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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Answers.....1

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

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Written Answers

Monday, 20 June 2016

Agriculture: Subsidies

Asked by Lord Willoughby de Broke

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Rural Payments Agency expects to complete Basic Payment Scheme payments to qualifying farmers during the payments window ending in June 2016. [I] [I] [HL446]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Rural Payments Agency continues to make the remaining top up BPS payments to those that received a bridging BPS payment and anticipates completing this work by the end of June 2016.

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 27 April (HL7764), whether or not European Aviation Safety Agency certification standard 25.1309c, which requires warning systems for any unsafe operating system, applies to engine oil that leaks onto hot aircraft engines over which cabin "bleed air" is drawn. [HL503]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: European Aviation Safety Agency certification standard 25.1309c does not require this. However the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) standard for engine certification, CS-E 510, requires that a failure analysis and safety assessment is conducted by the engine manufacturer to show that hazardous concentration of toxic products will not enter the cabin bleed air.

EU airlines are legally required to report any potential safety incident including where fumes or smoke are detected on board an aircraft. Although these incidents are rare, these reports are taken very seriously and reviewed thoroughly to identify any safety issues or trends.

Passenger and crew safety is of paramount importance. The Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority are constantly working to enhance safety standards.

Asylum: Visas

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in family reunion cases, they are considering providing entry visas valid for longer than 30 days, to enable visa holders to complete all the required exit procedures and necessary travel arrangements. [HL522]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We issue a flexible 30-day visa to non-EEA nationals coming from overseas to stay in the UK for over six months to enable them to

collect their biometric residence permits (BRP) shortly after they arrive in the UK.

When a family reunion application is made, individuals can specify the date they would like the 30-day visa to start to enable them to make any necessary travel arrangements, including obtaining exit visas. The start date of the visa can be deferred for up to three months from the date of application. If there is any delay expected in the processing time of the application, the individual will be contacted by UKVI and informed about the delay. Where someone is unable to make arrangements to travel to the UK within the 30 day period, they can apply for a replacement visa.

British Home Stores: Insolvency

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 6 June (HL Deb, col 625), what factors make it difficult to estimate the cost to the taxpayer of the failure of BHS; and in what ways those costs can be covered by existing BHS resources. [HL507]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It is too early to determine the cost to the taxpayer of BHS' insolvency.

When a company becomes insolvent, redundancy costs are paid from the National Insurance Fund, up to legal limits, as part of a statutory guarantee scheme administered by the Insolvency Service's Redundancy Payments Service. The Redundancy Payments Service then becomes a creditor in the insolvency and can recover some of the debt should any assets be sold as part of the insolvency process. If an employee has a claim over and above the statutory amount paid by the Redundancy Payment Service, then they can also claim as a creditor in the insolvency.

Therefore, the cost to the Government depends on the number of people made redundant, the amount paid to them and the amount recovered from the insolvency as a creditor.

Broadband

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Institute of Directors' call in February for a broadband target of 10 gigabits a second by 2030. [HL476]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government welcomes the Institute of Directors' Ultrafast Britain: Broadband Report published in February and is committed to working with the market to deliver a digital infrastructure that meets the current and future needs for high speeds, as well as security and resilience. The Government will be setting out its plans for realising this in its upcoming Digital Strategy.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to change the broadband target of 10 megabits per second by 2020 to a higher one, in the light of the progress made by other countries. [HL477]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government's ambition for the broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) is that it should be set initially at 10 megabits per second. The rationale for the USO is to provide a 'digital safety net' to ensure that every home and business is able to access a fast broadband.

A broadband USO set at 10 megabits per second is higher than anywhere else in Europe. Spain, for example, has set their USO at 1 megabit per second, and Finland and Malta at 2 and 4 megabits per second respectively. We expect that the USO speed will need to increase over time beyond 10 megabits per second and are committed to keeping this under review to make sure that it keeps pace with consumers' needs.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UK's future position in the league table of broadband targets in the EU and OECD countries if a target of 10 megabits per second were achieved by 2020. [HL478]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: It is too early to assess what the impact of the proposed 10 megabit Universal Service Obligation (USO) will have on the UK's future position in EU and OECD broadband league tables. The contracts we have put in place with Openreach mean that the more homes and businesses that sign up for superfast broadband, the more money Openreach has to return to local authorities to extend the roll out of superfast broadband further. So far, Openreach has confirmed more than £200 million of savings that can be reinvested, over and above the £1.7bn of public funding already allocated. We expect more funding to be confirmed in due course. We will be reinvesting that funding in order to extend superfast broadband to as many additional homes and businesses as possible.

Broadband: Business

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the minimum broadband speeds required to help British businesses remain competitive in a global economy. [HL635]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government recognises the importance of broadband access throughout the UK for businesses in remaining globally competitive. That is why the Review into Business Broadband, jointly led by BIS and DCMS, was announced on 24 February to explore the barriers faced by businesses in accessing the affordable, high-speed broadband they need. That Review is ongoing and will report later this year.

Business: Ownership

Asked by Baroness Burt of Solihull

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan regularly to collect gender-disaggregated business ownership data. [HL666]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills regularly collects gender-disaggregated business ownership data on the annual Longitudinal Small Business Survey. This reports on whether small and medium-sized businesses are more than 50% owned by women.

Carbon Emissions: China and India

Asked by Lord Donoughue

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of world atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions China and India contributed in the latest period for which records are available. [HL544]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: There are no official emissions estimates available for recent years for many developing countries, including India and China. One widely used 3rd party estimate is however available from the World Resources Institute CAIT dataset.

This data suggests that in 2012, the latest available year, China's domestic greenhouse gas emissions (including land use, land use change and forestry, but excluding international aviation and shipping) accounted for around 22% of the global total (25% for CO₂ only).

India's domestic greenhouse gas emissions (including land use, land use change and forestry, but excluding international aviation and shipping) accounted for around 6% of the global total (5% for CO₂ only).

Climate Change: Developing Countries

Asked by Lord Donoughue

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Clean Technology Funds financial eligibility threshold of \$200 per tonne of CO₂ equivalent abated represents good value for UK taxpayers in the context of global mitigation effects. [HL527]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: In order to ensure value for money, the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) Investment Criteria (2009) has six objectives, of which cost-effectiveness is one. The other objectives are Potential for GHG Emissions Savings, Demonstration Potential at Scale, Development Impact, Implementation Potential and Additional Costs and Risk Premium.

The financial eligibility threshold of \$200 per tonne of CO₂ equivalent is in place to safeguard value for money. This threshold was based on the International Energy Agency's Energy Technology Perspectives 2008 Report, as the lower-end estimate of the marginal incentive needed to achieve a reduction of global GHG emissions to 50% by 2050. The average total investment cost per tonne

achieved in the CTF is \$39.60 (£26.40), which is significantly below this threshold.

More information is available in the document *Climate Investment Funds (2009), Clean Technology Fund Investment Criteria for public sector operations*.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Climate Investment Funds (2009), CTF
[CTF_Investment_Criteria_Public_Sector_final.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-07/HL527>

Asked by Lord Donoughue

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the total investment costs per tonne of CO2 equivalent abated by the Clean Technology Fund has increased from £21.40 to £26.40 according to the Department of Energy and Climate Change's additional business case and intervention summary 2015; and what is being done to address rising costs. [HL529]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Clean Technology Fund (CTF) approval decisions are based on six CTF Investment Criteria, of which cost-effectiveness is one. The total investment cost per tonne is estimated based on the portfolio of CTF projects that have been approved by the Trust Fund Committee. The original appraisal relied on the assessment of 30 individual projects approved by 2013, whereas the latest analysis is based on 57 projects approved by 2015. The total cost per tonne across the portfolio has changed as more projects have been approved, and will be expected to continue to change as the CTF portfolio increases, reflecting the range of projects included in the portfolio. As an example, sectors such as transport and energy efficiency typically have a higher cost per tonne than renewable energy projects. All projects deliver good value for money and wider benefits, such as private finance leveraged, jobs created, and increased numbers of people with access to energy.

In order to guarantee the continued value for money of the CTF, there is a robust project approval process ensuring compliance with the standards set out in the CTF investment criteria. As a contributor country the UK approves the allocation of CTF resources for programmes, projects, and administrative budgets; assessing new proposals to ensure continued the value for money (see attachment with further detail on the CTF governance structure).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

CIF Committee Governance [CIF Committee Governance.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-07/HL529>

Asked by Lord Donoughue

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they still regard the risk of a funding shortfall in the Clean

Technology Fund as "high", and whether contingency funds are in place in the case of premature sunsetting of the Climate Investment Funds. [HL530]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Administrative Unit and Multilateral Development Banks have reviewed the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) pipeline to identify projects that are no longer likely to go ahead and have assessed the impact of this on the expected shortfall. A paper on this will be presented at the forthcoming June 2016 CIF Trust Fund Committee meetings.

