

Daily Report

Monday, 19 December 2016

This report shows written answers and statements provided on 19 December 2016 and the information is correct at the time of publication (07:30 P.M., 19 December 2016). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

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

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

ANSWERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

■ Attorney General: Pay

Jake Berry: [56980]

To ask the Attorney General, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the highest-paid and lowest-paid full-time employee in the Law Officers' Departments.

Jake Berry: [57024]

To ask the Attorney General, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the pay of full-time staff in the highest pay grade in the Law Officers' Departments and average full-time pay in that Department.

Robert Buckland:

Government departments do not publish details of the salary of their highest to lowest paid employees.

The Office for National Statistics do, however, publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organization. These ratios are published annually as part of Civil Service Statistics and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016>

■ Attorney General: Staff

Jake Berry: [57002]

To ask the Attorney General, what plans the Law Officers' Departments have to include worker representation on its departmental board.

Robert Buckland:

I refer my Hon. Friend to the oral statement on the Corporate Governance Green Paper of 29 November 2016, Official Report, Column 1408.

■ Rolls Royce: Corruption

Margaret Hodge: [57311]

To ask the Attorney General, pursuant to the Answer of 25 October 2016 to Question 49510, from whom the Serious Fraud Office first received information concerning allegations of bribery and corruption at Rolls Royce.

Robert Buckland:

It is not the SFO's policy to disclose information about the source of what are confidential reports about an alleged criminal offence, or the details of a report. Releasing such information could potentially compromise criminal investigations or

prosecutions and may also discourage other individuals from reporting crimes to the SFO.

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ Artificial Intelligence

Chi Onwurah:

[\[56940\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the extent to which the recommendations of the report by the Executive Office of the President's National Science and Technology Council Committee on Technology, entitled Preparing for the future of artificial intelligence, published in October 2016, apply to the UK.

Joseph Johnson:

[Holding answer 15 December 2016]: The Royal Society is currently examining the implications of Machine Learning, alongside the Royal Society and British Academy work on Data Governance. These projects aim to develop recommendations for data governance arrangements, including ensuring the UK remains a world leader in the use and governance of artificial intelligence. The project will involve experts from across disciplines, and will look at current and historical case studies of data governance, and of broader technology governance, from a range of countries and sectors. Initial recommendations are expected in 2017.

■ Coal Fired Power Stations

Helen Jones:

[\[57068\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent representations he has received on the potential removal of coal-powered electricity generation from the UK's energy mix.

Jesse Norman:

[Holding answer 15 December 2016]: The Department launched a formal public consultation on 9 November on proposals to end electricity generation from unabated coal power stations by 2025 in Great Britain. Officials in the department are engaging a range of stakeholders as part of the consultation process. An assessment of stakeholders' views will be published after the consultation ends in February 2017.

■ Companies

Louise Haigh:

[\[56151\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent estimate he has made of the number of workforce representatives on the boards of UK PLCs.

Margot James:

[Holding answer 8 December 2016]: Government is committed to strengthening the worker voice in the boardroom. We are aware that some companies have appointed worker representatives to their boards. The green paper on Corporate Governance Reform explores a range of options for strengthening the worker voice.

■ **Dementia: Research**

Mark Durkan:

[\[57295\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union on continued freedom of movement for EU nationals who contribute to dementia medical research in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Joseph Johnson:

We hugely value the contribution of EU and international staff. The UK will maintain its status as a global centre for research and innovation, including for medical research. There will be no immediate changes in circumstances for EU citizens working or studying in the UK.

My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has been clear that during negotiations we want to protect the status of EU nationals already living here, and the only circumstances in which that would not be possible is if British citizens' rights in European member states were not protected in return.

■ **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Apprentices**

Clive Lewis:

[\[57283\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many civil service apprentices have been appointed by his Department since it was created.

Margot James:

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) was formed on 14th July from the merger of the former Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the former Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

Since 14th July, BEIS has appointed 20 apprentices, and has a further 15 due to start within the next few weeks.

■ **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Information Officers**

Clive Lewis:

[\[57749\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what his Department's annual spend is on salaries for staff in press and communications roles; and how much was spent by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on salaries for staff in such roles in each year since 2010.

Margot James:

An annual cost is not available. Following the Machinery of Government changes in July 2016, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is currently working to best to align its workforce in order to best deliver its objectives. This includes staff in press and communications roles.

Information on the salary costs for the press and communications teams for each year since 2010 is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs to calculate.

■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: iNHouse Communications

Melanie Onn: [57664]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department has awarded any commercial contracts to iNHouse Communications Ltd in the last five years.

Margot James:

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has not awarded any commercial contracts to iNHouse Communications Ltd in the last five years.

■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Pay

Jake Berry: [56979]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the highest-paid and lowest-paid full-time employee in his Department.

Margot James:

Government departments do not publish details of the salary of their highest to lowest paid employees.

The Office for National Statistics do, however, publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organization. These ratios are published annually as part of Civil Service Statistics and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016>

Jake Berry: [57023]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the pay of full-time staff in the highest pay grade in his Department and average full-time pay in that Department.

Margot James:

The Office for National Statistics publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organization. These ratios are published annually as part of Civil Service Statistics and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016>

■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Public Appointments

Clive Lewis:

[57268]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what public appointments he has made in 2016.

Margot James:

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy made 71 public appointments during 2016. This figure includes those made within the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills and the Department for Energy & Climate Change.

PARTNER ORGANISATION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT	ROLE
British Hallmarking Council	4 new appointments 6 re-appointments	Member
The Engineering Construction Industry Training Board	1 re-appointment	Member
Natural Environment Research Council	1 re-appointment	CEO
Industrial Development Advisory Board	3 new appointments 2 re-appointments	Member
UK Commission for Employment and Skills	1 new appointment	Interim Chair
Student Loans Company	1 new appointment 5 new appointments	CEO Members
Medical Research Council	1 re-appointment 2 re-appointments	CEO Member
The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	1 re-appointment 1 re-appointment	Chair Member
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	1 re-appointment	Member
Science and Technology Facilities Council	1 new appointment 1 re-appointment	Member
Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration	1 re-appointment	Member
Pubs Code Adjudicator	1 new appointment	

PARTNER ORGANISATION	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT	ROLE
Ordnance Survey	1 new appointment	Chair
Met Office	2 re-appointments	Member
UK Space Agency Steering Board	1 new appointment	Chair
UK Green Investment Bank	1 re-appointment	Member
Arts and Humanities Research Council	1 re-appointment	Member
Land Registry	1 new appointment	Chair
Post Office Ltd	2 re-appointments	Members
Public Weather Service Customer Service Group	1 re-appointment	Chair
Competitions Markets Authority	3 new appointments 3 re-appointments	Member
Companies House	3 new appointments	Member
Committee on Climate Change	2 new appointments	Members
Civil Nuclear Police Authority	3 new appointments 2 re-appointments	Chair/ Members Members
Gas and Electricity Markets Authority	1 new appointment	Member
National Nuclear Laboratory	1 new appointment	Chair
Coal Authority	1 new appointment 1 re-appointment	Chair Member
Committee on Radioactive Waste Management	6 new appointments	Members
Committee on Fuel Poverty	1 new appointment	Chair

■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Secondment

Clive Lewis:

[57526]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many staff are seconded to his Department; and from where those staff have been seconded.

Margot James:

As of the end of November, BEIS has 21 staff seconded in from other organisations.

The seconding organisations into BEIS are shown below:

Research Councils UK

NHS Trust Development Authority

Wellcome Trust

University of Birmingham

University of Sheffield

Liverpool University

HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England)

City of Westminster

Irish Government

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (German Government)

Northern Gas Networks

BP UK Ltd

Shell

UKPIA

Ernst and Young LLP

Jacobs

VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas)

The Crown Estate

CTSI (Chartered Trading Standards Institute).

■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Senior Civil Servants**Clive Lewis:**[\[57260\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate he has made of the cost of using external agencies for recruitment of senior civil service posts in (a) his Department, (b) the former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and (c) the former Department for Energy and Climate Change in the last year for which information is available.

Margot James:

The estimated cost for using external agencies for recruitment to Senior Civil Service posts in 2014/15 was:

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills £155,000

Department for Energy and Climate Change £176,080

Information for later years is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

■ **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Staff**

Jake Berry: [\[57001\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans his Department has to include worker representation on its departmental board.

Margot James:

I refer my hon. Friend to the oral statement on the Corporate Governance Green Paper of 29 November 2016, Official Report, Column 1408.

Helen Whately: [\[57220\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what measures his Department has in place to support those of its staff who have mental health problems.

Margot James:

The Department is committed to ensuring the wellbeing and good mental health of its employees and has various ways in which this is done. The support includes intranet guidance material, trained Mental Health First Aiders, a staff Wellbeing and Mental Health group who offer peer-to-peer support and promote awareness of mental health issues more widely. Reasonable adjustments are also put in place where beneficial for individuals working arrangements. Additionally there is an Employee Assistance Programme for counselling support and the Occupational Health Service where individuals can be referred to by the Line Managers for assessment and recommendations to support the individual.

■ **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Surveys**

Clive Lewis: [\[57266\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what annual staff surveys are carried out at the (a) Competition and Markets Authority, (b) Land Registry and (c) Ordnance Survey; and if he will place the results of each of those surveys in the Library.

Margot James:

The Competition and Market Authority and Land Registry take part in the annual Civil Service People Survey. Ordnance Survey takes part in the Best Companies engagement survey.

All three organisations make their results available through their respective websites.

■ **Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Temporary Employment**

Clive Lewis: [\[57258\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how much (a) his Department, (b) the former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and (c) the former Department for Energy and Climate Change spent on non-payroll staff in (i) 2015 and (ii) 2016.

Margot James:

Former Department for Energy and Climate Change (including non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs)) spend on consultancy and temporary staff for 2014-15 and 2015-16 can be found in note 7 of the Remuneration and Staff Report section of the Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16.

Former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (including NDPBs) spend on non-permanent staff for 2015-16 can be found in the Staff numbers and related costs section (page 108) of the Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16.

Clive Lewis:[\[57259\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many non-payroll staff are employed by his Department; and how many such staff were employed by the former Department for (a) Business, Innovation and Skills and (b) Energy and Climate Change in the last year for which information is available.

Margot James:

At the end of October 2016, there were 186 non payroll staff working in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

As at 31 March 2016 the number of non-payroll staff working in the former Department for (a) Business, Innovation and Skills and (b) Energy and Climate Change, is shown in the table below.

DEPARTMENT	NUMBER OF NON PAYROLL STAFF
Business, Innovation and Skills	45
Energy and Climate Change	67

■ Energy: Meters**Ian Lavery:**[\[57085\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many people are registered as using a pre-payment meter to access their electricity and other utilities in (a) Wansbeck constituency, (b) the North East and (c) nationally.

Jesse Norman:

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy collects data, including customers' tariff information, from the energy companies as part of the domestic fuels inquiry. This data is collected by region and not by constituency.

In the second quarter of 2016, 14 % of domestic standard electricity customers and 15% of domestic gas customers in the North East paid for their energy by pre-payment meter. By comparison 15% of domestic standard electricity customers and 14% of domestic gas customers in England and Wales combined paid for their energy by pre-payment meter. This data is published within our Quarterly Energy Prices publication and

can be found in Tables 2.4.2 and 2.5.2 which is available here:

www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/quarterly-domestic-energy-price-statics

■ Fossil Fuels

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[56871\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate he has made of the proportion of known fossil fuels which need to be left in the ground to prevent global temperature change above two degrees centigrade.

Mr Nick Hurd:

In 2013 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimated that to have a 50 percent chance of limiting global average temperature rise to below 2°C, the remaining permissible carbon emissions were up to 305 billion tonnes of Carbon for the period 2011 to 2100. According to the latest estimate of cumulative emission by the Global Carbon Project in 2016, this figure has reduced to 255 billion tonnes of Carbon.

In 2011 the IPCC estimated the amount of carbon within existing proven reserves of coal, oil and gas to be 1,053 billion tonnes.

Based on these figures, between 70-75 percent of known fossil fuels would have to be left unused in order to have a 50% chance of limiting global temperature rise to below 2°C.

■ Fuel Poverty

Ian Lavery: [\[57200\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many people are classified as fuel poor in (a) Wansbeck constituency, (b) North East England and (c) the UK.

Jesse Norman:

The number of households classed as fuel poor in 2014 in (a) Wansbeck constituency, (b) North East England and (c) England can be found in the following table. We do not publish the number of households classed as fuel poor in the UK.

	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS CLASSED AS FUEL POOR
Wansbeck constituency	4,259
North East England	139,490
England	2,379,357

The fuel poverty sub-regional statistics can be found [here](#).

■ Fuels: Prices

Sir Greg Knight:

[\[57252\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what (a) mechanisms and (b) monitoring systems are in place to ensure that fuel pumps at filling stations deliver the correct amount of fuel so that motorists are not defrauded whether accidentally or deliberately.

Margot James:

Fuel pumps are required by law to be of an approved design based on national and international standards including requirements for accuracy. Each pump must be tested and verified before use. Local authority trading standards monitor the market place and can require any pump found to be inaccurate or not meeting the requirements to be taken out of use.

■ Industry: Coastal Areas

Caroline Ansell:

[\[56481\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans his Department has to develop a coastal industrial strategy with regard to (a) renewable energy, (b) small-scale fishing, (c) aquaculture and (d) tourism; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Nick Hurd:

To deliver an effective Industrial Strategy that works for all, it is important to build on local excellence and learning from our strengths to boost growth across the UK. We need to learn from the best ideas across the country - businesses, workers, consumers, the research community, and local leaders – including from coastal communities.

The Government is already supporting coastal areas to create jobs and investment. By 2017 the Coastal Communities Fund will have invested over £120 million in projects that are helping to create or safeguard over 18,000 jobs, provide more than 12,000 training places and apprenticeships, and attract over £200 million of public/private sector co-finance. A further £90m is available between 2017 & 2021 and is the first time Coastal Community Teams in England are able to bid to the Coastal Communities Fund ensuring that, wherever possible, projects have the support of the local community and meet wider economic objectives.

