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**Thursday
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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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<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

Thursday, 9 June 2016

Air Passenger Duty: Wales

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to devolve Airline Passenger Duty to the Welsh Assembly or Welsh Government. [HL306]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The government is considering the case and options for devolving APD to the Welsh Assembly, informed by a review of options to support English regional airports from the potential impacts of APD devolution. At Summer Budget 2015, the government published a discussion paper exploring three options and is carefully considering the responses. An announcement will be made in due course.

Antidumping Duties

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the case for removing the Lesser Duty Rule. [HL305]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government believes that effective trade defence measures should be proportionate, not protectionist, and strike a balance between removing the injury to producers caused by unfair trade, and avoiding imposing unnecessary costs on user industries, retailers, consumers and the rest of the economy.

The evidence we have shows that duties that have been imposed under the Lesser Duty Rule on imports of Chinese steel into the EU have been effective in delivering rapid, substantial and sustained reductions in imports. For example, imports of wire rod, organic coated steel and stainless steel flat products are down by more than 90%. We have said we would look at evidence that others might provide.

There are a number of examples where the Lesser Duty Rule has avoided unnecessary costs to the rest of the economy. In the case of solar panels for example, the removal of the Lesser Duty Rule could have cost the downstream UK solar sector around £500m in one year.

We support looking at the methodology under which injury is calculated. Where the European Commission has set duties that we believe to be too low to remove the injury caused to EU industry by unfair trade, we will push for them to be increased, as we have done in the reinforcing bar and cold rolled flat products cases.

Asylum: Iraq

Asked by **Baroness Berridge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees from Iraq have been (1) granted asylum under

the UN mandate or gateway scheme, and (2) granted asylum whilst resident in the UK. [HL256]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Home Office publishes figures on asylum and resettlement by nationality in the quarterly Immigration Statistics release.

The numbers of Iraqis resettled under the Mandate and Gateway schemes, from 2013 to 2015, are given in Table A. The numbers of grants of asylum or other forms of protection, at initial decision, to Iraqi nationals, from 2011 to 2015 are provided in Table B.

Table A: Iraqi refugees (and others) resettled, including dependants, 2013 to 2015

Year	Gateway Protection Programme	Mandate Scheme
2013	121	11
2014	107	6
2015	102	4

Source: table as_019_q, Immigration Statistics October to December 2015, Home Office

Table B: Grants of asylum or other forms of protection to Iraqi nationals, main applicants only, 2011 to 2015

Year	Total grants
2011	80
2012	54
2013	69
2014	116
2015	216

Table Notes:

Source: Table as_01_q, Immigration Statistics October to December 2015, Home Office

(1) Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

(2) Figures for 'Total grants' include: grants of asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave, grants under family and private life rules, Leave Outside the Rules and UASC leave

(3) 2015 data are provisional and subject to update.

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics, October to December 2015, is available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2015>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PQ HL256 - Table A [PQ HL256 - Table A.xlsx]

PQ HL256 - Table B [PQ HL256 - Table B.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-24/HL256>

Ballot Papers

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is permissible for the ballot papers sent to postal voters to be a different colour to the ballot papers issued in a corresponding polling station. [HL297]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Ballot papers for any given poll have a consistent appearance in order to reduce the risk of completed votes being identifiable as having been submitted by a particular voter or voters when they are verified and counted. That could happen if, for example, coloured ballot papers were used for postal voting (but not voting in person) and there was low use of them. Different coloured ballot papers are already used to help voters distinguish between different polls where polls are combined, and further use of different colours could lead to confusion.

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the efficacy of the present design of ballot papers for persons with difficulties of sight. [HL298]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The design of ballot papers used in elections and referendums in the UK was revised by the last Government to make them clearer and easier to understand for voters. The changes were subject to a programme of user-testing involving representative samples of the voting public. RNIB, who were consulted on the changes, considered that they did not raise significant issues for blind and partially sighted people

Returning Officers are required to display an enlarged version of the ballot paper in each polling station and provide upon request a large hand-held sample copy to assist visually impaired electors to vote. They must also ensure each polling station is equipped with a tactile voting device to assist blind / partially sighted electors. This device has raised numbers and numbers in Braille and fits over the ballot paper. When the Presiding Officer or a companion reads out the list of candidates or parties to the voter, it enables them to cast their vote independently and in secret.