A decision on when the CIF will review its sunset clause is expected to be made at the June CIF Trust Fund Committee meetings.

Coal Fired Power Stations: China and India

Asked by Lord Donoughue

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many new coal-fired plants are planned by China and India over the next decade. [HL525]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Table 7.2 of the International Energy Agency's 2015 World Energy Outlook projects the following demand for coal under the Agency's New Policy Scenario:

	2013	2025
China	2,932	2,957
India	488	812
World	5,613	5,874

Figures in Mtce – million tonnes of coal equivalent.

College of Policing: Saudi Arabia

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the warnings by Reprieve that the College of Policing training programmes in Saudi Arabia could lead to the arrest and torture of human rights activists, whether they intend to suspend such programmes. [HL610]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The College of Policing's work in Saudi Arabia supports the development of international policing on the model of the British model of policing by consent.

The College ensures that respect for human rights and dignity is integral to each programme, with course developers and trainers required to include a bespoke human rights and ethical decision-making element in each course. All its programmes are kept under review, but it currently has no intention of withdrawing its services.

Colombia: Human Rights

Asked by Baroness Hooper

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

Colombia about the dangers faced by defenders of human rights and leaders of land restitution claims, and the case for enhancing their protection. [HL417]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are concerned by the increase in violence towards human rights defenders (HRDs) in Colombia. Reports from the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Somos Defensores indicate that 63 HRDs were killed in 2015, a 13 per cent increase from 2014. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), raised this issue during his meeting with President Santos on 12 May. During his visit to Colombia in April, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), also raised human rights concerns with the Colombian Deputy Foreign Minister, Patti Londoño-Jaramillo.

Ensuring protection and support for HRDs, including leaders of land restitution claims, is a priority area for our Embassy in Bogotá. As well as monitoring specific cases, the UK raises our concerns with the Colombian government at every possible opportunity. Our Ambassador to Colombia recently joined an international community initiative called “Ambassadors with Defenders” that aims to raise awareness of the situation of HRDs and follow up on specific cases. Earlier this year, the Ambassador accompanied the Colombian Minister of Interior to a regional human rights roundtable, where the role of local authorities in taking effective action on HRD cases was discussed. The UK was the only member of the international community invited to this event.

With regards to increased protection, on 26 April, President Santos announced the creation of a high level group in charge of investigating threats and killings against HRDs. He invited human rights organisations to appoint five representatives to participate in this group. The Attorney General’s Office has prioritised the investigations of these cases.

Confiscation Orders

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made, in the light of the recent Panama papers scandal, of how many of the illegal assets subject to confiscation orders they will now be able to claim. [HL479]

Lord Keen of Elie: On 10 April 2016 the Prime Minister announced a new cross-agency taskforce to obtain, analyse and take action on the information that has been made available from Mossack Fonseca and to take rapid action on any form of illegality that emerges.

A number of investigations are underway and the taskforce, which is accountable to the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will report on its progress later this year.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what level of engagement they have had with the private sector in pursuit of the £1.6 billion of illegal assets calculated by the National Audit Office to be subject to confiscation orders but which will evade recovery. [HL480]

Lord Keen of Elie: In 2014 the Home Office established the Serious and Organised Crime Financial Sector Forum, an initiative to bring together Government, law enforcement agencies, regulators and the financial sector in a public-private partnership to tackle crime. Under its auspices, the National Crime Agency has trialled sharing data on uncollected confiscation orders with the banks, and leads the Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT), which brings together banks and law enforcement agencies to share information to tackle money laundering.

Work is continuing with the Financial Sector Forum to explore effective ways of sharing data between private sector entities.

Conflict Prevention

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions they have had with other EU member states about the role of international law in conflict prevention. [HL489]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: International law underpins all of the UK’s work on conflict prevention, as a fundamental part of the rules based international order. As such it is regularly discussed with EU partners both bilaterally and in the EU. In addition, preventing conflicts, in accordance with international law, is a primary objective of the EU’s external action, which is discussed regularly with our European partners and the European External Action Service.

Constitutional Reform Committee

Asked by Lord Norton of Louth

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many times the Cabinet Constitutional Reform Committee has met since its appointment in May 2015. [HL464]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when and how often they meet, is generally not disclosed.

Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press Inquiry

Asked by Baroness Hollins

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 26 January (HL Deb, col 1152), whether it is their policy that the trial of Mazher Mahmood would need to be completed before Part 2 of the Leveson Inquiry could take place. [HL576]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Criminal proceedings connected to the subject matter of the Leveson Inquiry, including the appeals process, have not yet been completed. We have always been clear that these cases must conclude before we consider Part 2 of the Inquiry.

Cycling: Delivery Services

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to make third party insurance compulsory for all cyclists who are making deliveries for Deliveroo and other commercial bicycle delivery companies. [HL475]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have no plans to make insurance compulsory for cyclists. We encourage all cyclists to take out some form of insurance. In fact, many cyclists do through membership of cycling organisations, such as Cycling UK.

Bicycle couriers who work for Deliveroo are self-employed and therefore are still personally liable and responsible for choosing whether or not to have insurance and for ensuring that the insurance is appropriate for them.

Democratic Republic of Congo: North Korea

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) about reports that uranium from the DRC has been sold to North Korea. [HL497]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: As the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), set out in his Written Ministerial Statement of 8 March, which I repeated in the House of Lords the same day [HLWS571], the Government remains deeply concerned by North Korea's continued development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, and its sustained prioritisation of these programmes over the well-being of its own people. All states are obliged to abide by UN Security Council resolutions prohibiting uranium transfers to North Korea. We would take any credible reports of such transfers from anywhere in the world very seriously. We have not engaged with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on this issue.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the risk that President Joseph Kabila may attempt to change the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to remain in power and not hold the elections scheduled for November. [HL496]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is clear: a President may serve two terms of five years. In 2015 President Kabila made a tentative attempt to change the Constitution to enable him to stay on beyond the end of his current, final term of office but was rebuffed by the Congolese Parliament. The risk that he will attempt to do so again remains, but the UK position is clear: we do not believe that constitutions should be amended for the benefit of incumbent leaders. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge), has repeatedly urged Foreign Minister Tshibanda to do all in his power to ensure the DRC government enables elections to take place in line with the Constitution.

We remain concerned by the lack of progress towards elections in the DRC. Primary responsibility for organising the elections rests with the government and institutions of the state of the DRC. The UK stands ready to support elections. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for International Development, my Hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd), announced in March that the UK would make up to £11.4million available to support the election process, provided certain conditions were met. But we have also been clear that individuals responsible for repression and human rights violations in the run-up to the election period will have to face the consequences of their actions.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Labour Turnover

Asked by Baroness Burt of Solihull

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many civil servants within the Department for Business Innovation and Skills have (1) been recruited into the department (a) from within the civil service, or (b) from outside the civil service, and (2) left to (a) other posts within the civil service, and (b) other roles outside of the civil service, in each of the last five years. [HL639]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The total number of civil servants within the Department for Business Innovation and Skills HQ (BIS) who have (1) been recruited into the department (a) from within the civil service, or (b) from outside the civil service, and (2) left to (a) other posts within the civil service, and (b) other roles outside of the civil service, in each of the last five years are shown in the tables below.

Recruited to BIS

<i>Year of joining</i>	<i>Joined from outside the Civil Service</i>	<i>Joined from within the Civil Service</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
2011-12	185	190	375
2012-13	243	208	451

Recruited to BIS

<i>Year of joining</i>	<i>Joined from outside the Civil Service</i>	<i>Joined from within the Civil Service</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
2013-14	186	186	372
2014-15	158	198	356
2015-16	170	145	315
Grand Total	942	927	1869

Left BIS

<i>Year of leaving</i>	<i>Left the Civil Service</i>	<i>Moved to another part of the Civil Service</i>	<i>Total</i>
2011-12	338	154	492
2012-13	253	101	354
2013-14	205	120	325
2014-15	244	157	401
2015-16	364	273	637
Grand Total	1404	805	2209

Asked by Baroness Burt of Solihull

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average duration of employment for civil servants within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in each of the last five years. [HL640]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The length of service for employees of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills HQ, in each of the last five years, is shown in the table below.

<i>Period ending</i>	<i>Average length of service (Years)</i>
31 March 2016	16.3
31 March 2015	15.8
31 March 2014	15.6
31 March 2013	15.6
31 March 2012	15.6

The data above relates to the total length of their employment within the Civil Service.

Department of Health: Nurses*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to reduce the number of nurse advisers in the Department of Health. [HL594]

Lord Prior of Brampton: As part of the DH2020 plan, the Department is making significant changes to the way it works. The underlying principles informing the changes include that the Department should focus on its core and unique functions to improve the health and care system in England to help people to live better for longer.

