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**Friday
3 February 2017**

**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
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Whip
Lord Bates	Minister of State, Department for International Development
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, Wales Office
Lord Bridges of Headley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union
Baroness Buscombe	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Dunlop	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Whip
Lord Henley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
Baroness Mobarik	Whip
Lord Nash	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
Lord O'Shaughnessy	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
Lord Price	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
Lord Prior of Brampton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Baroness Shields	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sport
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Whip
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Lord Young of Cookham	Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Friday, 3 February 2017

ECOFIN

[HLWS460]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: My right honourable friend The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Philip Hammond) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) was held in Brussels on 27 January 2017. EU Finance Ministers discussed the following items:

Early morning session

Ministers were briefed on the outcomes of the 26 January meeting of the Eurogroup and the European Commission presented an update on the current economic situation.

VAT: Reverse Charge Mechanism

The Commission gave a presentation on the proposal for a Temporary Derogation to apply a generalised Reverse Charge Mechanism, which was followed by an exchange of views.

Current financial service legislative proposals

The Council Presidency provided an update on current legislative proposals in the field of financial services.

Presentation of the Presidency Work Programme

The Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union presented its priorities for ECOFIN over the next six months.

European Semester 2017

Ministers adopted Council Conclusions on the Annual Growth Survey (AGS), Alert Mechanism Report (AMR) and approved the Council Recommendations on the economic policy of the euro area.

Basel Committee's post-crisis banking reform agenda

The Commission gave Ministers an update on the progress made on the finalisation of the post-crisis reforms since the Basel meeting in November 2016, followed by an exchange of views between Ministers.

High Level Group on Own Resources

Mario Monti, Chair of the High Level Group on Own Resources, presented the Group's final report, which was followed by an exchange of views between Ministers.

EIB Economic Resilience Initiative

Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank, outlined the state of play of the Economic Resilience Initiative and provided preliminary evidence of its initial implementation and the ongoing fundraising process for the grant component of the initiative

Environment Council

[HLWS458]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities (Thérèse Coffey MP) has today made the following statement:

I attended the EU Environment Council in Brussels on 19 December along with my Hon Friend the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry (Nick Hurd MP).

I wish to update the House on the matters discussed.

EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) - Progress Report.

The Council undertook a full roundtable debate on the EU Emissions Trading System, on the basis of the Presidency's Progress Report. Ministers set out respective policy positions, and called for agreement at the next Environment Council in February. The Presidency regretted that they had not been able to achieve a General Approach, but felt that progress had been made on a range of technical issues. They identified the main issues to be resolved as rules for supporting sectors at risk of 'carbon leakage' (where production relocates outside of the EU as a result of carbon costs); tackling the oversupply of emission allowances to provide a more meaningful carbon price signal; and management of the Funds which support decarbonisation of the EU's industrial and energy sectors. The Commission drew attention to the recent ENVI Committee vote in the European Parliament, setting out that this showed compromise was possible on ETS, and called on the Council to match the European Parliament's timetable in order to allow trilogues to start in March. They highlighted the importance of reaching agreement on the EU ETS Directive in order to demonstrate progress in implementing the Paris Agreement and in providing business and investor certainty.

The UK thanked the outgoing Presidency for their hard work and called on the Council to maintain ambition and pace under the Maltese Presidency, with a view to finding consensus. The UK's main priorities were addressing the surplus of allowances and strengthening the carbon price signal via an amendment to the Market Stability Reserve; targeting carbon leakage protection to those genuinely at risk; ensuring that the Modernisation Fund was based on clear, collaborative governance; avoiding the infringement of Member States' fiscal sovereignty through provisions to allow Member States to provide compensation for the indirect costs of EU ETS; and alleviating as much administrative burden as possible without undermining environmental integrity.

AOB – Effort Share Regulation and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation.

The Presidency gave an update on the state of play of these live legislative negotiations following publication of the Commission proposals in July 2016.

AOB – Communication on Clean Energy for All Europeans.

