



Daily Report

Friday, 26 August 2016

This report shows written answers and statements provided on 26 August 2016 and the information is correct at the time of publication (03:05 P.M., 26 August 2016). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

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

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

ANSWERS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ British Airways: Conditions of Employment

Mr David Anderson:

[42998]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will investigate whether TUPE provisions have been applied to British Airways IT workers' jobs that have been outsourced in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement.

Margot James:

When a business changes owner, TUPE regulations may apply. Outsourcing part of their business is a commercial decision taken by British Airways and it is not a matter for the Government to investigate such decisions.

■ Business: EU Law

Andrew Stephenson:

[42469]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what work his Department is undertaking on identifying EU regulations that have a cost to British businesses that could be repealed or replaced.

Margot James:

In the short term, the Government will continue to seek the amendment or repeal of EU rules within the framework of the European Commission's Regulatory Fitness (REFIT) programme, in order to minimise the regulatory burdens imposed on UK businesses. The REFIT programme was established in 2012 to review the stock of existing EU legislation in order to identify burdens, inconsistencies, gaps or ineffective measures and address them.

Building on the work of the Red Tape Challenge and the current Cutting Red Tape programme, we will continue our engagement with business to gather their views on their priorities for reducing EU regulatory burdens wherever possible once the UK has left the EU. My Rt Hon Friend the former Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Member for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid) chaired a roundtable with business leaders, to discuss the challenges faced by businesses and ensure that the negotiation of the UK's future relationship with the EU is carried out in the interest of UK companies, investors, potential investors and workers.

■ Companies: Ownership

Jonathan Ashworth:

[43372]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department has responsibility for the public register of beneficial ownership of UK companies.

Margot James:

The register of people with significant control will be held at Companies House, which is an agency of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Jonathan Ashworth:

[43373]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how the public register of beneficial ownership of UK companies can be accessed.

Margot James:

Companies House's register of the information provided by UK companies on their People with Significant Control (PSCs) is public and freely accessible, and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house>.

Since 30 June, companies have been required to provide information on their PSCs to Companies House as the Confirmation Statement (formerly the annual return) becomes due. The register will therefore build up over time and be complete from 29 June 2017.

■ Companies: Registration

Martyn Day:

[43058]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what information his Department holds on the level of address fraud in the registration of companies; and if his Department will seek to review the process and legislation for the registration of companies in order to avoid such fraud in future.

Margot James:

As part of its responsibility for maintaining the UK companies register, Companies House undertake some basic checks on companies during the incorporation process. The Government has no current plans to require additional processes and checks before registration.

Companies House maintains statistics on the nature of the complaints it receives about alleged address fraud.

Companies House follows up on all complaints received about newly incorporated companies and works closely with law enforcement agencies where fraudulent activity is suspected. It is an offence under the Companies Act to submit false information to Companies House.

■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Jonathan Ashworth:

[43194]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whom he has appointed as his special advisers.

Margot James:

A list of Special Advisers in Government will be published in due course.

■ EU Grants and Loans: Liverpool City Region

Luciana Berger:

[\[42527\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how much funding from the (a) European Regional Development Fund and (b) European Social Fund was spent in (i) Liverpool, Wavertree constituency and (ii) each borough of the Liverpool City Region in each year since 2010.

Margot James:

Information is not held for individual constituencies or boroughs. Figures are recorded for Merseyside and are from the 2007-13 programming period where projects could spend money up to the end of 2015, with some reimbursements taking place in 2016.

The figures for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) are:

YEAR	£M MERSEYSIDE
2009	£77.30
2010	£25.00
2011	£28.80
2012	£27.00
2013	£29.70
2014	£21.60
2015	£33.50
2016	£20.75
Total	£263.65

For the European Social Fund (ESF) figures as follows:

YEAR	£M MERSEYSIDE
2010	£44.04
2011	£20.58
2012	£11.61
2013	£8.75
2014	£7.70
2015	£9.93
2016	£0.29

YEAR	£M MERSEYSIDE
Total	£102.90

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

■ Iron and Steel: Manufacturing Industries

Stephen Doughty: [\[41714\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what discussions he has had with representatives of the UK steel industry on the implications of the outcome of the EU referendum for that industry; and what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies on support for the steel industry of the outcome of the EU referendum.

Mr Nick Hurd:

[Holding answer 7 July 2016]: We are committed to working closely with the UK steel sector through the Steel Council, which is co-chaired by my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Chair of UK Steel, to maximize all opportunities to improve the sector's competitiveness. This is also the forum for the Government and the Steel sector to work together to assess the implications of the outcome of the EU referendum. On 28 June, Ministers from the former Department of Business, Innovation and Skills held a special round table of business leaders, including the Chair of the Steel Council, to start to explore post-referendum issues.

On 20 July, my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and I visited Port Talbot when we met with local Tata Steel management, employees and trade unions.

The Government's top priority for steel has not changed in the light of the EU referendum. The process for selling Tata Steel's remaining UK assets remains ongoing and we continue to work closely with Tata and potential bidders to seek to secure a sustainable future for UK steel production.

■ Trade Agreements: China

Dan Jarvis: [\[41848\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what discussions the Government has had with the government of China on a potential free trade agreement between the UK and China.

Dan Jarvis: [\[41849\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what discussions the Government has had with the government of India on a potential free trade agreement between the UK and India.

Dan Jarvis:

[\[41850\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what discussions the Government has had with the US administration on a potential free trade agreement between the UK and the US.

Dr Liam Fox:

[Holding answer 11 July 2016]: In due course, Britain will be leaving the EU. This offers us an opportunity to forge a new role for ourselves in the world: to negotiate, in time, our own trade agreements and to be a positive and powerful force for free trade. But it would not be appropriate to provide a running commentary on initial discussions with individual countries. My Rt hon Friend the Prime Minister has established the Department for International Trade to promote British trade across the world and ensure the UK takes advantage of the huge opportunities open to us. We will engage fully with a broad range of stakeholders, including both governments and business over the coming weeks and months as we prepare for the negotiation with the EU and other international partners.

EDUCATION

■ Primary Education: Admissions

Tim Loughton:

[\[42963\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when she plans to open the consultation on changes to the School Admissions Code to increase the rights of parents to choose when their child enters reception class.

Nick Gibb:

We are considering a number of possible changes to the way in which the school admissions system works and we will want to consult on any changes we believe would be helpful. We will announce the timetable for consultation in due course.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

■ Overseas Trade

Charlotte Leslie:

[\[41618\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether the Government plans to meet with the (a) Australian, (b) New Zealand and (c) Canadian governments to discuss the potential effect on trade with those countries of the UK leaving the EU.

Dr Liam Fox:

Until we have left the EU, the UK will remain a member of the EU with all of the rights and obligations that membership entails. In due course, Britain will be leaving the EU. This offers us an opportunity to forge a new role for ourselves in the world: to negotiate, in time, our own trade agreements and to be a positive and powerful force for free trade. We recognise the need for a smooth transition which minimises

disruption to our trading relationships. It would be wrong to set out unilateral positions at this stage. Already though we have seen expressions of interest in future trade deals with the United Kingdom, such as from the Prime Minister of Australia.

■ Trade Agreements

Jonathan Edwards:

[\[42711\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what plans he has to protect public services in future negotiations on trade agreements.

Dr Liam Fox:

My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has established the Department for International Trade to promote British trade across the world and ensure the UK takes advantage of the huge opportunities open to us.

The trade agreements the UK is currently party to include specific guarantees for public services. Decisions on how to deliver public services for the best outcomes for UK citizens are made by the UK Government. The Government wants to ensure the continued provision of quality public services.