■ Innovate UK

Clive Lewis:

[\[57263\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what Innovate UK's budget (a) was in each of the last five financial years and (b) will be in each of the next four financial years.

Joseph Johnson:

Innovate UK's core budget (Admin, Programme and Capital) from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy over the last five financial years was:

2011/12 - £370m

2012/13 - £439m

2013/14 - £451m

2014/15 - £426m

2015/16 - £547m

Its budget for 2016/17 is £586m. At the 2015 Autumn Statement the Government committed to protecting, in cash terms, total spending on business led innovation through Innovate UK for the duration of the Parliament. In 2016 an additional £100m was committed for the Biomedical Catalyst and a further £2bn for R&D by the end of the Parliament. Innovate UK's annual budget is confirmed at the beginning of each Financial Year.

■ Iron and Steel: Manufacturing Industries

Ian Lavery:

[57189]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how much he plans to financially invest in the steel industry in the UK in the next three years; and what plans he has to support steel workers.

Mr Nick Hurd:

We continue to work closely with all UK steel producers together with wider stakeholders, including with Trade Unions, fabricators and stockists, to explore actions industry and government can take to further support the UK steel sector. I have challenged the sector to produce a clear vision for UK steel in the context of our industrial strategy, as the best future for steel workers will be one based on sustainable long term investment by the steel companies.

The Department is fully assisting the sector with the development of its vision and we have commissioned research into future market opportunities for UK Steel and the capabilities it will need to capitalise on these. The research project is overseen by a joint project of my officials and sector representatives.

The Government has so far provided £126m to UK steel firms in compensation for energy costs. It has also taken action to prevent steel dumping within the EU. There are now over 40 trade defence instruments which will protect steel producers from unfair trade practices.

Furthermore on December 13, we published details of upcoming steel requirements for infrastructure projects, with data on government plans to use three million tonnes of steel to 2020. Together with our revised public procurement guidance, this will give the UK steel sector the confidence and certainty to invest for the future.

■ Iron and Steel: Procurement

Nic Dakin:

[\[57567\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when the Government plans to commence reporting on UK steel content in relation to procurement by its departments.

Mr Nick Hurd:

Last Autumn, the Government issued guidance to central government departments on how to ensure that they take full account of the value provided by UK steel producers when conducting their procurement activities. This guidance has now been extended to the wider public sector. Since publication of the guidance, Government has been working closely with departments to monitor its impact and ensure delivery. There are no plans to share this data publicly, due to its provisional nature.

The Government has just published its indicative future steel requirements to 2020, to enable UK steel manufacturers to better plan and bid for government contracts.

■ Manufacturing Industries: Trade Competitiveness

Tom Blenkinsop:

[\[57227\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to (a) expedite the Government's application to the European Commission to exempt energy-intensive industries from the indirect costs of the Renewables Obligation and small-scale Feed-in Tariffs and (b) ensure that legislation on that exemption is in place before financial year 2017-18.

Jesse Norman:

[Holding answer 15 December 2016]: We are engaging with the European Commission about our state aid pre-notification to move from compensation to exemption for the indirect cost of the Renewables Obligation (RO) and small-scale Feed-in Tariffs (FiT). We aim to introduce the exemption for Energy Intensive Industries (EIs) from 1 April 2017.

The Government continues to provide relief to those EIs most affected by the rising cost of electricity and has paid over £360m in compensation since August 2013.

■ Post Offices: Franchises

Gill Furniss:

[\[57750\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 15 November 2016 to Question 53052, when he expects the Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough to receive a response from the Chief Executive of Post Office Ltd.

Margot James:

Post Office Ltd has advised that it intends to send its response to the Hon Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough very shortly.

■ Scientific Advisers

Chi Onwurah: [\[57113\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he had with Dame Julia Slingo in advance of her standing down from the Scientific Advice Mechanism High-Level Group of the European Commission; and what steps he has taken to replace her with another UK scientist.

Joseph Johnson:

Dame Julia Slingo informed the European Commission in October that she would be retiring from professional life and wished to stand down from the High Level Group. This was not unexpected, as Dame Julia has also stepped down as Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Met Office as part of her retirement. The members of the High Level Group of Scientific Advisors are appointed by the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation in a personal capacity, based on a short-list recommended by an independent Identification Committee.

Chi Onwurah: [\[57180\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the European Commission on appointing a UK scientist to the Scientific Advice Mechanism High Level Group; and whether he plans to seek such an appointment before the UK leaves the EU.

Joseph Johnson:

[Holding answer 15 December 2016]: The members of the High Level Group of Scientific Advisors are appointed by the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation in a personal capacity, based on a short-list recommended by an independent Identification Committee. This short-list also serves as a pool for replacement of members of the group during its first term of office.

■ Tidal Power

Mr David Hanson: [\[56898\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make it his policy to consult on the recommendations of the Hendry review into tidal lagoons before a decision on the future development of such lagoons is taken.

Jesse Norman:

The Government is grateful for the hard work that has gone into the Review, and will now consider this report as part of the evidence base to determine whether this technology could play a cost effective role in the UK's energy mix. The Government will respond to the Hendry Review report in due course.

■ UK Shared Business Services

Clive Lewis: [\[57265\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what his plans are for the future of UK Shared Business Services Ltd; and if he will make a statement.

Margot James:

UK Shared Business Services Ltd (UKSBS) is a company owned by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and a number of the Department's Arm's Length Bodies. UKSBS provides a range of back office services to its owners and to other arm's length bodies. The Department had previously decided that these services would be transferred to other public sector providers or the private sector and that the company would be closed. However some of the assumptions that underpinned that decision are no longer valid. Furthermore the demand for back office services has changed as a result of new proposals announced by the Government including, for example, the recent Machinery of Government changes and the creation of UK Research and Innovation (subject to Parliament). The Department is committed to modernisation, increasing flexibility and reducing operating costs, especially through the application of innovative technology and digital services. The Department is currently reviewing how its back office services should be provided in the future and the role that UKSBS might play in that provision. In the meantime UKSBS continues to provide services to its customers and will make an important contribution to the creation of, and transition to, UK Research and Innovation.

■ Unified Patent Court**Mr Douglas Carswell:**[\[56050\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what due consideration was given to alternatives to the Unified Patent Court before the announcement of the proposed ratification of the UK's membership of the Unified Patent Court.

Joseph Johnson:

[Holding answer 7 December 2016]: The Government considered its announcement to become a signatory of the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court very carefully, in the light of the benefit to business in being able to protect their patent rights across Europe in a more streamlined way and the value of having a division of the court in London.

The announcement should not be seen as pre-empting the UK's objective in the forthcoming negotiations with the EU and is without prejudice to the UK's future position on the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union on the UK has left the EU. The Unified Patent Court is established by a non-EU Intergovernmental Agreement which is currently only open to EU member states.

The announcement demonstrates that the UK will continue our approach of constructive engagement as long as we remain a member of the EU.

CABINET OFFICE■ **Civil Servants: Public Appointments**

Paula Sherriff: [57261]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, which members of the Civil Service (a) Board and (b) Corporate Management Board were appointed after 12 July 2016.

Ben Gummer:

There has been one new appointment to the Civil Service Board since 12 July 2016. Tom Scholar joined the Board at the end of July after taking up his position as Permanent Secretary of HM Treasury. The full list of current Board members is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/civil-service/about/our-governance>

■ **Infrastructure and Projects Authority**

Jim McMahon: [57131]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, when he plans to (a) establish and (b) announce the appointment of members to the Infrastructure and Projects Authority Board.

Ben Gummer:

The Infrastructure and Projects Authority reports jointly to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury. The membership of the boards of these organisations is published on GOV.UK. There is no separate Infrastructure and Projects Authority Board and there are no current plans to establish one.

TREASURY■ **Cash Dispensing**

Mr David Hanson: [57473]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what records his Department holds on how many (a) free to use ATM machines and (b) charging ATM machines there have been in each local authority area in England and Wales in each year since 2010.

Simon Kirby:

The Treasury does not hold any information on the number of free to use or charging ATMs broken down by local authority.

The Treasury does hold aggregate figures for the UK, published by the LINK payment system.

The number of ATMs in the UK is at an all-time high of nearly 70,000 machines, having risen from 36,000 in 2001. The number of free-to-use ATMs is also at an all-time high of over 53,000 and over 98% of all ATM cash withdrawals by UK cardholders in the UK are made free of charge.

LINK, the network which connects the UK's ATM machines, runs a financial inclusion programme which subsidises some independent ATM providers to allow them to offer a

free cash withdrawal service in those areas of greatest need. LINK has identified 1,694 rural and/or deprived 'target' areas, and 87% of these areas are now served by 916 subsidised cashpoints, up from up from 171 in 2007.

■ Companies: Tax Allowances

Frank Field:

[57744]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many companies have received tax relief on surplus food products donated to charity; and what value of revenue to the Exchequer has been foregone for that purpose.

Jane Ellison:

There is no specific tax relief for these purposes, therefore HM Revenue and Customs does not record the information requested. However, if a company donates its trading stock to a charity, it does not have to include the value of the gift in its sales income.

■ Debt Collection

Catherine West:

[57647]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what systems his Department has for monitoring and regulating debt recovery companies.

Simon Kirby:

The government has fundamentally reformed regulation of the consumer credit and debt management market. Responsibility for regulation was transferred from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in April 2014.

The FCA has turned key elements of the OFT's Irresponsible Lending Guidance into binding rules, actionable with the full range of FCA enforcement powers. These rules strengthen consumer protection and provide greater clarity to firms on what is expected of them and the sanctions if they lend irresponsibly. Firms are also required to comply with the FCA's high-level principles, including 'treating customers fairly'. Lenders must also show forbearance if there is evidence of financial difficulty.

The FCA's detailed rules can be found online at <https://www.handbook.fca.org.uk/handbook/CONC.pdf>.

The FCA proactively monitors the market, and can use its broad enforcement powers where it finds wrongdoing - there is no limit on the fines it can levy and it can force firms to provide redress to consumers. The FCA can also use its flexible rule-making powers where it deems it necessary it to protect consumers.

The government firmly believes that the new FCA regime is helping to deliver a higher standard of consumer protection in the debt management market.

■ EU Grants and Loans

Jonathan Edwards: [\[57548\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which UK-based projects were in receipt of European Investment Bank funding for each of the last five years; and how much funding each such project received in each of those years.

Mr David Gauke:

This information can be found on the EIB website, where the Bank publishes details of all their projects, including financing amounts. The UK project details, including for the last 5 years, can be found in the link below.

<http://www.eib.org/projects/loan/list/?region=1&country=GB>

■ EU Grants and Loans: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: [\[57660\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what proportion of the 2014 to 2020 Structural Funds and Rural Development Fund allocation for Wales was (a) committed before the Autumn Statement 2016 and (b) will be subject to the Government's guarantee for EU funding.

Mr David Gauke:

The UK Government will guarantee funding for structural and investment projects in Wales which are signed before we leave the EU. It will be for the Welsh Government to make an assessment of which projects should be pursued in areas of its competence within its MFF allocations in this period, and this guarantee will apply to any such projects.

The quantum of funding which will ultimately be covered under the terms of the guarantee will be subject to a number of factors, including the timing of exiting the EU, the outcome of the negotiations, progress on project implementation and the outcome of bids made directly to the Commission.

■ Fossil Fuels

Callum McCaig: [\[57351\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he had with representatives of the oil and gas industry before the Autumn Statement 2016.

Mr David Gauke:

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Details of ministerial and permanent secretary meetings with external organisations on departmental business are published on a quarterly basis and are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmt-ministers-meetings-hospitality-gifts-and-overseas-travel>

■ National Insurance

Stephen Timms: [\[57672\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 6 December 2016 to Question 55900, what checks HM Revenue and Customs carries out routinely on taxpayers' national insurance accounts; and how frequently such checks are made.

Jane Ellison:

HM Revenue and Customs's (HMRC) systems perform a number of automatic validation checks whenever data is recorded on an individual's record; this can happen at any time throughout the year and is not restricted to specific dates or cycles.

This can involve, for example, checking that National Insurance contributions (NICs) and earnings are in keeping with an employee's liability for NICs such as in relation to their date of birth. Checks are also made to ensure the annual maximum for NICs is not exceeded. If the NICs totals supplied to HMRC fail the validation checks underpayments and overpayments of NICs can be investigated and corrected.

■ National Productivity Investment Fund

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[57676\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 12 December 2016 to Question 56178, on the National Productivity Investment Fund, what test will be used to define projects as critical to boosting productivity.

Mr David Gauke:

The National Productivity Investment Fund will be targeted at areas that are critical for productivity: housing; research and development (R&D); and economic infrastructure.

Paragraphs 3.9 of the Autumn Statement document sets out the priority areas for this new investment, using value for money assessments, following HM Treasury standards. Where relevant, expert sector bodies such as Highways England, the Homes and Communities Agency, and UK research and Innovation (UKRI) will make this assessment.

■ PAYE

Stephen Timms: [\[57642\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many employer PAYE schemes did not balance at the end of (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15 and (c) 2015-16.

Jane Ellison:

HM Revenue and Customs does not keep this data.

■ Sovereign Wealth Funds

Mr Gregory Campbell: [\[57621\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will respond to the recommendations made in the Social Market Foundation's report on the potential benefits of creating a Sovereign Wealth Fund, published on 7 November 2016.

Simon Kirby:

The recommendations made in the Social Market Foundation's report published on 7 November 2016 were addressed during a Westminster Hall debate on Sovereign Wealth Funds in the House of Commons on 14 December 2016.

The government's priority is to reduce the deficit and reduce the UK's debt as a share of national income. Therefore, the government does not currently intend to give detailed consideration to a Sovereign Wealth Fund.

■ Taxation: Self-assessment**Mr Gregory Campbell:** [\[57622\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to encourage the maximum number of people to meet the 31 January 2017 deadline for making a tax return.

Jane Ellison:

I refer the Honourable Member to the answer given on 24th October (Written Question 43921).

