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Notes:

Questions marked thus **[R]** indicate that a relevant interest has been declared.

Questions with identification numbers of **900000 or greater** indicate that the question was originally tabled as an oral question and has since been unstarred.

ANSWERS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

■ Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Reorganisation

Paul Blomfield:

[[39631](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, with reference to the Written Statement of 26 May 2016, HCWS30, what proportion of the 1,500 roles will have ministerial exposure following the centralisation of policy functions in London.

Joseph Johnson:

[Holding answer 13 June 2016]:

Co-locating policy teams with the Department's Ministers and close to Parliament will provide opportunities for all staff to have more ministerial exposure, which helps improve understanding of government priorities.

The Department does not expect a set number of roles to be consistently exposed to Ministers whilst others are not. This will be dynamic as resource demands shift over time and will depend on policy priorities.

■ Higher Education: Standards

Peter Kyle:

[[39919](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether a provider would need to achieve an Excellent rating in (a) one, (b) two or (c) three of the Teaching Quality, Learning Environment and Student Outcomes and Learning Gain categories in order to achieve an overall Excellent rating under the Teaching Excellence framework.

Joseph Johnson:

[Holding answer 13 June 2016]:

A provider's performance in the three areas of Teaching Quality, Learning Environment, and Student Outcomes and Learning Gain will not be subject to individual ratings.

Assessors will make a holistic assessment, considering all three areas, in order to award a single TEF rating for the provider.

■ Institute for Apprenticeships

Rob Marris:

[[39895](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what representation there will be on the board of the Institute for Apprenticeships from (a) business, (b) charities and (c) trades unions.

Nick Boles:

[Holding answer 13 June 2016]: The Chair and Board members will be appointed in accordance with the public appointments process. It is expected that the members of the Institute's board will be comprised primarily of persons with a background as employers and business leaders. This is to ensure that employers continue to drive apprenticeship quality. Applications to join the Institute's board are also open to representatives of other organisations, including the trade unions.

■ Student Loans Company

Paul Blomfield:

[\[38551\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what additional resources have been or will be made available to the Student Loans Company to enable that Company to administer amendments to the fees and student support system in England covering the (a) replacement of maintenance grants by maintenance loans, (b) introduction of the postgraduate loan scheme, (c) extension of maintenance loans to part-time students, (d) extension of advanced learner loans to those aged 19 years and above and (e) Teaching Excellence Framework.

Joseph Johnson:

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) fully funds the cost to the Student Loans Company (SLC) of administering Higher and Further Education student finance policy in England. Funding is allocated on a demand-led basis whereby BIS requests services, SLC estimates the cost of delivery and then BIS pays the costs in full.

As set out in SLC's public Annual Performance and Resource Agreement (APRA) for financial year 2015-16, BIS made approximately £8.8m available to SLC to meet the costs of implementing all new policies related to student support for Higher and Further Education in England, including (but not exclusively) the implementation of policies a, b and d above. The amount of funding to be made available to SLC for the financial year 2016-17, including for delivery of policies a-e above, will be confirmed in this year's APRA and published on SLC's website shortly.

Paul Blomfield:

[\[38555\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what estimate the Student Loans Company has provided to his Department of the costs of the preparation, introduction and administration of the amendments to the fees and student support system in England arising from the (a) replacement of maintenance grants by maintenance loans, (b) introduction of the postgraduate loan scheme, (c) extension of maintenance loans to part-time students, (d) extension of advanced learner loans to those aged 19 years and above and (e) Teaching Excellence Framework.

Joseph Johnson:

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) fully funds the cost to the Student Loans Company (SLC) of implementing Higher and Further Education student finance policy in England. Funding is allocated on a demand-led basis whereby BIS requests services, SLC estimates the cost of delivery and then BIS pays the costs in full.

As set out in the SLC's public Annual Performance and Resource Agreement (APRA) for financial year 2015-16, BIS made approximately £8.8m available to SLC to meet the estimated costs of implementing all new policies related to student support for Higher and Further Education in England, including (but not exclusively) the implementation of policies a, b and d above.

Overall implementation costs for individual policies are usually spread over a number of financial years reflecting the different stages of the implementation process. The amount of funding to be made available to SLC for financial year 2016-17, including for delivery of policies a-e above, will be confirmed in this year's APRA and published on SLC's website shortly.

CABINET OFFICE

■ Anti-corruption Ministerial Group

Jonathan Ashworth: [\[40311\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, on what date the Inter-Ministerial Group on Corruption last met.

Matthew Hancock:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 June 2016 to UIN: 38864.

■ Anti-corruption Summit

Bill Esterson: [\[905422\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment he has made of the potential effectiveness of the agreements reached at the Anti-Corruption Summit in May 2016 in tackling corruption.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 15 June 2016]: This Government the UK has taken a global lead on tackling the scourge of corruption. Each delegation signed up to the commitments set out in the communiqué. In addition, 42 countries and 8 international organisations issued statements setting out further measures they will take.

■ Civil Servants: Training

Louise Haigh: [\[40168\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 8 June 2016 to Question 39272, what proportion of the cohort of Civil Service Fast Streamers who joined in April 2013 have already undertaken a regional placement.

Matthew Hancock:

The 2013 cohort for the Fast Stream joined over the course of 6 months between May and October with a final single joiner in December. At April 2016 there were 185 fast streamers on the first cohort of the Corporate Fast Stream Programme, 120 (65% of total) have completed a posting outside of London to date. The Corporate Fast Stream

programme lasts 4 years so full data for this cohort will not be available until the end of 2017 when all participants have completed the programme.

The Fast Stream aspiration is to have 100% of corporately managed Fast Streamers experience at least one posting outside of London during the 4 year scheme.

■ **Commission on Freedom of Information: Costs**

Tom Watson: [\[39672\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Answer of 9 March 2016 to Question 29669, what progress he has made on establishing the cost to the public purse of the Independent Commission on Freedom of Information.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 13 June 2016]: The total expenditure of the Commission on Freedom of Information was £155,744.

■ **Corruption**

Jonathan Ashworth: [\[40310\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, where the planned International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre will be based.

Matthew Hancock:

The proposal is for the Centre to be located in a major international financial centre such as London.

■ **Government Departments: Assets**

Mr Nicholas Brown: [\[40238\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what revenue the Government has received from the sale of government-owned assets in the Newcastle upon Tyne local authority area between 2010 and 2016.

Matthew Hancock:

Since 2010, the Government has generated £1.8 billion in capital receipts and vacated over 2,000 individual properties. This includes over £600,000 raised from the sale of Government owned property in Newcastle upon Tyne between 2010 and 2016. Disposals of surplus property is improving Government's estate management and releasing surplus land and property in a way that delivers value for the taxpayer, boosts growth and creates new homes.

Mr Nicholas Brown: [\[40239\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what plans the Government has to sell government-owned assets in the Newcastle upon Tyne local authority area.

