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Tuesday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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[I] indicates that the member concerned has a relevant registered interest. The full register of interests can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

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Ministers and others who make Statements or answer Questions are referred to only by name, not their ministerial or other title. The current list of ministerial and other responsibilities is as follows.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Baroness Anelay of St Johns	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Whip
Lord Bates	Minister of State, Department for International Development
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, Wales Office
Lord Bridges of Headley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union
Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Dunlop	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office
Lord Freud	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Whip
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
Lord Nash	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Baroness Mobarik	Whip
Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Minister of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Lord Price	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
Lord Prior of Brampton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
Baroness Shields	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sport
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Lord Young of Cookham	Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Tuesday, 8 November 2016

Agriculture Council

[HLWS246]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (George Eustice) has today made the following statement.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council will take place on 14-15 November in Brussels. I will represent the UK.

As the provisional agenda stands, the primary focus for Fisheries will be a Political Agreement on fishing opportunities for EU vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks, and an exchange of views on establishing a multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea.

On Agriculture there will be an exchange of views on: a report from the Agricultural Markets Taskforce; EU Agricultural Research and innovation; and a study on the impact of concessions in Free Trade Agreements on agricultural products.

There are currently nine confirmed Any Other Business items tabled for this Council:

- * Implementation of the landing obligation, including the potential issue of fisheries choke (tabled by the United Kingdom)
- * Completion of action plans for EMFF specific ex-ante conditionalities (tabled by the Commission)
- * Outcomes from the informal EU Forest Directors General meeting (tabled by the Presidency)
- * Animal welfare during transport (tabled by Sweden)
- * Animal welfare platform (tabled by the Netherlands)
- * Endocrine disruptors (tabled by the Netherlands)
- * Ministerial Conference on lumpy skin disease (tabled by Bulgaria and Austria)
- * Anti-microbial Resistance (tabled by Denmark)
- * Use of geographical indications on foods which imply customary name (tabled by Greece)

Armed Forces Pension Scheme: Contingencies

[HLWS244]

Earl Howe: My hon. Friend the Minister for Defence, Veterans and Reserve Personnel (Mr Mark Lancaster) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Armed Forces Pension and Compensation Schemes will be requesting a Supplementary Estimate in due course to address a shortfall in the net cash requirement amount, which originally appeared in the HM Treasury's Central Government Main Supply Estimates 2016-17, published in July 2016 (HC 967).

This shortfall in the net cash requirement has arisen due to an inadvertent publishing error by HMT in the Central Government Main Supply Estimates 2016-17 (HC967).

This will be corrected at the Supplementary Estimate stage, however, a Contingencies Fund advance has been sought in the interim, which will be repaid once the Supplementary Estimate is approved by Parliament and Royal Assent of the accompanying Supply and Appropriation Bill has been obtained.

Parliamentary approval for additional cash of £438,193,000 will be sought in the Supplementary Estimate for the Armed Forces Pension and Compensation Schemes. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £438,193,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

Civil Service Compensation Scheme

[HLWS242]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: My Right Honourable friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Ben Gummer) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I have laid an amended Civil Service Compensation Scheme before Parliament along with a report setting out the process by which we have sought to try to reach agreement with relevant trade unions.

The terms outlined in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme 2016 will come into effect from tomorrow, 9 November.

This amended scheme is in line with the Government's response to the consultation on the Civil Service Compensation Scheme that was published on 26 September and the offer made to trade unions on the same day.

The Government has reformed the Civil Service Compensation Scheme to align with wider compensation reforms planned across the public sector, giving the Civil Service an effective, cost-efficient system to help civil servants leave when exits are needed. Our overarching aim will always be to provide the best possible service for the public and to create a Civil Service that treats our workforce with fairness and respect.

I believe that these reforms represent a strong negotiated settlement. It has been reached with trade unions that have engaged constructively in discussions. As a consequence we have an agreement that provides a firm foundation for the management of the Civil Service and its people for a generation. This administration will not seek to deviate from this agreement.

With this reform concluded, I want to work with trade unions on the aspirations we both have to make the Civil Service an even better place to work.

ECOFIN: November 2016

[HLWS247]

Lord Young of Cookham: My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A meeting of The Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) will be held in Brussels on 8 November 2016. EU Finance Ministers are due to discuss the following items:

Ministerial dialogue with the European Free Trade Association

ECOFIN will be preceded by a meeting of EU and EFTA Finance Ministers which will discuss issues of investment and economic growth.

Early morning briefing

Ministers will be briefed on outcomes of the 7 November meeting of the Eurogroup and the Commission will present an update on the current economic situation.

Commissioner Margrethe Vestager has been invited to the session to discuss state aid and taxation. Vestager has responsibility for enforcing competition rules in the areas of antitrust, cartels, mergers and state aid.

Building a fair, competitive and stable corporate tax system for the EU

Proposals on a Common Corporate Tax Base; a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base; Double Taxation Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in the EU and Hybrid Mismatches with Third Countries were published on 25 October 2016. The Commission will give a presentation on its proposals which will be followed by an exchange of views.

Anti-Money Laundering Directive

The Presidency will present on the current state of play on the Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive which will be followed by a Ministerial discussion on this topic.

Current financial services legislative proposals

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

Statistics

Ministers will be briefed on EU statistics including the 2016 statistical package, the progress made on strengthening cooperation with Eurostat and the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board Report on the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Council Conclusions will be presented for endorsement by Ministers.

European Court of Auditors' annual report on the implementation of the 2015 budget

The European Court of Auditors' will give a presentation on their annual report on the implementation of the 2015 budget.

Implementation of the Banking Union

Ministers are to discuss the current state of play on the implementation of the Banking Union.

Packaged retail and insurance-based investment products (PRIIPs) Regulation

The Commission will provide an update on the current state of play in relation to the entry in to force of the PRIIPs Regulation.

Criteria and process leading to the establishment of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes

Ministers will discuss draft Council Conclusions on the criteria and process leading to the establishment of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes.

Environment Council: October 2016

[HLWS245]

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

I attended the EU Environment Council in Luxembourg on 17 October along with my Hon Friend the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry (Nick Hurd MP).

I wish to update the House on the matters discussed.

Effort Share and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

Ministers undertook a full table round debate of the Commission's legislative proposals on the "non-ETS" package – the Effort Share Regulation (ESR) and Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation, published in July 2016. The Commission strongly welcomed the EU's ratification of the Paris Agreement and supported a focus on implementation via agreement to both the ESR and EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive. Ministers exchanged comments on a number of the technical aspects of the proposals. The UK noted the importance of swift agreement to the proposals in the context of implementation of the Paris Agreement and, along with several other Member States, supported taking the Effort Share negotiations in parallel with discussion on the EU ETS.

Any Other Business - 39th International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Assembly: Information from the Commission.

The Presidency congratulated the role of the EU and Member States in brokering the recent agreement for aviation at the ICAO General Assembly in Montreal. It noted the further work to be done on implementation and underlined the relevance of the deal for the EU's Aviation Emissions Trading System (ETS).

The Commission hailed the landmark aviation deal and underscored the global and non-discriminatory nature of the deal. On Aviation ETS, the Commission said it would present a proposal in early 2017 following an analysis of the ICAO deal.

Sustainable Water Management - Council Conclusions

Ministers supported the adoption of the Council Conclusions on Sustainable Water Management. The Commission welcomed the Conclusions and explained that it would come forward with a proposal to revise the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in 2019 which would

include options for Member States to maintain ambitious objectives. The UK and other Member States all welcomed the call in the Conclusions for the Commission to work with Member States to develop options well before the 2019 WFD review to allow continued high ambition post-2027.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Council conclusions

The Presidency circulated a compromise text to its draft Council Conclusions in order to prepare the EU position for the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol, which is to be held on 4-17 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico. The Council adopted these Conclusions following the agreement of a revised compromise text.

AOB – CITES Conference of the Parties 17: Information from the Presidency and Commission

The Council was updated on the outcome of the 17th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Conference of the Parties in Johannesburg last month. The Commission and the UK welcomed the outcome, with the UK praising the science based approach which was taken, such as maintaining ivory market closure through retaining annotations to the four Southern African populations of elephants on Appendix II.

AOB – Lessons Learnt from the National Emissions Ceiling (NEC): Information from Poland, Romania and Hungary

Some Member States raised concerns as to how negotiations were conducted in reaching provisional agreement on this directive. The Commission appreciated that there had been compromises to get to an agreement but welcomed the overall achievement in getting to this stage.

AOB: Identification of endocrine disrupting substances; information from the Danish, Swedish and Dutch delegations.

The Council took note of this AOB item. The Commission noted that a Communication on this issue had been presented at June Environment Council and that the Commission was reflecting on comments before putting forward a revised text to Member States.

Other AOBs:

The Council noted information from the Commission and the Presidency on: the 28th meeting of the Parties (MOP28) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The Council noted information from the Presidency on the 2016 World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The Council noted information from the Commission on a Communication from the Commission on a European Strategy for Low-Emission Mobility.

The Council noted information from Member State delegations on Natural Resources Management on the example of the Białowieża Forest (Information from

Poland); and Unspent funds from the New Entrants Reserve (NER300) Funding Programme (Information from Cyprus).

Foreign Affairs Councils: November 2016

[HLWS248]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: My right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Sir Alan Duncan), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will attend the Foreign Affairs Council on 14 November. My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Defence will attend the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) on 15 November. The Foreign Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) will be chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. The meeting will be held in Brussels.