Angus Brendan MacNeil: [\[57675\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of (a) delaying implementation of mandatory digital tax reporting until superfast broadband infrastructure is available in all parts of the UK and (b) exempting those people living in areas not included in the superfast broadband roll-out programme from the requirement to make a digital return.

Jane Ellison:

The Making Tax Digital consultations closed on 7 November. The Government is currently considering the responses received and, as announced at the Autumn Statement, will publish its response in January.

The Government has already announced that those businesses who are digitally excluded will be exempt from the digital record keeping and update requirements of Making Tax Digital. The consultations sought feedback on the appropriate criteria for this exemption.

The Government further announced, at the Autumn Statement, £1 billion of new funding to boost UK's digital infrastructure. This includes further rollout of fibre broadband networks, enabling faster connections for businesses, helping build a better more productive economy for all.

■ Tobacco: Smuggling**Martyn Day:** [\[56889\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what processes are required before the UK ratifies the World Health Organisation Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

Martyn Day: [56890]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent representations the Government has received on the ratification of the World Health Organisation Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

Martyn Day: [56891]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions the Government has had with the tobacco industry on the ratification of the World Health Organisation Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

Jane Ellison:

The Government fully supports ratification and implementation of the Illicit Trade Protocol, and the UK played a leading role in negotiating and agreeing the text.

It is UK policy to have all necessary implementing legislation in place before ratifying any international agreement. While many of the requirements of the Protocol are already in place in the UK, the requirement for licensing of tobacco manufacturing machinery is still outstanding. The Government published draft legislation to implement this provision on 5 December 2016 as part of the draft Finance Bill 2017. Subject to Parliamentary approval, the text of the Protocol can be laid before Parliament as a Command Paper with an Explanatory Memorandum. Providing Parliament does not resolve against ratification then the UK can begin the formal ratification process.

HM Revenue and Customs has received a number of representations from MPs, MEPs and health lobbyist supporting early implementation and ratification of the Protocol. No discussions have been held with the tobacco industry on ratification, beyond those conducted as part of the recent consultation on implementation of licensing of tobacco manufacturing machinery.

■ **Treasury: Pay**

Jake Berry: [56998]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the highest-paid and lowest-paid full-time employee in his Department.

Jake Berry: [57042]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the pay of full-time staff in the highest pay grade in his Department and average full-time pay in that Department.

Simon Kirby:

The Treasury does not publish the percentage pay gap in earnings.

However, information about current HM Treasury pay multiples is on page 67 in the Annual Report and Accounts 2015-2016 which can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/533615/annual_report_and_accounts_2016_-_web.pdf

■ Treasury: Staff

Helen Whately: [\[57219\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what measures his Department has in place to support those of its staff who have mental health problems.

Simon Kirby

HM Treasury takes mental health seriously and has a variety of measures in place to support those of its staff who have mental health problems.

Some of the main measures HM Treasury has in place are:

the Time to Change Pledge signed in February 2014 to help reduce the stigma associated with poor mental health

a Mental Wellbeing Network with approximately 50 members who carry out activities and offer support to those who have poor mental health.

personnel trained in Mental Health First Aid.

mandatory stress related eLearning.

guidance for staff and managers on how to identify and manage poor mental health.

regular Mental Wellbeing Workshops that any member of staff can attend.

events where staff talk about their own mental health experiences and what works for them to get through difficult times

Wellness Actions Plans and stress risk assessments.

reasonable adjustments for those with poor mental and/or physical health.

a wellbeing toolkit that takes you through a number of activities that you can use to manage your wellbeing, as well as setting out the evidence for them.

a confidential Employee Assistance Programme whose 24/7 Helpline is available to all staff offering advice and counselling at no cost to the individual.

We also have a Health, Safety and Wellbeing team including an Occupational Health Adviser and HR Advisers that are able to offer help, support and advice to those who have mental health problems.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**■ Council Tax**

Catherine West: [\[57743\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what plans he has to allow local councils to further increase council tax rates.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The Government announced its proposals for council tax referendum principles and the Adult Social Care precept on 15 December 2016 as part of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, which is available at:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/577947/Provisional_2017-2018_local_government_finance_settlement_consultation.pdf

■ **Non-domestic Rates**

Valerie Vaz:

[57738]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if his Department will make an assessment of the effect of the increase in rateable values of premises that do not fall under the £12,000 threshold on (a) riding schools and (b) other businesses.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The business rates revaluation is undertaken independently of Ministers by the Valuation Office Agency. Information on changes in rateable values at the revaluation has been published by the Valuation Office Agency. We have put in place a £3.6 billion transitional relief scheme for England to ensure that no ratepayer is unfairly penalised by the 2017 revaluation.

Tulip Siddiq:

[57742]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2016 to Question 49076, how much the Government has paid to each local authority in England to subsidise business rates discounts for childcare providers.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Under the business rates retention system, where a local authority uses its discretionary powers to grant business rates discounts the resulting loss of business rates income is effectively shared equally between the local authority and the Government. The Government does not collect data on particular types of premises that have benefited from local discretionary relief.

■ **Regeneration: Lancaster**

David Morris:

[57557]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps Lancaster City Council has taken to apply for regeneration funding for Heysham South as part of its Lancaster Core Strategy.

Andrew Percy:

My department is not aware of any specific regeneration funding applications from Lancaster City Council.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

■ Charities: Yorkshire and the Humber

Diana Johnson: [\[57132\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many registered charities there were based in (a) Hull and (b) the East Riding of Yorkshire in each year since 2009-10.

Mr Rob Wilson:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Chief Executive to reply.

Letter from Paula Sussex, dated December 2016:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission I have been asked to answer your written parliamentary question on how many registered charities there were based in (a) Hull and (b) the East Riding of Yorkshire in each year since 2009-10.

The Commission's public register of charities displays information about over 165,000 charities. Using the online search tool we can confirm that, as of 13 December 2016, there are a total of 499 charities who have told us they are operating in the local authority area of Kingston Upon Hull City. The total number of charities operating in the local authority area of the East Riding of Yorkshire is 1306[1].

The public register of charities changes on a daily basis. We do not hold snapshot historic data for the number of charities in specific local areas for previous years.

However, the Commission does hold information on when charities operating in particular areas have been registered. Please find the number of charities that were registered and listed as operating in either local authority area for each 12 month period since 2009.

CHARITIES REGISTERED DURING THE PERIOD	KINGSTON UPON HULL CITY	EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
1 April 09 – 31 March 10	15	41
1 April 10 – 31 March 11	12	35
1 April 11 – 31 March 12	9	30
1 April 12 – 31 March 13	11	29
1 April 13 – 31 March 14	21	43
1 April 14 – 31 March 15	16	27
1 April 15 – 31 March 16	18	49

Members of Parliament can also search for the number of charities whose main contact is registered in their constituency or local authority area [here](#) -

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/ShowCharity/registerofcharities/mapping/Search.aspx>

I do hope that this information is helpful.

[1] These figures do not include charities who operate in more than ten local authority areas as they are listed as 'operating throughout England and Wales'.

■ Sky: 21st Century Fox

Tom Watson: [\[57575\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how she plans to notify hon. Members immediately in the event that 21st Century Fox gives her formal notification of its takeover bid for Sky (a) when the House is sitting and (b) during recess.

Tom Watson: [\[57576\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what plans she has to consult hon. Members on issuing a public interest intervention notice in the event that 21st Century Fox gives formal notification of its takeover bid for Sky during the Christmas recess.

Mr Rob Wilson:

As my Rt. Hon. Friend [the Minister of State for Digital and Culture] made clear in his response to the Urgent Question on 12 December [tabled by the Hon. Member for Cardiff West [Kevin Brennan] [vol 618 col 512]] the role of Secretary of State here will be a quasi judicial one and she will make decisions and announcements in accordance with the requirements of such a role.

■ Social Networking: Bullying

Louise Haigh: [\[57631\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions her Department has had with teachers and other education providers on training for teachers on issues raised by online abuse.

Mr Rob Wilson:

Teacher training and education is a matter for the Department for Education. However, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport works closely with colleagues at the Department for Education on child internet safety issues.

DEFENCE

■ Armed Forces

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[57740\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what regular and Territorial Army units are stationed at (a) Bulford, (b) Tidworth, (c) Aldershot, (d) Catterick and (e) Colchester.

Mark Lancaster:

Army Units stationed at Bulford, Tidworth, Aldershot, Catterick and Colchester as at 15 December 2016 are shown in the attached table:

Attachments:

1. 57740 - Army Units at Various MOD Sites [57740 - MOD Units at Bulford, Tidworth, Aldershot, Catterick and Colchester.docx]

■ **Armed Forces: Mental Illness**

Kirsten Oswald: [\[57350\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what comparative assessment he has made of the proportion of personnel presenting for care in connection with mental health issues among (a) the general military population, (b) personnel returned from deployment and (c) personnel returned from deployment who had been prescribed mefloquine.

Mark Lancaster:

The information is not held in the format requested, therefore it has not been possible to provide a like for like comparison for the three requested categories of personnel.

■ **AWE: Occupational Pensions**

Kirsten Oswald: [\[57374\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Oral Answer by the Leader of the House on 7 December 2016, Q9, Official Report, column 211-2, on how many occasions (a) he and (b) his Ministerial colleagues met with trade unions representatives to discuss the proposed changes to the Atomic Weapons Establishment pension scheme.

Harriett Baldwin:

I have remained fully informed of developments regarding the proposed changes to the Atomic Weapons Establishment pension scheme. My predecessor, Phillip Dunne, met with Trades Union representatives, and subsequently instructed officials to have further meetings to clarify the Government's position on a number of issues. There being no material change in those positions, further clarifications have been provided through correspondence.

■ **Burma: Military Aid**

Catherine West: [\[57646\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what funds the Government has allocated to training programmes for the Burmese army in each of the last five years.

Mike Penning:

The Ministry of Defence does not provide combat training to the Burmese military. We do provide educational training to the Burmese military in the form of programmes delivered by the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom on the role of the military in a democracy, leadership and English language training. Our programme of engagement with the Burmese military remains under continual review. The Government did not allocate any funds to training programmes for the Burmese army in financial year (FY)

2012-13. Funds were allocated for training programmes in FYs 2013-14; 2014-15; 2015-16 and 2015-17. These funds were allocated as follows:

FY 2012-13: No funds allocated

FY 2013-14: £86, 560

FY 2014-15: £131,235

FY 2015-16: £158,563

FY 2016-17: £250,000

■ HMS Tamar

Scott Mann: [\[57347\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what his Department expects to be the duties of HMS Tamar, announced for construction on 8 December 2016.

Harriett Baldwin:

The cutting-edge technology of the Royal Navy's versatile new River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels will enable these warships to carry out a wide range of tasks. They will support our destroyers and frigates in delivering their tasks, will conduct disaster relief missions, and enhance our contribution to maritime security and fishery protection, increasing the Royal Navy's ability to defend UK interests at home and abroad.

Oliver Colvile: [\[57980\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when the Government will decide in which port HMS Tamar will be based.

Harriett Baldwin:

HMS TAMAR will be based in Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth.

■ Iron and Steel: Procurement

Nic Dakin: [\[57620\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when his Department plans to report on the proportion of UK steel being procured through contracts as set out in government policy.

Harriett Baldwin:

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has recently published updated policy guidance on steel procurement in major Government projects. This aims to ensure that the public sector, including defence, takes full account of the value provided by UK steel producers when conducting procurement activities. BEIS is working closely with Departments to monitor its impact and ensure delivery. There are no plans to share this data publicly, due to its provisional nature.

The Government has also now published its future pipeline for steel requirements, which will enable UK steel manufacturers to better plan and bid for Government contracts. The pipeline, together with the updated procurement policy, is published on gov.uk at the

following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-1116-procuring-steel-in-major-projects-revised-guidance>.

■ **Ministry of Defence: Dubai**

Sir Nicholas Soames: [57572]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the establishment is to be of the new British Defence Staff in Dubai; and when that staff will be stood up.

Mike Penning:

Establishment of a British Defence Staff (Gulf) was a 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review commitment. Based at the British Consulate in Dubai, the BDS (Gulf) has already begun its work following the deployment at the end of November of an RAF Wing Commander. She will be joined in spring 2017 by two other officers, an Army Colonel and a Major. The BDS will help co-ordinate British Defence activity in the Gulf, building on the work done by the six Defence Sections in our Gulf Cooperation Countries nation embassies, our 200-plus Loan Service personnel, our short-term training teams, and our liaison and exchange officers across the region. The BDS (Gulf) will be headed by the Defence Senior Adviser Middle East, Lt Gen Tom Beckett, who will remain primarily London-based.

■ **Ministry of Defence: Pay**

Jake Berry: [56984]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the highest-paid and lowest-paid full-time employee in his Department.

Mark Lancaster:

Government departments do not publish details of the salary of their highest to lowest paid employees.

The Office for National Statistics do, however, publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organization. These ratios are published annually as part of Civil Service Statistics and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016>

Jake Berry: [57028]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the pay of full-time staff in the highest pay grade in his Department and average full-time pay in that Department.

Mark Lancaster:

The Office for National Statistics publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organization. These ratios are published annually as part of Civil Service Statistics and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016>

■ **Ministry of Defence: Staff**

Helen Whately:

[57217]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what measures his Department has in place to support those of its staff who have mental health problems.

Mark Lancaster:

Maintaining good levels of mental health and wellbeing is achieved using a 'through life approach' and the application of a wide range of measures based around a model of prevention, early detection and treatment. No system can guarantee to detect every individual at risk of mental health problems. Nevertheless, measures are in place to increase awareness at all levels.

Mental health support to members of the Armed Forces includes pre and post-operational stress management training, a wide range of psychiatric and psychological treatments, and initiatives such as Trauma Risk Management. We currently have 16 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs), which are located to be convenient for major centres of military population, and which support the provision of healthcare that is available through Service primary care facilities. In-patient care is provided in dedicated psychiatric units through a central contract the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has with a partnership of eight NHS Trusts, led by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust.

The Armed Forces Covenant makes it clear that all members of the Armed Forces community deserve to receive the very best support and care that we can offer and it is vital to ensure that they are not disadvantaged when accessing healthcare, including treatment for mental health needs.