The Department's approach is to flexibly access professional advice from a wide range of sources, including arms-length bodies, regulators and professional bodies, rather than from fixed standing teams of internal advisers.

These changes do not affect the role of the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), who as the CNO of the Department already advises, and will continue to advise, all Ministers and the Department on the range of nursing issues.

East Coast Railway Line*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the financial impact that the decision by the Office of Road and Rail to allow competition on the East Coast Main Line will have on the existing Virgin Trains East Coast franchise. [HL402]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is currently working to establish a robust estimate of the financial impact, taking full account of the specific details of the Office of Rail and Road's decision. At this stage, that process is incomplete.

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the conclusion by the Office of Road and Rail that it will be possible, by 2021, to run 7.5 long distance trains per hour on the East Coast Main Line (ECML) in an operationally robust timetable, in the light of the eight interventions to improve the ECML identified in the 2011 Initial Industry Plan by Network Rail at a cost of £500 million, and the later announcement of funding of £240 million. [HL515]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government understands from work carried out by Network Rail that under the current plans for enhancement works on the route, 7.5 high speed paths would be available from 2021, although the detailed implications for the timetable and train performance have yet to be examined.

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Office of Road and Rail has adequately evaluated the impact of inter-city trains on the East Coast Main Line sharing the tracks approaching London with Thameslink services providing 24 trains per hour through the core section. [HL516]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: No such assessment has been made by the Government. However, in making its own assessment, the Office of Road and Rail were aware of the requirements of the planned Thameslink service.

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Office of Road and

Rail's recent proposals for the East Coast Main Line services take fully into account the needs and expectations of passengers using stations south of Doncaster, in particular Newark, Grantham and Lincoln. [HL517]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Office of Road and Rail (ORR) has granted Virgin Trains East Coast's application to run additional services on the East Coast Mainline.

It will be for Network Rail and the relevant train operators to work together through the normal industry processes, under the oversight of the ORR, to ensure that the future mix of services provides an effective level of connectivity to meet the needs of passengers from these and other stations on the route.

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the East Coast Main Line infrastructure is adequate to provide a robust and reliable inter-city service, and of any modifications required in order for it to do so. [HL518]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Her Majesty's Government has not undertaken an assessment of the adequacy of the infrastructure to operate the planned service. It will be for Network Rail and the relevant train operators to work together to ensure that the East Coast Main Line infrastructure is adequate to provide a robust and reliable inter-city service, making use of the normal industry processes.

Electoral Fraud Review

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the review of electoral fraud being undertaken by Sir Eric Pickles will be completed and its recommendations published. [HL425]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Sir Eric Pickles will issue his report to the Prime Minister in due course.

Electricity Generation

Asked by Lord Rowlands

To ask Her Majesty's Government what Capacity Market auctions have been held to date under the Energy Act 2013, and what were the price and terms of the successful bids at each auction. [HL563]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Three Capacity Market auctions have been held so far. Two market-wide, four-year ahead (T4) auctions were held in December 2014 (for delivery in 2018/19) and December 2015 (for 2019/20), clearing at £19.40/kW and £18.00/kW respectively, and securing 49.3GW and 46.4GW of capacity for delivery in those years. A smaller-scale Transitional Arrangements auction, focused solely on the Demand Side Response (DSR) sector, was held in

January 2016, securing 803MW of DSR for 2016/17 at a clearing price of £27.50/kW. Winning bidders obtain Capacity Market Agreements, whose terms are established in law by the Capacity Market regulations and rules. Winning bidders and the volume of their individual agreements are published on National Grid's CM register.

Results for the three auctions held so far are attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

T4 2014 Final Auction results [T-4 2014 Final Auction Results Report.pdf]

T4 2015 Final Auction results [T-4 Final Results 2015.pdf]

Transitional auction 2016 - final results [Transitional Auction 2016 - Final Results.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-08/HL563>

Electronic Surveillance

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of their stated intention to require both ministerial and judicial authorisation for warrants under the Investigatory Powers Bill, why they consider it necessary to include a provision limiting judicial scrutiny to judicial review principles. [HL327]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Investigatory Powers Bill creates a "double lock" for the use of the most intrusive in-vestigatory powers such that a decision to issue a warrant must be approved by a Judicial Commissioner.

As the Secretary of State for the Home Department set out last November, this system balances Parliamentary accountability with independent consideration by a judicial authority. The application of judicial review principles is a robust, yet flexible, approach that the judiciary have significant experience in applying as the framework for independent scrutiny of Executive decision making. The 'double-lock', including the use of judicial review principles, was considered in detail by the Joint Committee that scrutinised the draft Bill. The Committee concluded that they were satisfied with the use of judicial review principles and that they would afford the Judicial Commissioners considerable flexibility in reviewing decisions to authorise the use of investigatory powers.

In response to concerns expressed during Commons Committee Stage, the Government tabled an amendment to the test at report. That amendment makes it clear that when carrying out their review of the decision to issue the warrant, the Judicial Commissioner must do so with a sufficient degree of care so as to ensure that the Commissioner complies with their duties under clause 5 (General duties in relation to privacy). There was strong support from across the House for this amendment.

Emigration

Asked by **Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to tackle the decline in the number of UK citizens moving to live overseas. [HL578]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government has no legal basis to influence where UK citizens choose to live.

European Union: Army

Asked by **Lord Pearson of Rannoch**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 1 June (HL345), whether they can veto any proposed EU army, or whether this could go ahead under "enhanced co-operation" between other EU member states. [HL532]

Earl Howe: The Prime Minister has been clear that the United Kingdom's Armed Forces will never be part of a European army. In the Treaty on the European Union there is special provision for any decision within the EU that has military or defence implications. Such decisions must be made unanimously, meaning that the UK has a veto. This also applies to enhanced co-operation, which requires agreement by all member states before it can be undertaken.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Asked by **Earl Baldwin of Bewdley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Earl Howe on 28 October 2013 (WA 213) and 5 December 2013 (WA 60–1), whether they will now answer the question why Public Health England, in comparing the percentages with dental fluorosis in fluoridated populations published by McGrady et al in 2012 with those from the York systematic review, cited small categories of fluorosis which were not found in the York review, but omitted the statistically comparable total-fluorosis figures of 55 per cent in fluoridated Newcastle against 48 per cent worldwide in the York review in 2000. [HL394]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Most dental fluorosis in England is mild and unlikely to be of any concern from a cosmetic perspective. When discussing the public health impact of this condition, it is useful to distinguish between mild to moderate dental fluorosis and more severe fluorosis which is likely to be of concern from a cosmetic perspective, rather than overall levels.

The study described in the paper by McGrady et al in 2012 photographed teeth in order to reducing potential examiner bias, a key recommendation of the York Review. The results might therefore not be directly comparable to the results of studies using older methodology.

Public Health England's 2014 water fluoridation health monitoring report was published subsequent to the

responses given on 28 October 2013 and 5 December 2013 and included a section on dental fluorosis, drawing upon the 2012 report by McGrady et al. A copy of *Water Fluoridation Health Monitoring Report for England 2014* is attached.

The report displayed the individual categories of dental fluorosis that were used in the 2012 report by McGrady et al, including the proportion who showed no signs of dental fluorosis in the two cities studied. This is shown in the following table.

Descriptive data for fluorosis total-fluorosis (TF) scores by city

	City				<i>p-value</i> (probability value)
	Newcastle (fluoridated)		Manchester (non- fluoridated)		
	Number	%	Number	%	
<i>Fluorosis TF Score</i>					
0	410	45%	638	73%	P less than 0.0001
1	355	39%	209	24%	
2	79	9%	16	2%	
3	53	6%	4	1%	
4	8	1%	0	0%	
5	1	0.1%	2	0.2%	
Total	906		869		

The probability values show that levels of dental fluorosis overall in fluoridated Newcastle were higher than in non-fluoridated Manchester. The proportion of children with dental fluorosis (TF score >0) was 55% in Newcastle compared to 27% in Manchester. Fluorosis recorded at a level of TF3, considered to be mild or mild to moderate, was 6% in Newcastle and 1% in Manchester. The prevalence of higher scores (TF4 or greater) was very low in both cities.

