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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Baroness Anelay of St Johns	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 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

Tuesday, 13 September 2016

Cold Weather Payments Scheme

[HLWS145]

Lord Freud: My honourable Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Welfare Delivery (Caroline Nokes MP) has made the following Written Statement.

I am pleased to announce that today I intend to lay regulations to amend the cold weather payment scheme. The changes detailed in these regulations will come into force on 1 November this year, in time for the beginning of the winter period.

The scheme makes cold weather payments to help vulnerable groups during cold periods. Each year the Department reviews the scheme with expert advice from the Met Office and, where necessary, makes changes to regulations to ensure that postcodes are linked to the most appropriate weather station for the purposes of the cold weather payment.

For the 2016/17 season the Met Office has recommended the replacement of one primary weather station and the introduction of an additional new station.

The current station at Skye, Lusa will be closed and have equipment removed by spring 2017. The Met Office has therefore recommended changing to an alternative site at Achnagart to protect the 2016/17 service from any potential risk of earlier disruption to the station at Skye, Lusa.

South Devon, particularly the EX and TQ postcodes, would be better represented by the newly installed station at Exeter Airport. The Met Office has recommended including this station as an additional site in the network taking some of the postcodes currently served by Dunkeswell and North Wyke. The Exeter Airport site better represents the postcodes along and near the east facing coastline around east Devon, Exeter and parts of Torbay. The more inland and higher altitude sites at Dunkeswell and North Wyke will continue to serve the more inland communities.

The regulations also make other minor changes to the alternative weather stations. This will ensure that the weather station to postcode links are as representative as possible.

The changes to the postcode to weather station links resulted from the Department's annual review of the cold weather payments scheme. The review drew on expert advice from the Met Office and took account of representations from benefit claimants and Members of Parliament.

I will be writing to each Member who made representations about the administration of the scheme last winter to make them aware of the advice from the Met Office.

Cold weather payments are separate from, and in addition to, winter fuel payments.

For winter 2016/17 the cold weather payment rate will continue to be £25 for each seven day period of very cold weather.

The regulations are being amended so that, in future, revisions can be made without the need for new legislation each time weather station to postcode links change. This will not materially impact on how the scheme operates in practice.

The regulations are also being amended to ensure that where a primary station is unable to provide temperature information or the Met Office is unable to produce a forecast at a primary station, there are adequate procedures for the necessary temperature information or forecast to be obtained from another weather station.

HMIC Report: Royal Navy Police

[HLWS149]

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

I wish to inform the House that the first report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Inspection of the Royal Navy Police (RNP) has been laid before the House today.

The Armed Forces Act 2011 places a duty on HMIC to inspect and report to the Ministry of Defence on the independence and effectiveness of investigations carried out by each Service police force, and this is HMIC's first statutory inspection report on the RNP.

I consider this report to be a positive endorsement of the RNP providing assurance from an independent civilian authority that the RNP is well led overall. Six recommendations have been made and one area for improvement has been identified. The Royal Navy accepts the report's findings and work is already under way to address the recommendations and the area for improvement.

Copies of the report will be available in the Journal Office and Printed Paper Office.

HS2: Phase 2a Consultation

[HLWS147]

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

HS2 will be the new backbone of our national rail network and help us build an economy that works for all. Good rail links bring our country closer together, making it easier for people to get on and driving economic growth. That is why the government is heavily investing in transport infrastructure, such as HS2, across the

country. HS2 presents huge opportunities for UK business, and has the potential to increase the amount of freight transported by rail meaning fewer lorries on the roads, cutting congestion and carbon. The sooner we build HS2, the sooner we will see these benefits.

The Government remains committed to completing the full Phase Two “Y” network from Birmingham to Manchester on the Western Leg, and to Leeds, via the East Midlands and Sheffield on the Eastern Leg. The decision to accelerate construction of part of the Phase Two route between the West Midlands and Crewe – known as Phase 2a – was taken in November 2015. This will mean that this section of the route becomes operational in 2027, so that some of the benefits of HS2 will be delivered six years earlier than originally planned.

