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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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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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| Lord Bates | Minister of State, Department for International Development |
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| Baroness Shields | Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sport |
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Written Statements

Monday, 19 December 2016

Bovine TB

[HLWS369]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Right Hon Friend the Secretary of State (Andrea Leadsom) has today made the following statement.

Today I am updating the House on the implementation of the Government's 25-year strategy to eradicate bovine TB in England.

The strategy continues to deliver results. Next year we will apply for Officially TB free status in the Low Risk Area of the country where there is no significant TB in wildlife. This will boost trade opportunities and mean some herds require less regular TB testing, reducing costs for farmers and taxpayers. Bovine TB remains the greatest animal health threat to the UK. Dealing with the disease is costing the taxpayer over £100 million each year. Last year alone over 28,000 cattle had to be slaughtered in England to control the disease, causing devastation and distress for hard-working farmers and rural communities.

The Government is taking strong action to deliver a long-term plan to eradicate the disease and protect the future of our dairy and beef industries. The comprehensive strategy includes strengthening cattle testing and movement controls, improving biosecurity on farm and when trading, and badger control in areas where TB is rife.

There is broad scientific consensus that badgers are implicated in the spread of TB to cattle in the high risk area of England, which also has the highest badger density in Europe and has seen a large increase in badger abundance over the last 20 years. The approach of tackling the disease simultaneously in cattle and in wildlife has worked in Australia, is working in New Zealand and Ireland and is supported by the Government and Defra Chief Scientists, the UK Chief Vet and other leading vets.

This year seven new and three existing licensed badger control operations were delivered by local farmers and landowners in parts of Somerset, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Cornwall, Devon and Dorset. These areas comprise ten per cent of the high risk area, and all achieved successful outcomes. As part of our 25 year bovine TB eradication strategy I want to see further expansion of operations in the coming years. This is in line with the UK Chief Veterinary Officer's advice on what is needed to realise and maintain disease control benefits at regional level.

I have also today published a consultation on the next steps in areas that have completed the first four years of badger control. I am proposing to allow continued, strictly licensed, activity to stabilise the population at the reduced

level. This will ensure the disease reduction benefits in cattle are prolonged for many years to come.

Following consultation earlier this year, the Government intends to make further improvements to TB testing in the High Risk and Edge areas of England and to introduce new arrangements for controlling the disease in non-bovines. Tough controls on cattle and non-bovine farm animals are an essential complement to controlling the disease in wildlife and our plans published today alongside our summary of consultation responses will help us to make further progress on the disease, while not over-burdening our livestock industry.

Effective biosecurity is essential to protect the gains from reinforced cattle controls and badger control so I very much welcome the progress being made in delivering a joint government-industry TB biosecurity action plan. I am pleased that last month's launch of a new bovine TB herd accreditation programme by the Cattle Health Certification Standards body has started to attract herd owners keen to be recognised and rewarded for good biosecurity practices. We will consult next year on proposed incentives to encourage more herd owners to take up this option.

Innovations enabling our farmers to better protect their herds include access to advice on the TB Hub, our interactive map of TB locations and the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board's list of dairy bulls with greater genetic resistance to TB, alongside farm demonstration events, accredited training for vets and new teaching and training resources for land-based colleges.

Although it does not provide complete protection or cure infected animals which continue to spread TB, badger vaccination has a role to play. We remain committed to promoting vaccination in the Edge Area of England albeit deployment continues to be hampered by a global shortage, meaning deliveries of the authorised vaccine are not expected to resume before 2018. We will start work next year with interested organisations on the design of a new Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme (BEVS) as a replacement to the former scheme which had to be cancelled because of the lack of vaccine.

In the meantime, supplies of vaccine for human immunisation will continue to be prioritised.

To ensure we have a successful and resilient industry as the UK enters a new trading relationship with the world, we are determined to implement all available measures necessary to eradicate this devastating disease as quickly as possible.

Copies of the badger control consultation and the cattle and non-bovine summary of consultation responses are available in the Libraries of the House.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

[HLWS377]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Karen Bradley) has made the following Statement:

The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council took place in Brussels on 21 and 22 November 2016. Shan Morgan, the UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU represented the UK at the Youth, Culture and the Sport sections of the Council. As is procedure, this Statement sets out a record of that meeting.

Youth

The Council was asked to adopt draft conclusions on promoting new approaches in youth work to uncover and develop the potential of young people. The conclusions recommended the need to promote effective and innovative cross-sectoral policies that can help young people realise their full potential. The UK supported the conclusions and these were adopted by Council.

The presentation was immediately followed by a policy debate on Young Europeans at the centre of a modern European Union, introduced by representatives from the Young Audience Unit of the European Broadcasting Union. This debate discussed how best to connect young people to policy-makers. The UK described its successful UK Youth Parliament initiative and welcomed the opportunity afforded to participate in cross-EU dialogue with young people through the Presidency's successful Youth Conference.

Culture

The Council presented a progress report on the proposals for the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive. The Audiovisual Media Services Directive seeks to ensure the effective operation of the internal market for television broadcasting services by ensuring the free movement of broadcasting services throughout the EU. The Commission (represented by Commissioner Oettinger) vowed to work constructively with Member States in assisting the Maltese Presidency reach a General Approach by next Council.

This was followed by first reading on the proposal for a European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018). The objective of this initiative is to raise awareness of the opportunities that cultural heritage bring, mainly in terms of intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and economic growth. At the same time, the European Year aims at drawing attention to the challenges that cultural heritage is facing, including environmental and physical pressure on heritage sites and illicit trafficking of cultural objects. The UK supported this and a general approach was agreed.

The Council was invited to adopt a proposal to amend the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 to extend the access to EFTA/EEA countries. A general approach was agreed, with UK government support of the proposal. The UK parliamentary scrutiny reserve was noted and maintained.

Finally there was a public debate, 'towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations'. This discussed how the EU and its Member States can cooperate to bring about a more strategic approach to culture in external relations. The UK's intervention

focused on the work of the British Council and the need to respect the principle of subsidiarity as Member States must be free to pursue their own cultural agendas.

Sport

The Council adopted conclusions on sport diplomacy. The conclusions acknowledged that sport is a possible tool in supporting intercultural, economic and political cooperation, and that its potential can be part of extending and strengthening contacts between the EU and third countries. The UK supported the adoption of these conclusions.

This was followed by a public debate on the impact of sport on personal development. The UK intervention demonstrated the work the UK is already carrying out in this area through participation, Olympic legacy and the Sport Strategy.

Other business

The Maltese delegation presented information on the work programme of their incoming presidency.

The French delegation presented information on reform of the European copyright framework. This was followed by the Croatian and Irish delegations on the European Capitals of Culture 2020. The Italian delegation presented information on 'Facing crisis in Europe: Investing in Culture'.

The Council was presented with information on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) meeting in Glasgow (19-20 November) by the EU Member States' representatives in WADA, Belgium and Malta. This was followed by the French delegation on development and specific features of the organisation of European sport.

European Union Opt In Decision: Asylum Measures

[[HLWS376](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: On Friday my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Robert Goodwill) made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government has decided not to opt in to the new EU proposals for a Qualification Regulation, an Asylum Procedures Regulation and a recast Reception Conditions Directive. The proposals reform the package of asylum directives adopted between 2011 and 2013 as part of the second phase of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

The UK chose not to participate in the corresponding second phase CEAS instruments due to concerns over the limits they would place on our national system. As a result the UK remains bound by the directives adopted as part of the first phase of the CEAS: the Reception Conditions Directive 2003/9/EC; the Qualification Directive 2004/83/EC; and the Asylum Procedures Directive 2005/85/EC. These directives established minimum standards and allowed Member States a large degree of flexibility in implementation.

There is some merit in the new proposals, for example the overarching aim of discouraging abuse and unwarranted secondary movements. However, the Government's view is that decisions on asylum systems are best taken at national level. The proposals, in particular where replacing the use of a Directive with a Regulation in the case of the proposals on Qualification and Asylum Procedures, would further limit the Government's ability to take decisions on the UK asylum system at national level and in the UK national interest. There is no reason to change the approach from that taken with regard to the corresponding second phase CEAS measures. Therefore, the UK will not opt in to the proposals.

Until the UK leaves the EU, it remains a full member, and the Government will continue to consider the application of the UK's right to opt in to forthcoming EU legislation in the area of justice and home affairs on a case by case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting our civil liberties and enhancing our ability to control immigration.

European Union Opt In Decision: Dublin IV Regulation

[HLWS373]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: On Friday my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Robert Goodwill) made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government has decided not to opt in to the EU proposal for the Dublin IV Regulation.

The Regulation will govern the process of deciding which Member State is responsible for deciding an asylum claim and streamline the transfer process. The UK supports those aims, but the proposed Dublin IV Regulation binds Member States to participate in a quota-based distribution scheme. The proposal also permits the Commission to impose considerable financial burdens on Member States, of €250,000 per applicant not transferred under this mechanism.

The UK has long-standing reservations about such relocation schemes. Asylum seekers should claim asylum in the first safe country they enter and not be moved around the EU using allocation quotas.

By not opting in to Dublin IV Regulation, the UK remains bound by the Dublin III Regulation, which will allow the Government to return applicants where another Member State is responsible for determining their asylum claim and discourage secondary movement or so called "asylum shopping".

Until the UK leaves the EU, it remains a full member, and the Government will continue to consider the application of the UK's right to opt in to forthcoming EU legislation in the area of justice and home affairs on a case by case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting our civil liberties and enhancing our ability to control immigration.

European Union Opt-In Decision: EU Agency for Asylum

[HLWS375]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: On Friday my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Robert Goodwill) made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government has decided not to opt in to the EU proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum.

On 4 May the European Commission published a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) NO 439/2010. The proposed European Union Agency for Asylum would replace the existing European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The UK currently participates in EASO.

The aim of the proposal is an agency with more powers to promote the implementation and improve the functioning of the Common European Asylum System. The proposal provides the European Union Agency for Asylum with a significant degree of oversight over national asylum systems.

We are committed to running a high quality and effective asylum system but have always taken the view that the functioning of the asylum system is a sovereign matter.

The UK will therefore not opt in to the proposal for the EU Agency for Asylum.

European Union Opt In Decision: EU Readmission Agreement with Nigeria

[HLWS372]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: On Friday my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Robert Goodwill) made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government has decided not to opt in to a Council Decision (11975/16/16) authorising the opening of negotiations on an agreement between the European Union and Nigeria on readmission.

EU Readmission Agreements (EURAs) ensure reciprocal procedures for the identification, documentation and return of persons illegally entering or remaining in EU Member States, or the third country. We decide whether to participate in EURAs on a case-by-case basis, depending on the priority we attach to the country concerned in terms of numbers of immigration returns and the degree to which we enjoy a good bilateral relationship with that country.

In terms of returns co-operation, the UK already has bilateral arrangements with Nigeria via a memorandum of understanding, which work well, for example allowing the return of Nigerian nationals who have an expired

passport. In 2015, there were 599 enforced removals to Nigeria and 1,361 voluntary removals.