The methodology described in the 2012 paper by McGrady et al may give higher estimates of dental fluorosis compared to the direct examination by a dentist used in other surveys. The results give further assurance that there are low levels of dental fluorosis which might be of concern from a cosmetic perspective in both fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Water Fluoridation Monitoring Report
[Water_fluoridation_health_monitoring_for_england__full_report
_1Apr2014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-06/HL394>

Asked by Earl Baldwin of Bewdley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the statement in the Executive Summary of the Water fluoridation: Health monitoring report for England 2014 that there is "no evidence of a difference in the rate of hip fractures between fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas", what account Public Health England took of the article "Adding fluoride to water supplies" by Cheng KK et al in the British Medical Journal of 7 October 2007, in which the authors state that if the population of England had an average lifetime exposure of ≥ 0.9 ppm fluoride in drinking water a modest association between fluoride and hip fracture, if such exists, would have a less than one in five chance of being detected despite potentially causing more than 10,000 excess fractures a year. [HL398]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The possible effects of fluoride in water have been extensively studied and reviewed over the last 50 years. In the United Kingdom the most recent review prior to the publication of Public Health England's (PHE) Health Monitoring Report was undertaken by the National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination based at the University of York and published in 2000. The Medical Research Council subsequently, in 2002, reported to the Department of Health its advice on future research priorities. The US National Research Council reported in 2006 and the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council reported in 2007. PHE drew on these authoritative sources in selecting a number of indicators of health conditions for inclusion in the 2014 water fluoridation health monitoring report.

The chosen indicators of various health conditions were selected based on the evidence base, theoretical plausibility, potential impact on population health, the quality and availability of data, and the validity of the indicator. The selected indicators will be reviewed for future reports in the light of emerging evidence.

The article by KK Cheng et al did not provide any new evidence regarding hip fractures, but comments on the chance of detecting an increased risk of hip fracture for a speculated odds ratio of 1.2 in a previous study by Hiller et al. 2000. This only refers to a single study and it is important to consider the overall weight of evidence.

The overall weight of evidence and the consensus of opinion from authoritative reviews do not indicate that a drinking water concentration of 1 part fluoride per million parts of water presents an increased risk of hip fracture.

A more recent review of potential health effects from water fluoridation was published in 2015 by the Irish Research Board. The report concluded that a summary of the existing literature indicates that the relationship between fluoride in drinking water and bone health is inconsistent, with no definitive proof of protective or harmful effects.

Global Challenges Research Fund

Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the process by which Global Challenge Research Fund programmes will be agreed; and whether final decisions will be determined by reference to the Haldane principle. [HL148]

Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough

To ask Her Majesty's Government what involvement ministers will have in determining the areas of global challenge before monies from the Global Challenge Research Fund are allocated to Research Councils. [HL149]

Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the process for agreeing cross-research council proposals before accessing Global Challenge Research Fund monies. [HL150]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: As stated in the recent White Paper, Government is committed to the Haldane principle, including with respect to Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). As with other areas of science and research activity, Research Councils will work with other delivery partners to prepare a high-level research strategy for the GCRF, which they will agree with Ministers. The specific approach to be taken to currently unallocated funds will be developed with delivery partners over the coming months, and will include using the funding to promote multidisciplinary research, in line with Sir Paul Nurse's recommendations.

Green Climate Fund

Asked by Lord Donoughue

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Department of Energy and Climate Change plans to spend on the Green Climate Fund in each financial year from 2015–16 to 2017–18. [HL528]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Department of Energy and Climate Change contributed £80 million to the Green Climate Fund during the 2015-2016 financial year. DECC plans to contribute £80 million in FY 2016-2017 and £80 million in FY 2017-2018, dependent on the financial needs of the Green Climate Fund.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the total cost of fees, facilitation costs and enabling works for HS2 in each year since 2010. [HL401]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The table below sets out the spend on HS2 in each year since 2009/10. Data for 2015/16 is currently provisional and so is not included.

	2009/10 £m	2010/11 £m	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m
Total HS2	9.43	24.3	54	207.6	318.2	362.7

Immigration: Middle East

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they use to decide the requirements for entry to the UK for (1) Israelis, and (2) Palestinians. [HL490]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Non-EEA nationals seeking entry to the UK for any purpose must meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules. The Rules set out the criteria that applications for entry clearance, leave to enter and leave to remain must meet to qualify for entry or to remain. Applicants must produce either a valid passport or travel document that satisfactorily establishes their identity and nationality or citizenship. Nationals or citizens of Israel who hold a full Israeli passport, do not require a visa to come to the UK as a visitor or for any other purpose, for less than six months. Holders of Palestinian travel documents require a visa to come to the UK for any purpose in the Immigration Rules

International Climate Fund

*Asked by **Lord Donoughue***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been spent on the International Climate Fund in each financial year from 2011–12 to 2014–15. [HL526]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Spend under the International Climate Fund by the Department for International Development, the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is as follows:

2011-12 - £427m
2012-13 - £548m
2013-14 - £788m
2014-15 - £911m

Iraq: Armed Conflict

*Asked by **Lord Ahmed***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the total number of Iraqi civilians killed since the start of the 2003 Iraq war. [HL572]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government has not made an estimate of the number of Iraqis killed as a result of terrorism and war-related violence since 2003. While the security situation in Iraq has greatly improved since violence peaked in 2006-2007, Iraqi civilians have been victim to Daesh's atrocities since the summer of 2014. We utterly condemn such violence and call for those responsible to be brought to justice. The UK is

committed to supporting the Government of Iraq as it works to defeat Daesh and put Iraq on the path to long-term peace and stability.

Iraq: Iran

*Asked by **Lord Ahmed***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have gathered any evidence of Iranian fighters in Iraq. [HL573]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are aware that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is on the ground in both advisory and combat roles in Iraq and that Iran is providing significant funding, training and equipment to elements of Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Forces.

Along with our international partners, the UK has consistently made clear that there is a role for all of Iraq's neighbours in helping defeat Daesh. We have no difficulty with contributions from around the region to the goal of ridding Iraq of the Daesh threat, provided that those contributions are authorised by the Iraqi government. We will continue to work closely with our international partners to encourage all of Iraq's neighbours to play a transparent and constructive role in its affairs.

Iraq: Islamic State

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they are having with the government of Iraq and the regional government of Kurdistan about the protection needs of people likely to be displaced by current, and proposed, offensives against Daesh, in particular women and children. [HL523]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK is in regular contact with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional government, and regularly raises with them the protection needs of internally displaced persons arising from the conflict – including the protection needs of girls and women. We continue to urge the Government of Iraq to fulfil its commitments to develop and implement plans to stabilise areas which have been liberated from Daesh by providing the governance, services and security necessary to enable the safe return of people to their homes.

The UK has committed £79.5 million of humanitarian assistance to Iraq since summer 2014. This includes cash assistance for vulnerable displaced Iraqis, allowing them to prioritise what they need most. Through the UN Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund, we fund a number of projects designed to meet the most urgent needs of displaced Iraqis including emergency healthcare, water and sanitation, and protection services for girls and women. Our partners consider gender related differences in needs when developing all Department for International Development funded projects.

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to encourage Kurdish Iraqis, Sunnis and Shia Muslims to live together after defeating ISIS in Iraq. [HL571]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are supporting the Iraqi government in its efforts to unite Iraq's communities against Daesh and extremism, rebuild public trust in the Iraqi state and deliver the services and opportunities which all Iraqis want and deserve. We welcome the commitments that the Government of Iraq has made to inclusivity, to protecting Iraqi citizens, to addressing human rights abuses and holding those responsible to account.

There are now more than 3 million internally displaced people in Iraq. We have committed £79.5 million to the humanitarian effort in Iraq to help those who have fled Daesh's brutality, and are the largest donor to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs-managed Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund.

We are contributing £6 million to the UN's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilisation, to help the Iraqi government stabilise areas recently liberated from Daesh and re-establish security, basic services and inclusive local governance. We will provide funding for a number of projects designed to support community cohesion and encourage reconciliation, acceptance and tolerance between communities at a grass roots level.

Islamic State

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of Saddam Hussein's elite guards and soldiers who have joined ISIS in Iraq and Syria. [HL570]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government does not hold figures for the number of former military personnel from Saddam Hussein's regime that joined Daesh. However, there are credible reports of several ex-Ba'athist senior military officials and personnel with weapons expertise having joined Daesh.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the property ownership laws that require a Palestinian family that has inhabited a house in Jaffa continually since 1920 to pay the Israeli government 40 per cent of its present value to avoid eviction. [HL488]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take with regard to Israeli demolition notices on Palestinian water wells funded through the UN water development programme in the town of Beit Ummar. [HL492]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are concerned at the increase in the demolition of structures funded partly or fully by international donors. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv has raised our concerns on demolitions with the Israeli authorities, most recently on 7 June, and urged them to provide a legal route for Palestinians to obtain building permits.

The UK position on demolitions is clear: demolitions cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians; are harmful to the peace process; and are, in all but the most exceptional of cases, contrary to international humanitarian law.