Matthew Hancock:

The Government is undertaking a programme to dispose of surplus Government owned land and property to improve the efficiency of the Government estate, deliver value for

the taxpayer and support economic growth, in particular housing. The Government is committed to disposing of at least £5 billion of public sector land and property between 2015 and 2020 and freeing-up surplus Government owned land with capacity for at least 160,000 homes. This will involve selling surplus land and property across the country. In the Newcastle upon Tyne area for example, in the coming year, the Northumbria Probation Service Office at 6 Lansdown Terrace will be marketed for sale, and Network Rail are planning to release a former freight site at Heaton Down Yard for development. All Departments are working to accelerate the release of their surplus property and get it to market, so that it can deliver local benefits and value.

■ Voluntary Work: Young People

Huw Merriman:

[\[905420\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment he has made of the effect of the National Citizen Service on life chances.

Mr Rob Wilson:

[Holding answer 15 June 2016]: NCS is open to all young people and can significantly improve life chances. 7 in 10 participants felt more confident about getting a job in the future after NCS. Young people eligible for free school meals participate in high numbers and demonstrate stronger positive impacts in building resilience. The NCS Bill will make NCS a permanent feature of British life for young people from every background.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Local Growth Deals: Tees Valley

Tom Blenkinsop:

[\[40129\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will provide additional resources to the Tees Valley Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership to assist them in the key role envisioned for them in the independent report, Tees Valley: opportunity unlimited, published on 7 June 2016.

James Wharton:

[Holding answer 14 June 2016]: Officials in the Cities and Local Growth Unit will continue to work with the Tees Valley to implement their current devolution deal – including additional resources of £15 million per year, and over £100 million in already agreed growth deals. Tees Valley Combined Authority is already putting in place plans for implementing Lord Heseltine's report. Government is committed to work coherently with local leaders to support the economic growth opportunities that have been identified.

■ Planning Permission

Craig Whittaker: [\[40381\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of local authorities in processing and deciding planning applications within recommended timescales.

Brandon Lewis:

Between January and March 2016, local planning authorities decided 82 per cent of major applications on time; the highest figure on record.

DEFENCE

■ Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Kirsten Oswald: [\[39913\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what progress has been made in the provision of helicopter evacuation capability for members of the armed forces injured in combat zones since 2004.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Developed during Operation HERRICK, the Medical Emergency Response Team concept comprises a suitably-sized aircraft, a specialist trauma medical team and equipment to provide a level of care close to that in a hospital-based resuscitation room, in the event of an evacuation from the battlefield. This immediate care was a vital contribution to saving lives during that campaign.

■ Nuclear Disarmament

Paul Flynn: [\[39994\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what methods are used to immobilise fissile material removed from dismantled nuclear warheads withdrawn from operational service; what that cost is of that immobilisation programme; and where that process is carried out.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) stores and re-uses fissile material removed from dismantled nuclear warheads which have been withdrawn from operational service as part of routine stockpile management. This material is not immobilised.

■ Nuclear Weapons

Paul Flynn: [\[39995\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when his Department established the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE); who has been appointed as Senior Responsible Owner for that programme; who the key stakeholders for that programme are; how many scientists from the US national nuclear weapons laboratories are seconded to work on that programme; how many AWE scientists have visited the US national nuclear weapons laboratories as part of that programme; what

that projected full cost of that programme is; how many scientists are working on that programme; how much has been spent on that programme to date; and what estimate he has made of the cost of that programme to completion.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme (NWCSP) commenced following an announcement on 19 July 2005 (Official report col 59WS). The current Senior Responsible Owner is Dr Paul Hollinshead. The key stakeholders in the NWCSP are the Ministry of Defence and the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE). Since 1 April 2008, financial planning for AWE has made no distinction between management and operation costs and those associated with the NWCSP. Expenditure at AWE since 2005 is as follows:

	£ MILLION AT OUTTURN PRICES
2005-06	493
2006-07	687
2007-08	894
2008-09	800
2009-10	870
2010-11	944
2011-12	941
2012-13	861
2013-14	961
2014-15	998

Spending plans beyond this Parliament will be set as part of the Government's spending review process.

The NWCSP draws on the skills of all 5,000 AWE employees. No scientists from the US national nuclear weapons laboratories are seconded to the programme, but a US engineer and serviceman are seconded. The information on how many AWE scientists have visited the US national nuclear weapons laboratories as part of the programme is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

■ Syria: Military Intervention

Toby Perkins: [\[40110\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent report he has received on seizing Saudi weapons from Syrian rebel forces.

Michael Fallon:

None.

■ Trident Missiles

Steven Paterson: [\[40193\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the budget is of the Mk4A upgrade programme.

Steven Paterson: [\[40194\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the goal is of the Mk4A upgrade programme.

Steven Paterson: [\[40195\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether the Mk4A upgrade is expected to increase the yield of the warhead.

Steven Paterson: [\[40196\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when work on the Mk4A upgrade programme began.

Steven Paterson: [\[40197\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when the Mk4A upgrade is planned to come into service.

Steven Paterson: [\[40198\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what forecast he has made of by how long the Mk4A upgrade programme will extend the operational life of the current warhead.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The UK currently fields the Trident Mk4 warhead as part of the Trident Strategic Weapons System. In order to ensure continuity of the Mk4-based capability, the Mk4A Arming, Fuzing and Firing system is a non-nuclear component being introduced into the UK Trident warhead to replace a similar component. The Mk4A programme will not increase the destructive power of the warhead.

Approval to procure the new Arming, Firing and Fuzing mechanisms, to manage obsolescence in Mk4 and to adopt a Mk4A component was given in January 2006. I am withholding further details of the date of the Mk4A component's entry into service, the cost of the Mk4A programme and the extension in operational life expected for the purposes of safeguarding national security.

■ Unmanned Air Vehicles

Kirsten Oswald: [\[39911\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department has considered purchasing the AeroVironment Blackwing miniature tube-launched drone.

Kirsten Oswald: [\[39912\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department has met representatives of AeroVironment to discuss the Blackwing miniature tube-launched drone.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Representatives of the Department meet AeroVironment representatives on a regular basis to discuss current and potential future capabilities, and the Department is aware of the capabilities of the Blackwing Reconnaissance System. However, the Department has no capability requirement to procure an underwater launched Unmanned Aerial System at this stage, and, as such, there have not been any formal discussions with AeroVironment on a possible procurement of Blackwing.

EDUCATION

■ Academies

Stephen Timms: [\[40257\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department takes to vet directors of multi-academy trusts; and if she will make a statement.

Edward Timpson:

[Holding answer 15 June 2016]: Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) are responsible for appointing trustees with the right skills to deliver their functions effectively. Our model articles require MATs to ensure that both trustees and those serving on any local governing bodies at individual academies within the MAT have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. MATs' Articles of Association also set out the circumstances by which someone is disqualified from being a trustee, including conviction of a criminal offence or bankruptcy. A trustee can be removed by the board under the Companies Act 2006.

Regional Schools Commissioners check that the trustees of a MAT have the necessary skills and expertise before the funding agreement of an academy or free school joining the MAT is signed. We may also conduct checks to make an assessment of a MAT trustee's suitability, where deemed necessary. The Secretary of State can bar a person from taking part in the management of a MAT under the Education Act 2008.

■ **Academies: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

Mr Nicholas Brown: [\[40237\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effect of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement on (a) academy chains and (b) the ability of US or European companies to establish academy chains in the UK.

