK bilateral ODA
2013	826	6,720	12%
2014	1,119	6,822	16%
2015	1,266	7,664	17%

Source: Statistics on International Development 2016

Iraq: Military Intervention

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to increase the number of British troops deployed to Iraq. [HL4891]

Earl Howe: The UK has no current plans to increase the number of troops deployed in Iraq. However, we keep this under review to ensure we have the right number of troops deployed with the appropriate permissions to support the training of Iraqi forces.

Iraqi forces are becoming increasingly capable and are deployed across the country in counter-Daesh roles. As the Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon) announced on 30 January 2017 (Official Report, column 656), he recently authorised UK personnel to deliver training where needed at secure and protected locations in Iraq in addition to training at the main bases of Bismayah, Taji and Al Asad. This aligns with our approach in the Kurdish region and ensures UK personnel will continue to deliver the infantry skills, counter-IED, combat first aid and engineering training Iraqi forces require.

Ministry of Defence: Civilians

Asked by Lord Touthig

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to reduce the number of civilian personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence from 56,430 to 41,000, as set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015. [HL4953]

Earl Howe: The 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review directed the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to reduce its civilian headcount by 30 per cent by 2020. This is Government policy and we will take an approach to this that does not diminish either our people or Defence.

We need to be sure that we are always getting maximum value for the taxpayer. Wherever possible we will rebalance our investments towards the front line - this means reshaping the MOD Civil Service workforce to focus on its core Civil Servant roles.

A central part of making the MOD Civil Service more innovative and more efficient is reorganising work so that it is done in the best place possible - by civilian, military or contractor personnel. In a number of cases, this may

mean using alternative delivery models, such as outsourcing, amongst others.

NHS: Reserve Forces

Asked by Lord Touhig

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support NHS Trusts to encourage NHS staff to volunteer to join the Armed Forces Reserves. [HL4805]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department is working closely with the Ministry of Defence and NHS Employers to support National Health Service trusts whose staff volunteer, or wish volunteer, in the reserve forces.

We ensure NHS employers:

- are aware of and understand their responsibilities to support staff who volunteer in the Reserve Forces;
- are aware of the resources available to managers, helping them to utilise reservist experience within their teams;
- are aware of guidance and support available through Defence Relationship Management; and
- are aware of the recognition available to them via the Armed Forces Covenant and Employer Recognition Scheme – a scheme that incorporates three levels of award for employers supporting reservists within their organisations.

Our future plans to support NHS employers includes:

- increasing engagement with NHS trusts and their workforce, promoting the Employer Recognition scheme and encouraging additional take up of the Armed Forces Covenant;
- supporting employers through a dedicated NHS Reserve Forces Champions scheme, looking to increase levels of support across England, providing them with a step-by-step guide to support reservists and a poster to show their champions contact details in their work place;
- a suite of scenario-based guides for line managers, highlighting the key stages a reservist may go through in their career from joining the Reserve Forces to returning from deployment; and
- working in partnership with Health Education England to develop an awareness raising resource that can be utilised at induction, in team briefing or through individual learning. These resources will be released in March 2017 as part of our annual Military March campaign.

Nuclear Reactors

Asked by Lord Vinson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following completion of phase one of their assessment of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), and in the light of

international competition, when they will release the roadmap of the way forward for SMRs. [HL4808]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Policy development is under way for small modular reactors. Phase One of the competition remains open, and plans for the future of the competition will be shared with the House in due course.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Asked by Baroness Afshar

To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements they have set for community rehabilitation companies to make specific arrangements for the rehabilitation of minority groups whose first language is not English. [HL4869]

Lord Keen of Elie: We have given Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) the flexibility to innovate and do what works to reduce reoffending, including tailoring rehabilitative support to offenders based on their individual needs. To promote equality of opportunity and avoid discrimination against offenders on the grounds of protected characteristics, CRCs are required to comply with relevant equalities and human rights legislation as they work with offenders.

Whilst not defined in law as a protected characteristic, we have taken steps to ensure that language is not a barrier to an individual's rehabilitation. At the beginning of each sentence, CRCs are contractually required to arrange a face to face interview to assess each offender's risk profile and rehabilitative needs. This informs the initial sentence plan, which the CRC must explain to the offender verbally and in writing to ensure they understand how they must behave and what they must do to comply with their sentence. The CRC must also seek confirmation that the offender has understood this explanation. Where the offender understands insufficient English to enable this, CRC must undertake the initial interview and provide confirmation of the sentence plan in a language they were able to understand.