Ivory Coast: Political Prisoners

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Ivory Coast about the number of prisoners being held for political reasons following the elections of 2010; what responses, if any, they have had; and whether they are in touch with local Roman Catholic bishops about that issue. [HL450]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK has worked closely with the UN Special Representative for Côte D'Ivoire, and international partners to ensure that, as part of the national reconciliation process, those held in detention since the 2010/11 post-electoral crisis without formal criminal charges, or no charges to answer, were released. We welcome President Ouattara's release of the final 3,100 such prisoners in January 2016. A further 265 prisoners remain on remand: all have been charged with criminal offences committed during the crisis. Following the visit of the UN Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Abidjan Prison on 10 June and subsequent meeting with President Ouattara, the Justice Minister has given an assurance that the trials will be completed by the end of December 2016. The UK continues to urge for the trials to be held in a timely manner.

To promote national reconciliation, the UK and other international partners continue to press for the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to ensure that all parties responsible for human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law are brought to justice, no matter what their political affiliation. Whilst local Roman Catholic bishops have not directly contacted us, officials from our Embassy in Abidjan will engage with them on this issue.

Khurram Zaki

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have raised the recent murder of Khurram Zaki, and his campaign work, with the government of Pakistan. [HL498]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We condemn the murder of Khurram Zaki in Karachi on 7 May. As a journalist and human rights activist, Khurram Zaki campaigned against sectarian violence and religious extremism in Pakistan. His murder is a sad reminder of the hostile climate in which Pakistani campaigners and journalists operate.

Under its National Action Plan, the Government of Pakistan is taking steps to improve security by tackling terrorist and extremist elements. We continue to urge Pakistan to honour in practice all its human rights obligations and uphold the rule of law. During his visit to Pakistan in March, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), raised the importance we attach to safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan citizens regardless of ethnicity, faith or political views.

Middle East: Health Services

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Decision on health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory adopted at the 69th World Health Assembly, whether they will bring forward resolutions at the Assembly concerning people in urgent need of health care in Yemen and attacks on medical facilities in Syria. [HL569]

Baroness Verma: Tackling emergency healthcare needs in Yemen is absolutely critical. According to the United Nations, more than 14 million people lack access to basic healthcare in Yemen in 2016 and 2.1 million women and children are malnourished, of which an estimated 320,000 are severely malnourished children. We are currently focussed on helping to meet those needs and have no plans for a resolution at this stage. Since January 2015, UK assistance has helped provide healthcare to more than 120,000 Yemenis and improved sanitation for over 650,000 people.

In Syria, it is unacceptable that parties to the conflict continue to carry out flagrant human rights violations, indiscriminate attacks against densely populated areas and targeting of civilian infrastructure. We are particularly concerned by continued attacks against health facilities and personnel, with only 40 percent of public hospitals reported as functioning.

The UK has consistently supported the need for accurate reporting and accountability for the atrocities that have been committed in Syria. The UN Secretary General and UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator,

Stephen O'Brien, already provides monthly reports to the UN Security Council on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law inside Syria. These updates include detailed reports on attacks on medical facilities.

Middle East: Refugees

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK funding available to support refugee children in state schools in Jordan and Lebanon can also be made available to voluntary organisations for the same purpose. [HL553]

Baroness Verma: The UK is supporting the Governments of Jordan and Lebanon to deliver the landmark commitments made at the London Syria Conference to enable every refugee and vulnerable host community child to access education by the end of the 2016/2017 school year. UK funding will be aligned with the plans of partner governments and a range of delivery mechanisms are being considered. Our approach is not exclusive: programmes will be implemented through partners who can deliver increases in access to quality education, quickly, efficiently and at scale.

The UK has worked with NGOs and voluntary organisations to provide support in both Jordan and Lebanon and will consider partnering with those that can demonstrate the ability to deliver effective results in line with Government strategies, progress towards the London Conference goals and offer value for money.

Migrant Workers: Entry Clearances

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to certificates of sponsorship used to support immigrants' entry clearance or extension of stay applications, (1) how many sponsoring employers are currently registered, (2) where those employers are listed, (3) how many certificates of sponsorship are granted to each sponsoring employer, (4) whether such figures are available on application, and (5) what was the total number of those sponsored in the last two years. [HL568]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: There are currently 30,181 sponsoring employers on the register of licensed sponsors.

The register is published on the "www.gov.uk" website and can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers>

The number of certificates granted to sponsoring employers differ depending on their recruitment requirements. Sponsoring employers may submit a request at the point their licence application is submitted. A sponsor can submit a further request to increase their allocation once licensed.

A sponsor is not granted a pre determined allocation of Certificates of sponsorship (CoS) at licensing stage.

The total number of CoS assigned to individuals in 2014 is 133,820. The total number of CoS assigned to individuals in 2015 is 131,617.

North Korea: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the British Embassy in North Korea has presented a copy of the report of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to North Korean officials; and whether the UK Ambassador to North Korea has held discussions on that report with his North Korean counterparts. [HL392]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Our Embassy in Pyongyang continues to raise the Commission of Inquiry report in bilateral discussions with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and urges them to engage with the international community on the human rights situation in the DPRK. Our Embassy has not specifically presented a copy of the report to North Korean officials, but we have presented North Korean officials with a supporting Written Statement by the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire).

North Korea: Rape

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of North Korea on reports of widespread rape committed by its military; and whether the UK defence attaché to North Korea will raise this issue with their counterpart. [HL388]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are aware of the disturbing reports of sexual violence within the Korean People's Army. We consistently raise our concerns about the appalling human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) directly with the regime. In June, our Ambassador to North Korea made clear the UK's position on human rights in a speech in Pyongyang attended by DPRK senior officials. We regularly raise North Korean human rights issues in multilateral fora such as the UN Security Council and the Human Rights Council, and will continue to do so.

North Korea: Refugees

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of stateless children living in China with one North Korean parent. [HL390]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government has not made an assessment of the number of stateless children living in China with one North Korean parent.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has access to North Korean refugees in China; and what steps they have taken to address the specific matter of China's responsibilities to aid North Korean refugees fleeing North Korea. [HL391]

Baroness Verma: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees does not have access to the North Koreans at the border area in China.

We raise our concerns around refoulement - the forcible return of refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution - regularly through our Embassy in Beijing and at the annual UK-China Human Rights Dialogue.

North Korea: Sony Pictures Entertainment

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 5 November 2015 (HL2969), whether the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's hacking of Sony Pictures Entertainment, as verified by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation in December 2014, posed a terrorist threat to British nationals in the United States and the international community. [HL540]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The destructive cyber attack directed against Sony Pictures Entertainment in November 2015 was condemned at the time by the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond). The ability of both state and non-state actors to conduct sophisticated cyber attacks is something the UK takes seriously and we have committed to investing £1.9 billion in cyber security over the next 5 years. The Government does not hold information on British nationals involved in the Sony incident.

Northern Ireland Office: Written Questions

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask the Leader of the House, further to the Written Answers by Lord Dunlop on 24 March (HL7079) and 22 January (HL4982), what guidance she has given to the Northern Ireland Office about answering questions fully and substantially, and in particular providing definitions as requested. [HL536]

Baroness Stowell of Beeston: The position has not changed since I answered the Noble Lord's question HL6043 on 17 February. That answer is included below for your ease of reference and I have nothing further to add to this.

As Leader of the House, I regularly stress to departments the importance of giving full and timely answers to Questions for Written Answer. The content of each answer is a matter for the Minister concerned, and each Minister is responsible to the House for the answers they provide. That direct accountability is important: that is why Ministers in this House must provide personally signed answers to members.

The Ministerial Code says that “It is of paramount importance that Ministers give accurate and truthful information to Parliament”. It also makes clear that “Ministers should be as open as possible with Parliament and the public, refusing to provide information only when disclosure would not be in the public interest”. In addition, there is a longstanding rule of this House that all answers should be complete and comprehensible. I shall continue to make this guidance clear to all Ministers.

Occupational Pensions

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 6 June (HL Deb, col 627), whether they have the necessary power to pursue pension contribution payments from companies where the parent company is based in the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands, or Monaco. [HL508]

Baroness Altmann: Each case will need to be considered on its own merits but the Pensions Regulator can use its anti-avoidance powers against targets that are based abroad. Section 303 of the Pensions Act 2004, governing the service of documents abroad, is intended to operate outside the UK jurisdiction. The power to enforce any regulatory action against a non-UK company is likely to require the approval or cooperation of the relevant overseas authorities. By and large, these provisions should be enforceable in other EU and Commonwealth jurisdictions.

The Pensions Regulator has demonstrated that it is prepared to use its anti-avoidance powers against targets that are based abroad, as was shown in its handling of the cases involving Sea Containers and the Lehman Brothers group and a complex investigation into the Carrington Wire Defined Benefit Pension Scheme resulted in a £8.5m settlement with two Russian companies.