Civil Service Employee Policy provides a central health and well-being service to support departments in their well-being work. In 2015, the People Board agreed a strategic approach to health and well-being for the Civil Service. This identified mental health as a key priority. This strategic approach was developed into a Strategic Action Plan, which has now been successfully implemented.

The MOD has its own bespoke Employee Wellbeing Service that offers support to Civilian employees who experience mental health problems. Wellbeing Consultants are fully trained to provide support and information on a wide range of issues. We also offer a range of tools and information for employees who are experiencing mental health problems.

■ **Reserve Forces: Training**

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[57739]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what plans he has to include Reserve troops in overseas training missions.

Mike Penning:

Reservists are currently members of short term training teams in a number of different locations around the world. On 13 October 2016, I announced that we had made four new call-out orders under section 56(1B) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 (ref HCWS190). One of these orders was to continue to allow reservists to be called into permanent service to support Defence Engagement activities (for example the provision of short term training teams and military capacity building overseas). 171 Reservists were called into permanent service for Defence Engagement activity between September 2015 and September 2016. Reservists provide invaluable support to the Train, Advise and Assist mission in Afghanistan.

The force structure on Overseas Training Missions is tailored to the requirement and therefore varies depending on the situation. Reservists are always considered when planning for future missions and will be utilised if appropriate.

■ **RFA Tiderace****Douglas Chapman:**[\[57254\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 7 December 2016 to Question 56629, what the cost to the public purse was of transporting both the UK Chief of Defence Materiel and the Lady Sponsor for the RFA Tiderace to Korea for the naming ceremony for RFA Tiderace on 1 December 2016.

Harriett Baldwin:

The total cost to the Ministry of Defence of the Lady Sponsor, Mrs Lister and Vice-Admiral Simon Lister, travelling to the naming ceremony of RFA was £4,820.

The Chief of Defence Materiel, now designated the Chief Executive Officer of Defence Equipment and Support, did not attend the ceremony.

■ **Scottish Medicines Consortium****Kirsten Oswald:**[\[57348\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he (a) has held and (b) plans to hold discussions with the Scottish Medicines Consortium as part of an engagement process on changes to the drugs appraisal process.

Mark Lancaster:

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not held or plans to hold discussions with the Scottish Medicines Consortium about changes to the drugs appraisal process.

The MOD is aware of Dr Brian Montgomery's review of access to new medicines, requested by the Scottish Government. The MOD has not been invited to contribute to this review.

■ Type 31 Frigates: Exports

Douglas Chapman: [\[57632\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment the Government has undertaken of potential export sales for the Type 31 frigate; and if he will publish the evidential basis which supports such an assessment.

Harriett Baldwin:

In line with the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 commitment to exports and prosperity, the potential for future exports of the Type 31 General Purpose Frigate is being considered. Consequently, analysis of the global frigate market will continue drawing on Government, industry and independent expertise as the project matures.

■ Veterans: Northern Ireland

Jim Shannon: [\[57466\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what discussions his Department has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on steps to ensure 24 hour-a-day help from veterans' charities and helplines for ex-service personnel.

Mark Lancaster:

The Ministry of Defence has had no discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive on the provisions of a 24 hour-a-day contact and referral service from veterans' charities and helplines for ex-Service personnel. However, the Covenant Fund has awarded a £2 million grant to a consortium of organisations led by The Royal British Legion and including Combat Stress, SSAFA and Poppyscotland who are working towards setting up a one-stop service to better support the UK's Armed Forces veterans community. It will give veterans, regardless of age or location, a simple point of contact to turn to for advice and help in accessing an array of public, private and charitable services and will be delivered across Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England.

EDUCATION

■ Academies

Angela Rayner: [\[57497\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the average cost of converting a local authority maintained school to an academy.

Edward Timpson:

The costs of becoming an academy vary from school to school. Schools that become academies each receive a standard pre-opening grant relative to their particular circumstances.

Currently, these tariffed grants contribute towards the costs of conversion incurred by schools in establishing the academy. These may include legal fees, as well as costs associated with transfer of land, transfer of software licences, HR and TUPE advice, setting up an Academy Trust and paying for school improvement capacity.

■ Academies: Finance

Angela Rayner: [57498]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many academy trusts made related-party transactions in the last financial year for which data is available.

Edward Timpson:

In the year ended 31 August 2015 1200 academy trusts made related party transactions. This information is taken from trusts' published financial statements.

■ Academies: Football

Michael Gove: [56627]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues and other stakeholders on increasing the role played by Premier League and Football League teams in supporting the Government's free school and academy programmes.

Edward Timpson:

I have not had any discussions with Cabinet colleagues or other stakeholders on increasing the positive role already played by Premier League and football league teams in supporting the Government's free school and academy programmes.

■ Apprentices

Peter Kyle: [55896]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister of State for Skills in the Technical and Further Education Public Bill Committee on 29 November 2016, column 122, what the targeted procurement organisation will be.

Robert Halfon:

I would refer the honourable member to my remarks in committee
[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-29/debates/d6aefa1e-b096-4f05-99f8-111bf8547cf1/TechnicalAndFurtherEducationBill\(FifthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-29/debates/d6aefa1e-b096-4f05-99f8-111bf8547cf1/TechnicalAndFurtherEducationBill(FifthSitting)) column 123. I will be in a position to provide further information in due course.

Steve McCabe: [56283]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many apprenticeship standards relate to skills for which there are shortages in the green economy.

Robert Halfon:

A variety of standards at different levels have been developed or are in development which will help provide employers and employees working in the green economy with the skills they need. These range from standards focused on occupations specific to the sector such as the one for Dual Fuel Smart Meter Installer to standards applicable to a wide range of sectors such as those covering business administration, leadership and management, customer service and financial services.

Steve McCabe:

[56344]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 14 November 2016 to Question 52226, for what reason there is no requirement to outline a typical career progression or career path for apprenticeships past the end of an apprenticeship in the guidance criteria.

Robert Halfon:

Apprenticeships give people full occupational competence and an employer a chance to invest in the skills they need. Progression opportunities will be determined by a wide range of factors including personal motivation, opportunities at the next level in the occupation or in the employer's organisation and wider labour market factors. Additionally, career progression is not always linear for example from a technical occupation into management.

It would not be possible for Government to map those many possibilities but where individuals require further career advice, it is available through the National Careers Service website; <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>, and telephone service on 0800 100 900.

■ Apprenticeship Delivery Board

Catherine McKinnell:

[56724]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the process is for appointing the advisory panel of apprentices for the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education; and how she plans to ensure that that panel's membership is drawn from different occupations, backgrounds and areas of the country.

Robert Halfon:

The first apprentice panel will be in place before the Institute for Apprenticeships goes live in April 2017. We are considering options for recruitment and will put in place a process to ensure that membership is diverse and drawn from different occupations, backgrounds and areas of the country.

■ Children: Disadvantaged

Ian Lavery:

[57231]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children living in (a) Wansbeck constituency and (b) the North East of England and (c) England received free school meals in each of the last three years.

Edward Timpson:

The proportion of children attending schools in Wansbeck, the North East of England and England, who are eligible for free school meals is published annually.

Data for 2016 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2016>

Data for 2015 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2015>

Data for 2014 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2014>

In each publication data showing the proportion of children eligible for free school meals in England can be found in table 3a. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals in the North East of England can be found in tables 8a, 8b, 8c and 8d.

The proportion of pupils attending schools in Wansbeck who are eligible for free school meals can be found in the underlying data.

■ Church Schools: Community Relations

Mr Julian Brazier: [\[907961\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Roman Catholic schools in contributing to social cohesion.

Nick Gibb:

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

■ Department for Education: Apprentices

Angela Rayner: [\[57633\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many civil service apprentices her Department has appointed since the civil service apprenticeship scheme was created.

Caroline Dinenage:

The civil service fast-track apprenticeship scheme was launched in September 2013.

The Department for Education has appointed apprentices from the scheme every year.

It has also recruited other apprentices outside of the central scheme. The number of apprentices recruited each year is in the following table:

	CENTRAL SCHEME (LEVEL 4)	OTHER APPRENTICES (LEVEL 2 AND 3)
2013/14	15	0
2014/15	20	14
2015/16	48	16
2016/17	16	25

A further 35 apprentices from the central scheme and 13 other apprentices have been offered apprenticeships at the Department and are expected to start in early 2017.

■ Department for Education: Information Officers

Angela Rayner:

[\[57748\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much her Department spent on communications and media staff in (a) 2015 and (b) 2016; and how much her Department expects to have spent on such staff in 2016-17.

Caroline Dinenage:

The Department for Education communications group spent £2,395,172 in the financial year 2014-15, £2,175, 580 in 2015-16 and will spend £2,662,236 in 2016-17 on staff. The last figure has increased due to the department taking on HE and FE work.

This is substantially lower than communications staff costs in 2010-11 which were £4,360,283.

■ Department for Education: Pay

Tulip Siddiq:

[\[57494\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average hourly earnings are of her Department's (a) BME and (b) non-BME employees.

Tulip Siddiq:

[\[57495\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average hourly earnings are of (a) female, (b) male, (c) full-time and (d) part-time employees of her Department.

Caroline Dinenage:

The table below shows the average hourly earnings of the Department for Education (DfE) staff by a) female b) male c) BME d) Non-BME e) part-time and f) full time.

Average Earnings of DfE Staff

	Nov-16
Female	£20.61
Male	£21.97
BME	£18.98
Non-BME	£21.93
Part-time	£21.04
Full-time	£21.19

The Department records earnings as annual salaries. In order to covert the annual salaries to hourly rates the following calculation has been used; ((Gross Basic Salary*FTE)/52)/Weekly hours.

The pay gap is lower when analysed at grade level for men and women and BME and non-BME. The gaps can be largely attributed to the fact that are greater proportions of women and BME staff at the lower pay bands.

Paula Sherriff:

[\[57542\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average hourly earnings are of (a) female, (b) male, (c) BAME and (d) non-BAME employees of her Department.

Caroline Dineneage:

The table below shows the average hourly earnings of the Department for Education (DfE) staff, including the Government Equalities Office (GEO) staff, by a) female b) male c) BME and d) non-BME.

Average Earnings of DfE Staff (including GEO)

	Nov-16
Female	£20.61
Male	£21.97
BME	£18.98
Non-BME	£21.93

The following table shows the average hourly earnings of GEO staff by a) female and b) male.

Average earnings of GEO Staff

	Nov-16
Female	£24.11
Male	£25.10

The Department and GEO records earnings as annual salaries. In order to convert the annual salaries to hourly rates the following calculation has been used: $((\text{Gross Basic Salary} \times \text{FTE}) / 52) / \text{Weekly hours}$.

The pay gap is lower when analysed at grade level for men and women and BME and non-BME. The gaps can be largely attributed to the fact that is greater proportions of women and BME staff of the lower pay bands.

■ Educational Institutions: Domestic Visits

Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck:

[\[57512\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, which (a) schools and (b) other educational institutions she has visited since taking office.

Caroline Dinenage:

My Rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, has visited a number of schools and other education institutions in the course of her official duties.

Visits to schools are listed in the table below:

NAME	LOCATION	DATE	TYPE
Southfields Academy	Putney, SW18 5JU	25/08/16	Academy Converter (Secondary)
Ashburnham Community School	Chelsea & Fulham, SW10 0DT	29/09/16	Community School (Primary)
Prudhoe Community High School	Northumberland, NE42 5LJ	13/10/16	Community School (Secondary)
UTC Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire, OX11 6BZ	17/10/16	UTC
Oasis Academy Limeside	Oldham, OL8 3SB	19/10/16	Academy Converter (Secondary)
Waverley School	Birmingham, B9 5QA	17/11/16	Academy Converter (Primary and Secondary)
Handsworth Grammar School	Birmingham, B21 9ET	17/11/16	Voluntary Aided Grammar School (Secondary)
St Francis Catholic	Birmingham, B19 1PH	17/11/16	Voluntary Aided School

NAME	LOCATION	DATE	TYPE
Primary School			(Primary)
Kesteven and Sleaford High School Selective Academy	Sleaford and North Hykeham, NG34 7RS	28/11/16	Academy Converter Grammar School (Secondary)
St Bede's Catholic College	Bristol, BS11 0SU	15/12/16	Academy Converter (Secondary)

My Rt. Hon Friend's visits to other educational institutions are listed in the table below:

NAME	LOCATION	DATE	TYPE
Walsall College	Walsall, WS2 8ES	21/07/16	FE College
University of Derby: Buxton and Leek FE College	Derbyshire, DE22 1GB	18/10/16	FE College
City College Norwich	Norwich, NR2 2LJ	20/10/16	FE College
Blackpool and the Flyde College	Blackpool, FY7 8JZ	01/12/16	FE College

■ Grammar Schools: Social Mobility

Patricia Gibson: [\[907950\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential effect on social mobility of proposed changes to the Government's policy on selective schools.

Nick Gibb:

This government wants a school system that works for everyone. Grammar schools provide a good or outstanding education for the children attending them, regardless of background. We need to do more to increase the number of pupils from disadvantaged background that are attending grammar schools. That is why we have consulted on new conditions to ensure that selective schools contribute to driving up standards for all pupils, in both selective and non-selective schools.

■ Higher Education: Research

Marion Fellows: [\[907958\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential effect on higher education research funding of the UK's decision to leave the EU.

Joseph Johnson:

Science and research are vital to our country's prosperity, security and wellbeing. This Government is committed to ensuring the best possible outcome for UK research as we exit the EU. Treasury's announcement to underwrite competitively bid-for Horizon 2020 funding while we remain a member of the EU reaffirms this commitment. Access to EU funding after exiting the EU will be a matter for the negotiations that will follow the triggering of Article 50.

■ Institute for Apprenticeships

Angela Rayner: [56758]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, which locations her Department is assessing the potential merits of for the Institute of Apprentices.

Robert Halfon:

There is an on-going assessment of a range of potential sites for the Institute for Apprenticeships and a final decision will be announced shortly.

■ Lifelong Education

Gordon Marsden: [56769]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to paragraph 1.102 of Budget 2016, what the planned timescale is for the review of Lifelong Learning.