Banks: Fraud

Asked by Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with UK banks about proposals to remove protection from customers whose accounts have been fraudulently accessed. [HL335]

Asked by Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with GCHQ about the security of customers of UK financial institutions. [HL336]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The government takes the resilience of the financial sector, and the protection of

bank customers, very seriously. Making sure that everyone has access to basic banking and financial services is at the heart of the government's long term economic plan. The government is working with the banking industry, the retail sector, and law enforcement agencies to put in place the right steps to tackle online fraud against the public.

As the Chancellor announced in November, the government is creating a new National Cyber Security Centre, which will open in October. Its recently launched prospectus outlines the Centre's proposed vision, goals and work. In February, the Home Secretary launched the Joint Fraud Taskforce, which aims to use the collective powers, systems and resources of banks, payment providers, police, wider law enforcement and regulators to tackle fraud, and raise awareness of the risk of fraud among consumers. Further details on both can be found on the GOV.UK website.

Belfast Agreement

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether parity of esteem as established in the Belfast Agreement 1998 applies to people who have previously lived in Northern Ireland as well as those who currently live in Northern Ireland. [HL382]

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the concept of parity of esteem as outlined in the Belfast Agreement 1998 applies to security service personnel who have a residence outside Northern Ireland but who have been resident in Northern Ireland for a period in the past. [HL384]

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are committed to the protection of people against any form of discrimination and the promotion of opportunity for all across the whole UK, and if so, what is the purpose of the concept of parity of esteem as outlined in the Belfast Agreement 1998 and whether this promotes more equality between people who live in Great Britain and people who live in Northern Ireland. [HL385]

Lord Dunlop: I refer the Noble Lord to the responses I gave to questions HL99-104 and HL129-131 on the 26 May.

These answers set out clearly and in detail this Government's position on the concept of parity of esteem and its application. I have nothing further to add to them.

Children in Care: Criminal Proceedings

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what comparative analysis they have conducted of the number of children in privately operated children's homes and those in

other homes who become entangled in the criminal justice system, and what action they are taking as a result. [HL209]

Lord Nash: As at 31 March 2015, there were 4,390 looked after children in privately operated children's home provision^[1] of which 60 were looked after under a youth justice legal status^[2]. A further 2,180 children were looked after in children's homes not run by private sector providers (e.g. local authority or voluntary sector provision) of which 20 were looked after under a youth justice legal status.

The Government has asked Sir Martin Narey to undertake an independent review of children's homes. As part of his review, Sir Martin will consider how to reduce any inappropriate criminalisation of children in children's homes.

[1] Includes children in secure, regulated and unregulated children's homes.

[2] Includes children remanded to local authority accommodation or to youth detention accommodation; children placed in local authority accommodation under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act; and those sentenced to a Youth Rehabilitation Order (Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, as amended by Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, with residence or intensive fostering requirement).

Combined Authorities

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the members of combined authorities are not all male. [HL310]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Membership of a combined authority is a matter for the democratically elected councils in the area, or the area's electorate in the case of a combined authority mayor.

Commonwealth: Travel Requirements

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken in connection with the reference in the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting communiqué to the proposal for a Commonwealth Advantage under which all member governments would consider further possible measures to enhance the scope for Commonwealth citizens to access each other's countries more easily and for longer than is currently possible. [HL317]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Home Office officials continue to contribute to a Working Group led by the Commonwealth Secretariat which is looking at the movement of Commonwealth citizens and how that can be improved, taking due regard to the requirement in the Communiqué that the actions should "not conflict with national legislation and international obligations".

Commonwealth Heads of Government have requested a progress report on these Working Group discussions at their next meeting.

Consumer Protection Measures in the Ticket Resale Market Review

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to respond to the Waterson Review on secondary ticketing published on 26 May, as required by section 94 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015, and whether that response will be within the two months expected for responses to reports by House of Lords committees. [HL447]

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to implement the findings of the Waterson Review on secondary ticketing published on 26 May as required by section 94 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015. [HL448]

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they will hold with the Competition and Markets Authority and the National Trading Standards Board in the light of the recommendations of the Waterson Review on secondary ticketing published on 26 May. [HL449]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government is considering Professor Waterson's Review and will publish its response in due course.

Criminal Cases Review Commission

Asked by Lord Falconer of Thoroton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Faulks on 5 May (HL7790), what assessment they have made of the cause of the rise in the number of applications to the Criminal Cases Review Commission from 2010 to 2015. [HL326]

Lord Faulks: The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) published annual reports from 2010 to 2015 setting out the reasons for applications to the CCRC. The CCRC casework is subject to fluctuations and the Government works closely with them to understand the reasons for these applications.