We would not envisage an operational advantage if we were to change our current bilateral arrangements for conducting returns to Nigeria.

European Union Opt In Decision: Residence Permits (Third Country Nationals)

[HLWS374]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: On Friday my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Robert Goodwill) made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government has decided not to opt in to the draft Council Regulation amending the Regulation on the uniform format for residence permits for third country nationals. The proposed Regulation is intended to update the 2002 Regulation, which was previously amended in 2008. The draft measure seeks to update the design and security features on the current version of the residence permit.

In reaching its decision, although the Government welcomes measures that will strengthen immigration and border control, it has taken account of the cost of developing a document that the UK may never use. The UK will continue issuing the current format of the residence permit until we leave the EU and we are considering the options following exit.

General Affairs Council 2016

[HLWS380]

Lord Bridges of Headley: My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Exiting the European Union (David Jones) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I attended the General Affairs Council on 13 December. The meeting was chaired by the Slovak Presidency and held in Brussels.

The General Affairs Council discussed: the mid-term Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework; Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making; Enlargement and Stabilisation and Association Process; Preparation of the European Council on 15 December 2016 and the European Semester 2017.

A provisional report of the meeting and the Conclusions adopted can be found at: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac/2016/12/13/>

Multiannual Financial Framework

There was no agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework and discussions will continue into next year. With the exception of Italy, who maintained their reserve, all Member States were supportive of the current Mid-Term Review proposal.

Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making

The Joint Declaration on legislative programming was adopted. This was signed by the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in Strasbourg. Vice-President Timmermans flagged this achievement saying it focussed on real deliverable priorities.

Preparation of the European Council on 15 December 2016

There was a discussion of the agenda items for the European Council which took place on 15 December. The agenda would cover: migration, security (internal and external / defence) economic and social development (youth) and external relations, which will cover the EU/Ukraine Association Agreement.

I intervened to underline the importance of preparing business affecting all Member States at meetings of the 28, and our intention to observe the rights and obligations of membership until we leave the EU.

On migration, I intervened to express our on-going commitment to a comprehensive approach, and sought proper evaluation of existing partnership frameworks before extending them to new countries.

On external security, I requested that the text of the draft Council Conclusions be amended to clarify that the proposed planning and conduct capability should be for non-executive purposes only, to bring the text in line with Conclusions at the FAC Defence in November, which had outlined a balanced approach that avoided duplication with NATO.

On economic and social development, I registered the UK's support of ambitious language on the single market, including maintaining momentum on services and deepening of the single market.

On external relations, I supported the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on Syria and pressed for explicit reference to Iran as an ally of the Syrian regime and a reference to restrictive measures among the options the EU ought to consider within the European Council Conclusions.

European Semester 2017

This agenda item was not discussed at the meeting, but the inclusion of the item followed the Commission publishing the Autumn Package of the European Semester on 16 November 2016.

Enlargement and Stabilisation and Association Process

The Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Sir Alan Duncan MP, took part in a discussion on enlargement, which focussed on Turkey's EU accession path. The Council could not reach agreement on the overall package of enlargement conclusions. Instead, the Presidency issued a statement covering the conclusions which enjoyed broad support from the overwhelming majority of Member States. We remain firmly committed to driving forward reform, embedding stability and addressing shared challenges in

the Western Balkans and Turkey. EU and NATO accession processes are fundamental to delivering these objectives.

Governance Code on Public Appointments

[HLWS367]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: My Honourable friend the Minister for the Constitution (Chris Skidmore) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 2nd July 2015, the then Minister for the Cabinet Office announced that the Government had asked Sir Gerry Grimstone to lead a review of the operation of the public appointments system. The completion of the review was announced on 11th March 2016. [Official Report HCWS609]

Sir Gerry Grimstone's review placed an emphasis on the original conclusions reached by Lord Nolan in 1995 that Ministers should be at the heart of the public appointments system and concluded that Lord Nolan's principles have stood the test of time and are as applicable today as they were 20 years ago. The review also recommended a new principle of diversity and also a greater emphasis on transparency throughout the system.

The Government welcomed Sir Gerry's review and announced that it would implement its recommendations, including the publication of a new Public Appointments Governance Code, which I am publishing today. The new Code will come into force in January.

The new Code sets out that:

- public appointments should be run in accordance to a set of principles: Ministerial responsibility, selflessness, integrity, merit, openness, diversity, assurance, fairness;
- Ministers are responsible for public appointments and are central to the decision making process;
- the Commissioner for Public Appointments has a vital function regulating public appointments. The Commissioner retains responsibility for monitoring and auditing appointments processes, but will not be directly involved in competitions; and
- processes will be streamlined of bureaucracy with a stronger focus on customer care and transparency to ensure public confidence. There will be an emphasis on diversity in appointments.

The Public Appointments Governance Code can be found on the gov.uk website and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Independent Medical Expert Group: Triennial Review

[HLWS368]

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

I am today announcing the conclusion of the Triennial Review of the Independent Medical Expert Group. Reviews are part of the Government's commitment to ensuring that Non Departmental Public Bodies continue to have regular independent challenge. I am placing copy of the report in the Library of the House and it will be published on the Gov.uk website.

The Review examined whether there is a continuing need for the Independent Medical Expert Group's function and its form, and whether it should continue to exist at arm's length from Government.

The Review found that the Independent Medical Expert Group provides valuable, high quality, well-respected medical and scientific advice to Ministers. The function the Independent Medical Expert Group fulfils continues to play an important role in ensuring that the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme relies on credible, up-to-date evidence, and is also perceived to do so by those who apply to it. Retaining the Independent Medical Expert Group as a Non Departmental Public Body remains the most appropriate option.

The Review also confirmed that the Independent Medical Expert Group complies with the principles of good corporate governance and with the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees and the Principles of Scientific advice to Government.

The outcome of this Review is welcomed and demonstrates the effectiveness of the Independent Medical Expert Group as highly-regarded, independent experts whose function helps to maintain the medical and scientific integrity of the awards made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

International Labour Organisation Recommendation 204

[HLWS371]

Lord Freud: My honourable Friend the Minister of State for Employment (Damian Hinds MP) has made the following Written Statement.

The 104th Session of the International Labour Conference 2015 adopted Recommendation 204 concerning the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy. International Labour Organization (ILO) Recommendations, adopted following negotiation amongst ILO member state governments and business and union representatives, serve as non-binding guidelines. The Government welcomes this Recommendation and recognises its importance in its global context, as it acts as a guide for all countries in their work towards making full, decent, productive and freely chosen employment a central goal in their national development and growth strategy. The Recommendation is primarily aimed at those countries with less developed social security systems. It is not envisaged that this Recommendation will have any impact on the UK as it is consistent with UK Government policies.

Multilateral Development Bank Replenishments

[HLWS379]

Lord Bates: My right honourable friend, the Secretary of State for International Development (Priti Patel) has made the following statement:

In a world of global instability, effective international partnerships are more important than ever.

Britain has a proud track record as a global partner, contributor and problem solver. Our investment in institutions such as the World Bank helps us meet our responsibilities to the world's poorest and is firmly in Britain's national interest.

As a true leader on the world stage, Britain is successfully driving action to strengthen the multilateral system to ensure it is capable of meeting the unprecedented demands of the 21st Century.

The world needs strong global institutions that are relevant not only for today but for the future – which is why ongoing reform at the World Bank is so important.

The UK is succeeding in securing these reforms. Following successful engagement from the UK and others, the International Development Association – which delivers the Bank's work in the poorest countries – has agreed to:

- double the investment that goes to fragile states;
- increase support for poor countries dealing with protracted crises and hosting large numbers of refugees;
- secure opportunities for job and wealth creation; and
- boost investment in the private sector.

These reforms build on good progress made over the past three years. The recent Multilateral Development Review found that the World Bank is one of DFID's top performing partners, but there are still improvements to be made.

DFID is driving all agencies to be fully transparent about what, why, where and how they spend taxpayers' money. We are pressing all our multilateral partners, including the World Bank, to publish their spending in line with international transparency standards, open up their management overheads and other costs to greater scrutiny, and push for similar tough requirements all the way down the supply chain.

The UK will continue to press the Bank and its partners to make further progress and deliver even stronger results on the ground.

Last week, the IDA negotiations that took place in Yogyakarta reached agreement on the replenishment of IDA to cover the period July 2017 to June 2020. The negotiations secured a total of \$75 billion for IDA 18.

This funding will transform the lives of millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Thanks to

this investment up to: 180 million children will receive life-saving vaccines, 20 million births will be attended by skilled health personnel, 45 million will get access to clean water, 35 million people will get access to reliable electricity, 10 million teachers will be recruited or trained, and 200 million children and women will get proper nutrition. These are big numbers – and behind each one are real lives that will be fundamentally improved because of this investment.

Given these impressive results, the reforms made since the last IDA replenishment, and wider reform commitments, the UK has agreed to contribute £2,516 million as a grant over the life of the replenishment, and a highly concessional loan of £820 million that will be repaid to the UK Government, to this total.

This month also saw the conclusion of the 14th replenishment of African Development Fund negotiations, which secured a total of \$7 billion for 2017-2019. This investment will give tens of millions of people in Africa better access to transport and electricity, and millions of people access to clean water. After securing commitments from the AfDF to greater focus on job creation, women's empowerment, private sector investment and investment in fragile countries, the UK has agreed to contribute £460 million to this total.

The world is changing fast. We all need to raise our game. The great power of the multilateral system is its potential to be more than the sum of its parts. This is why the UK will work relentlessly to drive up its performance and get the most out of every pound of taxpayers' money.

Welsh Government Fiscal Framework

[HLWS370]

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

The UK Government and Welsh Government are today announcing a new funding settlement for Wales based on need, empowering the Welsh Government to grow the Welsh economy.

This historic agreement lies at the heart of the Wales Bill's determination to provide secure, long-term funding for the Welsh Government. The deal sets out how the Welsh Government will be funded alongside the devolution of stamp duty land tax, landfill tax and Welsh rates of income tax in a manner that is fair for Wales and fair for the rest of the UK.

Through these new and principled arrangements, the government has ensured that the Welsh Government will have a fair level of funding for the long term, taking into account Welsh tax capacity and treating population change consistently across tax and spending.

This deal underlines the mature relationship between Westminster and Cardiff as we move closer to agreeing a lasting settlement for the people of Wales.

This will be achieved through the creation of a new needs-based factor within the Barnett Formula to determine changes in the Welsh Government's block grant in relation to devolved spending. The governments have also agreed to use the Comparable model to determine changes in the Welsh Government's block grant in relation to tax devolution. Alongside the Barnett Formula, this will ensure population change is treated consistently within the Welsh Government's block grant funding.

This agreement will also double the Welsh Government's overall capital borrowing limit to £1 billion and increase the annual limit to £150 million. We will also create a new Wales Reserve to enable the Welsh Government to better manage its budget.

This agreement therefore paves the way for the National Assembly for Wales to consent to the Bill and enable the Welsh Government get on with the job of using their new tax powers to grow the Welsh economy.