Robert Halfon:

In the 2016 Budget, the Government announced that it would conduct a review into the gaps in support for lifetime learning, including for flexible and part-time study.

The review is on-going and the Government will announce its next steps shortly.

■ Pre-school Education: Pupil Premium

Tulip Siddiq: [57568]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how her Department monitors the effective use of the Early Years Pupil Premium by childcare providers.

Caroline Dinenage:

Ofsted collects evidence on the impact of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) on children's progress in its inspections of early years settings. This evidence forms part of the assessment of the setting to arrive at an overall inspection judgement. Ofsted publishes termly statistics on the number of inspections of early years providers conducted, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics>.

We are currently conducting a Study of Early Education and Development into the effectiveness of the EYPP and also a survey to explore how providers use their early

entitlement funding, including the EYPP, to address disadvantage and deprivation within their settings. Both reports are due for completion in the new year.

■ Pre-school Education: Standards

Lucy Powell: [57741]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children are in the lowest-attaining (a) 18.6 and (b) 21.5 per cent within the early years foundation stage profile; and how many such children are in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area.

Caroline Dineneage:

On 20 October, the Department published the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) results for the 2015 to 2016 academic year, at national and local authority level. At a national level, 69.3% of children achieved a good level of development (GLD), which is an increase of 3 percentage points on 2015. The same trend was seen in the percentage achieving at least the expected level across all early learning goals, which has increased by 3.2 percentage points from 2015. The EYFSP results are available at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/early-years-foundation-stage-profile-results-2015-to-2016.

Information about the number of children in (a) the lowest attaining 18.6 per cent and (b) the lowest attaining 21.5 per cent of children within the early years foundation stage profile broken down by region and local authority is provided in an attachment to this response.

Attachments:

1. Attachment [57741 Attachment.xlsx]

■ Primary Education: Sports

Mrs Sharon Hodgson: [57086]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much funding has been allocated to the Primary PE and Sport Premium in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16 and (d) 2016-17.

Edward Timpson:

We want all pupils to be healthy and active. This is why since 2013 the government has provided ring-fenced funding through the Primary PE and Sport Premium to help improve the quality of PE provision.

The funding allocations for the premium for academic years 2013-14 to 2016-17 are listed in the table below:

YEARS	FUNDING
2013-14	£158.9m
2014-15	£159.1m
2015-16	£159.8m
2016-17	£160.6m

From September 2017 revenue from the soft drinks industry levy will be used to double the funding to £320 million a year, enabling schools to further improve the quality and breadth of PE and sport that they offer.

■ Pupil Premium

Tulip Siddiq: [57566]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many inspections have been undertaken by Ofsted into the effective use of the Early Years Pupil Premium by providers in each year since that premium was introduced.

Caroline Dinenage:

Ofsted collects evidence on the impact of the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) on children's progress in its inspections of early years settings. This evidence forms part of the assessment of the setting to arrive at an overall inspection judgement. Ofsted publishes termly statistics on the number of inspections of early years providers conducted, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics>.

We are currently conducting a Study of Early Education and Development into the effectiveness of the EYPP and also a survey to explore how providers use their early entitlement funding, including the EYPP, to address disadvantage and deprivation within their settings. Both reports are due for completion in the new year.

Vernon Coaker: [57634]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to her oral contribution on 14 December 2016, Official Report, column 797, whether the commitment to protect the pupil premium at current rates throughout the remainder of the current Parliament means protecting that premium in real terms.

Edward Timpson:

We confirmed at the spending review in November 2015 that the pupil premium would be protected at current rates until 2019-20. This means for each eligible primary school pupil, schools will receive £1,320 and for each eligible secondary school pupil, schools will receive £935. More information can be found in the pupil premium conditions of grant, a published guidance document available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2016-to-2017/pupil-premium-2016-to-2017-conditions-of-grant>.

■ Pupils: Cheshire

Maria Eagle: [\[56472\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what representations her Department has received on the availability and regularity of bus services for pupils travelling for Halewood to Cronton Sixth Form and Riverside College.

Robert Halfon:

We are not aware of any representations on this issue.

Local authorities are responsible for transport to education and training for 16- to 19-year-olds - including where students travel to school or college in a neighbouring area. Most students receive a discount or concession but it is for local authorities, along with local transport providers and schools or colleges, to decide whether to provide support and which students are eligible. These decisions are best made locally in light of local needs, the resources available, and other local circumstances.

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund can be used for transport costs to support young people to access education and training. Schools and colleges are responsible for deciding how to distribute their bursary allocations to students, and for establishing what criteria to use.

■ School Meals: Standards

Mrs Sharon Hodgson: [\[57119\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure that academies and free schools meet the School Food Standards.

Edward Timpson:

Further to our answer of 26 April to your related question (34430), the Secretary of State for Education will lead a campaign encouraging all schools to commit to the School Food Standards. We announced this through the 'Childhood Obesity: a plan for action', published in August 2016.

■ Schools: Buildings

Mike Kane: [\[57153\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans her Department has to improve communications between schools, the Education Funding Agency and contractors as a result of the findings of the report from the Royal Institute of British Architects, Better Spaces for Learning Report, published in May 2016.

Edward Timpson:

The Education Funding Agency has two frameworks of contractors which are used for procuring the vast majority of school building projects. These are currently under review and as part of this process we are reviewing the information exchanged at key points throughout the process between all parties to improve communication. We are also

undertaking stakeholder engagement surveys with schools to establish where communication can be further improved.

Mike Kane:

[\[57154\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans her Department has to permit more flexibility in the rules governing the design and size of new schools to allow for the best possible use of resources as a result of the findings of the report from the Royal Institute of British Architects, Better Spaces for Learning Report, published in May 2016.

Edward Timpson:

The size of a school is determined by the age, number and type of pupil. Our standards show that within these areas we can provide good quality learning spaces. There is flexibility in how schools are designed. It is important we do not build schools larger than necessary to maximise spending efficiencies.

Mike Kane:

[\[57155\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans her Department has to adopt a smarter approach to the use of building management equipment that controls the internal environment of modern school buildings as a result of the findings of the report from the Royal Institute of British Architects, Better Spaces for Learning Report, published in May 2016.

Edward Timpson:

We already recognise the issues raised with regards over complex building management systems and had significantly revised our standards prior to the publication of the report. Our current standards already encourage the use of simple building management systems that can be easily monitored and controlled by school staff.

Mike Kane:

[\[57156\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans her Department has to monitor the quality of new Education Funding Agency-funded school building stock in relation to (a) the health and wellbeing of end-users and (b) its running and maintenance costs; and if she will take steps to ensure that the outcome of any such monitoring informs phase 2 of the Priority Schools Building Programme programme.

Edward Timpson:

My department is currently developing a strategy to extend its post-occupancy evaluation programme to include all Education Funding Agency funded building stock.

Post-occupancy evaluation, which includes assessment of recognised measures of health and wellbeing such as daylight, air quality and ventilation, is already being undertaken on new schools opened under the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP). We are also looking at the running cost of the new buildings and how we could assess maintenance costs going forward. Where appropriate, lessons learnt will be incorporated on PSBP phase 2 and other EFA-funded building programmes.

■ Schools: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski:

[\[907940\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what progress the Government is making on ensuring that funding is fairly distributed to schools across England.

Nick Gibb:

The way schools funding is currently distributed is unfair, opaque and outdated. As the Secretary of State announced to the House on the 14 December, we are introducing a national funding formula which will, for the first time, create a clear and transparent system that matches funding to children's needs. All schools will receive consistent and fair funding, to enable them to give every child the opportunity to reach their full potential.

■ Schools: Floods

Sir Hugo Swire:

[\[907960\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on protecting vulnerable schools from flooding.

Nick Gibb:

School buildings should enable children to be taught within a weather-proof and safe environment. The Department for Education regularly reviews its winter preparedness for schools. Officials at the Department continue to work with the Cabinet Office's Winter Resilience Network. Following Storm Desmond and Storm Eva last winter, the Department has been working with appropriate local bodies to ensure flood resilience is considered as part of reinstatement works.

■ Sixth Form Education: Disadvantaged

Sir Gerald Howarth:

[\[57356\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of students enrolled at (a) sixth form colleges and (b) school and academy sixth forms in December 2016 were eligible for free school meals at the age of 15.

Edward Timpson:

Eleven per cent of academic aged 16-18 year olds who studied their highest qualification in 2014/15 at a sixth form college, were eligible for free school meals at academic age 15. The equivalent figure for school and academy sixth forms was ten per cent. Data for December 2016 is unavailable.

Note: This proportion is based on those where the FSM status at 15 is known.

Source: Department for Education's Young Person's Matched Administrative Dataset.

■ Skills Funding Agency: Staff

Gordon Marsden: [\[56674\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans she has for the future staffing of the Skills Funding Agency.

Robert Halfon:

Staffing of the Skills Funding Agency will continue in line with its priorities and business planning process.

■ Teachers: Recruitment

Roger Mullin: [\[907959\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate her Department has made of the projected number of teachers required to meet demand in England in each of the next three years.

Nick Gibb:

The Department estimates, using the Teacher Supply Model, the number of qualified teachers required in English state-funded schools. This model estimates the need for 461,000 teachers in 2017/18, rising to 467,200 in 2019/20.

The Teacher Supply Model is also used to estimate the national requirements for the number of postgraduate Initial Teacher Training places needed to meet demand.

Recruitment is currently underway for the 2017/18 training year.

■ University Technical Colleges

Chi Onwurah: [\[57485\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government is taking to help prevent further closures of university technical colleges.

Edward Timpson:

This government is committed to ensuring that young people have access to high quality technical education including through UTCs.

Learning from the experiences of the early UTCs, we are strengthening the programme through a number of reforms, including improving educational outcomes through partnerships with successful secondary schools and multi-academy trusts. We are also consulting with local authorities on potentially making changes to school information regulations to require them to write to parents of Year 9 children about options for study at age 14, to help ensure parents are better aware of the options open to young people at this age.

These changes are aimed at ensuring that we establish high quality, popular UTCs that meet the needs of the local, regional and national economy, and are able to attract sufficient students.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Biodiversity: British Overseas Territories

Stephen Gethins: [\[57101\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will make it her policy to match EU funding for biodiversity projects in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Funding for biodiversity is a key priority for agri-environment schemes under our Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). The Government has guaranteed funding for new RDPE projects, including agri-environment ones, agreed before we leave the EU, provided they are good value for money and are in line with domestic strategic priorities.

Funding is also guaranteed for EU LIFE projects even when those projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. EU LIFE plays an important role in supporting projects which help protect and conserve the natural environment.

■ Flood Control: Lancaster

David Morris: [\[57536\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much funding has been allocated to Lancashire for flood defences since December 2015.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

[Holding answer 16 December 2016]: In Lancashire, a total of £91.9 million has been allocated to flood and coastal risk management schemes in the Government's six year capital investment programme between 2016 and 2021.

■ Floods

Tim Farron: [\[57919\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which sites she has identified as being at high risk from potential flooding caused by storms this winter.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

By the end of September 2016 the standard of protection to all communities affected by last winter's flooding had been restored to the same standard as before last winter's storms. Temporary measures are in place to protect communities where permanent repairs will take longer to complete.

You can check your flood risk at <https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>

The Met Office's three month outlook for December, January and February suggests that the most likely outcome overall is for a typical winter. For December-January-February period as a whole, below-average precipitation is slightly more probable than above-average.

■ Food: Waste

Andrew Stephenson:

[\[57097\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what representations her Department has received on introducing a ban on supermarkets destroying or disposing of unsold food; and if she will make a statement.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

In the last 18 months Defra has received a significant amount of correspondence on issues related to unsold food in supermarkets.

Less than 3% of all UK post-farm gate food wasted in the supply chain is from supermarkets, so we need the whole chain to work together.

The Government has instigated a variety of actions to increase surplus food redistribution including development of a partnership model to help facilitate closer working between potential donors and recipients of food surpluses. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has also established a Redistribution Working Group under Courtauld 2025 to share best practice and help identify and overcome barriers to redistributing food.

All major UK supermarkets now have relationships with redistribution organisations and WRAP estimates that 47,000 tonnes of surplus food – the equivalent to 90 million meals – was redistributed by the manufacturing and retail sector in 2015.

■ Ivory: Trade

Rachael Maskell:

[\[57571\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when her Department plans to launch its consultation on proposals for a limited ban on the ivory trade; and whether she plans to include in that consultation a question on whether items dated to before 1947 should be included in such a ban.

Rachael Maskell:

[\[57574\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether she plans for her Department's consultation on proposals for a limited ban on the ivory trade to include a question on the feasibility of enforcing a ban which continues to permit the sale of items dated to before 1947.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

We will consult on our proposal to ban sales of ivory products that are less than 70 years old as of March 2017, early next year. As part of this, we plan to seek evidence on options and impacts of taking further action. We will also consider further whether additional measures are necessary to ensure a robust enforcement regime to accompany any new rules.

■ Packaging: Recycling

Rachael Maskell: [\[57503\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 12 September 2016 to Question 56277, when she expects data on the proportion of packaging waste recycled in 2016 to become available.

Rachael Maskell: [\[57504\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 12 September 2016 to Question 56277, whether the figures provided for recycled and recovered waste in 2019 have been transposed in that Answer.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Full validated data for 2016 will be available on 31 March next year.

The estimated figures for 2019 should read as set out in the table below:

%	2019
% recycled	58-62
% recovered	63-67

■ Soil: Carbon

Rachael Maskell: [\[57435\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to collect soil organic carbon level data on farms.

George Eustice:

[Holding answer 16 December 2016]: The Government last measured soil carbon under the Countryside Survey, carried out in 2007.

It is usual practice for farmers to take their own soil samples and an increasing number of them are having their samples measured to gain a better understanding of their soils and how to manage them.

We have been exploring via a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) fellowship whether we can use farmer collected data to understand what is happening at a national level.