Foreign Affairs Council

The agenda for the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) is expected to include the Eastern Partnership and the Security and Defence Implementation Plan (SDIP). The meeting will potentially also cover a range of countries from the Southern Neighbourhood including Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Iran and Yemen. It is expected that Libya will also be covered.

Eastern Partnership

Ministers are expected to exchange views on recent developments in the six Eastern Partnership States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Syria

Ministers will discuss Syria. The EU has already imposed sanctions against the Asad regime to restrict their capacity to wage war on the Syrian civilian population. The October Foreign Affairs Council agreed to impose further restrictive measures and ten new sanctions listings have since been agreed. The October European Council Conclusions declared the EU to be “considering all available options, should the current atrocities continue.” The EEAS has proposed a revised EU Syria Strategy and the UK will press for this to recognise that a political transition in Syria is vital to our shared interests on counter-terrorism and migration, and make recovery/reconstruction project funding conditional on a political transition. It is important that any EU strategy for Syria does not delay an EU response to the current situation inside Syria. We will encourage an EU approach that focuses on supporting the UN-led process, seeking a lasting political solution to the conflict and pursuing robust action against those who stand in the way of peace.

Libya

Discussions are expected to cover the latest developments in the Libyan political process. On 31 October the UK and US co-hosted a Ministerial meeting

which discussed Libya's economic challenges and how to support the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement. We will encourage the EU to consider how it can best continue to support the Presidency Council and Government of National Accord.

Security and Defence Implementation Plan

EU Foreign and Defence Ministers will discuss the Security and Defence Implementation Plan – part of the follow up to the European Global Strategy. We anticipate Council Conclusions welcoming the SDIP and agreeing to take forward its proposals.

Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)

The FAC (D) will discuss the European Defence Agency, including the budget for next year; the Commission's European Defence Action Plan, where the Commission will update Member States on progress; EU/NATO cooperation, where we will welcome progress so far and call for greater momentum; and ongoing CSDP operations and missions.

Future Reserves 2020: Update

[HLWS250]

Earl Howe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (The Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon KCB MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 29 June 2016 I informed Parliament (HCWS49) that, following the strategic and defence security review 2015, which set out the need to strengthen the Armed Forces' contribution to UK resilience, the Army would in future plan to use Regular and Reserve Phase 1 trained personnel in response to crises within the UK. This will increase the productivity, utility and size of force available in the event of a national emergency. To reflect this, the term 'Trained Strength' will now include all personnel trained to undertake the core functions of the Army.

The public consultation on the presentation of revised Trained Strength figures for the Army Reserve has now been completed and we will commence publication of the new statistics from 1 October. I have agreed the following revised growth profile for the Army Reserve with the Chief of the General Staff; unchanged growth targets for the Maritime Reserve and Royal Auxiliary Air Force are included for completeness:

<i>Trained Strength</i>	<i>31 Mar 17</i>	<i>31 Mar 18</i>	<i>31 Mar 19</i>
Maritime Reserve	2,320	2,790	3,100
Army Reserve	26,700	28,600	30,100
Royal Auxiliary Air Force	1,860	1,860	1,860
Total	30,880	33,250	35,060

These targets now replace all those announced on 19 December 2013 (Official Report, column 124WS).

Panama Papers Taskforce

[HLWS249]

Lord Young of Cookham: My right honourable friend The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Philip Hammond) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

In his statement to the House on 11 April 2016, the former Prime Minister David Cameron announced the creation of a cross-agency taskforce to analyse all the information that had been made available from the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)'s Panama Papers data leak. My Right Honourable Friend, the Home Secretary (Amber Rudd) and I now wish to update the house on the work of the Taskforce.

In its short existence, the Taskforce has added greatly to the UK's understanding of the ever-more complex and contrived structures that are being developed to mask offshore tax evasion and economic crime. This intelligence will ensure that the UK remains uniquely placed to contribute to the international effort to uncover, and take action, on wrongdoing, regardless of how deeply hidden the arrangements are, as well as identify those jurisdictions where regulatory oversight requires improvement.

We can today report that the Taskforce has:

- opened civil and criminal investigations into 22 individuals for suspected tax evasion
- led the international acquisition of high-quality, significant and credible data on offshore activity in Panama – ensuring the important work of the Taskforce was not delayed by the ICIJ's refusal to release all of the information that it holds to any tax authority or law enforcement agency
- identified a number of leads relevant to a major insider-trading operation led by the Financial Conduct Authority and supported by the National Crime Agency
- identified nine potential professional enablers of economic crime – all of whom have links with known criminals
- placed 43 high net worth individuals under special review while their links to Panama are further investigated
- identified two new UK properties and a number of companies relevant to a National Crime Agency financial sanctions enquiry
- established links to eight active Serious Fraud Office investigations
- identified 26 offshore companies whose beneficial ownership of UK property was previously concealed, and whose financial activity has been identified to the National Crime Agency as potentially suspicious
- contacted 64 firms to determine their links with Mossack Fonseca to establish potential further avenues for investigation by the Taskforce
- seen individuals coming forward to settle their affairs in advance of Taskforce partners taking action.

The Taskforce's respective partners will engage the relevant prosecuting authorities to bring any identified wrongdoing before the courts.

The Government has also invested to develop its expertise in data and intelligence exploitation. This has ensured that Departments and agencies are well placed to forensically analyse massive-scale data of this kind, which are becoming ever-more frequently available.

The Taskforce has established a Joint Financial Analysis Centre (JFAC). Using the data and intelligence gathered from across the Taskforce, the JFAC has developed cutting-edge software tools and techniques, ensuring the Taskforce has access to the very best information from which to work.

The proactive acquisition of data, alongside the establishment of the JFAC, has enabled the Taskforce to identify a number of areas for further investigation across the full range of tax and economic crime, as well as links to organised crime, which will be the focus of its work over the coming months.

Taskforce members are present in Panama, using established relationships with the Panamanian authorities, and working with diplomatic colleagues, to offer support to analyse all the available data. Taskforce members have also worked with international partners as part of the Joint International Tax Shelter Information Centre to exchange information and intelligence as part of the wider international effort.

More generally, the Government has introduced tough new powers, increased penalties and game-changing measures to tackle offshore and onshore tax evasion. In the summer 2015 Budget, the Government gave HMRC an additional £800 million to invest in compliance and tax evasion work. This is expected to recover £7.2 billion in tax by the end of 2020/21. This includes tripling the number of criminal investigations that it undertakes into serious and complex tax crime, focusing particularly on wealthy individuals and companies. The aim is to increase prosecutions in this area to 100 a year, by the end of this Parliament.

The Government has also been pivotal in increasing global financial transparency in more than 100 countries, including British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, by automatically sharing offshore account data. This additional data will help identify and pursue the tiny minority of tax evaders still hiding their money offshore.

The Government aims to make the UK a more hostile place for those seeking to move, hide or use the proceeds of crime or corruption. In October 2015, the Government published the National Risk Assessment for Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing to better understand the risks and vulnerabilities for the UK. The Action Plan, published in April 2016, and the Criminal Finances Bill, introduced to Parliament in September, will significantly improve our capabilities to tackle money laundering and recover the proceeds of crime, including proceeds of corruption.

The London Anti-Corruption Summit earlier this year brought more than 40 countries together and resulted in a commitment to more than 600 actions. Since then, the UK has made real progress on its own commitments – our public register of beneficial ownership information is now live, the first G20 country to do so; and the National Crime Agency is working to get the new International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre operational by next April.

Rail Update

[HLWS241]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Maynard) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

I wish to update the House on the programme of rail investment in the Great Western route and the steps we are taking to ensure this improves services to passengers while getting the best deal for taxpayers.

We are continuing to invest £2.8bn in this electrification programme to provide faster journeys, more services, and better stations while providing new or upgraded trains for passengers, with thousands more seats, and increasing capacity for freight. It will improve the experience on over 100 million rail journeys each year, stimulating economic growth from London through the Thames Valley, to the Cotswolds, West Country and to South Wales.

It is a project unprecedented in scale that is building on and around ageing assets in constant use. This is an ambitious and challenging undertaking, but real progress is being made in delivering it.

Projects completed successfully this year include the digital upgrade of large sections of signalling to improve reliability, the modification of over 100 bridges and structures, flood alleviation work, significant improvements to the resilience of the Oxford route and the introduction of the first Great Western electric services between Hayes & Harlington to Paddington which run between some of the busiest peak services in the country.

Works on the Severn Tunnel this autumn made vital preparation for electrification between London and South Wales. Other enabling works include the progression of electrification towards the west, further re-signalling in Bristol, Cardiff and Cornwall, improvements at Bristol Temple Meads Station, enabling works at stations throughout the route, provision of better access for disabled passengers at selected stations, and enhancements to depots from West Ealing in the east to Penzance in the west.

We have been clear that there have been difficulties with this programme. These were set out last year in the review of Network Rail's delivery plan by Sir Peter Hendy. Following the re-planning of work that followed this review, the programme has been placed on a more

efficient footing. A key part of this is the ongoing assessment of investment decisions so that passengers and taxpayers get maximum value.

As a result of this scrutiny from the Hendy review I have decided to defer four electrification projects that are part of the programme of work along the Great Western route. The four projects being deferred are:

- i) Electrification between Oxford and Didcot Parkway
- ii) Electrification of Filton Bank (Bristol Parkway to Bristol Temple Meads)
- iii) Electrification west of Thingley Junction (Bath Spa to Bristol Temple Meads)
- iv) Electrification of Thames Valley Branches (Henley & Windsor)

This is because we can bring in the benefits expected by passengers - newer trains with more capacity –without requiring costly and disruptive electrification works. This will provide between £146m to £165m in this spending period, to be focused on improvements that will deliver additional benefits to passengers. We remain committed to modernising the Great Western mainline and ensuring that passenger benefits are achieved.