Prosecutions

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions took place in England and Wales in (1) 2015, and (2) 2016. [HL5002]

Lord Keen of Elie: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts in England and Wales, in 2015 (the latest available) is 1,492,155.

The number of defendants proceeded against at Crown Courts in England and Wales in 2015 was 87,878; some of these may have had their initial hearing in Magistrates Courts prior to 2015.

Data for calendar year 2016 is due for publication in May 2017.

Refugees: Children

*Asked by **Baroness Sheehan***

To ask Her Majesty's Government why only three of the 25,800 unaccompanied children reported by Unicef to be in Italy have been transferred to the UK. [HL5088]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK from Europe. More children will be transferred under the Immigration Act and we will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin Regulation. We have a long standing secondee in Italy who is based in the Italian Dublin Unit. We will announce in due course the process and criteria for transferring more children to the UK from Europe.

We continue to work with the Italian authorities to implement section 67 of the Immigration Act, and Immigration Minister met with his counterpart in November to discuss how we can support them; discussions are ongoing. We must secure the consent and cooperation of the host governments concerned before taking any action on their territory and can only act within their laws.

Sierra Leone: Education

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will support the government of Sierra Leone in keeping teenage girls in school. [HL4916]

Lord Bates: In 2015, as the Ebola outbreak was coming under control, the UK agreed new support to enable them to return to school. To date over 14,500 girls have benefited and over 9,500 have returned to school.

In addition, in 2016 DFID initiated the Sierra Leone Secondary Education Improvement Programme which will improve the conditions for girls in secondary schools and enable 700,000 additional girls to improve their learning, stay safe and to stay in school.

Slavery

*Asked by **Baroness Hamwee***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's inspection of Border Force's identification and treatment of potential victims of modern slavery. [HL5099]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The report was sent to the Home Secretary on 12 December 2016. The Home Office aims to publish all ICI reports within 8 weeks of receiving them.

Sleeping Rough

*Asked by **Lord Storey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many rough sleepers there were in the UK for each of the last three years; and what plans they have to tackle this issue. [HL5041]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: One person without a home is one too many and we are committed to doing all we can to prevent homelessness. This government is determined to help the most vulnerable in society, which is why we're investing £550 million until 2020 to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

As part of this, in December we announced 84 successful bids to our £50 million Homelessness Prevention Programme. This will help those people at risk of becoming homeless, already sleeping rough or those with complex needs, to get back on their feet.

We are going even further and changing the law by backing Bob Blackman MP's Homelessness Reduction Bill. This will mean that people across the country get the help they need to avoid becoming homeless in the first place.

DCLG publishes annual statistics on the number of people seen sleeping rough on a single night in England by local authority. These are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>

As Housing is a devolved matter, rough sleeping statistics for Wales are available here:

<https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Housing/Homelessness/Rough-Sleepers>

Rough sleeping statistics for Scotland can be found here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/RefTables>

Small Business Commissioner

*Asked by **Lord Foster of Bath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Small Business Commissioner's remit will include tackling the issue of supply chain bullying. [HL4942]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Small Business Commissioner (SBC) will support small businesses to resolve payment disputes and avoid future issues by encouraging a culture change in how businesses deal with each other.

The SBC will provide general advice and information to build the confidence and capability of small business to help them assert themselves in contractual disputes and negotiate more effectively. It will also handle complaints by small suppliers about payment-related issues with their larger customers.

Veterans: Training

Asked by Lord Touhig

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all service leavers undertake resettlement training with Career Transition Partnership. [HL4888]

Earl Howe: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) ensures that when Armed Forces personnel leave active service they are well supported to translate their acquired skills, experience and qualifications into the career they aspire to. The skills that Service leavers possess are in demand from UK employers who recognise the benefits of bringing this talent into their organisations.

To support this transition, the MOD has a robust and effective resettlement system in place which utilises the highly successful Career Transition Partnership (CTP). In Financial Year 2015-16 the CTP helped 80 per cent of Service leavers find sustainable employment within six months of leaving the Armed Forces. This compares favourably to an employment rate of 74 per cent in the general UK population.