Therefore, as part of our plans to prepare the HS2 Phase 2a (West Midlands to Crewe) hybrid Bill for introduction to Parliament next year, we have today launched the following consultations:

- The Working Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report;
- The Working Draft Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Report; and
- A Design Refinement consultation.

Alongside the launch of these consultations, we are also publishing the revised EIA and EqIA “Scope and Methodology Reports” (SMR), which set out how the assessments will be undertaken, and the associated consultation response analysis documents.

The launch of these consultations is an important step towards delivering Phase Two, and reinforces our commitment to continually trying to improve and refine the scheme. Importantly, we want to give those affected the opportunity to make their views known and provide further evidence to inform my final route decision.

Working draft Environmental Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment Reports

HS2 Ltd has developed working draft EIA and EqIA reports for the Phase 2a scheme, on which there will be an eight week consultation. This will enable interested parties to comment on the current proposed design of the scheme, current environmental baseline, likely impacts and effects (where identified) and proposed mitigation measures.

The responses to these consultations will be considered as the design and assessment are developed and will help in the development of the formal EIA and EqIA Reports. The formal EIA Report will set out the likely significant environment effects of the Phase 2a scheme, and will be deposited alongside the Phase 2a hybrid Bill so it can be taken into account by Parliament before it decides whether or not to grant the powers to build the railway. The formal EqIA Report will help us fulfil our Public Sector Equality Duty and is expected to be published when the hybrid Bill is deposited. Further information on these consultations can be found at www.gov.uk/hs2

Design Refinement Consultation

We are also consulting separately on a number of refinements to the route developed since November 2015. This consultation will last eight weeks, and enable me to take into account the views of those potentially affected before taking a decision on the refinements. Further information on this consultation can be found at www.gov.uk/hs2

Work on the design is continuing alongside these consultations which may lead to further changes being identified and decision taken. The full route will then be published when we deposit the hybrid Bill in 2017, at which point those affected will have an opportunity to comment on the formal EIA Report. People specially and directly affected by the scheme will also have the opportunity to petition Parliament as part of the hybrid Bill process.

HS2 Ltd has today written to people living near the proposed route changes to inform them of the consultation and invite them to attend consultation information events in their local areas.

HS2 is a once in a generation opportunity to transform Britain’s railways, and I look forward to our continuing engagement in order to make it a reality and ensure that we maximise every opportunity it has to offer.

Rail Freight

[HLWS146]

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

I am today publishing the Government’s new Rail Freight Strategy, which has been developed in collaboration with Network Rail, the rail freight industry and its customers.

Rail freight makes an important contribution to our economic and environmental well-being, with benefits estimated at around £1.6 billion to the national economy every year. It generates around £1 billion from improved productivity, while around £0.6 billion is the value of the reductions in road congestion, carbon emissions and air pollutants.

Rail freight currently carries one in four of the containers coming into our ports, and has the potential to carry an even higher proportion. Each freight train removes the equivalent of up to 76 lorry journeys from our roads. Transporting freight by rail reduces carbon emissions by around three quarters compared to road, and also provides significant benefits through reduced local air pollution, road damage, traffic noise and road traffic accidents.

Since rail privatisation in the 1990s, the rail freight industry’s market share of freight transport has risen from around 5% to around 12%. The industry has invested significantly on its own account, in rolling stock and terminals, in order to win new customers.

Government is also investing on a large scale in the rail network, including important enhancements worth nearly £240 million specifically identified by the rail freight industry as their priority.

This Rail Freight Strategy sets out our vision for how rail freight can continue to grow, and how the broader logistics sector and rail industry can collaborate and innovate to help relieve pressure on the road network. It looks at challenges facing the rail freight industry – the way in which network capacity is used, the potential for innovation, the skills challenge and public perceptions of rail freight – and identifies ways in which the Government and the industry can work together to address them.

A copy of the strategy has been placed in the library of both Houses and is also available on GOV.UK, together with two supporting technical reports.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Rail Freight Strategy [160913 - Rail freight strategy.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-09-13/HLWS146/>

Wales Bill: English Votes for English Laws

[HLWS148]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Wales (Alun Cairns) has today made the following written statement:

I am pleased to announce the publication of analysis of English Votes for English Laws in relation to Government amendments to the Wales Bill at Commons Report.