The Commission outlined the objectives and content of its recently published 'Clean Energy Package' and Communication on Clean Energy for All Europeans.

AOB – Report on recent international meetings: UNFCCC Marrakesh, 7-18 Nov (COP22).

The Presidency outlined the progress made at UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakesh in November. The Commission underscored its commitment to making progress on the 2030 climate and energy framework.

The protection of human health and the environment through sound management of chemicals- Council Conclusions.

The Presidency underlined the importance of the Council adopting conclusions given the ongoing work in this area including at international level. All who spoke endorsed the conclusions but stressed points of importance, including the ongoing Regulatory Fitness Check (REFIT) of REACH, the commitments made under the 7th Environmental Action Plan, the links to the Circular Economy Package, the need to address Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) and more consumer information.

The UK stressed the need to ensure chemical policy continued to be based on a better regulation and a risk based approach.

On this basis the Presidency concluded the conclusions were adopted as drafted.

AOB - REFIT Fitness Check of Habitats and Birds Directives.

The Commission informed delegations of its findings, presented in the recent staff working document on the Nature Directives, which noted that the directives were fit for purpose. The Commission noted that the EU should focus on smarter implementation. The UK welcomed the conclusions of the Commission's Fitness Check (to improve implementation of the Directives and not to re-open them) and called for more effective implementation together with the sharing of experiences on how to do this between Member States. Many other Member States made similar points and asked the Commission to actively focus on better tools and resources in order to achieve better implementation.

AOB - Outcome of International Meetings: Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), 66th Meeting of International Whaling Commission and COP9 UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

The Presidency and the Commission informed Council on the outcomes of these recent international meetings.

AOB – State of play of the Waste Package.

The Council took note of information from the Presidency and the progress it had made on negotiations of the waste package. The Commission agreed there was good progress and expressed hope a deal could be reached with the European Parliament during the Maltese Presidency. On the substance, the Commission supported a common methodology for calculating recycling targets, separate collection, the use of economic instruments and

ambitious recycling targets. Other Member States intervened on topics of interest, including conflicting views on the levels of targets and reuse within the package, the phase-out of landfill and the proposed calculation methodology.

The UK welcomed the progress made under the Slovak Presidency and emphasised the need to agree definitions and calculation methodology before setting targets. The UK also called for greater flexibility in the application of provisions on the circular economy and, while being supportive of the principle of reuse, highlighted the bureaucratic hurdles its inclusion in reporting could entail.

AOB - Maltese Incoming Work Programme.

The Presidency gave a short summary of its achievements over the last six months. Malta, as incoming Presidency, then explained its priorities, including a desire to build on the Marrakech COP22, advance both ETS and non-ETS negotiations and continue work to amend the Waste Directives. Priorities also included a focus on marine issues, including a development of a plastic strategy in the context of the Circular Economy, work on the Nature Directives, amending the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROHS) Directive and preparations for Conferences of the Parties on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

Further Environment AOBs.

Council took note of an AOB from Austrian, French, Finnish and German delegations, supported by Czech Republic and Italy, which encouraged Member States participation in next year's European Sustainable Development Week. Council also took note of an AOB from Hungary on the Outcome of the Budapest Water Summit and an AOB Information from the Commission on the Communication on next steps for a sustainable European future. Poland presented an AOB on odour nuisance. The Czech Republic presented its AOB on the REFIT evaluation of the EU Ecolabel.

On 23 June, the EU referendum took place and the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period the Government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation. The outcome of these negotiations will determine what arrangements apply in relation to EU legislation in future once the UK has left the EU.

Ministerial Correction

[HLWS461]

Baroness Goldie: Two factual errors have been identified in a statement I made on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office during a Question for Short Debate on the Burmese Rohingya on 12 January.

At Column 2119 of Volume 777 of the *Official Report* I said:

‘Organisations working on the ground estimate that more than 27,000 refugees have fled to Bangladesh since October.’

However at the time of the debate a more up-to-date figure had recently been released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, suggesting that up to 65,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh since October 2016.