Edward Timpson:

The Government remains committed to academies and providing the best quality education for all children and young people. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) will not change this. The Government of the day will always set the rules governing how the education system is run.

We have protected public services, including education, in all of our trade agreements and will continue to do so in the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This is non-negotiable.

■ **Pupils: Autism**

Jess Phillips: [\[40221\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 8 June 2016 to Question 38739, whether her Department has made an estimate of the number of children who were receiving School Action or School Action Plus who subsequently would not be expected to meet the criteria for an Education, Health and Care plan.

Edward Timpson:

Where a pupil is identified as having Special Educational Needs (SEN), schools should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This system of 'SEN Support' has replaced the School Action and School Action Plus categories. We expect schools to make robust judgements about who should receive SEN Support; and that these judgements should be informed by an understanding of good practice.

Different arrangements apply where a child has more complex SEN. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, the legal test of when a child requires an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan remains the same as that for a statement of SEN under the Education Act 1996. The EHC assessment and planning process allows for closer inter-agency working and greater involvement for the child and their family. This helps the local authority to identify and put in place the most effective provision for the child.

■ Schools: Defibrillators

Edward Argar: [\[39991\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government is taking to increase the proportion of schools with access to a defibrillator.

Edward Argar: [\[39992\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of schools in England have access to a defibrillator; and if she will make an assessment of how that proportion compares to the equivalent proportions in each other constituent part of the UK.

Edward Timpson:

The Department for Education is encouraging schools to purchase automated external defibrillators (AEDs) as part of their first aid equipment. To help them do this, on 26 November 2014 we announced new arrangements to allow schools to purchase AEDs at a competitive price. This is the result of a unique agreement between the Department for Education and the Department of Health in which devices are bought in bulk and the savings of around 50% are passed on to schools.

Since the launch of this policy, 1389 defibrillators have been provided to schools across the following regions:

England – 1326

Wales – 62

Scotland – 0

Northern Ireland – 1

These figures include 654 defibrillators purchased by schools since my answer to parliamentary question [13301](#) in October 2015. Taking into account all of the devices sold to schools through these arrangements, the estimated accumulative saving for schools is approximately £470,000.

Schools do not have to purchase a defibrillator through the government scheme, and the Department does not collect information on how many schools have access to a defibrillator.

To help schools in considering whether to purchase a defibrillator, the Department has published advice on installing and maintaining AEDs on school premises. This has been developed drawing on the expertise of NHS ambulance services and voluntary and community sector organisations.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**■ Carbon Emissions**

Paul Blomfield: [\[39977\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, if she will publish a plan setting out how all government departments plan to contribute to reducing the UK's carbon emissions.

Andrea Leadsom:

In preparation for our new emissions reduction plan we are working with colleagues across government to identify action that will cut emissions cost effectively. Our new plan will set out our proposals for meeting our carbon budgets and decarbonising through the 2020s. It will be published in due course.

■ Carbon Sequestration: Tees Valley

Tom Blenkinsop: [\[40079\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what steps her Department has taken to support the Teesside Carbon Capture Storage Collective since the announcement of the reduction in government funds in that sector.

Andrea Leadsom:

[Holding answer 13 June 2016]: The Department of Energy and Climate Change continues to work closely with Teesside, including through providing funding to the Collective for further work on how Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), carbon usage, hydrogen production and other technologies could reduce carbon emissions from industrial processes.

This support follows £1m previously awarded to Teesside as part of the 2013 Tees Valley City Deal, to undertake engineering and commercial studies into the scope for industrial CCS for the Tees Valley industrial cluster, and the October 2015 Tees Valley Devolution Deal, which committed DECC to work with Tees Valley to explore how it can continue to develop its industrial CCS proposals.

Lord Heseltine's recent report "Tees Valley: Opportunity Unlimited" welcomed the support that the Government is continuing to provide on industrial CCS in the Tees Valley area.

■ Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Clive Lewis: [\[40228\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what the date and title is of all reports that have been provided by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary into the Civil Nuclear Constabulary in each of the last five years; and if she will place those reports in the Library.

Andrea Leadsom:

The periodic Inspection (14-15) of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is, unlike other HMIC reviews of police forces, not published for reasons of national security i.e. the protection of nuclear sites and material. It is a private report for my rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State and we do not disclose it due to the sensitive details it contains about policing of sites.

■ Climate Change: EU Action**Barry Gardiner:**[\[40432\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, pursuant to the Answer of 7 June 2016 to Question 38382, whether the European Commission's proposal of 10 June 2016 on ratification of the Paris Agreement has changed the Government's timeline for UK ratification of that agreement.

Amber Rudd:

The UK is committed to ratifying the Paris Agreement together with the EU and Member States as soon as possible. The Commission's proposal for a Council Decision on the EU's ratification of the Paris Agreement is therefore a positive step forward.

■ Greenhouse Gas Emissions**Clive Lewis:**[\[40033\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what assessment she has made of potential steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with domestic hot water production.

Andrea Leadsom:

[Holding answer 13 June 2016]: The Climate Change Act commits the UK to reduce emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. The Government recognises that carbon savings associated with domestic hot water have an important role to play in meeting this target. That is why the Government confirmed its continuing commitment to support the transition to low-carbon heating in the UK, when it announced its intention for spending on the Renewable Heat Incentive schemes to rise from £430 million in 2015/16 to £1.15 billion in 2020/21. The Renewable Heat Incentive supports the transition from conventional forms of space and water heating to renewable sources as a way of delivering emission reductions.

One of the best ways to cut emissions and bills is to help consumers identify where they are wasting energy. That is why we have mandated the rollout of smart meters to every household in Britain by the end of 2020 and why we are also looking at the performance of boilers and conventional heating systems.

■ **Housing: Energy**

Clive Lewis: [40032]

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what estimate she has made of the total (a) energy consumption and (b) amount of greenhouse gas emitted by domestic properties for heating water in the latest period for which figures are available.

Andrea Leadsom:

[Holding answer 13 June 2016]: In 2013, an estimated 89TWh of energy was used for heating water in UK domestic properties [1] and was responsible 18 MtCO₂e of greenhouse gas emissions.

[1] *Energy consumption from Energy Consumption in the UK table 3.05. Emissions calculation based on emissions factors consistent with the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory.*

■ **Mining: Pensions**

Jonathan Edwards: [40047]

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, with reference to the Answer of 8 March 2007 to Question 125573 and paragraph 1.21 of the National Audit Office's report, HC360, 1995-96, what the reasons are for the difference in the figures given in those documents for the Government's guarantee of the Mineworker's Pension Scheme.

Andrea Leadsom:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Easington on 8 June 2016 to Question 38958:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-03/38958/>.

■ **Nuclear Fuels: China**

Dr Paul Monaghan: [39623]

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what plans the Government has to move the design and manufacture of specialised steel casks used to store nuclear fuels during transport to China.

Andrea Leadsom:

The Government has no plans to move to China the design and manufacture of specialised steel casks used in the transport of nuclear fuels in relation to the sites for which it is responsible.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**■ Squirrels: Conservation****Toby Perkins:**[\[40113\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assurances she has received from Natural England that the system of wildlife licences provides adequate protection for red squirrel species.

