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WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Wednesday, 20 July 2016

Tabling Questions for Written Answer

[HLWS97]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: It has been agreed through the usual channels that the date for tabling Questions for Written Answer during the Summer Recess this year will be Monday 3 October.

Welfare Reform

[HLWS98]

Lord Freud: My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Damian Green MP) has made the following Written Statement.

Universal Credit is the biggest transformation of the welfare state since its inception; it has formed and will continue to form a key part of this Government's action to reduce reliance on benefits and increase incentives to work. It is a reform which is fundamentally about helping people to build better futures for themselves and their families.

Universal Credit has been successfully rolled out across the country to new single jobseekers and is now available in all jobcentres. Over a quarter of a million people are now receiving Universal Credit, with around 12,500 new claims every week.

It is essential that the Universal Credit rollout for all claimant types is delivered in an orderly and successful manner; that claimants receive the support they need in a timely fashion; and that welfare reforms are delivered safely as the roll out continues. The previous Government altered the Universal Credit rollout schedule to make sure that the delivery continues to be safe and controlled. I believe this was the right decision: this new Government is committed to administer the Universal Credit Programme in a careful, reliable and transparent fashion.

First, it is important to deliver the policy to limit the child element of tax credits and Universal Credit to two children to its planned April 2017 timetable. Therefore, we will direct new claims from families with more than two children to Tax Credits until November 2018. Thereafter, new claims from families with more than two children will be taken through Universal Credit. Families already on Universal Credit who have a third child after April 2017 will remain on Universal Credit and receive two child elements.

Second, the policy to remove the higher rate of child element for the first child in Universal Credit will only apply where the first child is born after 6 April 2017, aligning the treatment of families within Universal Credit to that in Tax Credits.

Third, the incorporation of Housing Benefit for pensioners into Pension Credit will not begin until the completion of the Universal Credit timetable, in order to give greater certainty to Local Authorities. In addition, the regulations on treatment of surplus earnings and self-employed losses will now be implemented from April 2018.

The Government is making provision for the additional work to deliver these reforms and the other changes announced in Summer Budget 2015 by reshaping the next phase of Universal Credit rollout. The Department will continue its successful rollout of five jobcentres a month to June 2017, expanding to 30 in July 2017. Following a break over the summer the Department will scale up to 55 jobcentres per month between October and December 2017. From February 2018 this will increase to 65 per month, finishing with the final 57 jobcentres in September 2018.

The Government has also taken account of the comments by the NAO and PAC that the existing rollout plan contains no contingency, and the risks to delivery that brings. For the first time since Universal Credit was announced in 2010, we will put specific contingency into the plan from September 2018 until June 2019. The managed migration of existing benefit claims will start in July 2019 and complete in March 2022.

Finally, in line with the Department's commitment to its delivery partners to give at least six months' notice of Universal Credit implementation plans in their areas, I can today announce the sites for the remainder of 2016/17. Following a planned break in January 2017, Universal Credit will be rolled out to Corby, Southampton, Newcastle East, Warrington and Poplar in February 2017. Following this, in March 2017, Universal Credit will be rolled out to Hinckley, Dalkeith, Newcastle West, Penicuik and City Tower.

In addition the Scottish sites rolling out in November 2016 are changing from Fort William, Invergordon, Portree, Wick and Dingwall to Port Glasgow, Greenock and Kirkintilloch.

I believe this plan is the best way to ensure secure delivery of the Government's welfare reform priorities, increasing employment outcomes and supporting claimants at an affordable cost for the taxpayer.

Written Answers

Wednesday, 20 July 2016

Armed Forces: Pay

Asked by Lord Touhig

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, what impact the fixed one per cent pay increase has had on (1) retention, and (2) recruitment, in the (a) Army, (b) Navy, and (c) Royal Air Force. [[HL1240](#)]

Earl Howe: The Government greatly values the important work of the Armed Forces. The independent Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) annually reviews Armed Forces' pay to ensure that it remains comparable and adequate to recruit, retain and motivate personnel. Having considered all the evidence presented to them during the last pay round, the AFPRB recommended that a one per cent increase in base pay across the board was appropriate; a recommendation which the Government accepted in full. In addition to the one per cent pay rise, Service personnel have benefited from the introduction of a new pay structure in April 2016. As well as retaining incremental pay scales, 'Pay 16' seeks to rebalance pay to better reward our most highly skilled personnel while addressing many of the concerns Service personnel had raised regarding the previous pay structure.