In addition, at Column 2120, I stated: ‘I reassure noble Lords that the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my noble Friend, Baroness Anelay of St Johns, visited Burma in November and raised our concerns directly with the Minister of Defence and the military-appointed Minister of Home Affairs.’

In fact during her visit to Burma, Baroness Anelay met the Ministers of Defence, Social Welfare, Religious and Cultural Affairs, and the Deputy Foreign Minister, though not the Minister of Home Affairs.

NATO-led Kosovo Force

[HLWS459]

Earl Howe: My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces (Mr Mike Penning) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

A new order has been made under section 56(1B) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable Reservists to be called

into permanent service in support of the United Kingdom’s contribution to the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR).

The Communiqué issued at the Warsaw summit in July 2016 makes it clear that the future operational posture, capability and disposition of KFOR will be conditions based and not calendar driven. Stability and Security in Kosovo helps to enhance the security of the United Kingdom. Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities are important contributors to KFOR’s situation awareness and its ability to engage with local and international institutions, and of Commander KFOR’s ability to assess future posture. The UK has agreed to generate Human Terrain Reconnaissance forces to enhance the situational awareness of Commander KFOR to execute his mandate in Kosovo. This capability will operate in parallel with and within the ISR Battalion Headquarters to provide command and control for UK forces.

Some of the specialist skills needed to meet this requirement are held within the Army Reserve. UK forces will deploy for a period of twelve months, consisting of two rotations of six months each. It is planned for the first unit to deploy in late March 2017. The number of reservists anticipated to deploy as specialists or in support of regular units is estimated at up to 22 per deployment.

The order took effect from the beginning of 23 January 2017 and shall cease to have effect at the end of 22 January 2018.

Written Answers

Friday, 3 February 2017

Air Pollution: EU Law

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why, in implementing Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, the geographical area for which an air pollution alert of a nitrogen dioxide exceedance is called is defined by size of area in km² rather than by population impacted; and when that definition was last reviewed at ministerial level. [HL4854]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe stipulates that for the purposes of information and alert thresholds nitrogen dioxide is to be measured over three consecutive hours at locations representative of air quality over at least 100 km² or an entire zone or agglomeration, whichever is smaller. This is transposed in England in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010.

The European Commission conducted a review of the Directive in 2013. The review did not result in any change to the alert thresholds.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the length of time it would take to deploy Joint Force 2025 following authorisation of the Prime Minister, in the light of the maximum 66,000 personnel which may be deployed, as set out in Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015: Defence Key Facts. [HL4955]

Earl Howe: Joint Force 2025 will be composed of a full spectrum of capabilities, and be able to conduct a wide range of operations, up to major combat operations. At the most demanding end of the scale we will be able to deploy a potent expeditionary force of around 50,000. Deployment times would depend on the scale, expected duration and location of the commitment.

Army

Asked by **Lord Touhig**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their consultation on changes to the definition of trained strength for the army, why this change has been proposed. [HL4957]

Earl Howe: I refer the noble Lord to the Written Ministerial Statement made by the Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon) on 30 June 2016 (HLWS50).

The public consultation sought views on the inclusion of the revised Army Trained Strength figures within the Monthly Service Personnel Statistics publication. No external responses were received. The change was implemented from 1 October 2016.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Strategic Defence and Security Review [Hansard Extract 30 June 2016 HLWS50.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-24/HL4957>

Arts: Exports

Asked by **Lord Blencathra**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have published statistics on creative industries exports for Europe and not the EU specifically, and whether they will make a change to their collection and publication methods before the next statistics are published. [HL4790]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: DCMS have published the attached DCMS Sector Economic Estimates report which contains the relevant information on Table 4.2 - "Exports of services by continent", and Table 4.3 - "Creative Industries export of services to the EU".