Rory Stewart:

The red squirrel is one of the UK's most threatened native mammals, predominantly due to the threat posed by non-native grey squirrels, which out-compete red squirrels and spread the squirrel pox virus which is deadly to reds.

It is a priority for Natural England to prevent the release of any such non-native species that might have a negative impact on our native fauna and flora.

Natural England's policy, therefore, is to not issue licences to release grey squirrels in counties or areas where red squirrels are, or may be, still present. Outside of those areas, licences are currently only issued for the re-release (within 1km of their point of capture) of rehabilitated animals that were originally taken from the wild for tending or treatment, or for immediate release of individuals at the same location from physical entrapment.

A list of species of Union concern, identified under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation 1143/2014, will be coming into force later this year and will impose restrictions on the keeping, breeding, sale, transporting and release of 37 listed plants and animals, including the grey squirrel. Once this happens there may be a need to consider changes to the way Natural England licenses the keeping and release of these species. As a consequence Natural England is limiting grey squirrel licences to one year only.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE**■ Armed Conflict: Casualties****Cat Smith:**[\[40001\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what role the Government is playing in UN discussions on improving mechanisms for casualty recording.

James Duddridge:

The UK welcomes efforts to improve the UN's recording of casualties as a means of ensuring UN decision making is better informed and civilians are better protected in conflict. We will continue to support the UN Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and all other relevant parts of the UN system as they take this work forward. We are a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a strong supporter of the Human Rights Up Front Initiative.

■ China: Prisoners

Steve McCabe: [\[39875\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2016 to Question 29803, what representations his Department made to the government of China at the annual UK-China Human Rights Dialogue held in April on accusations of the harvesting of organs in that country.

Mr Hugo Swire:

The UK-China Human Rights Dialogue is an important forum for us to raise the full range of our human rights concerns, including organ harvesting, with the Chinese authorities. We were not able to hold the Dialogue in April as initially scheduled, but we aim to hold it soon. In the meantime, we continue to discuss human rights issues with the Chinese, most recently when the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), met the President of the Chinese Supreme People's Court, Zhou Qiang, on 9 June.

■ Israel: Palestinians

Bob Blackman: [\[40140\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to the Answers of 27 April 2016 to Questions 34797 and 34798, what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK's role in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations of UK funding being used by UN-funded non-governmental organisations to commemorate Palestinian terrorists.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We have made no such assessment.

■ Libya: Human Trafficking

Tom Brake: [\[40090\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what progress he has made on negotiations with the Libyan government on plans to tackle human trafficking and smuggling.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK, working with our international partners, is committed to working in partnership with the new Libyan government to take concrete action to tackle illegal migration through Libya. The Prime Minister has been clear on the need to do more to break the business model of the people smugglers. At the G7 Summit in Japan on 27 May, he announced that the UK will work to agree a plan to boost the capability of the Libyan coastguard to help stem the flow of illegal migration across the Mediterranean into Europe. Prime Minister Serraj wrote to EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Federica Mogherini, on 21 May requesting cooperation with the EU on the training of the Libyan coastguard. Once a detailed plan has been agreed with the Libyan authorities, the UK will send a training team to assist in its implementation, and as soon as the relevant permissions and UN Security Council Resolution are in place, we will

deploy a naval vessel to the South Central Mediterranean to combat arms trafficking in the region. Together these developments will help secure the coast of Libya, limit Daesh terrorists' freedom of movement and help tackle the migrant crisis.

■ Philippines: Hostage Taking

Jim Shannon:

[39891]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Canadian counterpart on steps to secure the release of foreign hostages held by Muslim extremists in the Philippines.

Mr Hugo Swire:

We maintain a close dialogue with our international partners on terrorism and kidnapping, both on a bilateral basis and through international fora. G7 leaders have recently reaffirmed their commitment not to pay ransoms to terrorists, to protect the lives of our nationals, including by reducing terrorist groups access to funding. We do not comment on individual cases.

■ Saudi Arabia: Capital Punishment

Margaret Ferrier:

[40433]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister for Europe of 8 June 2016, Official Report, column 136WH, when his Department last made representations to Saudi Arabia to encourage abolition of the death penalty in that country; and at what level those representations were made.

Margaret Ferrier:

[40437]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister for Europe of 8 June 2016, Official Report, column 136WH, when his Department last made representations to Saudi Arabia expressing concern about the extent of the application of the death penalty in that country.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The British Government opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and in every country. We regularly raise human rights issues, including in relation to the death penalty with the Saudi Arabian authorities. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) visited Saudi Arabia on 29 May as part of a regional tour of Gulf Cooperation Council countries and raised our human rights concerns, including the death penalty.

Margaret Ferrier:

[40441]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister for Europe of 8 June 2016, Official Report, column 136WH, whether his Department has made representations to Saudi Arabia requesting that the death sentences issued to Ali Mohammed al-Nimr, Abdullah al-Zaher and Dawood al-Marhoon be commuted.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The British Government opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and in every country. We remain concerned about the cases of Ali al-Nimr, Abdullah al-Zaher and Dawood al-Marhoon. I can assure you that we continue to raise their cases with the Saudi authorities at every opportunity, most recently during the Foreign Secretary's visit on 29 May. Our expectation remains that they will not be executed.

■ Saudi Arabia: Cluster Munitions

Margaret Ferrier: [\[40456\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister for Europe on 8 June 2016, Official Report, column 137WH, what representations the UK has made to Saudi Arabia to accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions; and on what dates those representations were made.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

In line with our obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, we regularly encourage Saudi Arabia, as a non-party to the Convention, to accede to it. The most recent engagement was between British and Saudi Arabian officials on 7 June.

■ UN Secretariat: Public Appointments

Mr Jeffrey M. Donaldson: [\[39873\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has received representations to support the candidacy of Argentine Foreign Minister Susana Malcorra for the position of UN Secretary General; what assessment he has made of the potential effect on UK sovereignty over the Falkland Islands of such an appointment; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Hugo Swire:

I have received notice that Argentina's Foreign Minister, Susana Malcorra, is bidding for the role of UN Secretary-General. We want a strong Secretary-General, one with integrity, a proven track record, first class communication skills, suitable and relevant experience and unimpeachable character. They should be committed to transparency and accountability, have strong leadership skills, a bold vision for an activist UN at the heart of the rules-based system, and be committed to cost-effective management and reform. It is imperative that any Secretary-General serves the whole membership. We judge all candidates on their merits. The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falklands and surrounding maritime areas, nor about the Falkland Islanders' right to decide their own future.

■ Yemen: Land Mines

Margaret Ferrier: [\[40435\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister for Europe of 8 June 2016, Official Report, column 137WH,

when the cross-departmental programme expenditure funding to support Yemen's national de-mining institution will be released.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK has thus far released £671,592 of funding from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund to UNDP, who manage the project rebuilding the capacity of Yemen's national demining institution (YEMAC) and supporting mapping and clearance operations. This project, to which the UK will contribute a total of £1.05m, will reduce the physical and social-economic impact of mines and explosive remnants of war on people and communities. This is part of the UK's wider efforts to help address Yemen's urgent humanitarian needs and contribute to effective stabilisation - giving the nascent peace process a better chance of success.