Overseas Students: Loans

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Evans of Bowes Park on 9 May (HL7499) about the Student Loan Company, what are the EU-domiciled borrower figures categorised by individual country of domicile. [HL697]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Overseas Trade

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Price on 1 June (HL107), (1) why HM Revenue and Customs collects data on the currency of invoicing for trade with non-EU countries but not for EU countries, and (2) how they and the Bank of England manage sterling interest and exchange rates in the absence of such data. [HL531]

Lord O’Neill of Gatley: HM Revenue and Customs collects data on the currency of invoicing for trade with non-EU countries as a basis for calculating customs duty under customs and statistical law. It is published in the UK on a dedicated website (www.uktradeinfo.com) and available to all. This data is also used by the European Institutions (e.g. the European Central Bank) to monitor the share of the Euro in international trade. There is no legislative requirement for this information to be collected for trade with EU countries.

The UK’s monetary framework is clear, the independent Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England sets Bank Rate to target 2% inflation. The UK does not have an exchange rate target, the exchange rate is allowed to adjust flexibly, and movements in sterling are determined by market forces.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how much UK aid has been given to Pakistan over the last five years; and how much of that has been used to promote human rights, the rule of law and the protection of minorities. [HL499]

Baroness Verma: Since financial year 2011-12, the UK has provided more than £1.2 billion of official development assistance to Pakistan. A commitment by Pakistan to respect human rights is one of the four principles set out in the Partnership Principles Assessment which provides the basis for regular bilateral assistance talks between the UK and Pakistan.

The UK Government raises human rights issues and the rights of minorities on a regular basis at the highest levels in Pakistan and we ensure our development assistance targets poor women and men, regardless of race, religion, social background, or nationality. Through DFID’s Peacebuilding Support Programme (PSP) we are supporting the provincial Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to improve security and access to justice for 250,000 citizens and the new Rule of Law programme will strengthen security and justice institutions across the country. The Aawaz voice and accountability programme works in 45 districts with over 3 million poor people including minority communities to promote their rights and DFID’s education programme has enabled 4.6 million more girls to attend primary and secondary school, to stay longer and learn more.

Palestinians: Lebanon

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recent survey by the American University of Beirut and UNRWA on the socioeconomic status of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon; and what bilateral and multilateral action they are taking to meet the challenges identified by that survey. [HL554]

Baroness Verma: The UK Government is aware of the survey by the American University of Beirut and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). DFID staff attended the survey's launch event and have noted its findings.

The UK is a long-term supporter of UNRWA, including in Lebanon, providing over £60 million in 2015/16 and remaining the third largest donor to the UNRWA General Fund. We also provided £12m in total to UNRWA in Lebanon through the 2015 and 2016 Syria Emergency Appeals, and £1.9m this year through the UK Conflict Stability and Security Fund, supporting Palestinian youth with vocational and English skills training and job placement.

DFID has also committed to spending up to £40m a year on education in Lebanon, with a major programming element aimed at providing non-formal education to the most vulnerable children and youth, including Palestinians.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Verma on 11 May (HL8116), whether the Deloitte auditors who determine the eligible Palestinian beneficiaries under the PEGASE mechanism are regulated by any British regulator. [HL411]

Baroness Verma: Deloitte is a registered audit firm that employs certified public accountants who conduct their assignment in compliance with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) standards.

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Verma on 25 April (HL7413), whether the independent auditor of UK payments to the Palestinian Authority that are channelled through a trust fund administered by the World Bank is regulated by any British regulator. [HL412]

Baroness Verma: Deloitte is a registered audit firm that employs certified public accountants who conduct their assignment in compliance with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) standards.

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Verma on 11 May (HL8116), what is their assessment of the view expressed in section 4.1.1 of the Overseas Development Institute's Final Report of November 2015 'Evaluative Review of the Statebuilding Grant and the Palestinian Governance Facility—DFID Palestinian programme that "the manner in which DFID's funds are demonstrated to have only paid the salaries of PEGASE-approved employees is of questionable efficacy", and the "accounting exercise" "undertaken ex post to show that DFID funds are less than the outstanding amount needed to fund salaries of PEGASE-approved PA employees" "is of questionable robustness, as this kind of notional earmarking provides few fiduciary assurances." [HL413]

Baroness Verma: UK direct financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority is used for the sole purpose of paying the salaries of civil servants responsible for providing essential services. Our support is provided through a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank, which carries out close monitoring of PA expenditure. Only named civil servants from a pre-approved EU list are eligible, and the vetting process ensures that our funds do not benefit terrorist groups. The process is subject to independent auditing, which is regularly reviewed and strengthened accordingly.

As the ODI report itself makes clear, UK support to the PA is delivering real results, improving lives and is instrumental in preventing economic collapse and violent escalation.

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Verma on 11 May (HL8117) what assessment they have made of paragraph 27 of the Third Report of the House of Commons International Development Committee 'The UK's Development Work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories' which states "We are nevertheless concerned that DFID is not taking adequate measures to prevent its funds from being misused. Given the scale of the operation, with 85,000 civil servants being paid with UK money, there is a serious risk of abuse. We do not regard a six-monthly audit as an adequate protection to secure the integrity of UK aid money." [HL414]

Baroness Verma: We investigate thoroughly any claims that UK funds are misused. UK aid to the PA is subject to rigorous scrutiny, with safeguards in place to ensure its being used for proper development purposes.

UK support to the PA funds named civil servants from a pre-approved EU list only. The EU PEGASE mechanism is used to earmark funds to payment of vetted PA civil servants and pensioners. The list of approved recipients is subject to a vetting process that includes screening against international and ad hoc sanctions lists.

The screening covers over 20 different risk categories, including terrorism financing and is updated daily.

The EU PEGASE mechanism is independently audited, as is UK direct financial assistance to the PA.

*Asked by **Baroness Deech***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Verma on 12 May (HL8117), what assessment they have made of paragraph 29 of the Third Report of the House of Commons International Development Committee The UK's Development Work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories which states "We are also extremely concerned about the PA's policy of paying salaries to the families of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. While appreciating it is a sensitive issue, issuing payments to families based on the length of jail terms, rather than need, is a political and not a welfare decision and thus unacceptable. In addition, while the British Government maintains that no UK money supports this activity, UK aid payments fund the payment of PA civil servants. It could therefore be said with some justification that this payment of UK funds enables the PA to release alternative funds which allow these payments to continue". [HL415]

Baroness Verma: The UK provides financial support to the PA because we want to help deliver peace and support progress towards a two state solution, which is the only way to secure a prosperous and peaceful future for Israelis and Palestinians alike. The UK support to the PA funds named civil servants from a pre-approved EU list only. The EU PEGASE mechanism is used to earmark funds to payment of vetted PA civil servants and pensioners. The list of approved recipients is subject to a vetting process that includes screening against international and ad hoc sanctions lists. The screening covers over 20 different risk categories, including terrorism financing and is updated daily. The EU PEGASE mechanism is independently audited, as is UK direct financial assistance to the PA.

As the Committee noted, prisoners are a sensitive political issue on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Payments to Palestinian prisoners are made by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has full administrative control for the monthly payments that are provided to prisoners' families and dependants. The UK has consistently raised prisoner payments at the highest levels with the Palestinian authorities and continues to urge that these payments are more transparent, needs-based and affordable.

Pedicabs

*Asked by **Lord Storey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 8 June (HL342), what regulations are in place to ensure the health and safety of paying passengers outside

London; and who is responsible for that function. [HL590]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As rickshaws (pedicabs) outside London are regulated as taxis (Hackney Carriages), it is down to each local authority to set the licensing conditions, standards and by-laws for both driver and vehicle. This includes ensuring the health and safety of all travelling passengers, for instance through policies on vehicle type and safety features.

This function is the responsibility of the local licensing authority.

Pension Protection Fund

*Asked by **Baroness Burt of Solihull***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many companies required to pay levies to the Pension Protection Fund had put in place a contingent asset that replaced the Pension Protection Fund's Failure Score for the company with that of a different company in each of the three years to 2012–13; and what are the names of those companies. [HL408]

Baroness Altmann: We are unable to supply the information requested as to do so would incur disproportionate cost. Furthermore, the names of the companies concerned are classed as 'Restricted Information' under the Pensions Act 2004.

*Asked by **Baroness Burt of Solihull***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the amount paid in levies to the Pension Protection Fund in each of the three years to 2012–13 due to companies using a contingent asset to replace the Pension Protection Fund's Failure Score for the company with that of a different company, compared to what these companies paid in (1) 2012–13, (2) 2013–14 and (3) 2014–15. [HL410]

Baroness Altmann: The Pension Protection Fund has not made a comparison of the amounts paid by schemes with a contingent asset prior to 2012/13 with later years, as substantial changes in the way that levies are calculated from year to year do not allow for robust comparison.