Written Statement HLWS225: Correction

[[HLWS378](#)]

Lord Keen of Elie: My right honourable friend the Minister of state for courts and justice (Sir Oliver Heald QC) made the following written statement on 16 December 2016.

"On 27 October I made a written ministerial statement on the Government's decision to opt in to the EU proposal amending the Brussels IIa Regulation on family law (HCWS225). There was a minor error in that statement. The statement said "The Government has today decided to opt in to the European Commission's proposal which repeals and replaces Regulation 2201/2003, also known as the Brussels IIa Regulation, on cross border family matters". It should have said "The Government decided on 5 October to opt in to the European Commission's proposal which repeals and replaces Regulation 2201/2003, also known as the Brussels IIa Regulation, on cross border family matters"."

Written Answers

Monday, 19 December 2016

Abortion

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 1 December (HL3358), how many letters were sent to registered medical practitioners by officials to remind them of their legal obligation to report terminations of pregnancy within 14 days, in each of the last five years for which records are available. [HL3792]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 1 December (HL3359), how many registered medical practitioners have been reported for suspected violations of the Abortion Regulations 1991, having failed to report terminations within the 14-day period, in each of the last five years for which records are available. [HL3793]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Department does not hold a record of how many letters have been sent out in each of the last five years.

The Department has not reported to the police any incidents of suspected violation of the Act and Regulations relating to Registered Medical Practitioners terminating a pregnancy who have not given notice in form HSA4 to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) within 14 days of the termination. Where HSA4 forms have been submitted late, the Department is working closely with doctors, hospitals/clinics and the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The Department is helping to identify issues with HSA4 submission to support doctors, hospitals and clinics in ensuring that protocols and processes exist internally to ensure the transmission of HSA4 forms meets the legislative framework. The Department currently receives around two-thirds of HSA4 forms electronically and is actively encouraging more doctors to submit HSA4 forms online. Receiving HSA4 forms online reduces the risk of late submission of forms to the CMO.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 1 December (HL3359), from what authority, legislative or common law, the phrase "wilful non-compliance" derives with respect to the Abortion Regulations 1991. [HL3794]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The phrase "wilful non-compliance" stems from Section 2(3) of the Abortion Act 1967 which provides that any person who wilfully contravenes or wilfully fails to comply with the requirements of regulations under subsection (1) of this

section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine without limit.

Adult Education

Asked by Baroness Shephard of Northwold

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to develop an adult education strategy. [HL3972]

Lord Nash: In the 2016 Budget, the Government announced that it would conduct a review into the gaps in support for lifetime learning, including for flexible and part-time study. The review is on-going and the Government will announce its next steps shortly. Additionally, the Government is also devolving the Adult Education Budget to Mayoral Combined Authorities and London, as local areas should be well placed to develop a responsive lower-level skills offer that meets the needs of individuals and the local labour market

Agriculture: Research

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to guarantee funding for agricultural research programmes that are currently funded by the EU, for the first five years following Brexit. [HL3925]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: While the UK is still a member of the EU, UK organisations can continue to bid directly to the European Commission, on a competitive basis, for EU funding. Even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU, such as universities participating in Horizon 2020.

Decisions for future support will be made following discussions between stakeholders, Treasury and other interested Government Departments.

Ahmet Turk

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to make representations to the government of Turkey about the imprisonment in Silivri Prison of Ahmet Turk, a co-founder of the HDP party. [HL3832]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK has raised the detention and treatment of Kurdish politicians with the Turkish authorities at Ministerial level, and will continue to do so where we have human rights concerns.

Astute Class Submarines

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the planned date for the naming ceremony for the 7th Astute-class submarine. [HL4093]

Earl Howe: The date for the naming ceremony of the 7th Astute Class submarine is not planned to be scheduled

until nearer the time of its handover to the Royal Navy, which is expected to be in 2024.

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to assess whether an 8th Astute class submarine could be built prior to the first successor submarine being named. [HL4094]

Earl Howe: The Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 reaffirmed the Government's plans for seven Astute Class submarines and four ballistic missile submarines, of which the first of class has been named Dreadnought.

Cataracts: Surgery

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce new innovative technologies into the NHS and to assess laser technologies and the impact which they can have on cataract waiting times, efficiency, and capacity management as part of a national cataract strategy. [I] [HL3942]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Department does not stipulate what surgical techniques should be used. In the absence of positive National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) technology appraisal guidance on a particular treatment, it is for National Health Service commissioners to make funding decisions based on an assessment of the available evidence and on the basis of an individual patient's clinical circumstances.

The commissioning of cataract surgery is the responsibility of clinical commissioning groups, and decisions on the use of particular techniques are made locally on the basis of evidence to inform commissioning decisions.

The National Institute for Health Research is funding a clinical trial comparing standard cataract surgery with femtosecond laser assisted cataract surgery. The report is expected to be published in 2018.

In light of concerns about lengthy waits for treatment and unacceptable variations in care, the Secretary of State has asked NICE to bring forward its guidance on cataracts from 2018 to 2017. This will provide NHS commissioners with evidence based guidance from NICE and help to ensure patients have access to the most effective treatment as early as possible.

Charities: Grants

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen on 2 December (HLWS306) concerning Government grant standards, what was the total amount of donations made by Government departments and the NHS to charities in each of the last five years for which records are available. [HL3836]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The information requested is not collated centrally.

Church Schools

Asked by Lord Murphy of Torfaen

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the contribution of Church schools to community cohesion. [HL4149]

Lord Nash: Church schools make a positive contribution to our society and education system and are amongst the highest performing nationally. We want more good schools and to enable quality providers to establish them. Our consultation, Schools that Work for Everyone, is aimed at creating more good schools and improving community cohesion so that more young people have the chance to go as far as their talents will take them.

Civil Servants: Pay

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the ratio between the salary of a civil servant on the lowest grade to the Permanent Secretary in each of the Government departments represented in the Cabinet. [HL3896]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: Government departments do not publish details of the salary ratio of their highest to lowest paid employees. The Office for National Statistics do publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organisation. These ratios are published annually as part of *Civil Service Statistics* and can be found attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Civil Service Statistics 2016 [Civil Service statistics 2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3896>

Civil Servants: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they use responses to questions about gender identity in some civil service job applications to determine the best-qualified candidate, and if such a question is not answered how detrimental this would be to the application. [HL3895]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The Civil Service recruits on the basis of merit and assesses on the basis of evidence supplied by the candidate. This is in line with fair and open competition rules as laid out in the recruitment principles upheld by the Civil Service Commission.

Gender identity is not used as part of the sifting process of job applications within the Civil Service. Candidates

are asked this information for diversity monitoring purposes only.

The Civil Service aims to become the most inclusive employer in the UK, with the Talent Action Plan focussing on removing barriers for those from underrepresented groups.

Climate Change

Asked by Baroness Featherstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government what priority the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy places on climate change; how many of its civil servants currently work on climate change in a full- or part-time capacity; and how many civil servants worked on climate change in a full- or part-time capacity in the Department of Energy and Climate Change before it was disbanded (1) at the time the Department was closed, (2) in 2015, (3) in 2014, and (4) in 2013. [[HL3917](#)]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Department's activity to tackle climate change cuts across the work of various teams and is undertaken by officials who, as well as energy and climate change, also work to deliver the department's other priorities.

Consequently, it is not possible to provide an exact number of officials who work on energy and climate change issues. However, I would like to reassure the noble Lady that delivery of the Government's commitments on climate change remains a key priority for the department.

Community Relations

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds to work together on projects and programmes in local communities. [[HL3870](#)]

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what lessons they have learned from projects with hands-on practical experience of building integrated communities; how they will build on the success of those projects; and what role those projects will play in achieving the changes that are recommended in The Casey Review: a review into opportunity and integration. [[HL3874](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The government is committed to building more integrated communities and widening opportunity. We have spent over £60 million on integration projects since 2010/11, helping to create the conditions for people to live successfully alongside each other.

This includes funding for community – based tuition to help isolated adults to learn English and the Near Neighbours programme, supporting well over 1,000 small

projects bringing people together across faith, social and ethnic boundaries.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made clear he will be studying Dame Louise's findings closely. As part of those considerations, we will look to learn from our existing integration projects. In spring, we will come to the House with our plans for tackling the issues raised by Dame Louise, so that we can continue to build a country that works for everyone.

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence there is that practical lessons have been learnt from past research conducted into integration in British communities. [[HL3872](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Dame Louise Casey's Review into integration and opportunity published on the 5 December takes account of academic and other research and considers previous community cohesion reports and programmes. The government will be studying her Report carefully and will publish a response in the spring.

Asked by Lord Mawson

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been spent over the last five years on studies about integration in British communities and what impact this has had, if any. [[HL3873](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The only comprehensive study, in the last five years, has been Dame Louise Casey's Review into integration and opportunity, published on 5 December 2016.

A number of Departments will have undertaken studies in support of policy objectives related to integration, however information on the cost of these studies is not held centrally.

Companies: Registration

Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the scrutiny of company formations, in the light of reports of UK-registered companies being used to operate international scams. [[HL4007](#)]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: When a company incorporates with Companies House, information is required about the company's type, its name and registered office, its directors and shareholders, its share structure and, under measures that came into force in June this year, its beneficial owners – the people with significant influence and control over it. Copies of the company's governing documents are also required.

A number of checks are undertaken to ensure this information is complete, formatted correctly and that it meets the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. If

these requirements are not met, the application will be rejected and the company will not be incorporated.

Incorporation allows the company to take actions such as opening a bank account in its own name. But when it first seeks to do this, the company and the relevant officers of the company will be subject to due diligence processes by the bank or other relevant obliged entities with which it is entering into a business relationship. UK companies are subject to customer due diligence many times throughout their lifetime.

Cycleways: Invalid Vehicles

*Asked by **Baroness Wolf of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any cycle lanes in the UK to which mobility scooters have full access; whether they have considered making this a condition for the construction of fixed cycle lanes; and whether there are any legislative barriers to providing such access. [HL4005]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Provision of cycling infrastructure, including cycle lanes, is the responsibility of the local traffic authority. The Department for Transport does not hold data on the number of cycle lanes, nor whether mobility scooters are able to access them. It is for traffic authorities to decide what type of lane to provide and where.

Dementia: Home Care Services

*Asked by **Baroness Greengross***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all homecare workers receive training relating specifically to dementia. [HL3855]

*Asked by **Baroness Greengross***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the level of dementia training provided to homecare workers delivering care to people with dementia. [HL3856]

*Asked by **Baroness Greengross***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that people delivering homecare are at Tier 2 within the Care Certificate, equivalent to their NHS counterparts. [HL3857]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The *Challenge on Dementia 2020*, published in February 2015, made clear that, by 2020, we expect social care providers to provide appropriate training on dementia to all relevant staff. A copy of the *Challenge on Dementia 2020* is attached.

The Department estimates that more than 100,000 social care workers have already received dementia awareness training. Newly appointed health care assistants and social care support workers, including those providing care and support to people with dementia and their carers, should undergo training as part of the national implementation of the Care Certificate.