Pay restraint was one of the many difficult decisions the Government had to make to put the UK's public finances back on track. However, the overall remuneration package remains competitive with a non-contributory pension scheme, subsidised accommodation and access to free medical and dental care.

Research suggests that individuals joining the Armed Forces rate factors such as training, qualifications and promotion more highly than pay. For example, the 2014-15 Recruit Trainee Survey reports that the top four most important factors influencing recruits' decisions to join the Armed Forces were: challenge and adventure (93 per cent); keeping fit (93 per cent); gaining skills and qualifications and the appeal of the lifestyle. Similar findings are found in research regarding Service personnel's intentions to stay in the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey 2016 reports that the top five factors increasing Service personnel's intention to stay in the Armed Forces are: job security; dental and healthcare provision; pension; and mental health provision.

The Services closely monitor recruitment and outflow. They have introduced a wide range of initiatives to increase recruitment numbers, which include targeted marketing, specific recruitment events, and improvements in the recruitment process. Instances of high outflow are mitigated through a variety of management actions which include extensions of Service, financial retention initiatives and inter-Service transfers. However, it should

be recognised that some churn in strength, particularly in the lower ranks, is welcome and helps to refresh the Armed Forces.

Community Land Trusts

Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any situations where trustees of community land trusts who are also members of parish councils have been prevented from carrying out their duties due to their interests being inaccurately declared as personal and prejudicial, and if so, what advice they plan to provide to all involved to resolve such situations. [[HL1277](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are non-profit local organisations set up and run by local people to develop and manage homes and other community assets. They will be regulated according to the specific legal form they have decided is appropriate for their objectives. Consequently, the Department does not retain any central records on CLTs or their trustees.

Genetics: Screening

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 7 July (HL830), what prevents Genomic England from sharing all 8,408 genomes in the rare disease and all 1,671 cancer genomes programmes with the relevant commercial interpretation partners to accelerate the delivery of full reports back to patients. [[HL1099](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The interpretation of a genome for clinical purposes requires high quality genomic and clinical data. Genomics England is expanding the access to genome data by clinical interpretation partners at an appropriate rate to avoid exceeding their capacity. This is to ensure there are interpretation services that are sustainable for the remainder of the project.

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 7 July (HL829), why Genomic England cannot supply data without delay on the number of patients in the cancer programme who have subsequently died, in the light of the fact that the Office of National Statistics states that the information is available within two months of death from the cancer registry. [[HL1127](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The arrangements for Genomics England to access patient data are different from the routine data supplied by the Office of National Statistics or other centralised patient data services. The wider patient dataset (including mortality data) will be

imported and linked when the genome data is made available to researchers.

Immigration

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the total immigration figures for each of the last five years from (1) the EU, and (2) outside the EU; and of which nationalities were immigrants from outside the EU in each of those years. [HL1062]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA Response to HL1062 [UKSA Response to HL1062 (2) (2) (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-07/HL1062>

Medical Treatments

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, what plans they have for ensuring that the conditional approval of the European Medicines Agency for new treatments continues to have validity in the UK. [HL1088]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The previous Prime Minister was clear that the negotiation for Britain's future relationship with Europe needed to begin under the new Prime Minister, and we now have got to look at all the detailed arrangements.

The Department has launched a ministerial industry strategy group to prepare for the renegotiation on the new European Union/United Kingdom relationship, which includes looking at the relationship between the UK and the EU medicines regulatory framework.

Middle East: Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support humanitarian and human rights organisations that seek the ability to cross the border at Semalka between Iraqi Kurdistan and Northern Syria in order to provide humanitarian aid. [HL1025]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: DFID currently funds a number of NGO partners who use the Semalka border crossing to provide humanitarian aid –health, food, livelihoods, and protection programmes – to people in parts of northern Syria. In general, access across the border is negotiated by agencies themselves.