Personal Independence Payment

*Asked by **The Countess of Mar***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is any provision for people claiming Personal Independence Payments who have difficulty in completing questions by hand to be able to complete the forms electronically; and if not, whether they plan to introduce such a facility. [HL583]

Baroness Altmann: We are developing a digital service for claiming Personal Independence Payment (PIP) which brings the current PIP telephony claim and paper form together.

We have tested a number of different design approaches with users and, based on feedback, are developing an application process that is more tailored to individual needs. From April 2016 we started making the online PIP claim available to a small number of PIP claimants on a voluntary basis. This will allow us to get direct feedback, make ongoing improvements and ensure this new service is effective and secure before it is available nationally.

Personal Independence Payment: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government what form of evidence of incapacity is acceptable for Personal Independence Payments claims when a person suffering from severe myalgic encephalomyelitis or chronic fatigue syndrome, for which there is currently no treatment, has had no contact with any medical professionals or auxiliary practitioners for a considerable length of time. [\[HL502\]](#)

Baroness Altmann: The Department encourages claimants to provide as much relevant evidence as necessary to support their claim. The "How your disability affects you" form and accompanying guidance sets out the range of information that can help the Department reach a decision. The guidance for Health Professionals also sets out sources of further evidence which could help inform their advice to the Department, this includes family members, carers or anyone else who supports them.

Before claimants are invited for a face-to-face consultation, all of the evidence held is reviewed and if, at that stage, a decision can be made on the paper evidence alone, then claimants will not be required to attend a face-to-face consultation. Alternatively, further evidence that might help inform the Department's decision on the claim can be requested by the Health Professional.

If the Health Professional cannot provide advice to the Department at this stage, or where there is insufficient or no other suitable sources of evidence on which to make an assessment, claimants will be invited to attend a face-to-face consultation. This gives claimants the opportunity to put across their own views of the impact of their health condition on their everyday lives, ensuring that decisions reflect the best evidence. In some cases we carry out consultations in the claimant's home.

Personal Injury: Compensation

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the ban on referral fees in insurance claiming has taken effect, and whether they have raised concerns with the Solicitors' Regulation Authority over its role in enforcing compliance. [\[HL537\]](#)

Lord Faulks: The payment and receipt of referral fees by legal services providers in personal injury claims is

banned under Part 2 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 which was implemented on 1 April 2013.

This Ministry of Justice is in regular contact with the regulators of legal services providers, including the Solicitors' Regulation Authority, about issues relating to enforcement.

Police: Boats

Asked by Lord Condon

To ask Her Majesty's Government which police forces in areas with North Sea coastlines or English Channel coastlines from Norfolk south and west to Devon and Cornwall have marine or boat units capable of patrolling estuaries or inshore sea waters; and what is the maximum range in which those police forces' units are licensed to operate. [\[HL543\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Home Office does not collect this information. Decisions on the local deployment of assets and resources, including marine units, are for individual chief constables working with their police and crime commissioner.

Public Sector: Pensions

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to implement the suggested changes to the Tata pensioners pension fund to all public sector pensions. [\[HL473\]](#)

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: In response to proposals put forward by the British Steel Pension Scheme and supported by Tata Steel UK, the Government is consulting on options to enable a potential restructuring of the British Steel Pension Scheme to deliver a scheme that is sustainable and provides clarity and security to scheme members. The consultation closes on 23 June 2016.

In the last Parliament the Government took action to secure the long term sustainability of public service pensions, by changing the indexation of pensions in payment to the Consumer Prices Index, increasing member contributions by 3.2 percentage points on average, and introducing new career average pensions schemes with higher normal pension ages and a cost control mechanism.

Public Sector: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to require applicants for jobs in the public sector to state whether they went to an independent school. [\[HL426\]](#)

Lord Bridges of Headley: Appointments should always be made on merit. Her Majesty's Government do not have plans to require applicants for jobs to state

whether they went to an independent school. We are engaging on proposals to develop a set of potential measures for employers to understand the socio-economic backgrounds of their workforces and applicant pools. Type of school attended (primary and secondary) make up two of twenty-six measures which employers and organisations have been asked to consider

Over the past few years' real effort has been put into broadening access to the Civil Service. It is important to be able to measure, overall, the success and impact of these policies. Any background measures would be collected on an entirely voluntary basis and used anonymously. They will not form the basis of any individual recruitment decision.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost of the contract awarded to Sport and Entertainment Ltd for organising the Queen's Patron Lunch on Sunday 12 June; and why this contract did not go out to tender. [HL481]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The Patron's Lunch, held on Sunday 12 June is not a government-run event.

Railways: Competition

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any studies regarding the "not primarily abstractive" test that the Office of Road and Rail makes in respect of open access applications to test its validity. [HL406]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Her Majesty's Government is not aware of any recent studies which specifically test the validity of the Office of Rail and Road's not primarily abstractive test. However, it has made representations to the ORR on its appropriateness for use on individual open access applications, most particularly in relation to the recent open access applications on the East Coast Mainline.

Railways: Kent

Asked by Lord Condon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the disruption to rail passengers in Kent on 6 June, what action they are taking to ensure a more reliable service for rail passengers travelling between Kent and London terminals. [HL542]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Hon Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Claire Perry MP, as Rail Minister, chairs a monthly meeting with Network Rail, train operators in the South East, Transport Focus, and Department for Transport officials. This group monitors performance and passenger experience and it is absolutely committed to identifying

improvements and ensuring rail passengers see the benefits of these improvements being delivered. Network Rail and Southeastern both need to show much greater improvement in their ability to fix faults quickly and communicate with their passengers more effectively. The Department will ensure that lessons are learned from the disruption in Kent that day.

Refugees: Children

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to co-operate with voluntary organisations in bringing unaccompanied minors to the UK from refugee camps in Europe. [HL509]

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a timetable has been established for bringing unaccompanied minors to the UK from refugee camps in Europe; and if so, how many children are anticipated to arrive during each stage. [HL510]

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to ensure the proper provision of safe housing for unaccompanied minors brought to the UK from refugee camps in Europe. [HL511]

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to establish social services and psychosocial support for unaccompanied minors brought to the UK from refugee camps in Europe. [HL512]

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what process they plan to follow to identify eligible unaccompanied minors and bring them to the UK from refugee camps in Europe. [HL513]

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the unaccompanied minors brought to the UK from refugee camps in Europe will be assigned to families through the usual system of allocation to foster carers. [HL514]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As announced by the Prime Minister on 4 May and now reflected in the Immigration Act 2016, we will work to admit unaccompanied refugee children to the UK from elsewhere in the EU, where this is considered to be in the child's best interests.

The legislation is clear that consultation with local authorities is needed before any figure is set. We are working closely with local authorities and consulting NGOs, the UNHCR, UNICEF and relevant Member States to establish suitable processes to implement this initiative.

We are committed to act as quickly as we can but we must take the necessary time to ensure we have the capacity to resettle and support those who are resettled.

We must also ensure that we fulfil our obligations to children who are already in the UK. We will be working closely with local authorities to find suitable placements within the UK. Statutory agencies at a local level are best placed to understand and meet the needs of all children and will continue to make decisions about the right accommodation and support services for those who are looked after. Unaccompanied children will be eligible for foster care if it is considered that that this placement type will provide appropriate support and best meet their individual needs.

The UK has well-established and effective safeguarding procedures to ensure the safety of children who come to the UK. All children brought to the UK will be given the care, support and education they require.

Rwanda: Abortion

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to support the women reportedly imprisoned in Rwanda for terminating their pregnancies after rape. [[HL438](#)]

Baroness Verma: The Department places the empowerment of girls and women at the heart of its programme in Rwanda. We mainstream women and girls across our programme, and deliver targeted interventions where needed to address particular constraints faced by women. For example, we are providing up to £4.6m over 4 years (2014-2018) for a programme that will work with women and men, opinion leaders and members of the community to tackle the triggers of gender-based violence. The programme will reach over 1.7 million people. We are also supporting a Girls Empowerment Programme which is enabling 92,000 girls over three years to meet in safe spaces across the country. The girls are mentored and guided through a curriculum that includes sexual and reproductive health, prevention of violence and guidance on staying safe and healthy.

School Milk

*Asked by **Lord Lexden***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to develop a strategy for implementing the revised European School Milk Scheme by September 2017. [[HL555](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The regulations for the revised EU Milk Scheme come into force this month and will apply from 1 August 2017. Detailed rules for implementing the scheme and for the drawing up of national strategies are now being negotiated. We will use this period to consider the new requirements and expect to start consultation with interested parties this autumn.

Select Committee Reports

*Asked by **Baroness Scott of Needham Market***

To ask the Leader of the House what processes she has put in place to ensure that select committee reports are debated in a timely manner. [[HL699](#)]

Baroness Stowell of Beeston: My Noble Friend the Government Chief Whip makes regular offers of time, both on the Floor of the House and in Grand Committee, for debates on Select Committee reports to the Committee Office. The Committee Office then coordinates among Chairmen to determine which reports are debated on such occasions and in what order.