This decision underscores the government's approach to wider rail investment; that passenger outcomes must be delivered in conjunction with achieving the best value from every pound spent.

Review of Terrorism Legislation

[[HLWS243](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

In accordance with section 36(5) of the Terrorism Act 2006, David Anderson QC, the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, prepared a report on the operation in 2014 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006, which was laid before the House on 17 September 2015.

I am grateful to David Anderson for his report and have carefully considered its recommendations and observations. I am today laying before the House the Government's response (Cm 9357) to his report, copies of which will be available in the Vote Office. It will also be published on GOV.UK.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 8 November 2016

Academies: Admissions

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many requests for directions to admit a child to an academy the Education Funding Agency has received from councils since its establishment on 1 April 2012; and how many such directions were issued in the last four years. [I] [HL2837]

Lord Nash: The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has received 121 requests for directions to admit a child to an academy from Local Authorities since its establishment on 1 April 2012 to 31 October 2016.

These requests have resulted in the EFA issuing 15 directions to admit over the same period.

Agricultural Machinery: Roads

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they are giving to farmers to reduce the number of incidents of mud getting onto the roads. [HL2811]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Vehicle operators, contractors and farmers who deposit mud on the road are potentially liable for a range of offences as set out in the Highways Act 1980 (as amended) and the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Whilst the Department for Transport does not provide specific advice to farmers, the National Farmers Union provides advice in respect to mud on the road to their members through their website.

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the diversion to Vancouver on 25 October of BA flight 286 from San Francisco to London after crew members become unwell, and in the light of reports that the cabin air was contaminated, whether British passengers on that flight are entitled to medical screening to ascertain whether they have been affected; and if so, where they should apply to receive that screening. [HL2926]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: All passengers on BA Flight 286 disembarked from the aircraft safely, however crew members attended various hospitals in Vancouver, as a precaution.

It is not clear what the cause of the crew's symptoms was, however the incident was reported to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

If passengers are unwell they should seek medical attention, but no special arrangements are in place for medical screening.

Passenger and crew safety is of paramount importance. The Department for Transport and the CAA are constantly working to enhance safety standards.

Animals: Post-mortems

Asked by Lord Trees

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each year since 2012, what is the number of (1) carcasses, and (2) diagnostic samples, submitted to each of the Veterinary Investigation Centres and contractor post-mortem examination facilities. [HL2711]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The number of carcasses submitted to each of the Veterinary Investigation Centres and contractor post-mortem examination facilities for each year from 2012 to 27 October 2016 is shown in Table 1 attached.

The number of diagnostic samples submitted to each of the Veterinary Investigation Centres and contractor post-mortem examination facilities for each year from 2012 to 27 October 2016 is shown in Table 2 attached.

It should also be noted that since 2012 the number of Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and non-APHA facilities has changed as a result of 'Surveillance 2014', the public consultation, Ministerial agreements and subsequent APHA project that made changes to the way veterinary scanning surveillance is delivered in England and Wales. As part of this some of the former Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency Regional Laboratory sites closed and the non-APHA facilities began operations from late 2014 to provide post-mortem examination (PME) services only. However, in addition to carcass submissions to the non-APHA contractor PME facilities, a small number of non-carcass diagnostic samples have also been received at these facilities.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PQ HL2712 - Tables 1 and 2 [PQ HL2711.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-26/HL2711>

Asked by Lord Trees

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the number of carcasses and diagnostic samples submitted to each of the Veterinary Investigation Centres and contractor post-mortem examination facilities in each year since 2012 is representative of the animal populations in the areas they cover. [HL2712]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The main aim of scanning surveillance activities performed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the five non-APHA post-mortem examination partners in England and Wales is the timely detection and investigation of animal-related new and re-emerging diseases and threats in livestock and

wildlife species. The representativeness of these surveillance activities with regard to the animal populations in the areas that they cover varies, and this is subject to a number of factors. Furthermore, scanning surveillance activities performed to achieve the main aim comprise more than just the throughputs and examination of carcasses and diagnostic samples.

The Surveillance Intelligence Unit of the APHA, which was established in 2014, now monitors engagement with the surveillance network and maps this by species as a ratio of each livestock population. The engagement across England and Wales is not uniform. Areas of higher livestock density for a particular species tend to have higher engagement ratios. The Quarterly Emerging Threats reports are available on the Government's website on the APHA animal disease surveillance reports page.

Apprentices

Asked by Lord Aberdare

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to increase awareness of the available post-16 apprenticeship options among parents, teachers and pupils. [HL2758]

Lord Nash: The Government is undertaking a range of activities to increase awareness of the available post-16 apprenticeship options among parents, teachers and pupils.

The four-year 'Get In Go Far' campaign, which launched in May 2016, aims to influence public perceptions, awareness and attitudes towards apprenticeships as a route into a successful career. It also aims to help young people aged 14-24 get the skills they need and encourage more young people to apply and more employers to offer apprenticeship opportunities.

Schools have a statutory duty to provide independent careers guidance for 12-18 year olds, including information about apprenticeships. The National Careers Service provides independent, professional advice on careers, skills and the labour market, including information on the benefits of apprenticeships and how to apply for vacancies. The Careers and Enterprise Company has a lead role in transforming the provision of careers, enterprise and employer engagement experiences for young people to inspire them and prepare them for the world of work. Apprenticeships are an essential part of this inspiration and preparation, which the Company are promoting through its nationwide Enterprise Adviser Network, which now has almost 1200 Advisers in place, and other programmes including its £5m 'Careers and Enterprise Investment Fund'.

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) engages with schools to promote apprenticeships, including through the 'Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools project'; 'Apprenticeship Champions' in schools across England, and the 'Amazing Apprenticeships' schools' resources portal. The SFA Young Apprenticeship Ambassador Networks and Employer Ambassadors raise

awareness of apprenticeships, partnering with UCAS to test the early advertising of higher and degree vacancies to Year 13 students applying for university.

Brexit

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to give immediate notice under Article 50 that the UK intends to leave the EU. [HL2604]

Lord Bridges of Headley: We must leave in the way agreed in law by Britain and other member states, which means following the process set out in Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union. The Prime Minister has been clear we will trigger Article 50 by the end of March 2017.

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there are any circumstances, as part of the negotiations for the UK's exit from the EU, whereby a new treaty would have to be signed; and what implications this would have on the expected introduction of a bill to repeal the European Communities Act 1972. [HL2841]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The Government will bring forward legislation in the next session that, when enacted, will repeal the European Communities Act 1972 on the day we leave the EU. This 'Great Repeal Bill' will end the authority of EU law and return power to the UK.

Under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, the arrangements relating to the UK's withdrawal are to be made between the UK and the EU in a withdrawal treaty. Our efforts will be focused on getting the best deal possible for the UK in the negotiations with the EU. The Government will observe the constitutional and legal precedents that apply to the deal that we will negotiate with the EU.

British Nationals Abroad: Middle East

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 16 September (HL1580), what actions would amount to engaging in the conflict in Syria and Iraq without constituting a criminal offence. [HL2553]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK advises against all travel to Syria and parts of Iraq. Anyone who does travel, for whatever reason, is putting themselves in considerable danger. People seeking to travel to engage in the conflict should be in no doubt we will take the strongest possible action to protect our national security. We have a wide range of powers and techniques at our disposal to disrupt travel and manage the risk posed by returnees. Criminal investigations and decisions to prosecute depend on the circumstances and available

evidence of each individual case and are a matter for the police and CPS.

Buses: Inspections

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of buses and coaches are checked between annual inspections by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency in order to ensure that they remain compliant with the law. [HL2930]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The current Great Britain (GB) Public Service Vehicles (PSV) fleet of buses and coaches is approximately 80,000. In 2015/16 the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) examined 8,485 GB vehicles for roadworthiness. This represents around 10.6% of the fleet seen between annual test. Further, DVSA examined 5,161 GB vehicles for traffic offences in the same period. This represents around 6.4% of the fleet.

Business: Investment

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to restore the confidence of large UK companies in investment, in the light of the UK's decision to leave the EU. [HL2681]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government is determined to make a success of Brexit, and is developing an industrial strategy that will boost productivity and investment. We will continue to monitor the economy as we approach the Autumn Statement.

The Government is speaking regularly to companies from a wide range of sectors to understand their concerns following the referendum, and will continue these conversations as we develop our economic policy.

The fundamentals of the UK economy remain strong, and recent figures show the economy grew by 0.5% in the three months from July, exceeding expectations. The UK is in a position of strength, with a world class science base, the lowest corporation tax in the G20, and plans to invest over £100 billion in infrastructure this Parliament.

Nissan's recent announcement that the company will continue to invest in the UK is a further vote of confidence in the UK and follows on from announcements of investment from Softbank, GlaxoSmithKline, and others.

Cancer: Thromboembolism

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the study by the All-Party Parliamentary Thrombosis Group that over 4,000 cancer deaths have been caused by preventable blood clots, whether they intend to review the training provided to oncology nurses in

managing the risk of venous thromboembolism in cancer patients. [HL2647]

Lord Prior of Brampton: It is the responsibility of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to set the standards and outcomes for education and training, and to approve training curricula to ensure newly qualified nurses and midwives are equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to provide high quality patient care.

Health Education England works with bodies that set curricula such as the NMC and the Royal College of Nursing to seek to ensure training meets the needs of patients.