■ Waste Disposal

Dr Paul Monaghan: [\[57670\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what representations she has received from businesses on the decision of the Environment Agency to close its Definition of Waste Panel to new applications; and what assessment she has made of the effect of that closure on businesses.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Defra and the Environment Agency have received 12 representations from businesses and three from the trade press about the closure of the Definition of Waste Panel. A review of the points made by businesses shows that their main concerns relate to economic effects, business development and innovation.

■ Wind Power: Birds**Jim Shannon:**[\[57471\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what information her Department holds on the estimated number of birds killed annually by the operation of wind turbines.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Defra does not hold information in relation to the estimated number of birds killed annually by the operation of wind turbines in the UK.

EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Equal Pay****Jake Berry:**[\[56602\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what plans his Department has to publish information on the gender pay gap among its employees.

Mr Robin Walker:

The latest gender pay gap data (published in October earlier this year) can be found on the Office for National Statistics website. Due to the timings of the data collection DExEU was not included in this exercise but this information can be found here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016>

In October 2015, the then Prime Minister announced that new gender pay gap reporting measures being introduced across the private and voluntary sector from April 2017 would be extended to also apply across the public sector. We are actively working to ensure the gender pay gap data we report in future fully mirrors these new requirements.

The Civil Service has a comprehensive plan to become the most inclusive employer in the UK. This is called the Talent Action Plan and was refreshed in March 2016. The plan commits the Civil Service to a number of actions with the aim of removing barriers faced by underrepresented groups, including women, from succeeding. The plan sets out the ambition under key themes which includes recruitment and selection, talent and progression, inclusive culture and social mobility.

Key actions include ensuring single gender panels in recruitment and shortlists are now by exception only (as committed in the first publication of the Talent Action Plan) and

committing the Civil Service to reviewing the way in which talent is defined and identified to ensure more inclusive ways to identify potential are developed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

■ Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Recruitment

Ms Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh: [\[56936\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what proportion of the £26 million, referred to in paragraph 3.34 of the Autumn Statement 2016, to recruit additional policy staff to support international trade issues will be allocated to his Department.

Sir Alan Duncan:

£5.1 million of the £26 million is a direct allocation to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. A further £5.1m will be transferred through the Parliamentary Process from the Department for International Trade by 2019-20.

■ Ghana: Elections

James Duddridge: [\[57630\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions the Government has had with the Ghanaian government since the general election in that country on 7 December 2016.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The United Kingdom's High Commissioner and his team met with Ghana's President-Elect Nana Akufo-Addo on 13 December 2016, and handed over a letter of congratulations from the Prime Minister. The Foreign Secretary spoke to the President-elect Nana Akufo-Addo on 15 December to congratulate him. They discussed the bilateral relationship and enhancing cooperation on economic growth, trade and investment, anti corruption and security.

■ Ghana: Overseas Aid

James Duddridge: [\[57629\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what support the Government is providing to the government of Ghana.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The United Kingdom provides Ghana with support in a number of areas including help to improve its macro-economic management, deliver public services, improve the accountability of government and decision-makers to its citizens and transparency particularly in the oil and gas industry, reduce barriers to business creating an environment attractive to Foreign Direct Investment and small and medium enterprises. The UK is also helping Ghana to build its capacity and capability to tackle a wide range

of crime, including human and drug trafficking, illegal migration, fraud, corruption, terrorism, piracy and training for the military.

■ Papua New Guinea: Peace Negotiations

Stephen Gethins:

[\[56887\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support the peace process in Papua New Guinea.

Alok Sharma:

We are supporting the peace process in Papua New Guinea through our contribution to the UN Development Programme's peace-building and with post-conflict work in support of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. We are also encouraging dialogue between the parties, including through arranging visits to London, Northern Ireland and Scotland to share the United Kingdom's experiences of conflict resolution and referenda. The most recent visit happened in September.

■ Syria: Armed Conflict

Naz Shah:

[\[57673\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that people who have violated international humanitarian law in Syria will be brought to justice in the international courts.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK has a long-standing commitment to accountability, and believes that those responsible for war crimes in Syria - as elsewhere - must be held accountable.

The UK continues to make the case for referring the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC). In May 2014, the UK co-sponsored a UN Security Council resolution to refer all those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, regardless of affiliation, to the ICC. Russia and China chose to veto this resolution. Russia has vetoed six resolutions on Syria since the conflict began.

In support of a future process of justice, we have trained and equipped people in Syria to collect evidence of atrocities. We hope that this process, approximating to ICC standards, may form an important part of a future process to hold those responsible to account.

We have made clear our strong support for the work of the independent UN Commission of Inquiry. As a result of UK diplomacy through the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Commission of Inquiry is carrying out an investigation into events in Aleppo to ensure those responsible for human rights violations and abuses are held to account.

■ Trans-Dniestr

Stephen Gethins: [\[56878\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to help resolve the frozen conflict in Trans-Dneister.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The UK remains committed to supporting a comprehensive, peaceful settlement of the Transnistria conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with a special status for the Transnistria region.

Under the Conflict Security and Stability Fund (CSSF), the British Embassy in Chisinau has supported, and is continuing to support, a range of projects-including by drawing on our experience of conflict resolution in Northern Ireland and of devolution encouraging dialogue and understanding between young leaders and junior officials from Moldova and the Transnistria Region.

UK-supported activities also played a key part in complementing EU Commission-led work in ensuring the application of the EU-Moldova Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) agreement to the Transnistria Region.

■ Uganda: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: [\[57635\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports he has received on the (a) arrest of King Charles Mumbere of Rwenzururu in Uganda, (b) implementation of human rights laws in that country and (c) effectiveness of democratic institutions in that country.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Her Majesty's Government is concerned by the violence that occurred in Kasese district in Uganda in November 2016, which resulted in the reported deaths of over 100 civilians and members of the security forces. We have raised the matter with the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Human Rights Commission. We support the EU local statement of 16 December relating to these matters.

We have urged the Government of Uganda to complete a timely and transparent investigation into these incidents, in accordance with due process, rule of law, international legal obligation and in line with the commonwealth charter.

I visited Uganda in August 2016 and have followed this case. We continue to believe that a human rights compliant approach is the most effective way to secure long-term peace and stability. The British High Commission work closely with the Government of Uganda, civil society and human rights defenders to ensure human rights are respected in the country. The UK made recommendations to Uganda at the Universal Periodic Review at the UN in November.

Andrew Rosindell:

[\[57706\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has made an assessment of whether the arrest of King Charles Mumbere of Rwenzururu by the Ugandan government breaches the membership criteria of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Government is concerned by the violence that occurred in Kasese district in Uganda in November 2016, which resulted in the reported deaths of over 100 civilians and members of the security forces. We have raised the matter with the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Human Rights Commission. We support the EU local statement of 16 December relating to these matters.

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■ West Africa: Peace Negotiations

Stephen Gethins:

[\[56879\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assistance his Department provides towards helping the peace process in the Mano River region.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

My Department plays a leading role in a cross-Government effort to strengthen governance, development, prosperity and security across the four countries of the Mano River Union: Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Her Majesty's Government also pays United Nations assessed contributions to peacekeeping missions in the region. The UK is also the largest bilateral donor in the post-Ebola recovery programme in Sierra Leone. As a result of UK support considerable progress has been achieved. Sierra Leone's armed forces now participate in peacekeeping deployments in other African countries. The UN peacekeeping missions in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia have been successful. The mission in the former will close in June 2017 and the Security Council will decide on the latter's future this month.

HEALTH

■ Action on Smoking and Health

Philip Davies: [\[57587\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 1 November 2016 to Question 50265, what the job titles are of officials from his Department who have met representatives of Action on Smoking and Health to discuss the forthcoming tobacco control strategy; and what the items discussed and actions agreed at those meetings were.

Philip Davies: [\[57588\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, which organisations have made representations either verbally or in writing to his Department on the forthcoming tobacco control strategy; and if he will place a copy of each such written submission in the Library.

Philip Davies: [\[57596\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 1 November 2016 to Question 50265, what meetings or other communication Ministers of his Department have had on how many occasions with Action on Smoking and Health since October 2016.

Nicola Blackwood:

As part of the development of the tobacco control plan, stakeholders, including representatives of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), were invited to meetings to give views on the potential content of the new tobacco control plan. The responsible Deputy Director and a policy adviser within the tobacco policy team also attended. These meetings took place between January and April. No actions were agreed, rather stakeholders contributed ideas for the plan. Copies of the agendas of these stakeholder events and key suggestions which emerged are attached.

During the development of the tobacco control plan, there have been a number of organisations who have made reference to the tobacco control plan in correspondence including a range of public health stakeholders, e-cigarette producers and the tobacco industry. To determine what information was provided by organisations as opposed to individuals could only be achieved at disproportionate cost to the Department.

There have been no meetings or other communication between Ministers and ASH since October 2016.

Attachments:

1. PQ57596 [PQ57596.pdf]
2. PQ57596-MH Agenda [PQ57596-MH Agenda.pdf]

■ Baby Care Units

Dr Rosena Allin-Khan: [\[57416\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of NHS Trusts have more than one bed available for overnight stays for people with babies in neonatal units.

Mr Philip Dunne:

NHS England does not hold information centrally on the number of beds available for parents to stay with their baby. Neonatal Critical Care Operational Delivery Networks manage neonatal units locally.

However, following a recent report by the charity BLISS which addressed the issue of beds for parents, NHS England is currently reviewing Neonatal Critical Care Units including availability of beds for parents in these units. The review is expected to report by the end of 2017.

■ **Blood: Contamination**

Luciana Berger: [\[57756\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure the contaminated blood scheme's level of funding is maintained after the end of the current spending review period in 2021.

Nicola Blackwood:

As under all previous administrations, spending plans for the Government are set out in the Spending Review at the time.

Luciana Berger: [\[57759\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health in the House of Lords is taking to ensure coordination between the contaminated blood schemes in England and Scotland.

Nicola Blackwood:

Ministers have discussed this matter with their Scottish counterparts and officials are working together to facilitate the increased payments this year. We want these payments to be made as quickly as possible to people infected in England and Scotland.

The Department is working with its colleagues in the Devolved Administrations and the current scheme administrators to ensure that any country specific arrangements for this financial year and beyond can be effected smoothly.

Ian Austin: [\[57760\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will increase the level of financial support for people affected by contaminated blood in England to match the level of such support offered by the Scottish Government.

Nicola Blackwood:

Health functions are devolved, which means that responsibility for the infected blood payment schemes is a matter for the devolved administrations.

We have committed an additional £125 million to provide funding to the reformed scheme in England. The budget allocation will more than double the Department's annual spend on the scheme over the next five years. This is significantly more than any previous government has been able to provide for those affected by the tragedy.

■ Dementia: Drugs

Luciana Berger: [\[57754\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance his Department issues on the use of anti-psychotic medication for people with dementia; and if he will make a statement.

David Mowat:

In November 2006, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline on 'Dementia: supporting people with dementia and their carers in health and social care'. It offers best practice advice on the care of people with dementia and on support for their carers including on the use of antipsychotics.

The Department funded the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) to produce 'Antipsychotic drugs in dementia: a best practice guide' which was published in May 2012. This includes guidance on what practitioners need to consider in the prescribing of antipsychotic drugs to people with dementia.

The Department commissioned the Dementia Core Skills Education and Training Framework which was published in October 2015. Developed in collaboration by Skills for Health, Health Education England and Skills for Care, the Framework is a comprehensive resource which sets out the essential skills and knowledge needed for all staff working with people with dementia in health and social care settings, including information on the use of antipsychotic medication.

The Challenge on Dementia 2020 is clear there must be continuing action at a local level in England to ensure antipsychotic drugs are prescribed appropriately and that person centred responses are used in response to behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia, also referred to as behaviours that challenge.

■ Department of Health: Redundancy

Norman Lamb: [\[57626\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the estimated cost is of (a) voluntary and (b) compulsory staff redundancies in his Department in 2016-17.

David Mowat:

The majority of staff leaving the Department in 2016-17 will be leaving on voluntary exit, the combined estimated cost of this, voluntary and compulsory redundancies is £30 million.

■ Department of Health: Reorganisation

Norman Lamb: [\[57627\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the estimated total cost is of restructuring his Department as announced in February 2016; and what the estimated cost is of the planned reduction in the number of employees of his Department in the (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18 financial years.

David Mowat:

The current estimate costs for the planned reduction in staff is £30 million in 2016-17 and £0.5 million in 2017-18. In addition there is a team leading the DH2020 transformation project and costs related to additional pension quotes for staff exiting, these taken together are not expected to exceed £1 million per annum. The total cost is therefore not expected to exceed £33 million.

■ **Department of Health: Travel****Tim Farron:**[\[56232\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much his Department spent on travel that was not standard class in each of the last five years.

David Mowat:

The Department revised its internal travel policy during 2011 in line with the published Cabinet Office Business Travel Policy Principles as indicators of good practice that has contributed to a significant reduction in both rail by 88% and air travel costs by 84%. Furthermore comparing 2015 expenditure to a 2009 baseline under the previous administration illustrates reductions of 99% and 95% respectively.

Spend by the Department on all non-standard class air and rail travel for the last five calendar years 2011 to 2015 is reported in the tables below:

Table 1- Non-standard train travel:

YEAR	TOTAL
2011	£264,490
2012	£95,727
2013	£58,067
2014	£44,862
2015	£31,539

Table 2 – Non-standard air travel:

YEAR	TOTAL
2011	£161,198
2012	£98,752
2013	£38,050
2014	£22,450
2015	£25,878

The Department books the following class of flights; economy, premium economy, and business class. Economy class is always the default booking and an approved business case is required to book business class. If a flight is upgraded free of charge to business class, a business case is not required, although the management information will record a business class flight was taken.

■ **Depressive Illnesses: Domestic Violence**

Jim Shannon: [\[57454\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of the potential link between depression and the perpetration of acts of domestic violence.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department has not made an assessment of the potential link between depression and the perpetration of acts of domestic violence. However, the Home Office, which leads for the Government on domestic violence, published an analysis of domestic homicide reviews in November 2016 which included analysis on the link between mental ill health and domestic violence.

■ **Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust: Disciplinary Proceedings**

Pauline Latham: [\[57293\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have been suspended from the Derbyshire Mental Health Trust in the last two years; and for how long those suspensions were active.