Standard 9 of the Care Certificate concerns awareness of mental health, dementia and learning disabilities. In meeting the standard, each worker must show that he or she understands the needs and experiences of people with mental health conditions, dementia or learning disabilities, the importance of promoting their health and wellbeing, the adjustments which may be necessary in delivering their care, and the importance of early detection. They must also prove that they understand the legal context, including mental capacity considerations.

This standard is based in tier 1 of the Dementia Core Skills Education and Training Framework, which focuses on awareness. This tier of knowledge is applicable across the spectrum of health and adult social care services and so is at an appropriate level to inform the Care Certificate's content.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Challenge on Dementia 2020 [Challenge on Dementia 2020.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3855>

Diseases

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the proposed £100,000 quality-assured life year threshold for evaluating highly specialised technologies on access to, and the uptake of, new medicines for patients with rare and complex diseases. [HL4118]

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of patients who will be affected by the proposed £100,000 quality-assured life year threshold for evaluating highly specialised technologies. [HL4119]

Lord Prior of Brampton: We are committed to ensuring that patients with rare and ultra-rare diseases in England are able to access effective treatments.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has advised that the proposed arrangements are intended to provide clarity about the level of cost effectiveness below which funding will be made available, automatically and without delay, for highly specialised technologies that receive positive recommendations from NICE.

Subject to the outcome of the current consultation exercise, those products that have a value proposition of more than £100,000 per quality-adjusted life year will be provided with a further opportunity to be considered for use in the National Health Service, through NHS England's annual process for deciding which new treatments and services will be routinely commissioned.

Furthermore, the proposed changes are intended to clarify NICE's existing responsibility to determine the

period within which funding for recommended products needs to be made available by commissioners of services. This clarity should allow companies and commissioners to work on commercial arrangements, in advance of, and in parallel with, the development of NICE technology appraisal and highly specialised technology guidance. In circumstances where this may not be possible, specific requests from commissioners to vary the timescale for the funding requirement will be considered by NICE.

As these proposals are still subject to possible change, no assessment has been made of the number of patients who may be affected or of any effect on uptake and equity of access to medicines for very rare diseases.

Doctors: Recruitment

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the promised 5,000 extra doctors will be medical assistant posts. [HL3884]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government has committed to providing an additional 5,000 doctors working in general practice by 2020.

Medical assistants do not form part of this commitment.

Doctors: Refugees

Asked by Lord Crisp

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have decided not to proceed with the proposed refugee medical fellowships for refugee doctors which were planned for London, Manchester and Oxford. [HL3905]

Lord Prior of Brampton: There are no agreed plans for medical refugee fellowships. However, NHS England has been discussing opportunities, including the idea of fellowships, to provide additional support for refugees who wish to practice as a doctor in the National Health Service in England, to see whether such support would help to increase the number of doctors working in general practice by 2020-21. A decision has yet to be taken on this issue.

Driving: Eyesight

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Think Bike Think Biker and Tiredness Kills campaigns, what plans they have to launch a campaign to encourage drivers to get their eyes tested. [HL3882]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The purpose of THINK! is to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads. Campaign priorities are determined on this basis. They are thoroughly researched and evidenced using casualty data, road safety literature and audience insight.

Decades of road safety communications and sixteen years of THINK! campaign activity have demonstrated

the importance of focusing our interventions in areas where we think communications can make the greatest difference to safe road user behaviour.

We continually evaluate priorities for the THINK! campaign, reviewing casualty statistics on an ongoing basis to ensure that our campaigns have the greatest impact on road safety. We currently have no plans to develop a campaign that encourages drivers to get their eyes tested.

Embassies: Demonstrations

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 28 November (HL3232) concerning the Foreign Secretary's remarks encouraging demonstrations outside the Russian Embassy, whether it is their policy that such demonstrations should not be encouraged; and, if so, whether they have given assurances to that effect to the government of Russia. [HL3835]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The words of the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) in Parliament on 11 November reflected overwhelming concern at Russia's actions in Syria, which are contributing to the appalling humanitarian situation. The UK will continue to urge Russia to work with the international community to establish a credible ceasefire, and begin working for a political transition that represents the only long-term solution. There is of course a well-established right for citizens in the UK to conduct peaceful demonstrations on issues of concern. The UK is scrupulous about fully meeting and respecting its obligations under the Vienna Convention. We discuss these shared obligations with the Russian Government on a regular basis.

Energy: Prices

Asked by Viscount Ridley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to implement the recommendations of the Kelly report Management of the Levy Control Framework: Lessons Learned Report (2015). [HL3877]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: On 25 November, BEIS published a response to the Management of the Levy Control Framework Lessons Learned Report which set out the actions being taken against each of the recommendations raised in the report including progress to date.

Asked by Viscount Ridley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will resume publication of the estimated impacts of energy and climate policies on energy prices and bills, as part of its commitment to increased transparency, as recommended in the Kelly report Management of the

Levy Control Framework: Lessons Learned Report (2015). [HL3878]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Department is currently considering this issue, along with the other recommendations and actions arising from the Public Accounts Committee hearing on the Levy Control Framework that took place on 30 November. A response to the Committee will be submitted in due course.

Asked by Viscount Ridley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so when, the non-executive directors of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will be asked to review implementation of the Kelly report Management of the Levy Control Framework: Lessons Learned Report (2015). [HL3879]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Levy Control Framework, including progress against the recommendations in the Kelly report, is considered as part of the normal course of business for the Department's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. This committee is chaired by a Non-Executive Member of the Department's Board.

Estates Regeneration Advisory Panel

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 17 November (HL3179), who are the members of the Estate Regeneration Advisory Panel, and how many meetings have been held so far in this financial year. [I] [HL3784]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Estate Regeneration Advisory Panel has met five times since February 2016. A number of Advisory Panel sub-groups have also met to consider issues such as resident engagement, finance

and design. The Advisory Panel has informed the Estate Regeneration National Strategy.

The following are members of the Estate Regeneration Advisory Panel:

Councillor Ravi Govindia, Leader of Wandsworth Council.

Nicholas Boys Smith, Director of Create Streets.

Andrew Boff, Leader of the Greater London Authority Conservatives housing group.

Elaine Bailey, Chief Executive of Hyde Housing Association.

Paul Tennant, Chief Executive of Orbit Housing Association.

Tony Pidgley CBE, Chairman of the Berkeley Group.

Peter Vernon, Chief Executive of Grosvenor Britain & Ireland.

Jane Duncan, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Ben Bolgar, Senior Director at the Prince's Foundation.

Dominic Grace, Head of London Residential Development at Savills.

Emma Cariaga, Project Director at British Land.

David Budd, Mayor of Middlesbrough.

Natalie Elphicke OBE, Chief Executive of the Housing & Finance Institute.

Graham Allen MP, Member of Parliament for Nottingham North.

Félicie Krikler, Director at Assael Architecture.

Lord Andrew Mawson, Director of Andrew Mawson Partnerships.

EU Budget: Contributions

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU on 1 December (HC Deb, col 1648), whether they are considering making continuing financial contributions to the EU budget following the UK's exit from the EU in order to continue trading with EU countries; and, if so, why. [HL3839]

Lord Bridges of Headley: We are focussed on securing the best possible deal for the United Kingdom as we leave the European Union. Once we have left, it will be for the United Kingdom to decide how taxpayers' money is spent.

European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to sign the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals; and if not, why not. [HL3899]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Effective legislation is already in place to protect pet animals. The Government also intends to make further improvements to the Animal Establishments Licensing Schemes which are operated by local authorities in the near future. The Government is therefore not currently planning to sign the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals.

Exhaust Emissions

Asked by Lord Stunell

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on setting out their policies and proposals to meet their emissions targets due to be included in their emission reduction plan; and when they will publish them. [HL3843]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: We are making good progress following Parliamentary agreement on the 4th and 5th Carbon Budgets. We are engaging with businesses,

industry, and stakeholders, and we are looking forward to publishing a plan in early 2017.

Female Genital Mutilation

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in identifying a more reliable methodology than the one currently used to measure the number of girls at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation in the UK. [HL3532]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Government has taken a range of measures to support professionals, increase our understanding of FGM and co-ordinate activity across Government.

This includes:

- a mandatory reporting duty requiring regulated health and social care professionals and teachers to report known cases of FGM in under 18s to the police came into force on 31 October 2015.
- publishing new multi-agency guidance on 1 April for all frontline professionals, including the police, which is statutory, for the first time.
- over 70,000 professionals have completed our free FGM e-learning, which we have updated to include information on the recent changes to the law.
- the Department of Health's £4 million FGM Prevention Programme which is improving the NHS response • Department for Education have funded the Barnardo's and Local Government Association's National FGM Centre which is working to strengthen the social care response.

The Government also recognises the importance of gathering and disseminating information on the prevalence of, and attitudes to, FGM. In addition, we are part-funding a 2015 prevalence study and we have also introduced the recording and publication of FGM patient data across the NHS in England. We will not stop FGM until we have changed attitudes within communities. In July 2016, the Department of Health delivered a targeted patient and public facing FGM prevention advertising campaign based on our understanding of the motivations for FGM which has generated over 650,000 views on social media.

We continue to work closely with community organisations, faith groups and survivors to better understand the motivations behind FGM. The FGM role and function is to coordinate work across Government and carry out outreach work. However, we are clear that all agencies have a role to play in tackling FGM.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have made of the Female Genital Mutilation Enhanced

Data in relation to the support provided by the NHS to women and girls who have had or who are at risk of female genital mutilation. [HL3889]

Lord Prior of Brampton: National Health Service commissioners actively use Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) data to plan FGM services locally.

For example, in London, NHS England is piloting the triangulation of data with local population prevalence and police data, to evaluate the multi-agency approach to their FGM prevention work, and they will explore national roll-out of this approach in the new year.

In addition, NHS England is working with police and social care partners to overlay the information from the NHS Digital reports with other FGM information sources to create a more extensive picture of FGM. This in turn will build a broader understanding of FGM, and how best to use this combined information to commission appropriate services for girls and women affected.

Fisheries

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to replace funding for the fishing sector derived from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund once the UK has left the EU. [HL3924]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Future support for the fishing industry has still to be determined. Decisions will be made following discussions between stakeholders, Treasury and those Government Departments with responsibility for delivering European Structural Fund programmes.

Floods: Business

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 25 November (HL3252), whether the number of such non-residential properties has declined or grown since 2006; and by what number. [HL3944]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Environment Agency estimates the number of non-residential properties in areas at high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea to have increased by about 25,000 in England since 2006. This is primarily due to improvements in modelling and changes to the classification of properties.

The number of properties in areas at high risk of flooding from surface water was first estimated in December 2013. Since then, the number of non-residential properties in areas at high risk of flooding from surface water has increased by about 12,000 in England. This increase is primarily due to improvements in the base maps used for modelling data.

The property type information and the modelling methods upon which these estimates are based have

improved significantly over this period of time, making exact comparisons more difficult.

Floods: Housing

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 23 November (HL3251), whether the number of such homes has declined or grown since 2006; and by what number. [HL3945]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Environment Agency estimates the number of residential properties in areas at high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea to have decreased by about 224,000 in England since 2006. This is due to the delivery of flood and coastal risk management schemes along with improvements in modelling and changes to the classification of risk.