Debates covering nine reports have already taken place this session.

St Helena: Airports

*Asked by **Lord Soley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Verma on 7 June (HL Deb, col 663), what is meant by the phrase "depend on securing the right aircraft". [[HL564](#)]

Baroness Verma: We are seeking to establish commercial air services using the southern approach to the runway where wind shear is not a significant issue. A number of aircraft types have been identified which should offer reasonable performance using a southern approach (the Airbus A318 and A319, Boeing 737-600 and 737-700). We are in discussions with airlines on how we can bring one of these into service.

Students: Loans

*Asked by **Lord Myners***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider linking the interest rate on student loans to the Consumer Price Index rather than the Retail Price Index. [[HL427](#)]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government has no plans to link the interest rate on student loans to the Consumer Prices Index, rather than the Retail Prices Index. The Retail Prices Index has been used as the basis for calculating the interest rates applied to income-contingent student loans since they were introduced in 1998.

TDPi: Civil Servants

*Asked by **Lord Falconer of Thoroton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister for Policing, Fire and Criminal Justice and Victims on 6 June (HC38271), what they mean by "unlikely" and what chance there is that any intellectual property belonging to, or confidential information relating to, the Ministry of Justice or the National Offender Management Service

was compromised as a result of former staff gaining employment with TDPi. [HL467]

Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister for Policing, Fire and Criminal Justice and Victims on 6 June (HC38271), how they have strengthened procedures as a result of this investigation. [HL468]

Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister for Policing, Fire and Criminal Justice and Victims on 6 June (HC38271), whether they will publish the letter to TDPi. [HL469]

Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister for Policing, Fire and Criminal Justice and Victims on 6 June (HC38271), what resources were allocated to, and who led, that review. [HL470]

Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister for Policing, Fire and Criminal Justice and Victims on 6 June (HC38271), what mechanism they have used to increase awareness of the Business Appointment Rules within the National Offender Management Service. [HL471]

Lord Faulks: As my Hon Friend, the Minister for Prisons, Probation and Rehabilitation announced on 14 March, we take these allegations of the type raised by the Mail on Sunday on 13 March extremely seriously and we launched an immediate investigation into them, which was conducted by a senior civil servant in the Cabinet Office's Proprietary and Ethics team. This investigation found no evidence of the Department's intellectual property or confidential information being compromised as a result of staff leaving the Department to join TDPi. Neither did the investigation find any evidence of improper culture or general lack of professionalism in relation to how NOMS staff interact with suppliers or contractors.

The MoJ has clear rules and governance in place around the standards of conduct for current and former civil servants. All permanent civil servants are covered by the Cabinet Office's Business Appointment Rules. For employees below the Senior Civil Service grade, the rules expect an ex-employee to submit an application form within a year of them leaving office if their circumstances match one or more of the points set out at Section 13 of the Business Appointment Rules. Following the investigation, we have briefed all Human Resources managers and all staff at Senior Civil Service in NOMS about the procedures. The process has been strengthened that we now circulate the procedures to senior managers annually. As my Rt. Hon Friend the Minister for Policing, Fire and Criminal Justice and Victims said in his answer

of 6 June (HC38271), over the last six months, we have improved our commercial capability, more than doubling the senior commercial experts monitoring work with the private sector.

We have no plans to publish the letter to TDPi.

Thames Tideway Tunnel

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the additional cost of £70 to £80 per annum, at 2011 prices and based on a 50 per cent probability of cost overruns, to all Thames Water customers of the Thames Tideway Tunnel, as quoted on page 83 of the prospectus of Thames Water Utilities Cayman Finance Ltd, represents good value for money for the consumer. [HL400]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The impact of the Thames Tideway Tunnel on Thames Water customer bills is expected to be £20-£25 per year (at 2015 prices) by the mid-2020s. This is about a third of the initial estimate of £70-£80 per year in 2011, assessed at an early development stage of the project, and represents good value for money for customers. It follows the successful competition by Thames Water Utilities Ltd, completed in August 2015, to procure an Infrastructure Provider to finance and deliver the Thames Tideway Tunnel. The Thames Water Utilities Cayman Finance Ltd prospectus quoted by the Noble Lord is dated 26 June 2015 and so was prior to this procurement.

UK Border Force: Boats

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Border Force vessels patrol UK territorial waters at any one time; and how many are needed to ensure the required levels of surveillance and security of the UK's coastline. [HL558]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Border Force is committed to operating three cutters in UK waters at any given time. We currently have a total of four available for use in UK waters, with one rotated into use where required. These figures only include the number of cutters currently deployed in UK territorial waters and do not include the additional military and law enforcement vessels available. Border Force takes a multi-layered approach to maritime security; using a combination of cutters, radar and aerial surveillance to detect efforts to smuggle guns and drugs or facilitate illegal entry into the country. They also work closely with domestic and international partners on an intelligence-led approach, allowing us to tackle the criminals involved before they leave for the UK. Border Force is also investing in a new fleet of rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIBs) as part of a new maritime security strategy. The vessels will patrol the UK coast, helping to intercept attempts to smuggle migrants, drugs and dangerous weapons into the country.

Undocumented Migrants

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal maritime arrivals have reached the UK in each year since 2010. [HL559]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Specific details on numbers or locations of suspected illegal maritime arrivals are not disclosed for security reasons.

Visas: Iran

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Iranian citizens have applied for (1) visitor, (2) student, and (3) settlement, visas since the opening of the British Embassy in Tehran; and how many of those applications in each category were successful. [HL387]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The number of visa applications made in Iran since the opening of the British Embassy in Tehran for 1) visitor, 2) student, and 3) settlement and the number of successful applications made in each of these categories is contained in the attached Table:

Table 1 - No. of Applications Processed in Abu Dhabi where Mobile Biometrics have been taken in Tehran between 01/01/16 and 31/03/2016 for Iranian Nationals

Number of applications by Iranian nationals under Visitor Category made in Tehran	175
Of which issued	50
Number of applications by Iranian nationals under Student Category made in Tehran	10
of which issued	5
Number of applications by Iranian nationals under Settlement Category made in Tehran	20
of which issued	5

Notes

Applications considered as made in Tehran when biometrics taken by Abu Dhabi Mobile Biometrics Units in Tehran. Applications submitted to Tehran have a decision made by a different post. For the purpose of this data Iranian Citizens have been classed as Iranian by nationality. The figures reported are based only on considerations made against the specific named nationality requested, this does not account for applications made by non-nationals at this post. For the purpose of this data successful applications have been classed as those issued. The figures reported are calculated based on the number of application outcome events, rather than the number of individuals considered. All figures rounded to nearest 5.

This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PQ HL387 - Table [PQ HL387 - Table.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-06/HL387>

Visas: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Home Office refused visas to two marathon runners from Palestine who were due to compete in the Derry Walled City marathon on 5 June. [HL493]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: All applications are considered on their individual merits and in line with the Immigration Rules. In order to safeguard an individual's personal information and comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 the Home Office is limited in what information it can provide when the request is made by someone who is not the applicant. The Home Office is therefore unable to provide the information requested.

West Coast Railway Line

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many train paths an hour will be freed up on the West Coast Main Line when HS2 Phase 1 is operational according to Network Rail's West Coast Main Line Capacity Plus study, and when that study will be published. [HL399]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: HS2 Phase 1 will add significant additional capacity to the London to West Midlands rail corridor, and this provides an opportunity for the industry to evaluate how best to make use of the released capacity on the southern section of the West Coast Main Line. Network Rail continues to develop the evidence base to support the Capacity Plus study. Train operating companies and freight operating companies, passenger transport executives and local authorities and High Speed 2 Ltd are supporting Network Rail in its ongoing work. Network Rail will use this work to inform the Initial Industry Advice for Control Period 6 which is expected to be published by the end of 2016.

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many detainees have reportedly been sexually assaulted or raped inside Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre since Serco took over its operation. [HL675]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Serco, the private supplier at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre (IRC), took over the centre's operation in February 2007. Since 2008, the date from which local records have been

collated centrally, there have been twenty three allegations of sexual assault or rape made by detainees against staff. This includes two allegations of rape, of which one was unsubstantiated and one is subject to continuing criminal proceedings. This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

All complaints made by detainees at an IRC are investigated by the IRC supplier in accordance with

Detention Services Order 03/2015. Any allegations of serious misconduct made by a detainee against staff at an IRC are also referred to the Home Office Professional Standards Unit for investigation. Where a detainee, or someone on behalf of a detainee, alleges that a member of staff has committed a sexual offence against them the police will automatically be notified, even if the detainee does not wish the matter to be reported or to make a formal complaint.

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