HEALTH

■ Blood: Contamination

Steve McCabe:

[\[39880\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the Answer of 3 May 2016 to Question 35936, on blood: contamination, when he plans to publish a formal response to the public consultation.

Jane Ellison:

The consultation on the infected blood payment scheme closed on 15 April 2016. Officials are currently analysing the replies and a formal response will be published as soon as possible.

■ Cervical Cancer: Screening

Sir David Amess:

[\[40222\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to improve uptake of cervical screening among all age groups.

Sir David Amess:

[\[40223\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to support Cervical Screening Awareness Week.

Sir David Amess:

[\[40224\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether he has made an assessment of how the uptake rate for cervical screening in England compares to that in the rest of Europe.

Jane Ellison:

NHS England closely monitors the coverage rates for cervical screening in all age groups. NHS England is committed to improving coverage and reducing variation between all age groups.

Local NHS England commissioners analyse coverage rates within their area and work with general practices to improve coverage by sharing best practice. In addition a

primary care cancer screening best practice guide has been developed jointly with the transforming cancer services team, clinical commissioning groups and local authority public health representatives. NHS England is working in partnership with Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support on the ACE (Accelerate, Coordinate, Evaluate) Programme aiming to generate knowledge about effective approaches to achieve earlier diagnosis. A number of ACE test sites are evaluating approaches to increase screening rates in a range of groups.

A range of research studies are also underway, such as Imperial College conducting a randomised controlled trial to assess the effectiveness of texting non-responders on improving coverage. In addition, the Department's Behavioural Insight team has undertaken a trial to investigate the use of behavioural insights to optimise the content of the invitation letter for cervical screening. Results are due shortly.

The Independent Cancer Taskforce recognised the importance of screening for cervical cancer and the potential of the new human papillomavirus (HPV) test in their report, *Achieving World-Class Cancer Outcomes*, published in July 2015. NHS England has appointed Cally Palmer as National Cancer Director to lead the implementation of the strategy, and an implementation plan outlining the key first steps for the national cancer programme was published on 12 May. In addition, the routine HPV vaccination programme, offering immunisation to girls aged 12-14 years, is expected to reduce the already low rates of cervical cancer in these young women and allow them to be protected for years to come.

Ministers welcome cervical cancer prevention week and we are fully supportive of the work Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust does to raise awareness of cervical cancer and the importance of cervical screening for eligible women.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, *Health at a Glance 2015: How does the United Kingdom compare?*, the UK has cervical screening rates well above the OECD average. Further information is available at:

<https://www.oecd.org/unitedkingdom/Health-at-a-Glance-2015-Key-Findings-UK.pdf>
<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/8115071ec053.pdf?expires=1465810879&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=102E30B1A256588EDD14918B5BE3AA4C>

■ Contraception

Paula Sherriff:

[40337]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions his Department has had with (a) local education and training boards, (b) Public Health England and (c) Health Education England on the training of healthcare professionals to fit intra-uterine methods of contraception.

Paula Sherriff: [\[40338\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department has taken to increase the number of healthcare professionals in (a) primary and (b) community care trained to fit intra-uterine methods of contraception.

Paula Sherriff: [\[40339\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department takes to ensure that healthcare professionals are trained to fit intra-uterine methods of contraception.

Paula Sherriff: [\[40351\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, who holds responsibility for (a) funding, (b) commissioning and (c) regulating the training of healthcare professionals to fit intra-uterine methods of contraception.

Jane Ellison:

No specific discussions have been held about the training of healthcare professionals to fit intra-uterine methods of contraception. The continuing professional development of doctors and nurses is the responsibility of individual employers. Health Education England has a role in ensuring employers remain committed to continuing professional development and in developing the overall strategy for workforce skills and development in their areas.

Funding and commissioning of contraceptive services outside of the GP Contract is the responsibility of local authorities through the ring-fenced public health grant. Local authorities are mandated to ensure the provision of open access contraception services that enable reasonable access to a broad range of contraceptive substances and appliances (including intra-uterine methods) and advice on preventing unintended pregnancy. While not directly comparable because of changes in data collection, intra-uterine contraception fitted in sexual and reproductive health services increased from 65,300 in 2004/05 to 121,900 in 2014/15.

■ Health Services

Crispin Blunt: [\[40103\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans NICE has to consult on its methodology for carrying out evidence reviews and impact analyses to support NHS England's specialised commissioning process.

George Freeman:

As yet, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) does not have any plans to consult on changes to its methods and processes to support NHS England's specialised commissioning process, but will carry out a full consultation if any such changes are considered necessary.

Following NHS England's review of its specialised commissioning processes and the publication in the summer of the final report from the Accelerated Access Review, we anticipate NICE will want to look at its processes and methods for the assessment of drugs and treatments used in specialised commissioning.

■ Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Jim Shannon: [\[39887\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people under the age of 18 have died after receiving the HPV vaccination in the last three years.

George Freeman:

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) collects reports of suspected side effects to vaccines and medicines via the Yellow Card Scheme. It is important to note that a report of a suspected side effect does not necessarily mean the vaccine or medicine was the cause of the reported event, and coincidental illness can also be a factor. Such reports remain under continual review by the MHRA in order to detect possible new risks.

The MHRA has received one suspected side effect report with a fatal outcome temporally associated with human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine which occurred in the last three years. A link with the vaccine has not been established. There has been no suggestion from safety monitoring so far in the United Kingdom that the vaccine has been responsible for any deaths.

More than three million girls have been vaccinated in the UK with HPV vaccine since 2008, and tens of millions more have been vaccinated globally. As with all vaccines, safety remains under continual review, and HPV vaccine has a very good safety record.

■ Medical Treatments

Andrew Gwynne: [\[39963\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to encourage NHS England and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to collaborate to ensure aseptic capacity is managed to a commonly high standard, is reimbursed at a sustainable level and supports further investment to meet growing demand in the NHS.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[39964\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment NHS England has made of variation in aseptic services and the delivery of high quality infusional chemotherapy to cancer patients.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[39965\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment NHS England has made of the capacity in the NHS to meet the demand for aseptic services.

Jane Ellison:

NHS England Specialist Pharmacy Services have to date not undertaken a comprehensive assessment of aseptic capacity to meet the future demands for chemotherapy provision in England. They are currently working closely with colleagues at the Department and NHS Improvement to support a number of regionally based reviews of aseptic capacity and to help trusts develop local and regional Hospital Pharmacy Transformation plans, as recommended by Lord Carter in February 2016.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is an executive agency of the Department and is responsible for regulating unlicensed medicines under a Manufacturer's 'Specials' Licence. The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and Care Quality Commission (CQC) are responsible for regulating medicine prepared extemporaneously in a register pharmacy or hospital pharmacy respectively under the professional exemption.

MHRA will collaborate with the NHS, GPhC and CQC through inspections of MHRA licensed aseptic facilities or joint investigations of aseptic facilities in hospitals where there are patient safety concerns.