Criminal Proceedings: Children in Care

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to respond to the report from the Prison Reform Trust In care, out of trouble; and whether they will publish an assessment of the position of children in care within the criminal justice system. [HL302]

Lord Nash: As at 31 March 2015, five per cent of 10-17 year olds who had been in care for a year or more had

been convicted of an offence or were subject to a final warning or reprimand.^[1] Proven offending by young people, including looked after children has fallen significantly in recent years. Since the peak in youth offending in 2007, proven youth offending is down 79%; first-time entrants to the youth justice system are down 82%. Youth offending teams work with the police and other agencies to prevent looked after children from offending and coming in to contact with the youth justice system.

The Government has asked Sir Martin Narey to review residential care for looked after children and he will make recommendations on criminalisation. Charlie Taylor is leading a review of youth justice. We will respond to those reviews in due course.

I am grateful to the Prison Reform Trust for their contribution to this important debate. The Minister of State for Children and Families recently met with Lord Laming to discuss the contents of the Prison Reform Trust's report 'In care, out of trouble'.

[1] Department for Education Statistical First Release - 34/2015

Immigration Controls

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will distinguish in their statistics between persons seeking entry to the country refused admission to the UK who are free to travel to other jurisdictions and persons who are detained and prevented by UK authorities from leaving to other jurisdictions. [HL376]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government does not intend to make this distinction when publishing statistics.

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 12 May (HL8157) that "net migration remains too high and there is still more work to do", whether they will set out the details of the work to be done, and the date by which they expect it to have been completed; and when they now expect immigration to fall below 100,000 a year. [HL380]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government remains committed to bringing migration down to sustainable levels. We have cut abuse and raised standards in non-EU visa routes and we have recently announced a series of reforms to Tier 2 (the non-EU skilled worker route) which will be implemented from this Autumn. We have taken steps to tackle abuse of EU free movement rights.

The new Immigration Act 2016, which we began implementing last month, will tackle illegal working and make it harder than ever for illegal migrants to stay under the radar, putting an end to the permissive environment of

the past. Continuing this vital work will remain a priority over this Parliament.

North Korea: Forced Labour

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of claims that in 2015 North Korean labourers in Poland were employed to construct a ship that was later deployed on a British offshore wind farm. [HL356]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are aware of reports of North Koreans working in the construction industry in Poland, but do not hold information on specific ships built by North Korean labourers.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Poland to discuss the issue of North Korean forced labourers in that country and the latest findings on forced labour in the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on North Korea. [HL357]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Officials have discussed the UN Special Rapporteur's findings on North Korean overseas workers with Poland. The Government is clear that it is important that any country hosting North Korean workers, particularly the EU, respects their rights.

North Korea: Overseas Companies

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Treasury ascertains that the funds of UK companies that operate in North Korea do not contribute to that country's nuclear and ballistic missile programme or its human rights violations. [HL360]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) in HM Treasury is responsible for ensuring that financial sanctions, including those relating to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (North Korea), are properly understood, implemented and enforced in the United Kingdom.

OFSI is not an investigative or prosecutorial body but reviews suspected breaches of financial sanctions and then passes information to law enforcement bodies who would determine whether an investigation and or prosecution is appropriate.

Plants: Imports

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase awareness amongst travellers at all points of entry to the UK of the threat from imported plant diseases to trees in the UK. [HL369]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government is committed to doing all it can to prevent plant pests and diseases reaching our borders. We work collaboratively with the international community, industry, NGOs, landowners and the public to raise awareness and reduce the risks of pests and diseases entering the country.

Evidence suggests that campaigns to raise awareness amongst travellers should place emphasis on pre-border communications, consistent with action at the border to reinforce messages and make compliance easier and target specific risk groups.

At UK points of entry, Border Force display the rules on what travellers can bring in on leaflets, posters and plasma screens to make compliance and action at the border easier to enforce. Defra and Border Force are committed to work together and reduce illegal imports of biosecurity risk material by strengthening effectiveness and efficiency of import controls and targeting risk material at the border.

Defra will continue with social media-led public information campaigns over the summer months targeted at travellers to make them aware of the strict rules in place to protect Britain from pests and diseases that affect plants.

Policy

Asked by Earl Attlee

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many distinct issues have been stated by Ministers to be a "priority" in this Parliament. [HL368]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Single Departmental Plans set out the priorities to be delivered by each Government department under the Government's programme. These Plans can be found on gov.uk.