We intend to continue to publish this breakdown in future releases of this publication.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

DCMS Sector Economic Estimates Tables
[DCMS_Sectors_Economic_Estimates_2016.xlsx]

DCMS Sector Economic Estimates report
[DCMS_Sectors_Economic_Estimates_-_August_2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-19/HL4790>

Asylum: Russia

Asked by **Baroness Barker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many LGBT asylum seekers from Russia have been held in UK detention centres in the last three years. [HL5107]

Asked by **Baroness Barker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average length of detention of LGBT people seeking asylum from Russia in each of the last three years. [HL5108]

Asked by **Baroness Barker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many LGBT people seeking asylum from Russia have been refused leave to remain in the UK. [HL5109]

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

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

Burma: Human Rights

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with members of (1) the EU, or (2) the Human Rights Council, regarding including the establishment of a UN Commission of Inquiry into the situation in Rakhine State, Burma, in the next Human Rights Council Resolution on Burma. [HL4857]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: A UN Commission of Inquiry can be authorised by the Security Council, the Human Rights Council or the UN Secretary General personally. Of the first two, we assess it is unlikely there would be sufficient international support for such a commission on the situation in Rakhine at this time. There are a number of countries that routinely oppose such commissions as a matter of principle, and have done so in the past. Nor do we assess there would be support for this among our likeminded partners, including the EU.

However, we continue to discuss human rights issues in Burma with our EU partners, both locally, in Rangoon and through the UK's Representation to the European Union in Brussels.

We support the Rakhine Advisory Commission led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, which does have the support of Burma's democratically elected government and the international community. The Commission's interim recommendations are expected in the spring and its final recommendations in the summer.

Burma: Rohingya

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the official visit of the Foreign Secretary to Burma, what representations they have made to the government of Burma to ensure humanitarian aid, the provision of political and civil rights and effective security for Rohingya people. [HL4855]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: During his visit to Burma on 20 January, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), raised the issue of the Rohingya in person with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as well as with the Minister for Home Affairs and the National Security

Adviser. In these representations, the Foreign Secretary stressed the need for a restrained security response to the situation in Rakhine, full humanitarian access, and the need to end discrimination against the Rohingya people.

Defence: Expenditure

Asked by Lord Jopling

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the most recent figures for the percentage of gross domestic product spent on defence for each NATO member state; and where figures are available, what those percentages are expected to be in two years' time. [HL5029]

Earl Howe: The most recent figures for the percentage of gross domestic product spent on defence for each NATO member state were published in July 2016 and can be found in table 3 of the attached.

http://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2016_07/20160704_160704-pr2016-116.pdf

Under this Government there are no published figures available for future NATO defence spending, however the UK is committed to meet our NATO pledge to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence every year of this decade in accordance with the NATO guidelines.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Defence Expenditures of NATO Countries (2009-16)
[20160704_160704-pr2016-116.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-26/HL5029>

Food: Labelling

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to consult on the abolition of, or fundamental change to, best before dates after the UK leaves the EU. [HL4850]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: We wish to improve consumers' understanding of the difference between 'Best Before' and 'Use By' dates as this issue has been identified as a potential source of food waste. The Government's adviser on food waste, WRAP, has done a lot of work on this issue and improvements have resulted from that work. Consumers need to have the information to help them make the right decisions about the food they buy therefore we have no plans to abolish or make fundamental changes to durability indications.

General Practitioners: Opening Hours

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Shaughnessy on 23 January (HL4387), what plans they have to collect basic information about the opening hours of general practices. [HL4841]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: General practitioner (GP) surgeries self-declare their opening hours to NHS England on an annual basis, this covers reception and phone line opening and closing times.

A new data collection on extended access to general practice was launched during October 2016, in response to the government's mandate to NHS England, which sets out: "to ensure everyone has easier and more convenient access to GP services, including appointments at evenings and weekends". The collection has been set up to monitor the availability of pre-bookable appointments in general practice at evenings and weekends. The first collection took place during October 2016 and was published in December 2016. Collections will continue bi-annually until March 2021. The first report, *General Practice Extended Access: October 2016*, is attached. It should be noted that these are experimental statistics.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

General Practice Extended Access: October 2016 [GP-Extended-access-commentary-2016-12-01.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-23/HL4841>

Gibraltar: Brexit

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of leaving the EU on the economy of Gibraltar. [HL4877]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional security arrangements they are planning in Gibraltar following the UK's exit from the EU. [HL4878]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK Government will continue to take whatever action is necessary to safeguard Gibraltar, its people, and its economy. We are committed to making a success of our exit from the EU.