The number of properties in areas at high risk of flooding from surface water was first estimated in December 2013. Since then, the number of residential properties in areas at high risk of flooding from surface water has increased by about 30,000 in England. This increase is primarily due to improvements in the base maps used for modelling data.

The property type information and the modelling methods upon which these estimates are based have improved significantly over this period of time, making exact comparisons more difficult.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to assess and tackle the problems occasioned by foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. [HL3952]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Department has been exploring the feasibility of commissioning new research in the area of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. However, identifying methodologically feasible and robust new research in this area is challenging, expensive and faces ethical challenges.

The *UK Chief Medical Officers' Low Risk Drinking Guidelines* provide the public with the most up-to-date scientific information to help people make informed decisions about their own drinking. A copy is attached.

The guideline for women who are pregnant or think they could become pregnant, is that the safest approach is not to drink alcohol at all, to reduce risks to the baby to a minimum.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

CMO LOW RISK DRINKING GUIDELINES [HL3136 - UK CMOs Low Risk Drinking Guidelines.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-08/HL3952>

Food Innovation Network

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what budget they have allocated to the Food Innovation Network over the next three years; and what arrangements they intend to put in place for small rural companies to take advantage of the network. [HL3921]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Defra, the Biotechnology and Biosciences Research Council and the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Enterprise Partnership are jointly providing a total of £100,000 over two years to co-ordinate the Food Innovation Network. We have appointed the Knowledge Transfer Network to carry out this coordinator role.

The aim of the Network is to connect small and medium-sized companies with the help, expertise and funding they need to innovate and thereby improve their productivity and competitiveness. This includes working with businesses in both rural and urban areas to raise their awareness of the support that is available and providing a website which makes information available to support business innovation and direct them to where they can access further support. The Network will also pilot approaches at a local level to maximise ways to support rural companies.

Food: Waste

Asked by Baroness Byford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 7 December (HL Deb, col 728), how they define "95% of all supermarkets". [HL4163]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Courtauld 2025 was launched earlier this year and has more than 120 signatories, including retailers. The 95% figure represents the UK grocery market and is based on market share. This includes Aldi, Asda, the Co-operative, Iceland, Lidl, Marks & Spencer, Morrisons, the Musgrave Group (Centra in the UK), Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose.

There are also just under 50 food manufacturers and trade associations, including many of the main organisations involved in redistribution of surplus food. Local authorities, representing more than 40% of the UK population, are also signatories.

Asked by Baroness Byford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 7 December (HL Deb, cols 728–9), what progress the Waste and Resources Action Programme is making on clarifying date-labelling. [HL4164]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) worked with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Defra in 2010 to produce guidance to industry on best practice in the application of date labels on food. WRAP has also worked with retailers and manufacturers through the Courtauld Commitment to help improve labelling. Defra published data labelling guidance in 2011.

WRAP has made significant progress. Many fewer products now have two dates on the same pack (for example a 'sell by' or 'display date' as well as 'best before' or 'use by'), which was a major cause of confusion. WRAP also found that hard cheeses such as cheddar sometimes had a 'best before' date and sometimes a 'use by' date, and through working with Dairy UK and others there is now much more consistency with 'best before' being used, giving consumers flexibility to eat the product after the date if they have not eaten it in time.

WRAP also works through Love Food Hate Waste to help consumers to understand better the meaning of dates, and the information on labels more generally, to help them to get more out of the food they buy.

WRAP is working with the FSA and Defra to support industry implementing more changes to help people waste less of the food they buy, through clearer date labelling and, for example, more effective storage and freezing advice.

Fuels: Taxation

Asked by Lord Darling of Roulanish

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was raised on fuel duty and VAT on fuel for each of the last 10 financial years. [HL4060]

Lord Young of Cookham: Receipts from fuel duty are published in the Hydrocarbon Oils statistical bulletin and the figures from the last ten financial years are shown below:

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Receipts (£ bn)</i> |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 2006/07 | 23.6 |
| 2007/08 | 24.9 |
| 2008/09 | 24.6 |
| 2009/10 | 26.2 |
| 2010/11 | 27.3 |
| 2011/12 | 26.8 |
| 2012/13 | 26.6 |
| 2013/14 | 26.9 |
| 2014/15 | 27.2 |
| 2015/16 | 27.6 |

For VAT, the information requested is not available. HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT revenues from particular goods and services.

Grammar Schools

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have assessed the relative strengths of grammar schools and Sure Start Centres in relation to ensuring social mobility; and if so, what data were used and which stakeholders were consulted. [HL3725]

Lord Nash: This Government is committed to tackling poverty and disadvantage, and enabling all children to have the opportunity to achieve their potential, at every stage of their education.

99% of selective schools are Good or Outstanding, and 82% are Outstanding^[1], and children from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit even more from a grammar school education than other pupils at those schools.^[2] That is why we want more children to have the opportunity to go to a grammar school. We recognise, however, that we need to do more to promote greater social mobility. That is why we are consulting on proposals to ensure selective schools admit more pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, and play a greater role in helping to raise standards across other schools.

We also recognise the role of early years education in promoting social mobility. We are considering the future direction for children's centres and will provide further detail in due course, including how stakeholders and members of the public can contribute.

[1] 'The file of Ofsted Management Information on Schools, as at 30 November 2016

[2] Please see page 23 of the attached report by the Centre for Market and Public Organisation (CMPO), 'The Result of 11 Plus Selection: An Investigation into Opportunities and Outcomes for Pupils in Selective LEAs' which says, "For FSM pupils the gains to attending a grammar school are more substantive (around 7 to 8 grade points) without extra penalties for those not making it. Hence the overall picture is that the minority of high ability pupils who are eligible for FSM achieve high attainment in grammars."

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Ofsted Management Information on Schools, 30 Novem [Ofsted Management Information on Schools, 30 November 2016.xlsx]

Report by CMPO on an Investigation into Opportunit [CMPO Report - The Result of 11 Plus Selection - An Investigation into Opportunities and Outcomes for Pupils in Selective LEAs.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-30/HL3725>

Hedgehogs

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to raise awareness of the rapid decline in the UK hedgehog population and the reasons for this decline. [HL3859]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government is concerned about the decline of the hedgehog. The reasons for their decline are complex and include agricultural

practices (including loss of hedgerows), use of pesticides, reducing availability of food, roads, a lack of available shelter in urban areas, restriction of movement and badgers that predate on hedgehogs and compete for their food.

We support efforts to make our gardens more hedgehog friendly through the creation of hedgehog havens and campaigns encouraging local communities to work together to look out for hedgehogs and make gardens as welcoming as possible.

Working with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and People's Trust for Endangered Species, earlier this year the Government published advice for homeowners in the form of five simple steps to make gardens more hedgehog friendly, from letting grassy areas grow wild to providing food and shelter.

More recently, information has been available through social media on how people can help hedgehogs during autumn.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, under the current technical specifications for interoperability, what height differences between station platforms and top of rail level are allowed for new HS2 stations; what heights are specified by HS2 for new train floor height and station platform heights; and what derogation, if any, they have sought and received to those heights for new HS2 platforms. [HL3980]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The current European Infrastructure Technical Standard for Interoperability (TSI) allows platform heights of 550mm or 760mm above rail level (ARL). In addition, the UK currently has a 'National Technical Rule' which includes a 'Specific Case' allowing platform heights of 915mm ARL, reflecting the historic platform height on the majority of our existing network.

HS2 is not, as such, proposing to specify a train floor height. What we will be asking rolling stock manufacturers (RSMs) to do is to provide level access to a platform height of 1115mm, or, if they do not believe that is achievable, to tell us at what height platform they could provide level access.

We have proposed to the European Commission an amendment to the current European standards to allow for our preferred platform height and we remain in discussions with them with a view to securing the ability to adopt our preferred platform height through these or alternative means.

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Euston Station

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether HS2 Ltd followed European procurement rules in seeking bids for Euston station master planning and architectural

work; and which companies submitted conforming bids. [HL3987]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: HS2 Ltd is required to follow the Utilities Contracts Regulations (these enshrine the European procurement rules), which it did for the Euston Station Vision and Master Plan work. Seven firms were invited to tender; these were AECOM-Hyder, Arup, Atkins, Capita Symonds-Ineco, Jacobs, Mott MacDonald and WSP UK Ltd and 3 conforming bids were received.

Hong Kong: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. [HL3845]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: As a co-signatory of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, the Government is committed to monitoring thoroughly its implementation on an ongoing basis. We do this through the Foreign Secretary's Six Monthly Report to Parliament on Hong Kong. We reaffirmed this approach in the Government's response to the Foreign Affairs Committee report on Hong Kong published in March 2015.

Hospital Beds

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost to the NHS of bed-blocking delays in discharging elderly patients from hospitals because of the lack of adequate social care provision; and what strategy they have to ensure that adequate social care is provided, particularly for the elderly. [HL3860]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Department has made no formal estimate of the costs of delayed discharge to the National Health Service. However, the Department and NHS Improvement are working together to implement Lord Carter's recommendations on hospital productivity. The report, *Operational productivity and performance in English NHS acute hospitals: Unwarranted variations* is attached. As part of this, the two organisations are working with providers to develop a richer dataset around all aspects of the patient pathway, including discharge.

At the same time, the Department continues to work closely with the NHS and local government to help local areas improve transfers out of hospital, share best practice, and reduce unnecessary delays.

The Care Act 2014, placed duties on local authorities to facilitate and encourage an effective market of quality providers in their area. The Department has worked with local government and the provider sector to develop guidance to help local authorities with these market shaping duties, a copy of guidance, *Adult social care market shaping* is attached. The Department also supports the Local Government Association with a programme of sector-led improvement.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Adult social care market shaping [Adult Social Care Market Shaping.pdf]

Operational productivity [Operational productivity and performance in English NHS acute hospitals - Unwarranted variations.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3860>

Housing and Planning Act 2016

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated timetable for the publication of (1) responses to the consultations on provisions contained in the Housing and Planning Act 2016, and (2) the secondary legislation required to implement those provisions. [HL3799]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Officials are continuing their work on the implementation of the Housing & Planning Act 2016. The process to implement secondary legislation will be on-going throughout 2017, as will the process to consult and publish on specific sections of the Act.

Housing Completions

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new housing completions have occurred since 2010; and what is the estimated increase in the UK's population during that period. [HL3801]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Over 893,000 additional homes have been delivered in England since April 2010. Full information including a breakdown by new build, conversion, change of use and other changes is available (attached) at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-net-supply-of-housing>

Figures show an estimated increase of 2.1438 million in the population of England between mid-2010 and mid-2015. Full information, including historical population estimates for the UK and England, is published by the Office for National Statistics, and available (attached) at the following link:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Housing supply [HL3801 Copy of LiveTable_120.xls]

Population of England [Population of England - HL3801 data4829405668430689475.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-05/HL3801>

Housing: Construction

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Office for Budget Responsibility comments on page 51 of their report Economic and fiscal outlook, published on 23 November, regarding housebuilding and residential investment. [I] [HL3781]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Autumn Statement announced an expansion of the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme (SOAHP) 2016-21, allocating an additional £1.4 billion to the programme for a further 40,000 housing starts by 2021. We remain committed to Shared Ownership which has an important role to play, but it is important that government also enables providers to deliver a variety of tenures that support a wide range of people in different circumstances.