Nicola Blackwood:

The information requested is not available centrally. It may be obtained from Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Richard Gregory, Chair of the Trust, informing him of the hon. Member's enquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

■ **General Practitioners: Mental Health Services**

Mr George Howarth: [\[57271\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the findings of Mind in its report, Better equipped, better care, published in November 2016, that 46 per cent of speciality trainee GPs in England and Wales gained practical experience of mental health services in 2015.

Mr George Howarth: [\[57272\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans his Department has to include a rotation in a mental health setting for all speciality trainee GPs in the Health Education England Workforce Plan for England.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Royal College of General Practitioners' (GP) recommendation on how to learn this area of practice is by work placed learning in primary care where all trainees now have a minimum of 18 months experience. This is in addition to team work learning such as the toolkit specifically designed for primary care teams to evaluate the extent to which they and their practices promote mental health.

Many GP training programmes contain placements of varying length in psychiatry units. These will give exposure to patients with mental health problems but it is important that as a GP specialty trainee they also gain a broader understanding of mental health than can be obtained in the psychiatry ward or clinics.

Health Education England ensures that GP training is supplemented by courses in mental health and e-learning modules including innovative learning opportunities with other health professionals, including psychiatry trainees, with an emphasis on the importance of the team work required across health, social care and the third sector.

■ Health Professions: Training**Ian Lavery:**[\[57122\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many (a) trainee doctors and (b) nurses are from (i) Wansbeck constituency, (ii) the North East and (iii) the UK.

Mr Philip Dunne:

NHS Digital publishes data on the nationality of staff working in the National Health Service in England. This is a self-reported field within the NHS human resources and payroll system, the electronic staff record. The data is available as a United Kingdom total only.

The latest nationality data available as at August 2016 showed that the number of trainee doctors and nurses who have self-declared their nationality as from within the UK (British, English, Northern Irish, Scottish and Welsh) is 38,456 (71.5%) and 245,323 (77.8%) respectively.

This data is published twice a year; the next set will be published on 20 December 2016 showing the position at September 2016.

■ Health Services: Directors**Diana Johnson:**[\[57134\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answers of 20 October 2016 to Questions 48406, 48407, 48408 and 48409, how many requirement notices have been issued by the Care Quality Commission after identifying breaches of Regulation 5 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has advised that its responsibility in relation 'Regulation 5, fit and proper persons, directors' is not to assess the fitness of directors but to check whether providers have the right systems and processes in place to assure

themselves of fitness. The CQC can take action against providers if they believe a provider is not robustly assured of whether an unfit person holds a directorship position.

As of 11 November 2016, across all sectors regulated by the CQC, there have been 91 Management Reviews of possible Regulation 5 breaches undertaken (a management review is the process by which the CQC assesses issues of potential concern). Of these reviews 25% resulted in enforcement activity with a total of 36 individual enforcement actions undertaken.

The table below shows types of enforcement activity undertaken by the CQC under Regulation 5 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.

TYPE OF ACTION	
Civil Action (e.g. refusing or cancelling registration)	30
Criminal Action (fixed penalty notice)	3
Warning Notice (S29A)	3
Total	36

■ Heart Diseases: Greater London

Dr Rosena Allin-Khan: [\[57409\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much public consultation on the proposed re-configuration of congenital heart disease services in London will cost.

Mr Philip Dunne:

A service change process is underway on NHS England's proposals for changing the organisation of congenital heart disease services in England. As part of that, it is currently developing its plans for a national public consultation and so does not have a breakdown of proposed expenditure by region.

■ Heartlands Hospital

Richard Burden: [\[56867\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what progress has been made on recruitment for a new paediatric neuromuscular consultant post at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital.

David Mowat:

The information requested is not available centrally. It may be obtained from Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to the Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, Chair of the Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's enquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

■ Homeopathy

David Tredinnick: [\[57736\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether he plans to read the Homeopathic Revolution: why famous people and cultural heroes choose homeopathy, by Dan Ullman, as part of his official reading over the Christmas recess.

Nicola Blackwood:

No.

■ Hospitals: Food

Mrs Sharon Hodgson: [\[57120\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent meetings he, Ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department have had with (a) Public Health England, (b) NHS England and (c) the Behavioural Insights Team to discuss behavioural change interventions on food in hospitals.

Mr Philip Dunne:

There have been no recent Ministerial meetings with Public Health England, NHS England or the Behavioural Insights Team to discuss behavioural change interventions on hospital food in hospitals.

Department officials chair an informal monthly working group focusing on food and drink sold on National Health Service sites. The working group includes representation from across the Department (policy and behavioural insights teams), Public Health England and NHS England and the remit includes discussions relating behavioural change interventions on food and drink sold in hospitals.

■ Junior Doctors: Maternity Leave

John Cryer: [\[57545\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many junior doctors took maternity leave in each year of the last five years.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information is not collected.

■ Medicine: Education

Dr Sarah Wollaston: [\[57375\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that students of private medical schools receiving training in NHS settings do not pay less than the cost of providing that training.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The arrangements for students of private medical schools to receive training in National Health Service settings are a matter for agreement between the medical school and the NHS organisation. Funding for placements commissioned by Health Education England

and its local offices should not be used to subsidise any element of the cost of placements for non-NHS funded students or trainees.

■ Members: Correspondence

Paula Sherriff: [\[57502\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when he plans to reply to the letter of 18 November 2016 from the hon. Member for Dewsbury on acute hospital services in the Kirklees area.

Mr Philip Dunne:

I responded to the hon. Member on 15 December.

■ Mental Health Services

Steve McCabe: [\[57580\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 8 November 2016 to Question 51834, where NHS England's evaluations of community mental health services are available; to what extent those evaluations were considered in relation to the minimum level of expected spending set as a result of the Mental Health Investment Standard; and if he will undertake to increase that expected level of spending.

Nicola Blackwood:

NHS England has not published separate evaluations of community mental health services.

NHS England published the Five Year Forward View Mental Health Dashboard in October which sets out a series of indicators that will be used to determine key areas of performance and outcomes. These indicators will include monitoring National Health Service spending on adult and children and young people's mental health. NHS England will also use the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Improvement and Assessment Framework to assure CCGs plans for increasing their spending on mental health.

The minimum level of expected mental health spending is a calculation based on the Mental Health Investment Standard definition, requiring that CCGs increase their annual spend on mental health in line with their individual annual programme allocation growth.

This calculation does not take account of the operational performance and evaluation of specific mental health programme areas like community mental health. However, in deciding their planned spend, CCGs are required to take account of national operational and clinical targets as well as local needs based assessment for specific services.

Luciana Berger: [\[57755\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 6 December 2016 to Question 55910, how many referrals to the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme ended, by first recorded therapy type, in each clinical commissioning group in 2015-16.

Nicola Blackwood:

Information is not available in the format requested.

■ **Mental Health Services: Children and Young People**

Julian Sturdy:

[57397]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps the Government is taking to help ensure that appointment waiting times at child and adolescent mental health services in England are being reduced.

Julian Sturdy:

[57398]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information his Department holds on regional appointment waiting times for child and adolescent mental health services in England.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department does not currently collect information on waiting times for all child and adolescent mental health services.

However, we have introduced the first ever access and waiting time standards for mental health. Standards on waiting times for early intervention in psychosis are already in place and encompass children and young people aged 14 or over. Standards for eating disorders services, targeted at children and young people, were published in August 2015 and will come into effect on 1 April 2017.

In addition, NHS Digital has begun publishing experimental data from the Data Set setting out the waiting times of children and young people between referral and second contact. NHS England has also set aside a fund of £25 million to reduce waiting times backlogs and asked clinical commissioning groups to set out the steps they will make, using that fund, to reduce any waiting lists during 2016-17.

■ **Motor Neurone Disease**

Mr Gregory Campbell:

[57625]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent changes have been made to clinical guidance on the assessment and management of motor neurone disease.

David Mowat:

On 24 February 2016, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published a new best practice guideline on the assessment and management of motor neurone disease (MND). The guideline sets out the signs and symptoms of the disease and makes a range of recommendations, including that robust protocols and pathways are in place to inform healthcare professionals about MND and how it may present and to inform healthcare professionals in all settings about local referral arrangements. The guideline can be found at the following link:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng42/resources/motor-neurone-disease-assessment-and-management-1837449470149

■ **Neuromuscular Disorders: Ambulance Services**

Jim Shannon: [\[57472\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions his Department has had with National Ambulance Service Medical Directors on ensuring that the best practice system of flagging people with muscle-wasting conditions to ambulance crews in London North West and North East ambulance services is utilised across all ambulance services.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Department has not had any recent discussions with National Ambulance Service Medical Directors on this subject.

NHS England has advised that it is working with all ambulance services in England to ensure the right resource is allocated to the right 999 call at the right time.

Currently the flagging of patients with long term conditions or longer term care needs is not used universally. However the development of technology to allow real-time searching of the National Health Service number as a unique patient identifier will significantly increase the value of placing 'flags' on patients with specific clinical needs. This will then reliably allow any attending healthcare professional to access care plans and special patient notes to help inform individual patient management. This is a component of the 2017/19 ambulance service national Commissioning Quality and Innovation framework.

■ **NHS: Expenditure**

Steve McCabe: [\[57577\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 8 November 2016 to Question 51771, what assessment he has made of the effect that the UK's current level of healthcare expenditure on long-term care, as set out in the report of the Office for National Statistics, How does UK healthcare spending compare internationally?, published on 1 November 2016, is having on the emergency healthcare services.

David Mowat:

No specific assessment has been made of the effect that the current level United Kingdom healthcare expenditure which is spent on long-term care, as defined by the Office for National Statistics, is having on the emergency healthcare services. Health is a devolved matter, and issues of long term care spend and associated pressures and implications on emergency healthcare services in the devolved administrations should be addressed accordingly.

■ **Nurses**

Neil Coyle: [\[57613\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how his Department plans to ensure that there is no shortfall of nursing staff by the end of 2019; and what discussions his Department has had with the Home Office on those plans.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Health Education England (HEE) is responsible for the forecasting and planning of future workforce supply, working with National Health Service organisations to meet their needs and there are currently over 51,000 students undergoing nurse training within England.

As part of their mandate requirements to ensure that the correct numbers of qualified nurses are trained to fill vacancies, HEE has already increased all nurse training places by nearly 15% over the last three years and are forecasting that more than 40,000 additional nurses could be available by 2020. Nursing continues to be identified as a priority area for investment within the 2016/17 Workforce Plan for England to ensure future supply shortages are avoided and over the last 12 months we have seen record numbers of nurses working in the NHS.

In addition, from 1 August 2017, student nurse training will be funded through student loans enabling universities to increase training places significantly – offering up to 10,000 more nursing, midwifery and allied health training places over this Parliament.

Nurses were placed on the Home Office's Shortage Occupation List as an interim move and following a call for evidence and a further review of the United Kingdom nursing recruitment requirements by the independent Migration Advisory Committee, the Government accepted their recommendation that nursing remains on the Shortage Occupation List until July 2019, when a further review will take place.

■ Nurses: Training**Neil Coyle:**[\[57614\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions he has had with his cabinet colleagues on the effect of abolishing nursing bursaries on domestic student numbers.

Mr Philip Dunne:

To introduce health education funding reforms effective from 1 August 2017 for new pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health students, the Department sought, and received, the required cross-government Home Affairs Cabinet Committee approval to its public consultation and draft equality and economic impact assessments published on 8 April 2016. It received subsequent approval for its government response and refreshed impact assessments, published 21 July 2016.

From 1 August 2017, student nurse training will be funded through student loans enabling universities to increase training places significantly – offering up to 10,000 more nursing, midwifery and allied health training places over this parliament, so more applicants will have the chance to become a health professional.

■ Obesity**Ian Austin:**[\[57720\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to promote weight loss during National Obesity Awareness Week.

Nicola Blackwood:

Current Government work programmes to tackle obesity and the obesogenic environment continue.

Ian Austin:

[\[57721\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make an assessment of the potential contribution of businesses in the weight management sector to tackling obesity.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Government recognises that commercial and non-commercial organisations which provide evidence based, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence compliant and effective weight management services for children, adults and families play a vital role in promoting health and sustained weight loss.

Ian Austin:

[\[57807\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance his Department issues to the NHS on its promotion of businesses in the weight management sector for the purposes of tackling obesity.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Government supports implementation of the weight management guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, which is applicable to businesses. The National Health Service and local authorities typically use this when making decisions on services and to ensure that approaches are evidence-based, effective and sustainable.

Ian Austin:

[\[57889\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance his Department issues to GPs on patient referrals to businesses in the weight management sector.

Nicola Blackwood:

Public Health England (PHE) recognise the important role of general practitioner (GP) led brief interventions to support individuals to access commercial and non-commercial weight management services. PHE promotes the use of Making Every Contact Count as an opportunity, for GPs and other health professionals, to educate and empower individuals to make positive choices about their own health.

■ Obesity: Children

Mr Gregory Campbell:

[\[57623\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what change has been recorded in rates of childhood obesity in each year from 2000 to 2015.

Nicola Blackwood:

Childhood Obesity data is collected annually through the Health Survey for England (HSE) and the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

HSE figures are published on the NHS Digital website:

<http://digital.nhs.uk/pubs/hse2015trend>

NCMP trend figures are published on the Public Health England website and can be accessed:

https://www.noo.org.uk/securefiles/161219_0955/Trends%20Rep%201415%20260816_final_to%20GatewayNB101016%20%25282%2529%20%281%29.pdf

The HSE data (which covers the period from 2000-14) shows that the obesity level has varied between 13.7 and 18.9% with variations annually but no discernible overall downward or upward trend.

■ Physician Associates: Training

Dr Sarah Wollaston:

[57396]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will publish the funding provided through Health Education England for the training in NHS providers of Physician Associate students for each programme supported per student (a) per year and (b) over the course of the training.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The total funding provided by Health Education England for the training of Physician Associate students for each programme supported is:

- £15,655 per student per year; and
- £31,310 per student over the duration of the two year course.

The cost per student consists of tuition, maintenance and clinical placement funding as outlined in the table below.