Hospital Beds

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to provide for a power to charge hospital patients who have overstayed in hospital and refused to leave even after doctors have certified that they are well enough to leave. [HL4932]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department is not currently planning to provide for a power in this area.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

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

Israel concerning reports of a raid on Kafer Qadoun village. [HL4863]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, but we regularly discuss with the Israeli Government the need for proportionality in use of force and for proper accountability.

Israeli Settlements: Crimes of Violence

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning reports of violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. [HL4919]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have repeatedly raised with the Israeli authorities our concerns about incidents of settler violence and intimidation, and have stressed the importance of bringing the extremist settlers responsible to justice and of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

Korea National Insurance Corporation

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Korea National Insurance Corporation (KNIC) operates any branches in the UK; whether any KNIC staff are present in the UK; whether they have taken steps to sanction KNIC; and if so, what steps. [HL4923]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Korean National Insurance Corporation was designated by the European Union in July 2015. The UK has fully complied with all provisions of the sanctions regime.

Kosovo: EU Aid

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government in what way the UK has contributed to EU projects in Kosovo in the last three years, and what funds are already committed over the next two years. [HL4974]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government has provided support for the provision of secondees to the EU Rule of Law Mission and to the EU Special Representative in Kosovo. A total of £1.1 million is committed over the next two years. In addition, as part of the UK's annual contribution to the EU budget, the UK has contributed towards EU programmes in Kosovo under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II). IPA funding for 2014-20 is €126.2 million for Rule of Law assistance, and €110.4 million for Democracy and Governance (including public reform) assistance.

Kosovo: Overseas Aid

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance the UK has given to Kosovo in the last three years to uphold the rule of law, policing and public administration, and through which channels. [HL4973]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: In the last three years, the Government has provided approximately £5.6 million assistance to Kosovo through the cross-Whitehall Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, the former Conflict Prevention Pool and the Drugs and Crime Fund programmes.

Mental Health Services: Armed Forces

Asked by Lord Touhig

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to guarantee that NHS mental health services are meeting the needs of veterans and Armed Forces families. [HL4885]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: In 2016, NHS England completed an audit of the current veterans' mental health services that were put in place following the Fighting Fit report by Dr Andrew Murrison MP. This included an extensive consultation exercise which sought the views and experiences of veterans, family members, service charities and commissioners and explored the reasons why some had not engaged or received support and treatment.

The findings of the audit have fed into the veterans' mental health service procurement NHS England are currently undertaking. From April 2017, these services will offer evidence-based and consistent support across England that best meets the needs of veterans', family members and serving personnel leaving the forces.

Members of the armed forces community are also able to make full use of the range of mental health services that NHS England offer, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies, and will benefit from the commitments made in the Mental Health Five Year Forward View.

Services in the rest of the United Kingdom are a matter for the devolved administrations.

North Korea: Diplomatic Service

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what activities have been undertaken by the British Ambassador and the UK Defence Attaché to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since September 2016. [HL4926]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Since September 2016, the British Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has undertaken a range of diplomatic activity in support of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) objectives in North Korea.

This includes regular meetings with DPRK officials, international non-governmental organisations and diplomats from embassies based in Pyongyang. The Defence Attaché has not had any interaction with the DPRK during this period.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the British Embassy in Pyongyang will consider operating social media accounts to increase transparency and public awareness of its daily operations. [HL4927]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The British Embassy in Pyongyang does not currently plan to operate a social media account.