Children: Day Care

Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether county councils are required to pass on to registered and approved providers 100 per cent of government funding allocated for childcare. [HL2939]

Lord Nash: Funding for the early years entitlement is underpinned by the School and Early Years Finance Regulations. Local authorities receive funding from central Government to deliver the early years entitlements through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which also includes the budgets for schools and high needs. The current regulations do not require local authorities to pass on all early years funding to their providers. Local authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forum, are responsible for deciding how best to distribute the funding across their locality. The current regulations do allow local authorities to hold back some funding from the DSG for central services.

However, when the two year old entitlement was introduced there was an expectation for local authorities to pass all available funding to providers for delivering two year old places.

Under the early years funding reform proposals on which we recently consulted, there will be a requirement for local authorities to pass on at least 93% (in 2017-18) and 95% (thereafter) of their early years budget directly to providers for delivering the three and four year old entitlement. We are currently considering responses to the consultation.

Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough

To ask Her Majesty's Government, should childcare providers be unable to meet the costs of providing the 30 hours free OFSTED-approved childcare service from September 2017, what plans there are to ensure that alternative services are available. [HL2942]

Lord Nash: The Government is making a record-level of investment in early years to ensure that childcare providers receive sufficient funding to deliver the 30-hour entitlement. This includes increasing spending on the free entitlements by over £1 billion per year by 2019-20 and providing £300 million per year from 2017-18 for a

significant increase to the rate paid for the two, three- and four-year-old entitlements.

We believe that the childcare market will respond to meet the additional demand for places generated by the extension of the free entitlement. The market has already demonstrated that it is able to respond through the roll-out of the entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds introduced in the last Parliament. In January 2016, over 166,000 two-year-olds benefitted from the funded early education, with over 20,000 providers delivering it.

Civil Partnerships

Asked by Baroness Gould of Potternewton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the introduction of different-sex civil partnerships on the Isle of Man, they intend to issue a consultation on extending civil partnerships to different-sex couples in the UK. [HL2933]

Lord Nash: The Government has already carried out a consultation on the future of civil partnerships in 2014, and has no plans to carry out another consultation on this issue.

Following the passage of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, we carried out a full review of the operation and future of the Civil Partnership Act 2004, which included a thorough public consultation on potential changes to civil partnership. Views were invited on three options: abolishing civil partnerships; phasing them out; or extending them to opposite sex couples.

The review found that there was no clear consensus on the future of civil partnerships. A majority of respondents to the consultation were against extending civil partnerships to opposite sex couples and a significant number of stakeholders thought it was too soon to consider making changes to civil partnerships until the impact of extending marriage to same sex couples is known. Given the lack of any consensus, the Government has no current plans to make changes to the Civil Partnership Act 2004.

Commonwealth: Finance

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the contribution provided by the UK to (1) the Commonwealth Secretariat Fund, (2) the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, and (3) the Commonwealth Youth Programme, in each of the last two years. [HL2618]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: In the Commonwealth financial year 2014/15 the UK provided £5.4 million to the Commonwealth Secretariat, £8.9 million to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and £1.03 million to the Commonwealth Youth Programme. In the Commonwealth financial year 2015/16 the UK provided £5.4 million to the Commonwealth Secretariat, £8.9 million to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical

Co-operation and £1.03 million to the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

Funding to the Commonwealth Secretariat has allowed it to promote democracy, rule of law, human rights, good governance and social and economic development, provide a voice for small states and also become a champion for youth empowerment.

The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation is the principal avenue for the Commonwealth to provide technical assistance to Commonwealth member countries. All Commonwealth regions benefit from technical assistance, with the largest share of support directed towards Africa, followed by the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

Funding towards the Commonwealth Youth Programme helps to empower young women and men to develop their potential, creativity and skills as productive and dynamic members of their societies.

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the relative costs to the UK and the EU if the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada is not agreed. [HL2606]

Lord Price: The Government welcomes the signature of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) agreement on Sunday 30 October, after agreement was reached by all Member States on Friday 28 October. CETA is an important trade agreement for the UK, according to estimates by the European Commission, the agreement could lead to GDP gains for the EU as a whole of up to €11.6bn per year.

Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade: Hanoi

Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions ministers are having with non-governmental organisations ahead of the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in November. [HL2626]

Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what approach they intend to take in relation to the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in November. [HL2627]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The UK has a strong record as a global leader in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade, and remains committed to working with our international partners to bring an end to this scourge.

We have been leading ambitious international agreements in this area and are supporting Vietnam to host a third high level conference on 17 November which builds on the ground-breaking London and Botswana

Conferences in 2014 and 2015. Building on this we The Government have provided specific funding for the conference, and is providing ongoing advice and support through the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will attend the Conference, as will HRH Duke of Cambridge.

The Government is working closely with Vietnam to support a successful conference that secures high level attendance that will maintain political momentum. In particular we want to focus on encouraging countries, including Vietnam itself, to take concerted action on the commitments they have already made.

Officials, both in London and Hanoi, have been in regular contact with a range of NGOs concerning preparations for the Conference, and anticipate continuing to do so up to and at the Conference.

We are investing millions in projects around the world to tackle IWT on the ground. We have already committed £13 million to practical action around the world to reduce demand, strengthen enforcement and develop sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by IWT, primarily through Defra's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund.

Continuing Care

Asked by Baroness Massey of Darwen

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether NHS-funded continuing healthcare is available for hospice patients receiving palliative care; and what distinction, if any, is drawn between patients in hospices and those in nursing homes in determining the availability of continuing healthcare. [HL2684]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) is not limited by the setting in which the package of support can be offered or by the type of service delivery.

When making decisions about eligibility for NHS CHC there is no distinction drawn between individuals residing in hospices and those in nursing homes.

Cycleways: Greater London

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on London's traffic of the introduction of cycle superhighways. [HL2948]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Transport in London is devolved to the Mayor of London, and cycle superhighways and their impact on traffic flows in the capital are entirely a matter for him.

Disability: Employment Schemes

Asked by Baroness Garden of Frogna

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for more resources to be made available for specialist support models for people with complex support needs, and who do not benefit from the Work and Health Programme. [HL2666]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government recognises the challenges of helping those with the most complex health conditions move closer to work. The new Personal Support Package announced in *Improving Lives: The Work, Health and Disability* Green Paper introduces a range of new measures and interventions designed as part of a package of support which can be tailored to people's individual needs. The offer, which applies to all Employment and Support Allowance claimants (and Universal Credit equivalents), includes personal support from disability trained, accredited work coaches, with a focus on mental health. Work coaches will be supported by an additional 300 Disability Employment Advisers and around 200 new community partners with disability expertise and local knowledge. This will lead to better signposting to other local voluntary and public sector services that may be available. A copy of the Green Paper is attached.

The Government recognises that more needs to be done to help people stay well at work, including those with complex health conditions. The consultation on the Green Paper will help us to consider appropriate new models of support to help more people with disabilities or long term conditions to enter and remain in work.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL2666 Green Paper [work-and-health-green-paper-print-version.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-25/HL2666>

Disabled Students' Allowances

Asked by Lord Addington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that students with Education Health and Care Plans are being made aware of recent changes to the Disabled Students allowance process. [HL2594]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: Local Authorities must make young people with Education, Health and Care Plans aware of the support available to them in higher education and how to claim it. Additionally, Student Finance England provides information, advice and guidance for all students about the support available whilst undertaking a course of higher education, including Disabled Students' Allowances.

Dormice: Conservation

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent the decline in the population of hazel dormice in the UK and to support dormice research projects. [HL2752]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government is taking action to tackle the decline of the common or hazel dormouse, a European Protected Species. This includes Natural England's Species Recovery Programme targeted at species in rapid decline or at greatest risk of extinction.

Natural England works closely with the People's Trust for Endangered Species providing funding for the national dormice monitoring scheme and re-introduction projects such as the re-introduction this summer of 38 dormice in woodland in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Agri-environment and woodland schemes such as Environmental Stewardship and now Countryside Stewardship fund the provision of habitats, for instance the management of grassland, the conservation and enhancement of hedgerow systems and the creation and maintenance of field margins, which encourage a range of species, including the hazel dormouse.

Driverless Vehicles

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what new regulations and other changes in legislation will be required before self-driving cars can be used on roads in the UK. [HL2831]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We anticipate that a number of changes will be required to the regulatory framework for driving to facilitate the safe use of automated vehicle technology as it arrives to market. The document *Pathway to driverless cars: a regulatory review* sets out a number of areas in which these changes may need to take place. As technology continues to develop, we intend to keep our regulation under constant review and act quickly, so that we can all make use of the opportunities offered to us by the safe use of automated vehicle technology. To date, this has included a consultation in Summer 2016 on proposals to support near to market advanced driver assistance systems and insurance for automated vehicles.

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether self-driving wheel-based robots can be used on British highways, and if so, in what circumstances; whether they are covered by road traffic and other highways legislation; whether third party insurance is required for their use; and whether such robots must carry information as to their owners and operators and, when used for the purposes of transporting goods, the nature of those goods. [HL2832]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: It is possible to test automated vehicles on the UK's roads. Our world-leading Code of Practice clearly and simply sets out that tests must be carried out in line with UK law and that there must be: a driver or operator who is present, ready, able and willing to take control if necessary; appropriate insurance in place; and the vehicle must be road worthy.

In terms of enabling the safe use of automated vehicle technology, we have embarked on a rolling programme of regulatory reviews. The first wave of this programme began earlier this year with our consultation on insurance for automated vehicles and changes to the regulatory framework for driving for advanced driver assistance systems. We now intend to take forward automated vehicle insurance measures in the Modern Transport Bill as announced in this year's Queens Speech.