Crispin Blunt:

[\[40102\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to NHS England's consultation on a proposed method to support investment decisions in specialised commissioning, launched on 12 April 2016, if NHS England will issue a consultation on arrangements for commissioning treatments recommended through NICE's highly specialised technology programme.

George Freeman:

As part of the work to develop NHS England's strategic framework for specialised services, NHS England and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence will be working together closely to improve the adoption of highly specialised technologies. Further detail will be set out in the coming months in light of the conclusions of the Accelerated Access Review.

Crispin Blunt:

[\[40123\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to paragraph 10 of NHS England's Strategic Framework for Specialised Services board paper, published in May 2016, what plans his Department has to issue directions to NICE regarding the adoption of its guidance by NHS England for treatments recommended through (a) the technology appraisal programme and (b) the highly specialised treatment evaluation programme.

George Freeman:

The Department has no plans to issue any such directions to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

NHS England and clinical commissioning groups are legally required to fund drugs and treatments recommended in technology appraisal and highly specialised technologies guidance issued by the NICE, normally within three months of the publication of the NICE's guidance.

Following NHS England's review of its specialised commissioning processes and the publication in the summer of the final report from the Accelerated Access Review, we anticipate the NICE will want to look at its processes and methods for the assessment of drugs and treatments used in specialised commissioning.

■ Parkinson's Disease

Jim Shannon: [\[39888\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of providing on the NHS laser-guided shoes to people with Parkinson's disease.

Jane Ellison:

No assessment has been made of the potential merits of providing laser-guided shoes to people with Parkinson's disease (PD) on the National Health Service. We understand this new innovation, whilst promising, remains at a relatively early stage in terms of development and testing. Good quality evidence from clinical trials would be needed before clinicians and commissioners could make appropriate assessments about the clinical and cost effectiveness of the shoes and consider their suitability for patients with PD.

HOME OFFICE

■ Asylum: Housing

Stuart C. McDonald: [\[38986\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Compass contracts for asylum accommodation and paragraphs 4.4.2.6 (b), (d) and (e) of the Compass Statement of requirements, how many reports were made by service users in each Compass region of (a) anti-social, suspicious, criminal, threatening or harassing behaviour, (b) neglect, sexual harassment or exploitation and (c) domestic violence or concerns with safeguarding of children in each year since 2013.

James Brokenshire:

In accordance with the Statement of Requirements, COMPASS providers provide a confidential, yet auditable complaints service for service users of asylum accommodation. Where a Service User raises, or the provider becomes aware of, a prescribed complaint, the provider immediately reports any such complaints to the Home Office and where appropriate the police.

The Home Office closely monitors provider performance, including complaints and incident reporting, at monthly contract management meetings. The recording of information concerning the reports made solely by service users of (a) anti-social, suspicious, criminal, threatening or harassing behaviour, (b) neglect, sexual harassment or exploitation and (c) domestic violence or concerns with safeguarding of children in each year is not however recorded on centrally collated statistical databases in manner that allows for data extraction and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by examination of individual monthly records.

Stuart C. McDonald:

[\[38987\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Compass contracts for asylum accommodation and paragraphs 4.5.1.3(d) and (e) of the Compass Statement of Requirements, how many reports were made by service users in each Compass region of (a) sexual or physical abuse and concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, neglect, harassment or exploitation and (b) theft or loss of a service user's belongings in each year since 2013.

James Brokenshire:

In accordance with statement of requirements, COMPASS providers provide a confidential, yet auditable complaints service for service users of asylum accommodation. Complaints and incidents can be reported by service users themselves or by other parties such as co-residents, NGO's, representatives, provider housing officers or Home Office inspectors.

Where a Service User or other party raises a prescribed complaint, the provider immediately reports any such allegations to the Home Office and where appropriate the police. The Home Office closely monitors complaints by type and Compass region, however information split by complainant type can only be obtained at disproportionate cost by examination of individual incident records.

■ Counter-terrorism

Fiona Bruce:

[\[39747\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer to Lord Ahmad of 7 April 2016 to Question HL7297, if her Department will make it its policy to use in all future documents and legislation a definition of extremism which includes the phrase mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, rather than the phrase mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Karen Bradley:

[Holding answer 13 June 2016]: The Counter-Extremism Strategy set out our approach to tackling extremist ideologies. We will challenge all those groups or individuals who vocally or actively oppose our fundamental values, who seek to promote, encourage and spread intolerance of individuals of different faith and beliefs. We are clear that this approach tackles all forms of extremism: violent and non violent, Islamist and neo-Nazi.

■ Drugs

Royston Smith:

[\[39305\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

Karen Bradley:

[Holding answer 9 June 2016]: The Local Government Association (LGA) has worked in consultation with the Government to develop bespoke guidance for local authorities on the enforcement of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 and their new powers. This has been disseminated to local authorities across the country and is available at:

http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/7838372/PUBLICATION

In February, we held joint operational workshops with the National Police Chief's Council for enforcement partners across the UK, including trading standards officers, to raise operational awareness of the Act.

We have also produced a forensic strategy for all enforcement partners on the new forensic requirements to support prosecutions under the Act.

■ Emergency Services: Terrorism

Paul Flynn: [\[40413\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Civil Contingencies Unit has made an assessment of the implications for its CBRNE defense policies of the findings of the PRACTICE EU project on the different public reactions to industrial or transport accidents and terrorist incidents, referred to in oral evidence to the Science and Technology Committee on 7 June 2016.

Mr John Hayes:

The Home Office is answering this question as the lead department for CBRN(e) Response. The Home Office and its partners use a range of evidence to develop the UK's response to CBRN(e) incidents. This information has informed the development of the Initial Operational Response which has been rolled out nationally across the emergency services. The booklet produced under the auspices of the PRACTICE EU project and referred to in the oral evidence is based on the same body of evidence as the UK response and consequently its content is consistent with our approach."

■ Home Office: Scotland

Chris Law: [\[39834\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times she has visited Scotland in an official capacity since the 2015 General Election; and what meetings were held on each such visit.

Mrs Theresa May:

I have visited Scotland once in an official capacity since the 2015 General Election. Details of meetings with external organisations are published in quarterly returns which are available at: gov.uk.

■ Refugees: Calais

Carol Monaghan: [\[40095\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees currently housed in the refugee camp in Calais are unaccompanied children; and what steps are being taken to ensure that the asylum applications of those children are prioritised.

Carol Monaghan:

[\[40098\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees currently housed in the refugee camp in Calais have immediate family members already resident in the UK; and what steps are being taken to reunite those families.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 14 June 2016]: The French NGO France Terre d'Asile (FTDA) has carried out a survey of children in the camps in the Calais area, which identified, within the scope of the survey, 43 children with claimed family links to the UK. We are working closely with the French Government and FTDA to ensure that where family links are established, transfers take place efficiently under the Dublin Regulation.

The transfer of cases deemed the responsibility of the UK on the basis of family unity provisions contained in the Dublin Regulation can take place relatively quickly and we have resources in place to facilitate this. An individual must first, however, claim asylum in France or another European state participating in the Regulation for the process to begin.