Pakistan: Cruise Missiles

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan following the recent announcement by Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations that Pakistan has successfully tested a Babur 3 submarine-launched cruise missile. [HL4893]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK believes in the importance of stability being maintained in South Asia, and continues to urge all parties in the region to refrain from action that could jeopardise this. We have not raised the recent reports of a missile test launch directly with Pakistan, but we have discussed a range of non-proliferation issues with Pakistan in the past and will continue to do so.

Primates: Conservation

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to increase global public awareness of the extinction crisis facing primates, as set out the global study *Impending Extinction Crisis of the World's Primates: Why Primates Matter* published in *Science Advances* on 18 January. [HL4894]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The UK is a member of the Great Apes Survival Partnership, a United Nations conservation programme which aims to bring worldwide attention to the crisis facing great apes.

The Flagship Species Fund, a joint initiative between Defra and Fauna and Flora International, supported a project in 2014 to 2015 to promote awareness by local communities in Cameroon of the need to conserve the cross-river gorilla.

The global study "Impending Extinction Crisis of the World's Primates: Why Primates Matter" identifies habitat loss as one of the main threats facing primates. The UK is committed to tackling deforestation and promoting the sustainable management of the world's forests for the protection of biodiversity, and to support

our climate and international development aims. Defra has implemented EU Regulations designed to tackle the trade in illegal timber and prevent illegal logging as well as invested £170m of the International Climate Fund in forestry projects around the world.

Defra's Darwin Initiative is a UK Government grant scheme which helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally-based projects worldwide. Over the last 25 years, the Darwin Initiative has supported biodiversity projects in developing countries which have benefitted primates either directly focussing on specific species or indirectly through tackling habitat loss. These include a current project in Uganda looking at how gorilla-based tourism generates increased benefits for poor people living around Bwindi Forest, improving local support for the park and for conservation of gorillas. Another project worked with local communities in Madagascar to reduce hunting of lemurs.

Defra has also funded Darwin projects on sustainable forest management, to improve the natural habitat for many primates, including a current project in the Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru showing how rainforest regeneration can deliver high priority biodiversity conservation as well as enhanced livelihoods for local communities.

The primate study also identified the illegal trade of primates as one of the drivers to their extinction. The UK remains committed to playing a leading role in tackling illegal wildlife trade (IWT) and working with our international partners to bring about its end. In the run-up to the Hanoi IWT conference in November 2016, the UK Government ran an online campaign to raise awareness of the threat of IWT, highlighting the damage it does globally, that it is moving many species towards extinction, and alerting the public to the fact that it is a crime. At the conference, the Government announced an additional £13 million to new measures tackling IWT around the world, doubling its investment.

Sickle Cell Diseases

Asked by Lord Kinnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government why adult sufferers from sickle cell anaemia who could benefit from stem cell treatment are not able to receive such treatment under the NHS when child sufferers can; and whether they are considering changing this policy. [HL4945]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: Decisions related to the provision of stem cell transplantation are an operational matter for NHS England. Stem cell transplants for sickle cell disease in adults are not routinely commissioned by NHS England. Whilst stem cell transplants can be effective for some carefully selected patients, stem cell transplantation can also lead to a number of complications, some of which can be severe and life threatening.

NHS England commissioning policy for stem cell transplants is kept under review in the light of the latest clinical evidence. The National Institute for Health Research is currently inviting research proposals for a multicentre randomised control trial to address the clinical and cost effectiveness of stem cell transplantation in adults with severe sickle cell disease. Evidence from this trial will inform NHS England commissioning policy related to stem cell transplants in adults with sickle cell disease.

Social Services: Fees and Charges

Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered introducing specific savings incentives to help people prepare for social care costs in later life; if so, why they have not been introduced; and if not, why not. [HL4835]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government recognises that there needs to be reform in the medium and long term to reduce variation and ensure high quality care across the whole country. It is interested in considering the full range of options to do this, including savings incentives as a possible longer-term solution.