Page 51 of the OBR's "Economic and fiscal outlook" refers to its assessment of the impact of this change. The Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) has taken one particular approach to its forecasting model, but would themselves acknowledge the uncertainty around their forecast. It will review its forecast as new data becomes available.

Housing associations themselves are saying that the tenure flexibility and funding will help them build more and the National Housing Federation has said it "will give housing associations the freedom and confidence to build even more affordable homes, more quickly, across the country".

Human Embryo Experiments

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to extend the 14-day limit beyond which destructive experiments on human embryos may not take place to 28 days. [HL3846]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government has no plans to amend the time limit in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 on the use of human embryos for research.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Prior of Brampton on 8 November (HL2858 and HL2861), why the data provided by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) in table 3 of the first of those answers detail that no live births resulted from frozen donated oocytes between 2008-14, whereas the data provided by the HFEA included in the second of those answers detail that in relation to treatments that took place prior to 30 June 2014, 72 patients aged 35 and over using donated frozen oocytes had a live birth. [HL3791]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Further to the Written Answers of 8 November, officials have advised that, due to administrative error, the information relating to live births shown in Table 3 was incorrect. A revised version of the table is shown below:

| <i>Years</i> | <i>Thawed</i> | <i>Fertilised</i> | <i>Developed normally</i> | <i>Transferred</i> |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2008 | No treatments were recorded where patients used thawed donated eggs | | | |
| 2009 | 27 | 16 | 16 | 6 |
| 2010 | 189 | 88 | 88 | 44 |
| 2011 | 528 | 232 | 232 | 110 |
| 2012 | 457 | 232 | 223 | 102 |
| 2013 | 583 | 299 | 292 | 111 |
| 2014 (mid year for births) | 852 | 481 | 459 | 169 |
| 2015 (mid year for treatments) | 975 | 589 | 576 | 196 |
| <i>Years</i> | <i>Pregnancies</i> | <i>Miscarriage (Events)</i> | <i>Live birth (events)</i> | |
| 2008 | No treatments were recorded where patients used thawed donated eggs | | | |
| 2009 | Less than 5 | 0 | Less than 5 | |
| 2010 | 9 | Less than 5 | 7 | |
| 2011 | 19 | Less than 5 | 16 | |
| 2012 | 24 | Less than 5 | 21 | |
| 2013 | 18 | Less than 5 | 16 | |
| 2014 (mid year for births) | 37 | Less than 5 | 20 | |
| 2015 (mid year for treatments) | 34 | * | * | |

Source: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

*Part year data not available.

This corrects my earlier answer.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel concerning restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. [HL3816]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We continue to call on the governments of Israel and Egypt to show maximum flexibility in opening the crossings into Gaza to help facilitate travel in and out of Gaza. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv most recently raised the issue of movement and access with the Israeli authorities on 5 December. We also remain deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement between the West Bank and East Jerusalem. We continue to work closely with EU partners to call on Israel to ease access these restrictions. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly lobbies the Israeli authorities on the issue of movement and access.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel concerning reports of Palestinians being injured by Israeli forces and settlers while harvesting olives. [HL3817]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We raised a number of allegations with the Israeli authorities on 14 November, and have urged for a thorough investigation and for any perpetrators to be brought to justice.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel in response to the report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs that Israeli officials seized an electric generator and a metal-cutting machine belonging to an aid organization near Nablus. [HL3818]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Whilst we have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, the UK regularly raises its concerns about confiscations with the Government of Israel.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the reports alleging physical assault by Israeli settlers on Palestinians living in the West Bank. [HL3820]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government condemns all acts of violence by extremist settlers. Settler violence is an abhorrent phenomenon which must be tackled firmly. We have repeatedly raised with the Israeli authorities our concerns about incidents of settler violence and intimidation, including the importance of bringing the extremist settlers responsible to justice.

We raised a number of allegations concerning violence against Palestinians during the olive harvest with the Israeli authorities on 14 November, and have urged for a thorough investigation and for any perpetrators to be brought to justice.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many F-35 aircraft have been delivered to the United Kingdom. [HL4159]

Earl Howe: As at 16 December 2016, the UK has taken delivery of seven F-35B Lightning aircraft.

Landlords: Taxation

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to take steps to ensure that limited companies are not better placed than other landlords in relation to the taxation of profits engendered by letting residential properties. [HL3797]

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to introduce plans to prevent landlords of residential properties from recouping the cost of changes to the taxation of rents of such properties which will come into force next year; and if so, how. [HL3798]

Lord Young of Cookham: Using actual self-assessment data, HM Revenue and Customs estimate that only 1 in 5 landlords will pay more tax as a result of this measure. Given that only a small proportion of the housing market is affected by these changes, the Government does not expect them to have a large impact on rent levels.

Incorporated businesses will continue to receive relief at the corporate tax rate. However, the rate of relief (currently 20%) is not more generous than the rate of income tax relief once these changes are fully in place by 2020-21.

Local Government: Newspaper Press

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the 24 local pilot programmes on statutory notices; and what plans they have to make statutory notices more cost-effective. [I] [HL3833]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: We are grateful to the local pilots for the work they have done on options for the future of statutory notices, which are important tools to ensure that the public are kept informed of decisions and changes that affect them as individuals and communities. We are considering the reports of the pilot programmes carefully.

Lord Chancellor

Asked by Lord Kinnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to amend the Oath of Office of the Lord Chancellor to

"defend the independence of the judiciary" as contained in the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. [HL3804]

Lord Keen of Elie: There are no plans to amend the Oath.

Medical Treatments

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that patient groups and patients are consulted on decisions made regarding new treatments as part of NHS England's prioritisation process for investing in specialised services. [HL4120]

Lord Prior of Brampton: NHS England involves patients, patient groups and the public at numerous stages of the process for developing clinical commissioning policies and service specifications that may be subject to a process of relative prioritisation.

Clinical policies and service specifications are developed by Clinical Reference Groups (CRGs), which are advisory groups and include patients and patient representatives in their membership. Draft clinical policies and service specifications undergo a process of testing with registered stakeholders before they are submitted for a full public consultation. The CRG will consider the outcome of stakeholder testing and public consultation before submitting the final proposed document to NHS England for the purpose of relative prioritisation.

Recommendations on the relative prioritisation of new investments in specialised services are made by the Clinical Priorities Advisory Group, which is independently chaired and which includes patient and public voice representatives in its membership.

NHS England held a public consultation on *Developing a method to assist investment decisions in specialised commissioning* between April and May 2016. NHS England's response to the consultation can be found attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

CONSULTATION RESPONSE [prioritisation-method-cons-response.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-14/HL4120>

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many National Institute for Health and Care Excellence highly specialised technology appraisals they expect to be undertaken in the next 12 months, as a result of the proposed £100,000 quality-assured life year threshold for evaluation. [HL4123]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has advised that funding for

its highly specialised technologies programme allows it to produce guidance for three topics per year.

Mental Health Services: Finance

*Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 23 November (HL Deb, col 1932), what is the breakdown of the 88 projects in receipt of a share of £15 million of investment to increase safe places, and what are the criteria used to allocate funding. [HL3975]

Lord Prior of Brampton: A list of local areas which will receive funding under the improving health-based places of safety capital scheme is attached.

Applications for funding were assessed against criteria agreed jointly by the Department of Health, the Home Office and NHS England. To be considered for funding, bids had to demonstrate sustainability and how they would satisfy local need and demand, how they would reduce the use of police stations for adults detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 and support the elimination of the use of police stations for children and young people under the age of 18, compliance with relevant legislation, and a commitment to shared learning. Applications also had to be developed and agreed by local Crisis Care Concordat Groups. Full details of the criteria for applications are attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS [HL3975 Improving places of safety criteria for applications.docx]

PROJECT LIST [Improving places of safety - approved_projects.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-08/HL3975>

Ministry of Defence: Gender

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many gender focal points there are in (1) the UK armed forces, (2) the Ministry of Defence, and (3) the UK armed forces personnel deployed in the UN peacekeeping force in South Sudan. [HL3959]

Earl Howe: I refer the Noble Baroness to the answer I gave her on 13 December 2016 to Question HL3806.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL3806 - WQnA extract on MOD Gender [Hansard Extract 13 December 2016 HL3806.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-08/HL3959>

Mortgages

*Asked by **Lord Myners***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to regulate further the granting of residential mortgages at high multiples of income. [HL3812]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government has no plans to regulate mortgages at high multiples of income.

The Government has granted the Financial Policy Committee (FPC) powers of direction with regard to owner-occupied mortgages. The Government recently brought forward secondary legislation to grant the FPC powers of direction with regard to buy to let mortgages as well. This instrument has been debated and approved in this House and the other place.

The FPC is a policy committee of the independent Bank of England. It is for the Committee to decide if, when and how to use its powers.

National Screening Committee

*Asked by **Lord Shinkwin***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 22 November (HL3125), whether the public disclosure of a relevant interest is sufficient in all cases relating to appointments to the UK National Screening Committee; and if not, what types of interest would prevent an individual from being appointed or from continuing to serve on the Committee. [HL3813]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) requests that all members declare any personal or business interests which the public might reasonably think could influence their judgement as part of the activities undertaken for the UK NSC on the conflict of interest form and declaration.

The conflict of interest form further requests for the member to include any personal direct and indirect interests, including close family members and others living in the same household. The form is consistent with those of other scientific advisory committees and upholds the seven principles of public life – the Nolan principles. Members are able to express any changes in situations at any time and are directed to withdraw from any discussions where they feel they cannot act impartially.

Termination of membership from the UK NSC may arise where the Chair takes in good belief that the member has acted dishonestly or under duress to influence a recommendation.

NHS: Consultants

*Asked by **Lord Lisvane***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 16 November (HL2985), if the information about the number of NHS consultant appointments cancelled is

not held in the format requested, in what format that information is held. [HL3881]

Lord Prior of Brampton: NHS Digital publishes information on the number of cancelled outpatient appointments as part of Outpatient Hospital Episode Statistics which are published annually. Not all appointments are consultant-led and it is not possible to separately identify the number of cancelled consultant-led appointments.

In 2015-16, 7.6 million outpatient appointments were cancelled by hospitals, representing 6.8% of all appointments.

NHS: Drugs

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made to determine the extent to which NHS England's prioritisation process provides a fair assessment for (1) non-orphan, (2) orphan, and (3) ultra orphan, medicines. [HL4122]

Lord Prior of Brampton: NHS England is waiting for the outcome of the current joint National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and NHS England consultation on proposed changes to arrangements for evaluating and funding drugs and other health technologies, which are appraised through NICE's technology appraisal and highly specialised technologies programmes.

The consultation is due to close on 13 January. Once the responses to the consultation have been reviewed, NHS England and NICE will consider whether any changes to the way orphan drugs are evaluated should be made.