Asked by Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region to ensure that aid convoys are permitted and facilitated, and that humanitarian workers, journalists, and staff of relief and aid organisations are permitted entry into the region of Northern Syria and Rojava. [HL1026]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK has raised the issue with the Kurdistan Regional Government's Presidential Office, and strongly encouraged the free movement of humanitarian aid. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and to do all we can to ensure the provision of humanitarian access.

Monarchy: EU Law

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bridges of Headley on 27 June (HL657), whether the "special status" enjoyed by the Sovereign is granted by EU law. [HL1035]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The European Court of Justice has held that EU law must be interpreted in the light of the relevant rules of international law and that, as such, under EU law Heads of State enjoy a special status (different from that of all other Union citizens).

Overseas Students: Statistics

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress the Office of National Statistics has made in understanding non-EU student arrivals and departures in order to track the progress of student cohorts through the immigration system, as outlined in its January 2016 report Population Briefing, International Student Migration - what do the statistics tell us? [HL1137]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA Response to HL1137 [UKSA Response to HL1137 (1) (1) (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-11/HL1137>

Slavery

Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance has been issued to the Courts and HM Prison Service to ensure that section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 is fully embedded into their training. [HL1041]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Home Office Circular on the Modern Slavery Act, along with a list of those to whom it was sent, is available on gov.uk.

Human trafficking and modern slavery is covered within the core learning offer for prison and probation staff. Supplementary training on the subject of human trafficking and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals is available to officers working with particularly vulnerable groups, such as foreign national or female offenders.

*Asked by **Baroness Doocey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance has been provided to the Legal Aid Agency about section 47 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. [[HL1042](#)]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Lord Chancellor has the power to issue guidance or directions to the Director of Legal Aid casework under section 4 of LASPO. No such guidance or directions have been issued in respect of legal aid available as a result of section 47 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

South Sudan: Armed Conflict

*Asked by **Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of Amnesty International's report *Our Hearts Have Gone Dark*, what steps they have taken to ensure that the victims of serious health issues, including mental health, as a result of the conflict in South Sudan receive urgent and adequate care. [[HL1103](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK is the second largest aid donor in South Sudan and leads the £200 million, five year, multi-donor Health Pooled Fund which provides primary health services, including mental health care, to over 8million people in eight states across South Sudan. The fund also supports the South Sudan Healthcare system to deliver lifesaving care, ranging from Primary Health Units in more remote areas to State Hospitals. Patients with serious illnesses, including mental health cases, are referred to the nearest centre able to provide care for them.

South Sudan: Maternity Services

*Asked by **Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports that one in seven women in South Sudan do not survive childbirth, what steps they are taking to ensure the improvement of conditions for pregnant women in that country. [[HL1105](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK leads the £200 million, five year, multi-donor Health Pooled Fund which provides comprehensive health care for pregnant women, including skilled care during labour and delivery, in eight of the ten states in South Sudan. Over the last three years this programme has enabled 493,316 pregnant women to receive anti-natal care services.

UK Withdrawal from EU

*Asked by **Lord Hutton of Furness***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish an impact assessment before invoking Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. [[HL1019](#)]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The process for leaving the EU and determining our future relationship will be a complex one, so we need to take time to think through our objectives and approach. We want to ensure the best possible outcome for Britain and the future UK-EU relationship. The Prime Minister has also said we would not trigger Article 50 until we have a UK approach and objectives.

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the remarks by the Chief Executive of Credit Suisse that the UK's vote to leave the EU was the result of a "chronic lack of investment in education" and a need for "more solidarity". [[HL1069](#)]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The British people have voted to leave the European Union and the Prime Minister has been clear that their will must be respected and delivered. We must now prepare for a negotiation to exit the EU.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what instructions they have given to all ministers of the Crown and senior civil servants to work to facilitate an early and effective withdrawal from the EU. [[HL1134](#)]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: A new Department for Exiting the European Union has been established by the Prime Minister. The Department will lead the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union and establish the future relationship between the EU and the UK, working closely with the UK's devolved administrations, Parliament, and a wide range of other interested parties on this approach. Officials and ministers will work closely with other departments, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Trade and others, to ensure the British public and business interests get the best possible deal when the UK leave the EU.

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