Driving: First Aid

Asked by Lord Aberdare

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 27 September (HL1929), whether they will provide further details about the not-for-profit training programme for drivers in delivering first aid, including (1) the name of the programme; (2) a description of the programme; (3) details of the current status and scope of the programme; and (4) details of any plans to publish an assessment of the programme's efficacy. [HL2754]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Driver First Assist was established with support from across the emergency services, to deliver a programme of work with the same name.

It provides training for drivers in administering lifesaving first aid and managing the scene of a road traffic collision, prior to the arrival of the emergency services. The Department for Transport has awarded Driver First Assist a grant in 2016-17 to help it publicise its training programme.

For large goods vehicle drivers the course will count towards their Driver Certificate of Professional Competence periodic training. To date, over 700 large goods vehicle drivers have been trained.

The Department will evaluate the use of the grant in due course but has no specific plans to publish an assessment of the programme.

Electoral Register: Internet

Asked by Lord Rennard

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen on 26 October (HL2496) concerning progress in assessing the benefits of an online registration checking tool, what assessment they have made of (1) the extent to which an online registration checking tool could increase electoral registration levels by enabling people to check whether or not they are already registered

before attempting to register online, and (2) the amount of time election administration staff would spend checking for duplicate registrations; and how they intend to take into consideration the relative importance of each of those benefits when assessing options. [HL2803]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: As stated in my previous answer to HL 2496, the Government is currently conducting a “discovery phase” in relation to understanding the issue of duplicate applications. It is right that we will need to meet the needs both of citizens and administrators when considering the right way forward. In discussions with administrators and others to date, it has become clear there are wide-ranging views on whether citizens would use a look-up tool in practice. There are also wide-ranging views on the kind of intervention that would most benefit administrators. That is why our evidence-gathering phase is so important. This discovery phase is also important for us to understand the practical considerations of the different possible solutions.

Elephants: Conservation

Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty’s Government why the UK voted against the upgrading of elephant populations remaining in Appendix II to Appendix I at the recent Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species conference. [HL2628]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The UK Government is committed to tackling the crisis facing the African elephant from poaching and illegal trafficking. We fully support the existing global ban on ivory trade. The view of the UK and the EU was that the large and growing elephant populations of southern Africa did not meet the scientific criteria established by CITES for their inclusion in Appendix I of the Convention.

Ellie Butler

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions they have had with the President of the Family Court about the scope for judicial learning arising from the case of Ellie Butler. [HL2654]

Lord Keen of Elie: In a regular meeting to discuss family justice on 15th September, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Justice, Dr Philip Lee and the President of the Family discussed how professionals, including the judiciary, can best learn from Serious Case Reviews.

Employment: Disability

Asked by Baroness Garden of Frognal

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to address discrimination towards deafblind

people and those with complex needs in the workplace, and how they will ensure that employers make essential adjustments needed by deafblind people to perform their roles successfully. [HL2665]

Lord Freud: ‘Improving Lives the Work, Health and Disability Green Paper’ has been published. This marks the start of a wide ranging exploration into options for long-term reform across different sectors, targeting factors which contribute to the disability employment gap. We are engaging with a range of stakeholders, including organisations such as Sense, that represents the needs of deafblind people, during a consultation period that will run until 17 February 2017.

The Government wants all disabled people and people with a long term health condition to have the opportunity to work and share in the economic and health benefits that work brings.

Section 20 of the Equality Act 2010 requires employers and providers of services to members of the public to make ‘reasonable adjustments’, so that disabled people are not placed at a “substantial disadvantage” compared to non-disabled people.

The Access to Work scheme provides a dedicated service to particular groups, including those with complex needs, going beyond employers’ statutory obligations to make reasonable adjustments.

Energy: Consumption

Asked by Lord Donoghue

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how much energy was consumed by the UK during the period 24 to 31 October; and what percentage of that energy was sourced from wind generation. [HL2888]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: UK electricity statistics for October 2016 are not yet available. They will be published on 22 December at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electricity-section-5-energy-trends>.

The most recent data to August 2016 is available via that link. Electricity statistics held by BEIS cover monthly consumption and cannot be disaggregated at a daily or weekly level.

However, operationally metered electricity generation for Great Britain (1) is published by the National Grid. For the period 24 to 31 October (8 days), 6.6 TWh was generated or imported, of which 0.3 TWh was generated from wind (5.0 percent) (2). Operationally metered wind electricity generation covers 65 percent of total GB wind capacity.

Source: National Grid

(1) Excludes Northern Ireland, which is not covered by the National Grid.

(2) The source of imported electricity generation is not recorded in these data.

EU Budget: Contributions

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government at current exchange rates what is the UK's (1) gross, and (2) net, contribution in sterling to the EU budget; and how those figures were calculated. [HL2736]

Lord Young of Cookham: Details of UK net contributions to the EU Budget over the period 2011-12 to 2015-16 can be found in Table C1, page 194, of the 2016 Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Cm 9322) which was published in July, and is available in the House library.

This table also includes the Office for Budget Responsibility's March forecast of UK net contributions to the EU Budget for the period 2016-17 to 2019-20.

EU Countries: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government which EU governments have publicly indicated that the existing rights of British citizens resident in their territory will be preserved after the UK has left the EU; and the terms in which they have done so. [HL2701]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The Prime Minister has made it clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals living in the UK, and the only circumstances in which that would not be possible is if British citizens' rights in EU member states were not protected in return. To date, we are not aware of any member state reaching a formal view on this issue. At every step of these negotiations we will work to ensure the best possible outcome for the people of the United Kingdom.

EU External Trade

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are countries outside the single market which carry out a greater level of trade with the rest of the EU than with the UK; and if so, which countries. [HL2605]

Lord Price: Data are not available from a single source for trade in goods and services combined. The value of trade is calculated by summing exports and imports. The single market here is defined as the EU countries.

Data for 2014 taken from Eurostat show there were 194 countries and territories where the value of trade in goods with the rest of the EU was higher than the value of trade in goods with the UK. These countries are listed in Table 1 - attached.

Data for 2014 taken from Eurostat show there were 200 countries and territories where the value of trade in services with the rest of the EU was higher than the value of trade in services with the UK. These countries are listed in Table 2 - attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table 1 - value of trade in goods [TABLE 1 - value of trade in goods - exports & imports - with EU.docx]

Table 2 - value of trade in services [TABLE 2 - value of trade in services - exports & imports - with the rest of the EU.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-25/HL2605>

European Court of Human Rights

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to include changes to the UK's relationship with the European Court of Human Rights in the expected bill to repeal the European Communities Act 1972. [HL2843]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The European Convention on Human Rights is a treaty under the auspices of the Council of Europe, an entirely separate organisation from the European Union. The Government has no plans to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights.

Financial Markets

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government what directions they have issued to the Financial Conduct Authority's members on the European Securities and Markets Authority concerning representations they should make on the location of central clearing houses and the protocols for offsetting collateral, and how this work is being co-ordinated with the UK's overall negotiating strategy with the EU. [HL2906]

Lord Young of Cookham: The ability to clear financial instruments denominated in different currencies in the same UK clearing house (CCP) brings considerable efficiency savings to customers. UK CCPs are supervised to the highest global standards by the Bank of England and the Government will continue to ensure the UK's financial industry remains a world leader.

Fracking

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in developing their policy on fracking, whether they have taken into account the number of earthquakes which measured 3.0 on the Richter Scale in Oklahoma and other places in the US where fracking has been carried out. [HL3005]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: We have ensured that strong controls are in place to mitigate seismic risks. Operators in the UK must avoid hydraulically fracturing near faults, and must monitor seismic activity before, during and after operations. Operations will halt if seismic activity exceeds a magnitude of 0.5 or greater on the Richter scale, and the pressure of fluid in the well will be reduced immediately.

Studies in the United States ⁽¹⁾ have shown that most induced seismicity is caused by re-injection of waste and produced waters from oil and gas operations, both conventional and unconventional. Re-injection of waste and produced waters will not be permitted from shale gas wells in the UK.

(1) <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/research/induced/myths.php>

Gaming Machines

Asked by Lord Donoughue

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Department for Culture, Media and Sport set a six-week deadline to respond to its Review of Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures announced on 24 October. [HL2886]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: As part of the review, a call for evidence was issued. A period of 6 weeks was considered sufficient to allow interested parties to prepare and submit their evidence. My officials will be meeting with interested parties during this period to address any questions and give guidance where required.

GCE A-level

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps to ensure that A-levels in (1) art history, and (2) archaeology, continue to be offered to new students. [HL2697]

Lord Nash: It is disappointing that AQA has taken the decision to withdraw from offering A levels in History of Art and Archaeology.

We published content for both subjects in January 2016. The option for AQA or another exam board to develop specifications in future will remain open. We are in discussion with the exam boards on this issue.

Neither subject is a pre-requisite for degree level study, and both are taken by a relatively small number of students. In 2015/16, there were 340 entries to A level Archaeology, and 776 entries to A level History of Art ^[1].

^[1] Both figures cover examination results of students aged 16, 17 or 18 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.

General Practitioners: Retirement

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many general practitioners in England retired during the past 12 months; and, of those, how many were aged under 60 at the time of retirement. [HL2717]

Lord Prior of Brampton: For the last 12 months for which data is available, (the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016) 992 general practitioners retired and claimed retirement benefits from the NHS Pension Scheme in England and Wales.

Of these, 580 were under 60 years of age.

General practitioners, in common with other staff groups, are able to claim retirement benefits and return to the National Health Service. This may be on a full time or part-time basis. This is common practice but exact numbers are not known.