NHS: Innovation

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many innovations invested by companies such as Medtech have been taken up abroad due to lack of NHS adoption. [HL3891]

Lord Prior of Brampton: This information is not collected centrally.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many innovations by companies such as Medtech, which have received funding from taxpayer-funded grants, have been adopted by the UK and how many have not. [HL3892]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The information requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Nigeria: Female Genital Mutilation

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Nigeria about the issue of female genital mutilation. [HL3888]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK is working closely with the Nigerian government to eradicate the abusive practice of female genital mutilation in Nigeria.

Nigeria is one of 17 countries targeted by the Department for International Development's £35 million programme working towards ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in Africa.

The programme focuses on three areas: building the evidence base for tackling FGM, working with the UN on challenging social norms and with governments on policy measures, as well as support for Africa-led campaigns.

Our broader development programme in Nigeria also includes initiatives that tackle violence against women and girls. This includes UK support for implementation of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, which criminalizes female genital mutilation.

Nissan

Asked by Lord Davies of Stamford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of (1) the maximum, and (2) the likely, total cost of any regional, employment, training, subsidy, grant, incentive payment, or other financial support, which Nissan UK might be entitled to receive over the next (a) five, and (b) 10, years. [HL3868]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: I refer the noble Lord to my statement to the House on 31 October 2016, Official Report, Vol. 776.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

BNR Statement 31st Oct 2016 on Nissan: Sunderland [Statement
BNR 31.10.16 Nissan Sunderland.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3868>

Non-domestic Rates: Appeals

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of unresolved business rates appeals on financial planning in local government. [1] [HL3834]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Since 2013, local authorities have been required to set aside some of their business rates as "provisions" to meet the cost of future business rates appeals. The timing of the settlement of those appeals, therefore, is less relevant to local authorities' financial planning than their ability to estimate

the scale of future appeal losses. We have agreed with local government that the difficulty of estimating future appeal losses, together with the way in which the business rates retention scheme deals with those losses, can impact adversely on authorities' financial planning and finances. In designing the new 100 per cent business rates retention scheme, therefore, we are looking again, in collaboration with local government representatives, at the way in which the new system should deal with appeal losses and aim to bring forward proposals shortly.

North Korea: Sanctions

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321, whether any UK funds or United Kingdom nationals provide specialised teaching and training which could contribute to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's proliferation activities or the development of nuclear weapons delivery systems, including business and economic management training that may be used to acquire or sell goods used in connection with weapons. [HL3848]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are not aware of any UK funding or UK nationals providing teaching and training which could contribute to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's proliferation activities or the development of its nuclear weapons delivery systems.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2321, whether they intend to reduce the number of staff at the Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in London and what steps they will take to limit the number of bank accounts held by Democratic People's Republic of Korea diplomats stationed in the UK. [HL3849]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government welcomes the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2321 and work has begun to ensure that its provisions are fully implemented and enforced within the UK. We continue to have diplomatic relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Nurses: Training

Asked by Baroness Wheeler

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 22 November (HL Deb, col 1833), whether an independent assessment of recruitment levels will be carried out in January 2017 once the rate of applications has been calculated. [HL3865]

Lord Prior of Brampton: For courses beginning on 1 August 2017, the main deadline for the majority of full-time undergraduate courses through the University and

Colleges' Admissions Service (UCAS) is 15 January 2017. However, universities can accept applications up until August 2017, and applicants can also apply directly for some part-time and postgraduate courses at specific higher education institutions.

The Department of Health intends to work with the Department for Education, UCAS and other healthcare education bodies to determine the most appropriate point and method following 15 January 2017, to assess available information on applications for pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health profession courses.

Asked by Baroness Wheeler

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have reassessed their plans to replace bursaries with loans for all nursing students in the light of the potential impact of the decision to withdraw from the UK on the recruitment and retention within the NHS of qualified nurses from other EU member states. [HL3866]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government has not reassessed plans to replace bursaries with loans to take into account the decision to withdraw from the European Union (EU).

The Department of Health is working with the Department for Exiting the European Union to ensure that the needs of health and social care providers and those in need of health and social care services are taken into account as we exit from the EU.

In October 2016, the Department for Education confirmed that EU students will remain eligible to apply for the standard student loan package and this will not change during their course if the Government triggers Brexit during the next few years.

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) apprenticeship nurses, and (2) post-graduate qualified nurses, are expected to complete training before the end of this Parliament. [HL3910]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The employer-led Nursing Degree Apprentice Trailblazer Group estimate there will be 1,000 Nursing Degree Apprentices in training every year. Apprentices are employed and actual numbers will depend on how many employers want to train through the apprenticeship route. The Nursing Degree Apprenticeship will typically take four years to complete.

Information on the number of post-graduate qualified nurses expected to complete training before the end of this Parliament is not yet held.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding reports of Israeli settlers illegally

obtaining Palestinian-owned land in East Jerusalem. [HL3815]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: While we have not raised this issue, we will continue to make clear our concerns over East Jerusalem to the Israeli authorities and the Municipality of Jerusalem, both bilaterally and in co-operation with our EU partners. We view any attempts to change the facts on the ground as a serious provocation likely to raise tensions and cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians, as well as being harmful to the peace process and in contravention of international law.

Opportunity and Integration Review

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to give a formal response to the Casey Review. [I] [HL3984]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: I refer the noble Lord to the Statement (attached) I gave on 5 December, repeating the answer given earlier that day by my rt Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to an Urgent Question on Dame Louise Casey's review into opportunity and integration.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Casey Review [HL3984 Casey Review.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-08/HL3984>

Orphan Drugs

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence intends to develop a new assessment process to evaluate orphan medicines for use in the NHS. [HL4121]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has no plans to develop a new assessment service specifically for orphan medicines.

Package Holidays: EU Law

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in pursuing the negotiations for Brexit, whether they will seek to retain the ability of consumers to obtain both financial and injury compensation through the Package Travel Directive 1990 and the Package Travel Directive 2015. [HL4099]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Departments are currently working with stakeholders to understand the impacts that withdrawal from the EU will have on businesses, consumers and other economic actors - we will work to ensure the best possible outcome for UK consumers.

The Government will set out its broad plans before triggering Article 50 by the end of next March.

Palace of Westminster: Repairs and Maintenance

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker, further to the Written Answer by the Chairman of Committees on 8 April 2014, which museums or related institutions have received encaustic tiles from the Palace of Westminster. [HL4049]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: Following the decision by the Administration and Works Committee in the Lords and the Administration Committee in the Commons that in cases where encaustic tiles from the Palace of Westminster cannot be re-used elsewhere, some of these should be donated to museums or related institutions, encaustic tiles have been donated to the Tile Trail in Stoke on Trent; to a recycled mosaics project to commemorate the pottery works in Stoke on Trent; and to St Augustine's Church in Ramsgate.

Pancreatic Cancer

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve early diagnosis rates for pancreatic cancer. [HL3907]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Improving early diagnosis of cancer is a priority for this Government.

NHS England's Accelerate, Coordinate, Evaluate pilots are exploring new models for delivering a diagnosis quickly and effectively, including piloting a multi-disciplinary diagnostic centre, which we hope will be particularly effective for patients with vague or unclear symptoms. If successful, NHS England will work with Cancer Alliances to support wider roll out across the country in future years.

An updated suspected cancer referral guideline by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), including new guidelines for pancreatic cancer, which was published last June, will continue to support general practitioners (GPs) to identify patients and urgently refer them as appropriate, where pancreatic cancer is suspected. NICE noted that more lives could be saved each year in England if GPs followed the new guideline, which encourages GPs to think of cancer sooner and lower the referral threshold. A copy of the NICE guideline *Suspected cancer: recognition and referral* is attached.

Public Health England is currently working with stakeholders, including clinicians and charities to develop a generic Be Clear on Cancer approach, which will enable us to cover a range of cancer symptoms in one campaign. A regional pilot campaign to raise awareness of a range of abdominal symptoms that can indicate a wider number of cancers, including pancreatic cancer, will run from February to March 2017. The regional pilot will be

evaluated and the results will help inform decisions about how to expand this campaign in future.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NICE guideline [NICE Suspected cancer recognition and referral NG12 - attachment for HL3907.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-07/HL3907>

Parks

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 27 October (HL2320), how many Pocket Parks have been delivered to date. [I] [HL3785]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Eighty seven pocket parks have been created in predominantly deprived neighbourhoods under the government funded pocket parks programme.

Pets: Animal Breeding

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have undertaken any studies of the impact on pet animal welfare of brachycephaly; and if not, whether they intend to do so. [HL3897]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: While the Government has not carried out any such studies, as part of our review of the Animal Establishments Licensing Schemes, we are looking into the wider issue of genetic defects in dog breeding and whether steps can be taken to reduce the number of dogs being born with such defects.

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received any representations about the breeding of brachycephalic pet animals. [HL3898]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Two respondees to our recent consultation on Animal Establishments Licensing Schemes referred specifically to brachycephaly in dogs. In the past, we have also received other representations from individuals about this condition in dogs.

Planning Permission

Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered advising local authorities to extend the consultation period of planning applications which include bank holiday periods; and if not, why not. [HL3779]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: No, we have not considered this. Local authorities are already obliged to consult on proposals for development in their area; the

consultation period usually lasts for 21 days and we believe this period strikes an appropriate balance between ensuring sufficient consultation with the community and an efficient determination period for the applicant.

However, where statutory consultation is required, article 22(3) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 gives local authorities and statutory consultees the opportunity to agree in writing to a period other than 21 days in which to provide responses if necessary.

Pregnancy: Screening

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton 21 November (HL3063) indicating that no equality impact assessment was conducted prior to the decision to introduce non-invasive prenatal testing on the NHS, what is the basis for the statement that they are satisfied that the screening programme is compliant with the Department's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that the programme is compliant with any obligations under the Equality Act 2010. [HL3814]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Non-invasive prenatal testing for Down's, Edwards' and Patau's syndromes is an additional test to be offered as part of the current NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme, and as it does not fundamentally alter the choices already available to women, we consider that there will be no impact on race, age, disability, gender reassignment sex or sexual orientation, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership or pregnancy and maternity for the purposes of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. The Department also considers that the programme is compliant with the Equality Act because it is not discriminatory and, with regard to the three elements of the Public Sector Equality Duty in s.149 of that Act, it has a neutral impact.

The Department considers that adding this optional alternative procedure to the current screening programme is compliant with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as the test is intended to allow pregnant women to identify possible abnormalities in a foetus with more accuracy and in a less intrusive way than is possible through other screening procedures. Pregnant women will then be able to make a better informed choice in the light of the screening results.

All relevant equality duties will be further considered by Public Health England during the evaluative roll-out.

Radioactive Waste

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress is being made by the national geological screening process to establish, in terms of the long-term geology

and safety, what sites within the UK will be most appropriate for the siting of a national nuclear waste repository; and whether the screening includes possible maritime sites. [HL3950]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Radioactive Waste Management, the delivery body for a geological disposal facility, are gathering information about the type of rock, rock structure, groundwater, natural processes and resources for regions across England, Wales and Northern Ireland that will be relevant to a geological disposal safety case. This information will be made publicly available, and will help communities better understand their potential suitability to host a geological disposal facility. It will not determine if any particular location, region or area can definitively host one. That can only be done through extensive local investigations. No sites have been selected or are under consideration. The Government is committed to a consent based approach for siting a geological disposal facility, which will involve working with communities that are willing to participate in the siting process.