Under the UK-France Joint Declaration of 20 August 2015, the UK and France have committed to ensuring that the provisions of the Dublin III Regulation are used efficiently and effectively. To assist the handling of such cases, the two Governments have established a permanent official contact group, agreed single points of contact within respective Dublin Units and we seconded an asylum expert to the French administration to facilitate the improvement of all stages of the process.

The UK and France are running regular joint communication campaigns in northern France which inform unaccompanied children and others of their right to claim asylum in France and of the family reunion process.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

■ Developing Countries: Education

Stephen Twigg:

[\[40172\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that its support for education in its target countries reaches (a) girls and (b) other marginalised groups.

Mr Nick Hurd:

Providing a good quality education for all children, especially girls and those who are most disadvantaged is a priority for the Department. The UK supported 11 million children in school between 2010 and 2015. We have again committed to support 11 million children in the poorest countries gain a decent education by 2020. The UK has specifically committed to support 6.5 million girls in school by 2020. Our flagship Girls

Education Challenge is ensuring that up to 1 million marginalised girls, progress through school with improved learning outcomes. In July DFID will be hosting a Girls' Education Forum to drive the implementation of Global Goal 4 for girls and agree actions for making faster progress on girls' education.

JUSTICE

■ Legal Profession

Daniel Zeichner: [40055]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent estimate he has made of the number of lawyers trained in supporting people with mental health problems.

Caroline Dinenage:

The legal profession in England and Wales is independent from government and we have no estimate of these numbers.

■ Prison Sentences: Wales

Mr David Hanson: [40350]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many female offenders received an immediate sentence of (a) less than six months and (b) six months or more in each police force area in Wales in each of the last six years; and what the offence group was for such offenders.

Caroline Dinenage:

Sentencing in individual cases is a matter for our independent courts taking into account all the circumstances of each case. In order to pass a custodial sentence the court must be satisfied that the offence is so serious that neither a fine alone nor a community order can be justified. Where a custodial sentence is imposed it must be for the shortest period commensurate with the seriousness of the offence.

The number of female offenders who received an immediate sentence of (a) less than six months and (b) six months or more in each police force area in Wales by offence group from 2010 and 2015 can be viewed in the table. This information is a further breakdown of the sentencing data tool, published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2015>.

Attachments:

1. Female Offenders Sentences Wales 2010-15 [40350 Table.xls]

■ Prisoners: Repatriation

Alec Shelbrooke: [40202]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how the wishes of victims of a crime perpetrated by a foreign national offender are taken into account when considering whether to deport that offender to a foreign prison.

Andrew Selous:

It is the Government's position that, wherever possible, prisoners should serve their sentences in their home countries, reducing the burden on the UK taxpayer. A number of factors are taken into account when deciding whether to remove foreign national offenders to serve the remainder of their sentence abroad, including the wishes of victims or their representatives. It is our normal practice to inform victims of the possibility of the transfer of an individual and to give them the opportunity to make their views known.

Road Traffic Offences: Sentencing**Daniel Zeichner:**[\[40049\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when he plans to undertake a review of the sentencing guidelines for traffic offences.

Dominic Raab:

Sentencing guidelines are issued by the independent Sentencing Council for England and Wales. Following the announcement by the previous Justice Secretary of a government review of driving offences and penalties, the Sentencing Council have paused their review of sentencing guidelines for causing death by driving.

The government is aware of concerns about a number of sentencing issues and is committed to making sure sentencing for driving crimes is proportionate within the context of our wider sentencing framework. It is our intention to commence a consultation in due course which will look at driving offences and penalties.

Unpaid Fines: Staffordshire**Jeremy Lefroy:**[\[39882\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many fines of what total monetary value were written off by HM Courts Service in Staffordshire in each year since 2011-12.

Caroline Dinenage:

Due to the limited management information that can be extracted from the Libra system it is not possible to identify how many financial impositions have been cancelled.

The table below shows the total value of financial impositions cancelled in Staffordshire in each of the year since 2010-11.

YEAR	TOTAL VALUE LEGALLY CANCELLED REGARDLESS OF IMPOSITION DATE	TOTAL VALUE ADMIN CANCELLED REGARDLESS OF IMPOSITION DATE
2010-11	£1,237,941	£722,603
2011-12	£1,181,416	£692,066
2012-13	£1,256,081	£924,630
2013-14	£1,406,722	£835,113

YEAR	TOTAL VALUE LEGALLY CANCELLED REGARDLESS OF IMPOSITION DATE	TOTAL VALUE ADMIN CANCELLED REGARDLESS OF IMPOSITION DATE
2014-15	£1,320,535	£656,536
Apr 2015 – Dec 2015	£1,154,484	£410,937

The data for January 2016 to March 2016 is not included as the data has not been published yet.

A legal cancellation can be applied when an imposition has been cancelled in court by a Judge or Magistrate, for example if an appeal is successful or if some of the original amount imposed is remitted after the offenders financial circumstances have been reconsidered.

Financial impositions are only administratively cancelled after all attempts to collect the amount outstanding have been made, and in accordance with a strict cancellation criteria. Any imposition which has been administratively cancelled still retains legal status and can be written back at any time if more information is found which will enable collection, for example if a new address for the offender is discovered. We periodically review administratively cancelled accounts.

SCOTLAND

■ Counterfeit Manufacturing: Scotland

Martin Docherty-Hughes: [\[40265\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on steps to prevent consumers purchasing counterfeit electrical goods that are being sold in Scotland.

Martin Docherty-Hughes: [\[40266\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on steps to prevent counterfeit electrical goods from being sold in Scotland.

Martin Docherty-Hughes: [\[40267\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what estimate he has made of the number of counterfeit electrical goods sold in Scotland in the last 12 months.

David Mundell:

I have had a range of discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Scottish Government ministers.

The UK-wide Intellectual Property Office works with law enforcement and industry partners across Scotland to reduce the availability of all types of counterfeits, including electrical goods.

Recent successful joint-enforcement activity involving the Intellectual Property Office, Trading Standards, and Police Scotland, in the Barras Market area of Glasgow, achieved over £30 million pounds worth of fake goods seized. These items included not only counterfeit electrical goods, but fake eBooks, watches, clothing, footwear, and tobacco products.

The operation saw the arrest of 100 traders, the removal of stalls selling fake goods and the return of legitimate business to the area, and is a superb example of the collective effort of Scotland's two Governments using our powers and potential in a common endeavour.

The Government does not hold data estimating the number of counterfeit electrical goods that were sold in Scotland during the last 12 months. However, we have recently launched a landmark Intellectual Property enforcement strategy in which we have set out how we will improve our data collection. The Intellectual Property Office are developing a robust methodology for measuring the harm caused by IP infringement and a comprehensive scoreboard to be published annually. This will mean better reporting in the criminal justice system, better reporting of court cases, and a deeper understanding of consumer behaviours and emerging trends.

TRANSPORT

■ Rolling Stock: Procurement

Lilian Greenwood: [\[40323\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether train operators are required in selecting new rolling stock to make an assessment of the effect of such selection on UK industry and the wider UK economy.

Claire Perry:

Procurement and evaluation of rolling stock is a matter for the private operators, as it has been since privatisation. However, I note that there are now two rolling stock assembly plants in the UK, operated by Bombardier and Hitachi, and the Government welcomes the jobs and economic benefits that these plants bring.