Government Departments: Computer Software

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much each government department has spent on subscriptions for IT software used by office-based departmental staff in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [HL2824]

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

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 4 April 2016 (HL7324), what are the updated figures for 2015–16 for the table showing the sums collected from and paid to EU governments for medical treatment of EU and UK citizens. [HL2953]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Department, on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, reimburses other European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland for the cost of providing treatment to people we are responsible for under European Union law, irrespective of nationality. In the same way, other EEA countries and Switzerland reimburse the UK for the cost of the National Health Service providing treatment to people they are responsible for under EU law, including UK nationals insured in another EEA country or Switzerland.

Figures for 2015-16 are provided in the attached table.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL2953 table attachment [Resource Outturn Totals.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-02/HL2953>

Health Services: Travellers

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to implement the recommendation made in the Inclusion Health Board report Hidden Needs: Identifying Key Vulnerable Groups in Data Collection s that Gypsies and Travellers should be designated as particularly vulnerable. [HL2865]

Lord Prior of Brampton: We recognise the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable groups

such as Gypsies and Travellers as part of our wider work on tackling health inequalities. We share the concerns of the *Hidden Needs: Identifying Key Vulnerable Groups in Data Collection* (2014) report, which identified the poor health experiences of some Gypsy and Traveller groups making them particularly vulnerable in terms of much higher rates of mortality and morbidity than the general population.

The National Inclusion Health Board championed more effective local action to address these concerns. This included encouraging better local planning and commissioning of services, and improving access to them.

Earlier this year, we published the board's report *Impact of insecure accommodation and the living environment on Gypsies' and Travellers' health* (2016). This report built on concerns in earlier reports about the vulnerability of this group and sets out suggested actions to improve the living conditions and health outcomes of Gypsies and Travellers. It calls for more joined up working by local authorities, the National Health Service and responsible health agencies, and local public health services, and emphasises the importance of building greater community cohesion to address some of the key obstacles to the development of a healthy and sustainable environment for Gypsy and Traveller families. A copy of the report is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Impact of insecure accommodation report [Impact of insecure accommodation Gypsies and Traveller health.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2865>

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Wendover

Asked by Viscount Astor

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of HS2 Ltd's noise mitigation proposals for Wendover. [HL2728]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Operational sound, noise and vibration assessments were undertaken for the additional noise mitigation at Wendover as part of Supplementary Environmental Statement 4 which accompanied the deposit of Additional Provision 5.

Asked by Viscount Astor

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether HS2 Ltd used current HM Treasury tunnel project modelling when they costed proposals for the Wendover short mined tunnel. [HL2729]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The cost estimate for the short mined tunnel proposals at Wendover were based on the specific topography at that location, the individual tunnel requirements and the appropriate construction rates.

Asked by Viscount Astor

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether HS2 Ltd considered examples of HS1 tunnel construction when they examined the case for the Wendover short mined tunnel. [HL2730]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The cost estimates proposals for a mined tunnel past Wendover were based on the specific requirements for the tunnel and topography of the route at this location.

Asked by Viscount Astor

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received new evidence from OTB Engineering relating to the Wendover short mined tunnel; and whether, as a result, they will order a review of the engineering costs used by HS2 Ltd. [HL2732]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: HS2 Ltd received a copy of the OTB Engineering report on 25 October 2016. The report contains no evidence to suggest that the current cost estimates prepared by HS2 Ltd need reviewing.

Higher Education: Disability

Asked by Lord Addington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what monitoring is being undertaken to ensure that all colleges providing higher education are aware of their duties and responsibilities in bands 1 and 2 support for disabled students. [HL2595]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: All higher education institutions (HEIs) have a duty to make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010, and for ensuring they comply with the Equality Act's provisions in respect of disabled students. The Department is facilitating a sector-led group, the Disabled Students Sector Leadership Group, to provide information to HEIs to help them to respond effectively to the changes. This Group expects to publish guidance shortly.

Asked by Lord Addington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of potential students with disabilities being refused registration at a college without Disabled Student Allowance support because that college is unable to financially support them. [HL2596]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Equality Act specifically prohibits Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from refusing to enroll students as a result of their disability. The Department does not hold information on whether HEIs comply with this requirement in particular instances.

Asked by Lord Addington

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether steps are being taken, by the Disabled Students Allowance Quality Assurance Group or otherwise, to quality assure

higher education institutions which provide non-medical support to disabled students outside the Disabled Students Allowance system for procuring accredited support. [HL2597]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: Non-medical support, provided by a higher education institution as a reasonable adjustment under the Equality Act, falls outside the scope of Disabled Students' Allowances. Therefore, it falls outside the remit of the Disabled Students' Allowances Quality Assurance Group. As independent, autonomous organisations, higher education institutions are responsible for quality assuring the support they provide.

House of Lords: Select Committee Reports

Asked by Baroness Young of Old Scone

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of House of Lords Select Committee reports received a Government response within the two months period set out in paragraph 11.39 of the Companion to the Standing Orders and Guide to the Proceedings of the House of Lords in the years (1) 2009–10, (2) 2015–16, and (3) 2016–17 to date. [HL2882]

Asked by Baroness Young of Old Scone

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many House of Lords Select Committee reports published in the (1) 2015–16, and (2) current, session of Parliament, except those published within the last two months, have not received a Government response. [HL2883]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: Following discussions last year between the Leader of the House of Lords and the then Chairman of the Liaison Committee, data on response times is now collected and made available by the House of Lords Committee Office. The Liaison Committee's annual reports set out which Select Committee reports required Government responses and when those responses were sent. The figures for 2015–16 are included in the Committee's report, *Investigative Select Committee Activity in Session 2015–16* (1st Report of Session 2016–17). The figures for this session will be published in due course. The Government values the work of Select Committees and will always aim to respond to reports within two months. However, it will often be the case that formulating responses require discussions across a range of departments and stakeholders, which means that in some cases they can take longer.

Immigration: Appeals

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of individuals pursuing appeals in (1) the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), and (2) the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), did not have legal representation and appeared as litigants in person in the last year for which figures are available. [HL2645]

Lord Keen of Elie: The information requested is not held centrally.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Asked by Lord Winston

To ask Her Majesty's Government with regard to (1) oocytes frozen for a patient's own use in the UK, and (2) frozen oocytes used for the purpose of donation to another woman, for each year from 2008 to 2015 (a) how many oocytes were frozen and how many have been thawed for the purposes of treatment by in vitro fertilisation; (b) of those which were thawed, how many were successfully fertilised and appeared to develop normally; and (c) of those, how many were transferred to a uterus, and how many of those transfers resulted in (i) a pregnancy, (ii) miscarriage, or (iii) live birth. [HL2858]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has provided data which can be found in the attached document. Table 1 shows the numbers of oocytes that have been frozen. Table 2 shows where a patient's own oocytes have been thawed for their own use. Table 3 shows where the patient has used thawed donated oocytes and the outcomes.

Table 1 is below. Tables 2 and 3 can be found in the attached document.

Table 1 - the numbers of oocytes that have been frozen.

<i>Year of Treatment</i>	<i>Number of eggs frozen for patient's own use</i>	<i>Number of eggs frozen for donation</i>
2008	2367	117
2009	2697	156
2010	2856	80
2011	3846	244
2012	4583	456
2013	5945	1090
2014	7190	2497
2015 (Mid year for treatments)	4431	2265

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Tables 2 and 3 [20161103 - HL2858 - Lord Winston - Tables 2 and 3.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2858>

Asked by Lord Winston

To ask Her Majesty's Government with regard to (1) oocytes frozen for a patients' own use in the UK, and (2) frozen oocytes used for the purpose of donation to another woman, in how many cases for each year from 2008 to 2015 more than one embryo was transferred

simultaneously to the uterus and how many multiple pregnancies or multiple births have resulted. [HL2859]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has provided data in the following table.

Patients using their own eggs:

<i>Year of treatment</i>	<i>Multiple Embryo Transfer events</i>	<i>Incidences of Multiple births or pregnancies from multiple embryo transfer events</i>
2008	10	0
2009	23	0
2010	34	Less than 5
2011	25	Less than 5
2012	44	Less than 5
2013	46	Less than 5
2014 (Mid year for births)	58	0
2015 (Mid year for births)	38	*

Patients using donor eggs:

<i>Year of treatment</i>	<i>Multiple Embryo Transfer Events</i>	<i>Incidences of Multiple births or pregnancies from multiple embryo transfer events</i>
2008	0	0
2009	Less than 5	0
2010	21	Less than 5
2011	46	5
2012	44	Less than 5
2013	46	Less than 5
2014 (Mid year for births)	64	7
2015 (Mid year for treatments)	74	*

* Part year data not available.

Asked by Lord Winston

To ask Her Majesty's Government in each year from 2008 to 2015 what is the incidence of foetal abnormalities in births which have resulted from treatments using (1) oocytes frozen for a patients' own use in the UK, and (2) frozen oocytes used for the purpose of donation to another woman. [HL2860]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has provided data in the following table. The HFEA advises that it can only provide data for outcomes up to 30/06/2014.

Outcomes where abnormalities, or possible abnormalities, were seen

<i>Year of Treatment</i>	<i>Patients using their own eggs</i>	<i>Patients using donor eggs</i>
2008	0	0
2009	Less than 5	0
2010	0	0
2011	0	Less than 5
2012	0	0
2013	0	0
2014 (mid year for births)	0	0

Asked by Lord Winston

To ask Her Majesty's Government in respect of (1) oocytes frozen for a patient's own use in the UK, and (2) frozen oocytes for the purpose of donation to another woman, how many patients had a live birth after they reached the age of 35. [HL2861]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has provided data in the following table. These treatments took place prior to 30 June 2014, which is the last date for which the HFEA holds verified data.