The English Votes for English Laws process applies to public bills in the House of Commons. To support the process, the Government has agreed that it will provide information to assist the Speaker in considering whether to certify that Bill or any of its provisions for the purposes of English Votes for English Laws.

The memorandum provides an assessment of tabled Government amendments to the Wales Bill at Commons Report, for the purposes of English Votes for English Laws. The Department's assessment is the amendments do not change the territorial application of the Bill.

The memorandum can be found on the Bill documents page of the Parliament website at: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/wales.html> and I have deposited a copy in the Libraries of the House.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 13 September 2016

Armed Forces: Compensation

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance the MoD will give to serving and ex-service personnel to sue Public Interest Lawyers and their individual partners for the stress caused by pursuing compensation claims. [HL1577]

Earl Howe: Although we are deeply concerned about the stress which can be caused to members of the Armed Forces by false allegations, we are not aware of any legal actions of the kind referred to. We welcome the decision of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal to call members of Public Interest Lawyers, which has now closed, to account for their conduct while pursuing allegations against members of the Armed Forces.

Children's Centres

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Nash on 1 August (HL1311), what progress has been made so far in relation to the consultation on the future of Sure Start; whether they intend to publish the result of that consultation; and if so, when. [HL1466]

Lord Nash: The Prime Minister has been clear that tackling poverty and disadvantage, and delivering real social reform, will be a priority for this Government. We will consider future policy on children's centres as part of this. We will provide further detail in due course and will make clear how stakeholders and members of the public can contribute.

Diabetes

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government why in some areas doctors will not prescribe the blood testing strips for use in devices intended to help control blood glucose levels. [HL1626]

Lord Prior of Brampton: There are no national restrictions on the prescribing of blood glucose testing strips to patients with diabetes. A variety of brands of blood glucose testing strips are listed in the Drug Tariff for general practitioners to prescribe for their patients as required. It is for local commissioners and clinicians to make decisions on how these strips should feature in the provision of diabetes services for their local populations.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government why it is not possible to get a device which keeps track of a

diabetic's blood glucose levels for up to eight hours, or continuously, on the NHS. [HL1627]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are primarily responsible for commissioning diabetes services to meet the requirements of their population. In doing so, CCGs need to ensure that the services they provide are fit for purpose, reflect the needs of the local population, are based on the available evidence, taking into account national guidelines. This should include consideration of access to continuous glucose monitoring for people with Type 1 diabetes who might benefit from it.

Frigates

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government which five Type 23 frigates will be replaced by the new light frigate, and what are the planned out-of-service dates for each. [HL1594]

Earl Howe: The General Purpose Frigate programme is at a very early stage and the timetable for its entry into service has yet to be determined.

On current planning assumptions the out of service dates for the Type 23 frigates are:

<i>Ship</i>	<i>Out of Service Date</i>
HMS Argyll	2023
HMS Lancaster	2024
HMS Iron Duke	2025
HMS Monmouth	2026
HMS Montrose	2027
HMS Westminster	2028
HMS Northumberland	2029
HMS Richmond	2030
HMS Somerset	2031
HMS Sutherland	2032
HMS Kent	2033
HMS Portland	2034
HMS St Albans	2035

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Asked by Baroness Quin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the future of the European Health Insurance Card in the light of the EU referendum result. [HL1560]

Lord Prior of Brampton: As the Prime Minister stated on 20 July 2016, as long as we are a member of the

European Union we will respect the rights and obligations of EU membership, therefore the current arrangements for European Health Insurance Cards remain in place. As we move to a new relationship with Europe, our guiding principle will be ensuring the best possible outcome for British people.

HMS Ocean

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the planned out-of-service date for HMS Ocean, and how her landing platform helicopter capabilities will be provided prior to the entry into service of HMS Prince of Wales. [HL1532]

Earl Howe: HMS OCEAN entered service in 1998 with an expected in service life of 20 years and she will decommission in 2018. The Strategic Defence Security Review 2015 made provision to augment the Queen Elizabeth Class carriers and maximise their ability to support amphibious operations. Prior to the carriers being brought into service, other Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships will provide support to amphibious operations.