The design of a geological disposal facility could allow the underground facilities to extend offshore if accessed from onshore surface facilities. Therefore screening will consider the geological environment up to 20km offshore in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

RAF Leuchars

Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem

To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions since 1 January 2015 the diversionary runway at Leuchars has been used; which aircraft types have used it; and why. [HL4058]

Earl Howe: Details of military aircraft required to divert to Leuchars Station since January 2015 are provided in the table below:

| Date | Aircraft Type | Home Station | Reason |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 6 February 2015 | Tucano | Linton-on-Ouse | Technical fault |
| 9 February 2015 | Tucano | Linton-on-Ouse | Technical fault |
| 11 May 2015 | Tornado GR4 x 2 | Lossiemouth | Weather |
| 12 June 2015 | Hawk | Leeming | Medical |
| 25 June 2015 | Tornado GR4 | Lossiemouth | Technical fault |
| 29 June 2015 | Tucano | Linton-on-Ouse | Technical fault |
| 8 July 2015 | Tucano | Linton-on-Ouse | Technical fault |
| 30 July 2015 | Tornado GR4 | Lossiemouth | Birdstrike |
| 7 September 2015 | Typhoon | Coningsby | Birdstrike |
| 29 October 2015 | Tornado GR4 | Lossiemouth | Technical fault |

| Date | Aircraft Type | Home Station | Reason |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| 17 November 2015 | Typhoon | Coningsby | Weather |
| 27 January 2016 | Tornado GR4 | Lossiemouth | Technical fault |
| 18 May 2016 | Tornado GR4 | Lossiemouth | Technical fault |
| 26 October 2016 | F15 x 2 | Lakenheath | Technical fault. 2nd aircraft acted as escort |

Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision has been made for the refuelling of aircraft required to use the diversionary runway at Leuchars. [HL4059]

Earl Howe: The RAF maintains sufficient fuel stocks at Leuchars Station to refuel military aircraft required to use the diversionary runway.

Railways: Fares

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of proposed rises in train fares. [HL3933]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government regulates the price of certain rail fares in order to protect passengers. Other fares are unregulated, and train operators are permitted to set these on a commercial basis, taking account of competition between operators and from other transport modes and the need to attract business in order to grow their revenue. This Government has committed to capping regulated rail fares at RPI+0% for the term of this Parliament to 2020, which means that people's earnings have on average risen faster than regulated rail fares this year. This will benefit over a quarter of a million annual season ticket holders, providing an average saving of £425 in the five years to 2020.

Refugees: Doctors

Asked by Lord Crisp

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support refugees arriving in the UK, who are medical students or trainees, to complete their training. [HL3904]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Health Education England is supporting a range of initiatives to help refugees who are qualified or student health professionals to access support to enable them to complete their training and register, so that they can practice in the United Kingdom. These include language support, work placements and courses to refresh skills and knowledge for those returning to practice.

Road Traffic

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they estimate that traffic congestion costs the economy in time wasted (1) in London, and (2) in the 21 most congested UK cities, according to the 2016 INRIX report *Europe's Traffic Hotspots: Measuring the Impact of Congestion in Europe*. [HL3861]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Department for Transport does not routinely estimate congestion costs however, as part of the Eddington study in 2006, the Department estimated congestion costs in the most congested Local Authorities and in 2009 published a congestion map as part of the DASTS (Delivering A Sustainable Transport Strategy) City and Regional Networks Data Book showing the most congested towns and cities. The DASTS Databook Annex14 is available at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090511045027/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/strategy/databook/>

However, due to both the use of different methodologies, geographies as well as the age of the above analysis, it is not possible to compare the Departments historic analysis of congestion costs with those of INRIX.

Roads: Accidents

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that all road traffic accident reports include, as a matter of routine, an assessment of whether poor vision was a factor. [HL3883]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: All personal-injury accidents on the public highway that are attended by a police officer should be recorded and reported to the Department for Transport.

The set of information collected for each accident includes a list of factors which, in the judgement of the police officer, contributed to the accident. One of these factors is 'uncorrected, defective eyesight'. Police officers attending accidents should record this feature in all cases where poor vision was a factor.

Saudi Arabia: Migrant Workers

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Goldie on 9 November (HL Deb, col 1146), what assessment they have made of the legislative protections afforded to migrant workers in Saudi Arabia; whether they have raised concerns regarding these protections with the government of Saudi Arabia; and if so, what was the outcome. [HL3827]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have some concerns that the rights of third-country nationals working in the Kingdom are not always fully respected, mainly because existing legislation is not always rigorously enforced. Where we have concerns about the legislative or regulatory protection of migrant workers, we raise these with Governments.

Social Services: Fees and Charges

Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission will be implemented by the end of this Parliament. [HL3992]

Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission, when stakeholders, including local authorities, will be consulted on the implementation of the care cap; and what engagement mechanisms will be used. [HL3993]

Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that local authorities will have funds available to meet the recommendations of the Dilnot Commission; and how funding will be linked to local levels of need. [HL3994]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government remains committed to introducing a cap on care costs and extension of means tested support, which will be implemented from April 2020.

The Spending Review 2015 set budgets for the next four years to 2019-20. The final year includes funding to cover the costs of local authorities preparing to implement the changes the following year. Decisions about the allocation of funding for these reforms will be confirmed nearer the time.

The Department will continue to develop the policy underpinning the cap on care costs in the run-up to a consultation on draft regulations and guidance in the summer of 2018. The Department will work closely with the sector to ensure that their views are taken into account as we plan for implementation.

In addition to the cap on care costs, the Dilnot commission recommended the introduction of national eligibility criteria and universal Deferred Payment Agreements, both of which have been implemented from April 2015.

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to bring into effect the provisions in the Care Act 2014 for capping individual liability for meeting the costs of adult social care; and if so, when. [HL4040]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government remains committed to introducing a cap on care costs and

extension of means-tested support, which will be implemented from April 2020.

South Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many UK armed forces personnel who are (1) women, and (2) men, will be deployed in the UN peacekeeping force in South Sudan. [HL3958]

Earl Howe: I refer the Noble Baroness to the answer I gave her on 13 December 2016 to Question HL3805.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL3805 - WQnA extract on South Sudan
[20161213_HL3805_South_Sudan_Peacekeeping_Operations.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-08/HL3958>

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support disabled women who rely for income on permanent health insurance policies that cover them until the age of 60, the default retirement age at the time the policies were bought, and will now not receive a state pension until the age of 65 to 67. [HL3930]

Lord Young of Cookham: The decision to equalise the State Pension age for men and women dates back to the Pensions Act 1995. The Government provides benefits to support those unable to work to State Pension age due to a health condition or disability. People in this position may be eligible for Employment and Support Allowance, which provides income replacement for people with a health condition or disability, and Personal Independence Payment, which helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term health or disability.

Syria: Military Intervention

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 1 December, what discussions they have had with the government of Turkey about the area of Northern Syria now occupied by the Turkish army; what proportion of the occupied area was previously controlled by Daesh; whether Afrin Canton is now under Turkish attack; and whether Turkey gives advance warning of its plans to the United States and British commanders. [HL3828]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: As members of the Global Coalition, the UK and Turkey regularly discuss operations in Syria. The majority of the area in northern Syria currently held by Turkish-backed opposition was previously dominated by Daesh. We are not aware of any

recent clashes between the Turkish-backed opposition and the People's Protection Units in Afrin Canton. We call on all parties to work alongside the Global Coalition to achieve our shared objective of defeating Daesh.

Teachers: Training

Asked by Baroness Donaghy

To ask Her Majesty's Government which initial teacher training providers were allocated places for three years from 2017–18; and how many places were allocated to each provider (1) apportioned by primary and secondary phases, and (2) broken down by individual secondary subject. [HL3778]

Lord Nash: We will be publishing the full list of providers eligible for three-year allocations, and the allocations by subject and route in due course. This information will comprise data on both primary and secondary phase, inclusive of all provider-led and school direct trainee places.

Tobacco

Asked by Viscount Ridley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the percentage of men in the UK aged 16 to 29 who (1) smoke cigarettes, and (2) use snus, on a daily basis. [HL3875]

Asked by Viscount Ridley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to include scientific evidence about the potential of snus as a smoking substitute in their Tobacco Control Plan. [HL3876]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Statistics on daily smoking are not routinely gathered. In 2015, the Office of National Statistics Annual Population Survey 2015 showed that 17.6% of 18-19 year old men, 24% of 20-24 year old men, and 27% of 25-29 year old men were current smokers. No data is collected on snus use.

The Tobacco Control plan will provide a framework and call to action for wide ranging future work to further reduce the prevalence of tobacco use.

Type 45 Destroyers

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what date the intercooler and generator problems on all T45 destroyers will have been resolved. [HL4091]

Earl Howe: As with all equipment projects, the cost and schedule of the Power Improvement Project will be set at the main investment decision. Disclosing our planning assumptions prior to this point would compromise the Ministry of Defence's negotiating position and therefore be prejudicial to our commercial interests.

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that the T45 destroyers are fully operational and could be deployed with system certainty in war. [HL4092]

Earl Howe: All Type 45 Destroyers remain in the operational cycle and continue to be routinely deployed in support of national interests.

World War II: Genocide

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation, if any, and what reasons, led to the announcement in January by the former Prime Minister, David Cameron, that a National Holocaust Memorial should be sited in Victoria Tower Gardens. [HL3829]

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to meet the authorities of both Houses of Parliament, Westminster City Council, the Thorney Island Society and other local residents and interested parties, to discuss the implications of a National Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens. [HL3830]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: In 2014 the Prime Minister's cross-party Holocaust Commission undertook a nationwide public consultation, receiving more than 2500 responses to its Call for Evidence. This resulted in the Commission recommending the creation of a new National Memorial to the Holocaust and an

accompanying Learning Centre to be prominently located in Central London.

Following an extensive search across central London, which included discussions within Government and with property owners and developers across Central London; invitations to respond to a site specification; and a thorough search by property agents CBRE, Victoria Tower Gardens was identified as a possible location for the Memorial.

The Memorial will serve as a reminder of the depths of depravity that a seemingly enlightened society can plunge to if it abandons its democratic values, and the importance of constant vigilance in protecting these values. There could be no more powerful or appropriate location to make such a statement than next to Parliament. As a result, and following consultation with Westminster City Council and The Royal Parks, the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, which advises DCLG in this matter, recommended that the Memorial be located in Victoria Tower Gardens. This was announced by the Government in January 2016.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to contribute financially to a National Holocaust Memorial, wherever that might be sited, with or without an attached visitor and learning centre; and if so, to what extent. [HL3831]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: In January 2015, Government announced that it was accepting all the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission. In doing so, Government also committed £50 million as its contribution to total project costs.

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