Patients, aged 35 & over, using their own eggs in a treatment that leads to a live birth	29
Patients, aged 35 & over, using donated eggs in a treatment that leads to a live birth	72

Inflation

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take in response to any impact on retail prices of the UK's decision to leave the EU. [HL2677]

Lord Young of Cookham: The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England has responsibility for monetary policy, and its remit is set by the Government. The MPC's primary objective is to ensure price stability, which the Government believes to be an essential pre-requisite to longer-term growth and macroeconomic stability.

The MPC considers the impact of wide range of financial market and economic factors on consumer prices in determining the appropriate setting of monetary policy.

Ivory: Sales

Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are proposing to take to implement the text in Convention on International Trade and Endangered

Species (CITES) document CoP17 Com. II. 6 (revisions to CITES Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16), calling for the end of any domestic ivory trade "contributing to poaching or illegal trade". [[HL2630](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: We will be working with EU Member States to consider our approach to Resolution 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) as amended and any necessary changes to the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations to implement the decisions made at the 17th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In doing this, we will also draw upon the Council Conclusions on an EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking agreed in June which ask Member States not to export or re-export raw, old ivory from elephants and to consider further measures to stop the commercial trade in ivory, an outcome the UK actively negotiated to secure.

In addition, prior to the CITES Conference on 21 September 2016, Defra's Secretary of State announced plans for a ban on sales of items containing ivory dated between 1947 and the present day. The Government will consult on plans for the ban early next year. This is a key step forward as we work towards our manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales.

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch***

To ask Her Majesty's Government which authority or authorities are responsible for upholding the ban on the sale of ivory items created or carved after 1947, and what training is provided to enable employees working in those authorities to distinguish items created or carved after 1947 from antique ivory items. [[HL2674](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The police and the National Crime Agency (NCA) are responsible for enforcing the legislation on the sale of ivory in the UK under the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997. Training is provided to police and NCA officers on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). When enforcing these controls, the police look for documentary evidence, including details of origin; that the ivory was legally acquired; and is still legal for commercial use. If further investigation is needed, there is the potential to use carbon dating techniques which are currently the most reliable method used by law enforcement to accurately identify an age for ivory. This expert advice is provided by the National Wildlife Crime Unit or the CITES authority, which are available to officers to assist in these investigations.

Junior Doctors: Temporary Employment

*Asked by **Baroness Shephard of Northwold***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the costs resulting from the employment of junior doctors on temporary contracts, how many appointments of junior doctors on temporary contracts lasting more than six months have been approved by NHS England in the last year for which figures are available; and what are

their reasons for approving those appointments. [[HL2662](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: In July 2015, the Secretary of State announced a series of measures to bring trusts' spending on agency staff under control. Trusts are using these measures to negotiate lower rates and secure a better deal for taxpayers. In 2015-16 the National Health Service spent £300 million less than projected on agency staff. Further savings are forecast for the current financial year.

Individual trusts have the freedom to apply independent processes for approving the appointment of locum staff. Individual appointments do not require central approval by NHS England.

The compliance data that trusts report to NHS Improvement does not include detail that would enable the tracking of grade or length of employment. However, on 7th October 2016, the Chief Executive of NHS Improvement wrote to trusts asking them to publish anonymised lists of agency workers who have been employed at trusts for more than six months. This information will be published by trusts later this year, but will not be broken down by grade.

Kids Company

*Asked by **Lord Laird***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the closure of the Kids' Company charity in August 2015, what the £3 million they granted to Kids' Company in June 2015 was used for. [[HL2917](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Following a Ministerial Direction in the summer of 2015, Cabinet Office awarded the Charity Kids Company a grant of £3m to enable them to restructure and deliver a transformation and downsizing plan.

However, due to the announcement that the Metropolitan Police was to investigate Kids Company in relation to safeguarding issues, other funding sources withdrew their support, making the organisation unsustainable.

We are currently in negotiation with the Official Receiver in relation to retrieving the Grant funds.

Mental Health Services

*Asked by **Lord Porter of Spalding***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the publication in July of Implementing the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health, whether they intend to publish a national Mental Health Strategy. [[HL2800](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave on 3 November 2016 to Question [HL2508](#).

The Government welcomed the independent taskforce's recommendations for mental health and fully endorses the report. We continue to work across Government

departments to progress taking the taskforce recommendations forward.

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on creating parity of esteem between mental and physical health; and how they are currently measuring this. [HL2801]

Lord Prior of Brampton: I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave on 3 November 2016 to Question HL2509.

The Government remains committed to achieving parity of esteem for mental and physical health. The Government welcomed the publication of the *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health and Future in Mind: Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing* to transform mental health services by 2020, which is a significant step forward in achieving parity of esteem between mental and physical health. We continue to work with NHS England and other arm's length bodies to embed the recommendations set out in these reports into our national policies and we are committed to reporting regularly and transparently on our progress.

We will be holding NHS England to account through the NHS Mandate to ensure that we deliver the commitments set out in these reports.

Natural England

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average length of time taken by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to hear appeals against decisions by Natural England once the adjudication process has been completed. [HL2708]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The time taken to determine agri-environment appeals will vary depending on the nature of the appeal, the complexity and the legislation involved.

NHS: Managers

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to remove the use of confidentiality agreements in relation to the dismissal of senior NHS executives. [HL2819]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Settlement agreements, including confidentiality clauses, are not required where an employee is dismissed including, for example, dismissal for gross misconduct. Such agreements are used where the employer and employee mutually agree to bring the employment relationship to an end, typically following an employment dispute.

Settlement agreements are a matter for individual employers and no agreement can prevent either party

from making a disclosure in the public interest if they choose to do so.

Passports

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 29 July (HL1278), what plans they have to conduct research into the public demand for a UK-only style passport following the UK's withdrawal from the EU; and, if changes to the passport are introduced, what plans they have to ensure that applications for the new style passport will be managed, and new passports issued, in a timely manner. [HL2550]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: No decisions have been made about any possible changes to the UK passport and the timings around any potential changes.

Pedestrian Crossings: Schools

Asked by Baroness Pinnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether section 26 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) permits school crossing patrols to be appointed and operated by schools or bodies other than the local authority. [HL2797]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The provision of the school crossing patrol service is a matter for the local authority. Legislation gives 'Appropriate Authorities' the power to make arrangements (for example with schools and other bodies) for the patrolling of places where children cross roads on their way to or from school, but does not impose a duty on them to do so. The legislation defines Appropriate Authorities outside Greater London as the council of the county, unitary authority or metropolitan district; there are slightly different arrangements in London and in Scotland.

Pregnancy: Air Pollution

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to educate pregnant women about the detrimental effects of air pollution on fetuses. [HL2913]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government has produced resources to inform the public and professionals about the risks of carbon monoxide (CO) to the fetus. Elevated exposure to CO can occur indoors due to malfunctioning appliances. Sufficient "test your breath" postcards about the risks of CO have been made available for every pregnant woman for the past two years. An online training module has recently been launched, to support midwifery teams to effectively screen all pregnant women for CO. An algorithm for midwives, to help diagnose CO poisoning in pregnant women and offer advice, was also updated this year.

More recently, a Foreword from the Chief Medical Officer for England introduced the report *Every breath we take: The lifelong impact of air pollution* which draws attention to the potential effects of indoor and outdoor air pollutants on the developing foetus, particularly the evidence for effects on premature birth and low birth weight. A copy of this report is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Every breath we take report [Every breath we take_The lifelong impact of air pollution.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-01/HL2913>

Public Finance

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of the effect of the loss of value of the pound sterling on the 2016–17 estimated budget deficit. [HL2657]

Lord Young of Cookham: There have been no new estimates for the 2016-17 budget deficit since March 2016. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility will produce an updated forecast for the 2016-17 budget deficit at the Autumn Statement on 23 November. This will take into account the most recent economic data, including changes in exchange rates and their independent judgments.

Pupils: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government why, in the original guidance on the national schools census, schools were asked to collect or ascribe information on the ethnicity of children. [HL2689]

Lord Nash: The DfE has been collecting data about pupils attending schools in England through the School Census for over ten years.

The data is collected termly and supports a number of DfE's strategic objectives. It is widely used by DfE for the purpose of improving, and promoting, the education or well-being of all pupils in England. For example, data on disadvantaged or special educational needs pupils enable the department to target support to where it is needed most.

Ethnic background data is regarded as sensitive personal data. Parents and pupils have always had the right to refuse to provide this information. From 2011, if a parent or pupil refused to provide this information, schools should record "refused" in their systems rather than recording an ethnic background for that pupil. Up to 2010 the ethnic monitoring guidance provided by the Department permitted the ascription of ethnicity by schools where certain safeguards were met. In 2011 the

ability for schools to ascribe the ethnicity for pupils was removed from the guidance.

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of schools which ascribed ethnicity to children whose nationality and country of birth details were not filled in by a parent as part of the national schools census; and what steps they have taken to ensure that schools fully understand that this information is not required. [HL2690]

Lord Nash: Schools collect and use data to support the effective day to day running of their school. Schools capture this data within their own management information systems (MIS). They are free to purchase an MIS of their choice and some of the data held in this system is then shared with DfE when legally permitted to do so.