Lyme Disease

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Prior of Brampton on 22 October 2015 (HL Deb, col GC37), what progress has been made in establishing across the country a network of NHS practitioners interested in Lyme disease. [HL1604]

Lord Prior of Brampton: We will be considering options for improving professional engagement on Lyme disease in light of the reviews on the diagnosis, treatment and transmission of Lyme disease, commissioned by the Department to inform future decision making. Public Health England continues to work with local authorities and primary care providers to raise awareness.

Middle East: Military Intervention

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been their total expenditure on military action in Syria and Iraq. [HL1516]

Earl Howe: From August 2014 to 31 March 2016, the net additional costs of counter-Daesh activity in Iraq and Syria were £265 million. These costs were met from a combination of the HM Treasury Special Reserve and the Deployed Military Activity Pool (DMAP). The £265 million is split into £45 million in financial year 2014-15, and £220 million in financial year 2015-16.

This activity was to support UK military activity to degrade and ultimately defeat Daesh. It has included

airstrikes in support of coalition ground operations and airborne intelligence gathering operations in Iraq and Syria, as well as helping to train the Iraqi Security Forces and moderate Syrian opposition.

Migrant Workers: Domestic Service

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon (HL783), whether they have now considered the judge's remarks made during *Taiwo v Olaigbe* and another [2016] UKSC 31; if so, what is their assessment of them; and if not, when they plan to do so. [HL1613]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has provided strong protections for overseas domestic workers, including giving them the right to change employers during the six-month period for which they are admitted. There are no current plans to amend the Modern Slavery Act, but we keep the measures in the Act under review.

Military Aircraft: Training

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fixed-wing jet trainees are projected to graduate from the Ascent Flight Training programme between 2016 and 2019; and when the programme is due to be fully up and running. [HL1529]

Earl Howe: It is anticipated that 118 fixed wing jet trainees will graduate from the Ascent Flight Training programme between 2016 and 2019. All elements of the recently contracted UK Military Flying Training System are due to be fully up and running by April 2019.

NHS: Research

Asked by Lord Sharkey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish the NHS England Research and Development plan for 2016-17; if so, when, and if not, why not. [HL1519]

Lord Prior of Brampton: A draft version of NHS England's Research and Development Plan for 2016/17 is currently out with stakeholders for information and comment. A copy of the final version will therefore be published on NHS England's website in due course once it has been agreed and approved.

Obesity: Children

Asked by Lord Pendra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their plan to reduce England's rate of childhood obesity, in what practical ways they intend to increase physical activity amongst children to reduce obesity. [HL1581]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government's *Childhood Obesity: A Plan for Action* published on 18 August 2016 sets out the actions we are taking to support children and young people to meet the United Kingdom Chief Medical Officer's daily recommended levels of at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity. A copy of the plan is attached. This includes doubling the Primary PE and Sport Premium from September 2017, a new interactive online tool to help schools identify gaps in existing provision and recommend ways of increasing opportunities for children to be active, and access to high quality sports and physical activity programmes for all primary schools in England. This year we are investing another £1 million in the Change4Life Sports Clubs programme which targets the less active children.

In addition, we will develop a new, voluntary healthy rating scheme available to all primary schools. It will recognise and encourage schools' contribution to preventing obesity by helping children to eat better and move more.

We will also be providing more guidance for schools about how they can work with the school nurses, health centres, healthy weight teams in local authorities and other resources, to help children develop a healthier lifestyle.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Childhood Obesity Plan 2016 [Childhood_obesity Plan 2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-05/HL1581>

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of their plan to reduce England's rate of childhood obesity, in the light of the absence of the regulation of advertising and price promotions in that plan. [HL1622]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The policies in the plan are informed by the latest research and evidence, including from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition report *Carbohydrates and Health*, Public Health England's evidence package *Sugar reduction: the evidence for action*, other government departments, debates in this House and various reports from key stakeholders including the Health Select Committee.