Prisoners

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether someone in prison is defined as residing at home or in prison. [HL383]

Lord Faulks: There is no express provision in either the Prison Act 1952 or the Prison Rules 1999 that states that a prisoner in England and Wales is treated as either 'residing' in the prison or at their home. The law recognises concepts such as 'ordinary residence' but the meaning of this term will depend upon the specific context in which the question arises.

Sixth Form Education

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities provide (1) free transport, and (2) subsidised transport, for students in years 12 and 13. [HL339]

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools are known to subsidise travel for students in year 12 and 13 out of their own budgets. [HL340]

Lord Nash: The statutory responsibility for post 16 transport rests with local authorities who are required to publish a transport policy statement setting out the arrangements they make to support young people to travel to further education and training.

These arrangements do not have to include free or subsidised transport, but local authorities are expected to make reasonable decisions based on local needs, circumstances and resources. Discounts or concessions are also available from local transport companies and schools, colleges or other providers.

Local authorities are encouraged to develop a collaborative approach when developing their statements to provide a full picture of the transport and support available. But it is for local organisations to decide whether to provide support and what level of discounts and concessions to give. The department does not collect specific information on which local authorities, transport companies, or education and training providers give free or subsidised transport for students in years 12 and 13.

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is also available to help young people with the costs associated with attending education or training, and transport is the biggest single area of expenditure for which this fund is used. Schools and colleges are responsible for deciding how to distribute their bursary allocations to students, and for establishing what criteria to use.

Social Services: Birmingham

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Birmingham City Council has corporately decided to place their children's social care services into an arms-length trust; when this decision was made; whether all such services will become the responsibility of the trust; and what papers relating to any such decision are in the public domain. [HL350]

Lord Nash: On 24 May 2016 Birmingham City Council announced its intention to create a trust to deliver its children's social care functions. No decisions have yet been taken on the form or scope of any future delivery model, including the services it may be responsible for, and so no papers are currently publically available. Formal decisions will need to be taken in due course by the Cabinet of Birmingham City Council and the Secretary of State for Education.

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government what Ofsted inspections of Birmingham City Council's children's social care services have been made since April 2014; whether Ofsted have indicated since then any major concerns about those services; and what information is

available to the Department for Education Ministers to suggest that the City Council is not adhering to the three-year improvement plan approved by the City Council and the Department's previous Commissioner in April 2015. [HL353]

Lord Nash: The most recent Ofsted inspection of Birmingham City Council's children's services took place in March 2014. This inspection found services to be inadequate. Since then, Birmingham City Council has made some progress against its improvement plan, which ends in 2017. However, the current Commissioner for children's services in Birmingham, Andrew Christie, and the council itself recognise that much more needs to be done. The Council is coming to the end of its current improvement plan and is exploring models for further improvement in future.

Social Services: Children

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance has been issued by the Department for Education to local authorities about the transfer of children's social care services to an arms-length trust; and what role the Department and its Ministers play in advising or approving local authority decisions to make such transfers, including provision of financial support. [HL351]

Lord Nash: The Department for Education has not issued guidance to local authorities about the transfer of children's social care services to a trust. The Prime Minister announced in December 2015 that, where Ofsted find persistent or systematic failure in a council's children's social care services, we will appoint a commissioner to review, within three months, whether services should be removed from council control. There is now a presumption that services will be placed outside of the Council's control in these cases, unless the Commissioner identifies good reasons not to do so.

Decisions to transfer local authority children's social care services to other organisations are subject to ministerial approval only where a local authority is in intervention following an inadequate Ofsted judgement. Other high-performing local authorities are also considering innovative delivery models, such as trusts, for their services. Financial support may be provided on a case-by-case basis.

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government what changes to local authority accountability for children's social care services take place if these services are transferred to the management of an arms-length trust. [HL352]

Lord Nash: Statutory responsibility for children's social care services remains with the local authority, but its functions are delegated to and carried out by the trust on the authority's behalf. The accountabilities are set out

in a service delivery contract between the authority and the trust.