Some MIS contain an option for schools to ascribe ethnicity however this information is not captured by DfE and the Schools Census guidance (May 2016) is clear that parents or pupils may choose to withhold information on nationality, country of birth or ethnicity if they so wish. The guidance also states that there is no requirement for schools to request, or see, documentary evidence such as a passport or birth certificate to ascertain information on nationality and country of birth.

To address any uncertainties regarding how information should be collected, I have placed an information note in the House Libraries.

We are also continuing to work with the sector to consider how we can better support schools in collecting school census data for future rounds.

Pupils: Passports

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of schools which have asked for pupils' passport numbers or expiry dates as part of the national schools census; and what steps they have taken to ensure that schools fully understand that this information is not required. [HL2691]

Lord Nash: The Department for Education Schools Census guidance (May 2016) clearly states that there is no requirement for schools to request, or see, any documentary evidence such as a passport or birth certificate to ascertain information on nationality and country of birth. Additionally, the guidance states that parents may choose to withhold this information if they so wish.

The School Census does not collect passport numbers or expiry dates, and this information is not collected by the Department. We are aware that some schools collect passport details and hold them on their Management Information Systems. This is something requested by schools themselves – for example for school trips. This is

a matter for Management Information System providers and schools.

To address any uncertainties, I have placed an information note in the House Libraries. This note has also been published on the Department's public website.

We know there has been some confusion and some schools have asked parents for passports or birth certificates. We will work with the sector to consider how we can better support schools in collecting school census data for future rounds.

Railways: Compensation

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much compensation was paid to passengers for delays and cancellations by each train operating company during the last year for which figures are available. [HL2792]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The compensation figures for all Train Operating Companies operating Delay Repay covering the years 2009-10 to 2014-15 are published on the GOV.UK website, and a copy of the full figures is provided in the attached document. Overall figures are below. Figures for the 2015-16 financial year for all Train Operating Companies are expected to be published on the GOV.UK website later this year.

Amounts in £ (000s)

2014-15 - 25,623

2013-14 - 22,608

2012-13 - 12,603

2011-12 - 8,021

2010-11 - 3,256

2009 -10 - 2,981

The Answer includes the following attached material:

TOC - Compensation 2009/10-2014/5 [HL2792 - toc-compensation-2009-2015.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2792>

Schools: Nurses

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of comments by the Children's Commissioner for England on the impact of bureaucracy on the ability of school nurses to promote children's well-being. [HL2064]

Lord Nash: It is important that there is clarity about the roles that school nurses should, and should not, take on. That is why Public Health England (PHE) and its partners published a model specification for commissioning services for 0-19, in order to help inform decisions around the commissioning of the school nursing service and

integrated services for school-aged children and young people.

PHE has also developed a number of professional pathways and guidance to support local delivery of school nursing services, including safeguarding. This guidance is currently being reviewed by partners, including National Health Service England (NHSE), and is expected to be published in early-spring 2017.

Adoption of technology is one way of addressing the burden of paperwork. Many services are now using technology and digital platforms to improve productivity and access, particularly for young people who may not usually access services through more traditional methods.

Schools: Pedestrian Crossings

Asked by Baroness Pincock

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether (1) academies, (2) free schools and (3) independent schools have powers to fund the cost of school crossing patrols. [HL2798]

Lord Nash: Academies and free schools have powers in their funding agreements to pay for school crossing patrols, if they choose to do so. The model funding agreement provides that an Academy Trust can spend General Annual Grant on the normal running costs of the academy, this can include spending on school crossing patrols.

Under section 50 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, local authority maintained schools can also undertake lawful activity that is for the purpose of the school, including paying for school crossing patrols. Independent schools are private bodies and can also fund school crossing patrols.

Asked by Baroness Pincock

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether consideration has been given to amending the regulations in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013 which specifically exclude the use of a local authority's non-schools education budget for funding school crossing patrols. [HL2799]

Lord Nash: As spending on school crossing patrols is classified, for accounting purposes, as local transport spending rather than education services, it would not be appropriate to include school crossing patrols in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013 to enable such patrols to be funded from local authority schools or non-schools education budgets.

However, local authorities are able to fund school crossing patrols from other non-ring fenced resources such as council tax and business rate income made available through the local government finance settlement. Additionally, there is nothing to stop schools using their delegated budgets to fund a service that is not strictly educational but clearly in the interest of the school, such as health services, transport or crossing patrols.

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they endorse the decision of the Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust to withhold from the public domain the reasons for the dismissal of the Chief Executive of the Trust. [HL2820]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Southport & Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust advises that, in line with its employment policies, the Chief Executive has the right of appeal against the decision of the disciplinary panel, and it would therefore be inappropriate and unfair to comment on the allegations.

The Trust has said that no aspect of the disciplinary investigation related to issues of patient care or safety.

Special Educational Needs

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the new standard assessment tests were trialled for children with special educational needs. [HL2694]

Lord Nash: All National Curriculum tests undergo an exhaustive three-year development process entailing several stages of expert review. These experts include educational psychologists, SEND practitioners from local authorities, teachers and head teachers.

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) uses the principles of universal design in developing these tests, which are set out in Ofqual's *Guidance on the Principles of Language Accessibility in National Curriculum Assessments, a copy of which is attached*. This document includes guidance to ensure tests are "fair to all irrespective of gender, language, religion, ethnic or social origin or disability".

During the test development process, the STA specifically consults on inclusion issues for every test. The STA also invites a range of specialists to sit on inclusion panels which review the tests twice in the process. The focus of these panels is to make the tests as accessible as they can be to all pupils. Inclusion panels vary in their membership but comprise a broad range of inclusion experience and an educational psychologist sits on each panel. Trials are also undertaken which involve around 1,000 children sitting each test, and schools are able to request modified versions of the tests if required to take account of pupils with SEND.

We recently published the report of the Rochford Review of assessment for pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum tests. This review was set up to ensure pupils working below the standard of the national curriculum are given proper consideration and that an appropriate solution for statutory assessment is developed to allow them to demonstrate attainment and progress. We plan to launch a consultation on the

recommendations contained in the report early in the New Year.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Ofqual Guidance on the principles of accessibility
[Ofqual_guidance_on_principles_of_accessibility_of-language_in_ncas.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-26/HL2694>

Sudan: Poverty

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the percentage of the population of Sudan living below the poverty line; how many persons are estimated to be living as refugees or displaced people in Sudan; and what has been the total UK aid funding for Sudan since the State's creation. [HL2614]

Lord Bates: The latest World Bank poverty data noted that 46.5% of the population were below the national poverty line in Sudan. Figures from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimate that there are up to 3.2 million internally displaced persons in Sudan, of which 2.6 million are long term displaced in Darfur alone. OCHA also outline that Sudan plays host to approximately 386,283 refugees from neighbouring countries.

Over the last five decades, the UK has always been one of the largest providers of aid to the Sudanese people. UK bilateral Overseas Development Assistance spent in Sudan, from 2011-2014, totalled £269,023,000. The figures for 2015 will be published on 17 November.

Sudan: Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the UK aid budget for Sudan is used to promote freedom of religion or belief; and what assessment they have made of the penalties imposed by Sudanese courts if a man or woman exercises their right to change their beliefs. [HL2615]

Lord Bates: Through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Conflict, Stability and Security Fund a programme worth £100,000, is focussing on the reform of the teaching of religious education in Sudan, and the promotion of religious tolerance. In 2015 and 2016 an FCO-funded project in Sudan brought together legal experts, religious leaders and civil society members to challenge social and legal barriers to freedom of religion or belief.

Freedom of religion or belief in Sudan remains a concern and is a core part of our ongoing human rights dialogue with the Government of Sudan. This dialogue calls on the Government of Sudan to ensure all legislation is consistent with the commitment to their citizens in the

Interim Constitution of 2005, within which religious freedom is enshrined.

Universities: Admissions

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the remarks made by the Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development that the growth in university education has led to a mismatch of skills in the labour market. [HL2679]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: An increase in university graduates does not need to come at the expense of other routes into highly skilled employment. Nearly 60% of the country's working age population still do not have a Level 4+ qualification. It is also not a stark choice for young people to choose between technical or academic education, as they can and should choose the right track for them.

The Skills Plan, in responding to the Sainsbury recommendations, makes clear that technical education must always be about developing the skills, knowledge and behaviours required for a specific occupation. This Government is focused on strengthening the education system to enable everybody to achieve their potential and to ensure that once and for all, we address the gap in skills at technical and higher technical levels that affects the nation's productivity.

World Trade Organisation

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the future relationship between the UK and the World Trade Organisation following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. [HL2954]

Lord Price: The UK is a founding Member of the World Trade Organisation in its own right. We will update the terms of our membership as necessary and will work closely with other members to minimise disruption to our trading relationships.

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last held discussions with the World Trade Organisation's Director General; and when they next expect to meet him. [HL2955]

Lord Price: My Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade last met with the World Trade Organisation Director General on the 27th September 2016, and expects to meet him shortly.

World War I: Debts

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 25 October (HL2303), what proportion of the redemptions were made to the US, and when. [HL2640]

Lord Young of Cookham: The War Bonds referenced in HL2303 were largely held by British citizens, and originally sold by the government as a way to support the war effort. One of these, the 3½ War Loan, was the most widely held gilt, with more than 120,000 holders at the time of redemption, of which 97,000 held less than £1,000 nominal. The Treasury does not hold detailed information on the identity of underlying individuals or organisations who own gilts. In any case, information relating to who may have received payment in respect of the redemption of these gilts is not reflective of who may have originally contributed to the war effort as the bonds have been freely traded in the intervening period. However, I can confirm that £2.3 million was repaid to registered holders with an address in the United States (0.09% of the total amount outstanding at the time of redemption).

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