The CTP is the MOD's official provider of resettlement services to those leaving the Armed Forces and provides one-to-one guidance, training and employment opportunities to around 15,000 Service leavers that leave the Armed Forces each year. All personnel are eligible for the CTP resettlement provision including those medically discharged, or leaving the Armed Forces due to redundancy. Personnel with less than four years' Service receive CTP Future Horizons. Personnel with between four and five years' Service receive the Employment Support Programme. Personnel with at least six years' Service receive an enhanced service - the Core Resettlement Programme. These free resettlement services are offered to all ranks of Service personnel and offer flexible support which can be accessed two years before discharge, through to two years post-discharge in order to ensure that making the transition to civilian life is as smooth as possible.

After a Service leaver has received their mandatory Resettlement Advisory Briefing, the remainder of the resettlement provision is an elective process. However, all Service leavers are very strongly encouraged to take up the support offered, both by the Chain of Command and through promotional material.

Voluntary Work

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to help social action projects overcome their hidden costs; and what steps they are taking to ensure that social action projects are youth-led. [HL4985]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Government is supporting social action to grow and become part of the normal routine in public services and communities. Through the

Centre for Social Action, Government has invested over £40m in helping grow 215 impactful programmes involving over 2 million volunteers across the country.

Government continues to support Step Up to Serve's #iwill campaign which aims to increase the opportunities for 10-20 year olds to take part in meaningful youth lead social action by 2020.

The recently launched £40 million #iwill Fund jointly funded by government and Big Lottery Fund will help to increase the number of opportunities available to young people.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that National Citizen Service participants experience citizenship education and political literacy as part of any programmes they undertake. [HL4984]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The NCS Trust is being incorporated as a Royal Charter body. The Charter specifies that the Trust must have regard to 'encouraging participants to take an interest in debate on matters of local or national political interest, and promoting their understanding of how to participate in national and local elections.'

NCS is not primarily a citizenship education programme; it is about broader personal development and social mixing. Nonetheless government wants NCS to provide young people with the opportunity to develop a range of skills, including political literacy.

Later this year, Government plans to publish guidance on NCS for schools and colleges, which will include a link to citizenship education.

Water Abstraction: Licensing

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the abstraction licences relating to the abstraction of water from (1) Thirlmere Reservoir, (2) Kielder Reservoir, and (3) Haweswater Reservoir. [HL4792]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Environment Agency maintains a register (The Water Abstraction and Impounding register) of all abstraction licences under the requirements of section 189 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and prescribed by Regulation 34 of SI 2006/641, the Water Resources (Abstraction & Impounding) Regulations 2006.

The Environment Agency does not routinely publish the licences because these include the precise locations of abstraction points for public water supply which cannot be made generally available on national security and public safety grounds.

The Kielder agreement is a Section 20 Water Resources Operating Agreement between the Environment Agency

and Northumbrian Water Limited which has been in operation since 1989. It describes how the water should be released from Kielder to secure the proper use of water resources.

Due to the operating agreement there is no abstraction licence relating to the abstraction of water from Kielder. Releases are made from the reservoir to support abstractions from rivers downstream and, via the Kielder transfer tunnel, from other rivers in the north east area.

Index to Statements and Answers

Written Statements.....1	Nuclear Reactors..... 14
Airport Capacity and Airspace Policy1	Offenders: Rehabilitation..... 14
Avon Fire and Rescue Authority: Statutory Inspection2	Prosecutions..... 14
Foreign Affairs Council: 6 February2	Refugees: Children 15
Fuller Working Lives: A Partnership Approach...3	Sierra Leone: Education 15
Justice and Home Affairs Post-Council Statement3	Slavery 15
Local Growth.....4	Sleeping Rough..... 15
State of the Estate in 2015-16.....4	Small Business Commissioner 15
War Pension Scheme: Up-rating 2017.....5	Veterans: Training 16
Written Answers.....7	Voluntary Work..... 16
Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs7	Voluntary Work: Young People 16
Air Pollution7	Water Abstraction: Licensing..... 16
Armed Forces: Recruitment7	
Arts: Exports.....7	
Asylum: Children8	
Asylum: Russia.....8	
Asylum: Young People.....8	
Business: Billing.....9	
Cancer.....9	
Clinical Pharmacologists: Training10	
Companies: Registration10	
Convention on Choice of Court Agreements10	
Drugs: Misuse.....10	
Enterprise Advisers10	
EU Defence Policy11	
Female Genital Mutilation.....11	
Free School Meals11	
Free Schools11	
HMS Queen Elizabeth.....12	
Human Trafficking: Children12	
Humanitarian Aid13	
Iraq: Military Intervention.....13	
Ministry of Defence: Civilians13	
NHS: Reserve Forces14	