Lilian Greenwood: [\[40324\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what his Department's policy is on taking account of the benefits of contracts to the UK economy in determining future rolling stock orders.

Claire Perry:

Procurement of rolling stock is usually carried out by the private operators through franchising. If the Department was to procure rolling stock it would take account of the latest competition and procurement guidelines relating to social and economic impacts.

■ Southeastern: Standards

Matthew Pennycook: [40286]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to ensure that the Southeastern train operating company meets its Public Performance Measure targets.

Claire Perry:

I chair a monthly meeting with Network Rail, train operators in the South East, Transport Focus, and my department's officials. This group monitors performance and passenger experience and it is absolutely committed to identifying improvements and ensuring rail passengers see the benefits of these improvements being delivered. I have made clear that Network Rail and Southeastern both need to get better when it comes to fixing faults and communicating with their passengers.

■ Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Lilian Greenwood: [40332]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Answer of 18 April 2016 to Question 33921, on Thameslink railway line: rolling stock, what measures have been put in place relating to evacuation safety risk; and whether his Department has received any other representations on safety relating to Class 700 trains.

Claire Perry:

Comprehensive emergency plans are in place between Govia Thameslink Railway, the Thameslink train operator, and Network Rail to ensure the safe evacuation from the tunnelled section of the Thameslink core route between St Pancras International and Blackfriars stations, should an evacuation of a train be required. These plans have been prepared in consultation with the Office of Road and Rail, the rail safety regulator, and the emergency services. My department has not received any other safety representations relating to the operation of the new Class 700 trains.

WORK AND PENSIONS**■ Attendance Allowance: Parkinson's Disease**

Mrs Madeleine Moon: [40288]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people with Parkinson's disease qualified for attendance allowance in each of the last 10 years.

Justin Tomlinson:

Statistical information on Attendance Allowance claimants, including the numbers of people suffering from Parkinson's Disease, is available from the DWP Tabulation Tool: <http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/tabtool.html>

These data relate to the claimant's main disabling condition at the time their claim is awarded. Claimants may often have multiple disabling conditions, but these cannot be identified from the data the department holds. Therefore there may be other claimants in receipt of AA who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease who are not captured in the above data.

■ Children: Maintenance

Joanna Cherry: [\[39916\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment his Department has made of the affordability of the child support system for people who are self-employed.

Priti Patel:

Even after parents have separated they continue to have financial responsibility for their children. We believe that the calculation for Child Maintenance is reasonable and proportionate, being based on the level of the non-resident parent's income, regardless of whether they are employed or self-employed.

The formula for the Child Maintenance Calculation is based primarily on the non-resident parent's gross taxable income, where possible using information derived from HMRC. The level of the calculation is intended to be an approximation of what the non-resident parent would spend if the child lived with them.

■ New Enterprise Allowance: Stafford

Jeremy Lefroy: [\[39993\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people in Stafford constituency are in receipt of the New Enterprise Allowance.

Priti Patel:

The following table gives the number of mentor and business starts in Stafford for New Enterprise Allowance from April 2011 to December 2015. These figures are taken from the latest Official Statistics which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/new-enterprise-allowance-apr-2011-to-dec-2015>

	NEW ENTERPRISE ALLOWANCE: MENTOR STARTS ⁽¹⁾	NEW ENTERPRISE ALLOWANCE: BUSINESS STARTS ⁽²⁾
Stafford	180	100

Notes:

1) Figures show the number of starts where people have begun working with a business mentor.

2) Figures show the number of mentor starts that have progressed to set up their own business.

3) Values are rounded to the nearest 10.

4) Some claimants on Universal Credit (UC) are not captured in the data, there may be a small undercount of starts in areas where UC has been introduced.

■ Personal Independence Payment

Mr David Anderson: [40247]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when his Department plans to publish the findings of its forthcoming review on personal independence payments.

Justin Tomlinson:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to his previous Question [UIN39987](#).

Mrs Madeleine Moon: [40287]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people have been awarded the enhanced rate mobility component of personal independence payment in each month since January 2014.

Justin Tomlinson:

The available data on the number of claimants in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), by a range of breakdowns including award outcomes, are available from Stat-Xplore: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>. Guidance on how to use Stat-Xplore can be found here: <https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/index.html>.

■ Social Security Benefits

Mrs Madeleine Moon: [40289]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people transferred from disability living allowance to personal independence payments in each month since January 2014.

Justin Tomlinson:

Data on clearances of claims by type (i.e. awarded, disallowed or withdrawn) to Personal Independence Payment (PIP), by a range of breakdowns including whether they were new claimants or Disability Living Allowance to PIP reassessment claimants, are available from Stat-Xplore: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>. Guidance on how to use Stat-Xplore can be found here: <https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/index.html>.

■ Television: Licensing

Andrew Gwynne: [39908]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what reasons TV Licensing is not included in the Tell Us Once service.

Priti Patel:

Consideration was given to include TV licencing in the Tell Us Once Service, however as the Department for Work and Pensions already provides this information to the

Department for Culture, Media and Sport, it is not necessary to also include it in the Tell Us Once Service.

■ **Work Programme**

Alison Thewliss:

[\[40231\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the value was of the cash commission paid to companies for clients' completion of the Work Programme in each year from 2011 to 2016.

Priti Patel:

Work Programme providers are not paid cash commissions and are not paid for individuals completing the programme. Providers are paid by results on the basis of a job outcome fee for supporting an individual into sustained employment and additional sustainment payments for keeping them in work longer.

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

HEALTH

■ Primary Health Care

Royston Smith:

[\[39251\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he has taken to introduce (a) video consultations and (b) other new technology into primary care service delivery.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 10 June 2016. The correct answer should have been:

Alistair Burt:

From April 2014 to April 2016, the Government has invested £175 million in developing innovative approaches to extend access to general practice through the Prime Minister's GP Access Fund which has included testing, adoption, and evaluation of:

- new types of consultation such as phone, video and online consultations;
- online pre-referral diagnosis tools; and
- telehealth, telecare and healthy living apps.

During 2017/18 **and 2018/19**, £171 million will be made available ~~to~~ **from** clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to enable practices to upscale and implement measures tested through the Access Fund.

A further £1 billion multiyear investment has been committed via the Estates and Technology Transformation Fund from April 2015 to April 2019, to help GP practices go further and faster to increase the use of technology and develop the primary care estate. Funding will be aligned with local digital roadmaps priorities and will support technology led improvement and innovation which improve patient and clinician experience of services, and access to primary care.

The 'General Practice Forward View', released in April 2016, announced a commitment to greater use of technology. This includes an increase of over 18% in allocations to CCGs for provision of IT services and technology for general practice, alongside revised funding arrangements for GP IT in 2016-18. This will allow CCGs sufficient local flexibility to commission and procure GP IT services to meet local need. There will also be an additional £45 million multiyear national programme to stimulate uptake of online consultation technology for every practice.

The National Information Board also has a programme of work known as Transforming General Practice which will use technology to free GPs from time consuming administrative tasks and provide patients with online services.