We are confident that the measures we have announced will make a real difference and estimate could reduce childhood obesity rates by about a fifth (330,000) over the next ten years. Though we are clear in our goals and firm in the action we will take, the launch of this plan represents the start of a conversation, rather than the final word.

A copy of *Carbohydrates and Health* and *Sugar reduction: the evidence for action* are attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Carbohydrates and Health [SACN Carbohydrates and Health.pdf]

PHE Sugar Reduction [PHE Sugar reduction The evidence for action.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-06/HL1622>

Prisoners: GCSE

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 8 July (HL849), what is the difference in the rate of GCSE attainment between prisons where education is provided by the Offender Learning and Skills Service and the Skills Funding Agency, and privately managed prisons responsible for providing education under their contract with the National Offender Management Service. [HL1440]

Lord Nash: The Department for Education does not publish a rate of attainment for prison education provided by the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS). The Ministry of Justice also does not collect this information for offenders in the privately managed prisons responsible for providing education under their contract with the National Offender Management Service.

The volume of offender achievements by level in 2014/15 for prison education provided by OLASS is shown in the table below.

Adult (18+) Offender Achievement by Level (2014/15)

Level	2014/15
Total Offender Students	84,900
Below Level 2 (excluding English and maths)	69,700
English and maths	21,100
Full Level 2	10,600
Full Level 3	-
Level 2	32,700
Level 3	200
Level 4+	-
No Level Assigned	300

1) Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.

2) Figures for English and maths (previously Skills for Life) include GCSEs, Functional Skills, Adult Basic Skills Certificates including ESOL Certificates, and Qualifications and Credit Framework Certificates and Awards in English and maths.

We are committed to improving the quality of education across the prison estate. The Government has accepted all the recommendations made by Dame Sally Coates in her recent independent review of prison education. The Department for Education and Ministry of

Justice will continue to work together to implement these recommendations.

Thyroid Cancer: Drugs

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 25 July (HL1340), what assessment they have made of the relative clinical benefits of the drug lenvatinib as opposed to sorafenib. [HL1562]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date the Department of Health referred lenvatinib to NICE for a full technology appraisal. [HL1563]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 25 July (HL1340), what date has been agreed by NICE for a full technology appraisal of lenvatinib. [HL1564]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect lenvatinib to be available on the NHS for patients with radioiodine refractory differentiated thyroid cancer. [HL1565]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Ministers asked the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to develop technology appraisal guidance on the use of lenvatinib for the treatment of thyroid cancer on 22 July 2016. NICE plans to develop guidance on lenvatinib and sorafenib through the same technology appraisal and currently expects to publish draft guidance in October 2017.

In the absence of NICE guidance, it is for commissioners to make funding decisions based on the available evidence and on the patient's individual clinical circumstances.

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they intend to put in place to ensure that patients with radioiodine refractory differentiated thyroid cancer can receive all effective clinical treatments currently available through EU authorisation. [HL1566]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Changes to the process for evaluating cancer drugs were introduced at the end of July 2016 as part of the new arrangements for the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF). Under the new arrangements, all new cancer drugs are expected to be referred to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for evaluation through its technology appraisal programme. In some cases, NICE will recommend that the cancer drug is funded through the CDF, which enables further evaluation of its place in therapy. Drugs that have a European Union (EU) or United Kingdom marketing authorisation for radioiodine refractory differentiated thyroid cancer will therefore be reviewed under this process and if found to be clinically and cost effective will become established treatment within the National Health Service.

The UK remains a member of the EU until Article 50 negotiations have concluded. EU law continues to apply and ongoing compliance with EU law is considered important in facilitating orderly transition, for negotiating purposes, and to offer certainty in the meantime. As long as the UK is subject to EU law, the present arrangements remain in place.

Warships: Repairs and Maintenance

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the refits of HMS Dauntless and HMS Lancaster will commence. [HL1593]

Earl Howe: On current plans, the refit for HMS LANCASTER will commence in mid 2017 and the refit for HMS DAUNTLESS is scheduled for the end of 2017.

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