Syria: Cultural Heritage

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the state of ancient sites in Palmyra, following recent reports of further destruction by IS militants; and when they last raised the protection of Palmyra's antiquities at the UN. [HL4890]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Following reports of the destruction of more relics, the UK remains concerned about the continued demolition of Syria's cultural heritage. The UN Security Council was briefed on the situation in Palmyra and released a statement condemning the destruction on 20 January 2017.

Terrorism

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to harmonise military and other efforts with the USA to achieve the President's aim to "unite the civilized world against radical Islamic terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the earth". [HL4848]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May)'s visit to the United States of America (26-27 January) was an opportunity to discuss a range of shared priorities and challenges, including the fight against Daesh. We will continue to work closely with the USA as part of the Global Coalition against Daesh, where the UK plays a leading role through airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, training

the Iraqi Security Forces, cutting off Daesh's finances and countering their poisonous narrative.

We have an extremely strong defence relationship with the US and look forward to continuing to work together to ensure our security and prosperity.

Terrorism: Detainees

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people suspected of committing offences relating to terrorism have been held in pre-charge detention and subsequently convicted of the offence for which they were initially detained. [HL5053]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes figures on the number of people arrested under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, by the period of detention and subsequent outcome (e.g. charge, release). This data can be found in table A.01 and A.02 of the Home Office Quarterly Statistics Bulletin on the operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation. The most recent bulletin, published on 15 December 2016, covers the period to the end of September 2016: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-terrorism-arrests

The document is also attached to the response.

The Home Office does not, however, hold this information for other terrorism-related arrests, made under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (Port and Border Controls). Nor does the Home Office hold information on individuals detained under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, for offences that are known to be terrorism-related.

In none of the cases does the Home Office hold information on whether those arrested were subsequently convicted for the same offence that they were initially arrested for.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Terror Statistics [Copy of terrorism-arrest-statistics.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-27/HL5053>

Trastuzumab Emtansine

Asked by Baroness Crawley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will intervene and ask the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to work with the pharmaceutical company, Roche, to reassess its provisional decision not to recommend the advanced breast cancer drug Kadcyla for routine use on the NHS. [HL4969]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is the independent body that provides guidance on the prevention and

treatment of ill health and the promotion of good health and social care. NICE operates with great transparency and makes exhaustive efforts to involve stakeholders, including manufacturers, in its appraisal work.

NICE is currently appraising trastuzumab emtansine (Kadcyla) for the treatment of HER2-positive unresectable locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer after treatment with trastuzumab and a taxane. NICE's final guidance to the National Health Service on whether the drug should continue to be routinely available on the NHS is expected in March 2017.

It would not be appropriate for Ministers or officials to intervene in this independent process.

Asked by Baroness Crawley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of the petition by Breast Cancer Now calling for the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to reverse its decision not to recommend the advanced breast cancer drug Kadcyla for routine use on the NHS, and what is their response. [HL4970]

Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department is aware of Breast Cancer Now's petition.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising trastuzumab emtansine (Kadcyla) for the treatment of HER2-positive unresectable locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer after treatment with trastuzumab and a taxane. NICE's final guidance to the National Health Service on whether the drug should continue to be routinely available on the NHS is expected in March 2017.

It would not be appropriate for Ministers or officials to intervene in this independent process.

Veterans

Asked by Lord Touhig

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date the new veterans gateway will become operational. [HL4958]

Earl Howe: The Veterans' Gateway is a £2 million programme run through a consortium of Combat Stress, PoppyScotland, SSAFA and Connect Assist, led by The Royal British Legion, to set up a one-stop service to better support the UK's Armed Forces Veterans community. The new service will provide a simple single point of contact through a 24/7 phone number with a professional voice at the end of the line, SMS access, a dedicated website and a mobile enabled web app to make it easier for former Service personnel to access support on a range of issues including housing, employability and health issues. Veterans in Northern Ireland, like other UK Veterans, will also be able to access the Veterans Gateway. Subject to successful trials, the Veterans' Gateway will launch in May 2017 through an event to be held on the same day in each of the home nations.

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