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities have had their children's services transferred into arms-length trusts; whether these transfers cover all such services; what Ofsted reports are available on such transferred services; and what changes in performance these reports show. [HL354]

Lord Nash: Doncaster Children's Services Trust took over responsibility for delivering all children's social care functions, apart from services for disabled children and universal early help services, on behalf of the council under Direction from the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in September 2014. Ofsted inspected children's services in Doncaster in September 2015. The judgement was inadequate overall. However, the inspection found improvement since the previous inspection in 2012, when all sub-judgements were inadequate. In 2015, all sub-judgements were requires improvement, save for children in need of help and protection, which was inadequate; and adoption performance, which was good.

Slough Children's Services Trust took over responsibility for the provision of children's early help and social care functions along with specific special educational needs services on behalf of the council under direction from the Secretary of State for Education in September 2015. Ofsted inspected children's social care services in Slough in November 2015, less than 8 weeks after the Trust went live. The judgement was 'inadequate' overall. Despite the short amount of time that the trust had been in operation at the time of the inspection, Ofsted commented positively on the impact of the Trust leadership. Their report described how the pace of improvement accelerated since it was established. Encouragingly the inspectors reported that there were clear signs that the Trust understands what needs to change and there is evidence that it can deliver the required improvements.

Achieving for Children is a social enterprise company that delivers all education support and children's services, as well as integrated health services for children with disabilities, on behalf of Kingston Upon Thames and Richmond Upon Thames councils. Prior to the creation of this voluntary trust in April 2014, safeguarding and looked after children services in Kingston were judged to be inadequate in May 2012, and child protection services were judged to be inadequate in June 2013. Children's services in Kingston were judged to be good when they were inspected again in May 2015. Children's services in Richmond were last inspected in March 2012 when they were rated good.

Social Services: Doncaster

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government when children's social care services in Doncaster were transferred to a trust; what were the costs, including legal fees, of making the transfer; how long the transfer took to implement once the decision in principle was made; what Ofsted inspections have taken place in Doncaster since the trust's establishment; and what was the Ofsted rating of the services in any such reports. [HL355]

Lord Nash: Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council was issued with a Statutory Direction in August 2013, which required the Council to cooperate in setting up a Trust. The Trust became operational on 30 September 2014. The Department for Education met the costs of setting up the trust, which came to £2.9 million.

Ofsted inspected children's services in Doncaster in September 2015. The judgement was inadequate overall. However, the inspection found improvement since the previous inspection in 2012, when all sub-judgements were inadequate. In 2015 all sub-judgements were requires improvement, save for children in need of help and protection, which was inadequate; and adoption performance, which was good.

State Retirement Pensions: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by Baroness Hooper

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision they make for uprating the UK state pension for UK citizens living in British Overseas Territories. [HL418]

Baroness Altmann: The Government has a clear position, which has remained the same for around 70 years and we have no plans to change this policy: UK State Pensions are payable worldwide and uprated abroad where we have a legal requirement to do so for example in the European Economic Area or countries where we have a reciprocal agreement that allows for uprating. Annual increases are paid to UK state pension recipients and in Bermuda and in Gibraltar.

Teachers: Pay

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Nash on 9 May (HL7985), in

the light of their policy of not cutting the education budget of individual schools, what extra funding they are providing to schools to support the increase in the on-costs on teachers' salaries in the last three years. [HL338]

Lord Nash: At the Spending Review we announced we would protect the core schools budget in real terms during this Parliament. Schools are expected to manage within their individual budgets, including taking account of national insurance and pension contributions. From 2017 we have committed to introduce a national funding formula so that we can allocate funding more fairly, based on schools' individual needs and the characteristics of their pupils. That will mean schools are better placed to manage cost pressures and to make informed decisions about their spending over a longer term.

Voluntary Work

Asked by Baroness Royall of Blaisdon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had regarding the creation of a legal status for those participating in full-time, long-term volunteering programmes, such as those run by City Year UK, vInspired and Volunteering Matters, under the proposed National Citizen Service Bill. [HL346]

Asked by Baroness Royall of Blaisdon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessments they have made of the value of creating a legal status for those participating in full-time, long-term volunteering programmes, such as those run by City Year UK, vInspired and Volunteering Matters, under the proposed National Citizen Service Bill. [HL347]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The National Citizen Service Bill will place the NCS programme on permanent statutory footing. It is estimated that NCS participants have dedicated over 8 million hours of volunteering to their local communities to date. Other opportunities for young people to participate in social action, such as those run by City Year UK, vInspired and Volunteering Matters, have contributed to the success of NCS and made sure that young people have opportunities to develop new skills that extend and transform their life chances. The government is committed to increasing volunteering and social action, and to providing support for different opportunities and programmes that encourage volunteering.

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