	CLINICAL PLACEMENT	TUITION	MAINTENANCE
Cost per student	£2,156	£7,310	£6,189

■ Smoking

Mr David Nuttall:

[57570]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have used NHS stop smoking services in each of the last 10 years.

Nicola Blackwood:

Smoking prevalence is at the lowest level since records began. The number of people who have used local stop smoking services in England in the years 2005-06 to 2015-16 is set out in the table. However, many people successfully quit smoking without registering with cessation services.

Number of people accessing local stop smoking services 2005-06 to 2015-16

	SET A QUIT DATE	QUIT SUCCESSFULLY
2005-06	602,820	329,681
2006-07	600,410	319,720
2007-08	680,289	350,800
2008-09	671,259	337,054
2009-10	757,537	373,954
2010-11	787,527	383,548
2011-12	816,444	400,955
2012-13	724,247	373,872
2013-14	586,337	300,539
2014-15	450,582	229,688
2015-16	382,500	195,170

Source:

<http://content.digital.nhs.uk/article/2021/WebsiteSearch?q=title%3a%22statistics+on+nhs+stop+smoking%22&sort=Most+recent&size=10&page=1&area=both>

■ Social Services: Finance

Catherine West:

[57745]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent assessment he has made of the effect of social care budget changes on the number of people attending accident and emergency departments.

David Mowat:

There are several factors that influence attendances at accident and emergency (A&E) departments. We acknowledge that high performing and accessible social care is an essential part of ensuring good patient flow through the system. However attendances to A&E departments are an issue for the whole healthcare system, and whilst social care has a role we are committed also to delivering world class primary care, NHS111 services and alternative emergency care streaming to ensure that attendances to A&E departments are only for clinically appropriate patients. The funding of local services is a key priority for this Government, and we are giving councils access to further funding to manage social care pressures in their local area across the next few years:

- Next year councils will be able to raise the precept by up to 3%, and 3% the year after (2018/19). This could raise £200 million in additional funding for adult social care in 2017/18 and over £400 million in 2018/19.

- The Government is also providing an additional £240 million to fund adult social care through the Adult Social Care Support Grant, funded by reforms to the New Homes Bonus.

These new changes provide access to an additional £450 million for social care next year, following calls from the sector that funding was most needed in 2017/18.

Taken together with the funding announced in the autumn 2015 Spending Review, this means that local government will have access to the funding it needs to increase social care spending every year in this Parliament. The spending review gave councils the flexibility to introduce a 2% social care precept for adult social care, and access to additional funding for adult social care worth £1.5 billion by 2019/20 through the Better Care Fund, starting in April 2017.

■ Social Services: Staff

Catherine West: [57638]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate his Department has made of the number of care workers needed in each of the next five years.

David Mowat:

The Department commissioned the Centre for Workforce Intelligence (CfWI) to undertake a longer-term review of the adult social care workforce in England, to 2035. The report was published by CfWI and is available at:

<http://www.cfwi.org.uk/publications/forecasting-the-adult-social-care-workforce-to-2035-workforce-intelligence-report/attachment.pdf>

Catherine West: [57639]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many care workers have been employed in (a) London and (b) England in each of the last five years.

David Mowat:

The number of care workers employed in London and England in each of the last five years is not collected by the Department.

Skills for Care, the partner in the sector skills council for social care, in England, collects data on the adult social care workforce. The number of care workers employed in England and London in each of the last five years is set out in the table below:

		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
England	Care workers	700,000	735,000	775,000	810,000	800,000
London	Care workers	160,000	190,000	195,000	205,000	205,000

Source: Skills for Care, Size and structure of the adult social care sector in England

HOME OFFICE

■ Asylum: Hostels

Derek Twigg: [\[56679\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in which (a) local authority areas and (b) Parliamentary constituencies new asylum hostels are planned to open in the next six months.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

There are currently seven permanent Initial Accommodation centres located across the United Kingdom in the cities of Liverpool, Cardiff, Birmingham, London, Wakefield and Glasgow. However, we cannot comment on the individual locations of the centres for the safety of the asylum seekers housed there.

The COMPASS Providers are currently exploring, with support from UK Visas and Immigration, the feasibility of additional initial accommodation centres to temporarily accommodate asylum seekers. However, no new sites have been confirmed and any that are proposed will be subject to consultation with the relevant local authority.

Derek Twigg: [\[57440\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 December 2016 to Question 56678, on asylum: hostels, in which Parliamentary constituencies the initial accommodation centres are located.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

There are currently seven permanent Initial Accommodation centres located across the United Kingdom in the cities of Liverpool, Cardiff, Birmingham, London, Wakefield and Glasgow. However, we cannot comment on the individual locations of the centres for the safety of the asylum seekers housed there.

■ Breathalysers

Ian Blackford: [\[56787\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether approval orders for breath test measuring devices are statutory instruments, subordinate to primary legislation.

Brandon Lewis:

Approval orders are made under powers conferred by the section 7(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Act (1988) to approve a type of a device to analyse specimens of breath. Approval orders for breath test instruments are not statutory instruments.

The Road Traffic Offenders Act (1988) makes the results of such tests (obtained from an approved device) admissible in evidence in court. It has a sound legal basis and has legal effect. It extends and applies to England, Wales and Scotland. The admissibility of such evidence is a long established principle and one which the courts deal with on a daily basis.

■ Data Protection

Richard Graham:

[56901]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safeguards are in place to ensure that data held under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 is secure; and what discussions she has had with internet service providers on that matter.

Mr Ben Wallace:

The Government is committed to ensuring sufficient safeguards are in place to keep retained data secure. Communications service providers (CSPs) must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Privacy and Electronic Communication Regulations 2003. In addition to these general requirements, CSPs required to retain data under the Investigatory Powers Act must put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure that the data is adequately protected while it is being retained. They will also be required to follow the principles of security, integrity and destruction in the draft Communications Data Code of Practice. Furthermore, the systems the data is retained in are built to meet stringent security requirements. Where appropriate, data is retained in dedicated stores and securely separated from business systems by a firewall. The Act requires the Information Commissioner to audit the security of retained data.

The Government maintain regular engagement with CSPs subject to retention notices and have a strong track record of ensuring the security of retained communications data. There was a considerable amount of engagement with CSPs during the passage of the Investigatory Powers Act, including the previous Home Secretary, other Ministers and officials meeting the operators most likely to be required to retain data. Engagement is ongoing as we implement the Act.

■ Deportation

Jo Stevens:

[57573]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been deported after applying for indefinite leave to remain who had previously been granted discretionary leave to remain in the UK as unaccompanied minors since 2010.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

I am sorry but the Home Office does not hold the specific information in the format requested. To obtain it would involve interrogating individual case records, at disproportionate cost.

■ Detention Centres

Alan Brown:

[57674]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the length of the lease is that has been proposed with the agents responsible for the construction of a new short-term holding facility for immigrants that will be sited near Glasgow Airport.

Alan Brown: [\[57757\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the proposals for a new short-term holding facility in Renfrewshire for which the original planning application was rejected by Renfrewshire Council's planning committee on 8 November 2016, whether a planning appeal against that decision has been submitted; and what the Government's plans are for that proposed facility.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Following Renfrewshire Council's refusal of planning permission for a short term holding facility near Glasgow airport the Government is considering its position in relation to the right of appeal. Subject to completion and acceptance of the facility by the Home Office, the lease will be for a period of 25 years.

■ Emergency Services: Mobile Radios

Calum Kerr: [\[56909\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the emergency services network masts will be designed and built to provide multi-occupancy sites from all four mobile network operators.

Calum Kerr: [\[56912\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether geographic location data for the emergency services network sites built by (a) the Government and (b) EE will be published.

Brandon Lewis:

In delivering the Emergency Services Network (ESN), the mobile network operator EE will deliver up to 291 new mast sites. Government will deliver approximately 230 further sites (known as the "Extended Area Services" (EAS) sites) in the most remote and rural areas of Great Britain.

Under the terms of the State Aid decision for ESN, any ESN site where EE offers a commercial service must be made available to the other UK mobile operators and interested parties to provide their own a service on an equal and non-discriminatory basis.

There are 18 potential EAS sites being considered in the constituency of Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk. There are currently up to 5 proposed new EE sites in the constituency. Delivery of these sites is subject to planning permission and the acquisition of land.

■ Emergency Services: Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Angus Brendan MacNeil: [\[57707\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many emergency service network masts will be built in Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency.

Brandon Lewis:

In delivering the Emergency Services Network (ESN), the mobile network operator EE will deliver up to 291 new mast sites. Government will deliver approximately 230 further sites (known as the "Extended Area Services" (EAS) sites) in the most remote and rural areas of Great Britain.

Under the terms of the State Aid decision for ESN, any ESN site where EE offers a commercial service must be made available to the other UK mobile operators and interested parties to provide their own a service on an equal and non-discriminatory basis.

There are no potential EAS sites being considered in the constituency of Na h-Eileanan an Iar. There are currently up to 25 proposed new EE sites in the constituency. Delivery of these sites is subject to planning permission and the acquisition of land.

Health Services: Females**Sarah Champion:**[\[56927\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her will make an assessment of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on funding for specialist women's services.

Sarah Newton:

The Government is carefully considering all implications of the UK leaving the European Union and has held preliminary discussions with the voluntary sector, including specialist women's services, about any potential effects.

The Government published a new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy on 8 March setting out an ambitious programme to make tackling VAWG everybody's business, ensure victims and survivors get the support they need and inspire confidence in the Criminal Justice System to bring more perpetrators to justice as well as doing more to rehabilitate offenders.

The strategy committed £80 million between 2016 and 2020 to protect women and girls from violence. This increased funding will help to deliver our goal to work with local commissioners to deliver a secure future for rape support centres, refuges and FGM and Forced Marriage Units, whilst driving a major change across all services which promotes early intervention and prevention including through specialist domestic and sexual violence charities.

Home Office: EU Law**Mary Creagh:**[\[54198\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the contribution of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to the Environmental Audit Committee on 25 October 2016, Question 332, what proportion of existing EU legislation within the policy remit of her Department cannot immediately be brought into UK law upon the UK leaving the EU.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Government will bring forward legislation in the next session that, when enacted, will repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and ensure a functioning statute book on the day we leave the EU. This 'Great Repeal Bill' will end the authority of EU law and return power to the UK. The Bill will convert existing European Union law into domestic law, wherever practical. The Government will set out the content of the Bill and its implications in due course.

■ **Immigration Controls: EU Nationals**

Jonathan Edwards: [\[56432\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the extra resources needed at ports to process the arrival of EU citizens following the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

There are a number of options as to how EU migration might work once we have left the European Union. We are considering various options and it would be wrong to set out further positions at this stage.

■ **Immigration Controls: Heathrow Airport**

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[55566\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the efficiency and effective working of E-passport checking machines at Heathrow Airport.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

In the last 12 months the number of egates at Heathrow has been significantly increased, rising from 25 to 55 across the 4 terminals, with a further 9 due to go live at T5 in January 2017. In the last 12 months nearly 9 million passengers have used the gates at Heathrow. The gates continue to meet their agreed service level agreements for availability. Efficiencies are derived from the fact passengers using a bank of 5 gates can be monitored by a single officer and by the egates offering a quicker service to passengers through the border. Supplementary measures are also in place to ensure Border Force Security objectives are met.

■ **Immigration: Overseas Students**

Mrs Louise Ellman: [\[57559\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received on changing her policy on the number of international students admitted annually to study in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

There is no limit to the number of genuine international students who can come to study in the United Kingdom. The Government has no plans to change this.

■ Motor Vehicles: Foreign Nationals

Mr Mark Hendrick:

[\[55636\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 November 2016 to Question 50859, how many foreign-registered cars were seized and impounded by Lancashire Constabulary in England in each month between 1 January 2015 and 30 September 2016.

Brandon Lewis:

We do not hold information centrally on the number of illegal foreign registered vehicles seized and impounded by Lancashire Constabulary. This is an operational matter for the police and other partner agencies.

■ Motorcycles

Steve McCabe:

[\[56963\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the powers available to the police to tackle anti-social use of off-road bikes and mopeds.

Brandon Lewis:

The police already have the power under section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 to seize vehicles, including off-road bikes and mopeds. This can be as a result of using a vehicle in a careless and inconsiderate manner, contrary to the Road Traffic Act 1988, and in a manner causing alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public.

This enables the police to put an immediate stop to this dangerous and anti-social behaviour. How this power is used is an operational matter for the police.

■ Nurses: Migrant Workers

Neil Coyle:

[\[57612\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the potential effect on immigration numbers of the demand for non-UK nurses in each of the next five years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Employers wishing to sponsor non-EEA nurses must do so under the Tier 2 (General) category, which is subject to an annual limit of 20,700 places. Those occupations such as nurses that are currently on the Shortage Occupation List are prioritised within the limit.

■ Passports

Mr Douglas Carswell:

[\[56701\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will direct HM Passport Office to design a passport with a blue cover.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Romford on 9th November, UIN 47644.

■ **Refugees: Greece**

Thangam Debbonaire:

[56372]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been (a) identified, (b) assessed and (c) transferred under the family unity provisions of the Dublin III Regulation from Greece to the UK since January 2016.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

We will always fully consider cases passed to us under the Dublin Regulation, and have made significant progress in improving and speeding up the existing processes via Dublin especially since the beginning of the year. Any request to unite family members under the Dublin Regulation is carefully considered. Where someone seeking asylum elsewhere in the EU can demonstrate they have close family members legally in the UK, we will take responsibility for that claim. At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. The latest release of published data on asylum can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572374/asylum1-q3-2016-tables.ods

■ **Refugees: Syria**

Ms Margaret Ritchie:

[57323]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to meet the Northern Ireland Executive to discuss coordination and cooperation on accepting more refugees from Syria.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Home Office Ministers have regular meetings with Ministerial colleagues and others as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Jo Stevens:

[57602]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether unaccompanied minors under the Syrian UNHCR Resettlement Programme are subject to the same procedures and protocols which her Department has in place for unaccompanied refugee minors from other countries where there is conflict.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme is based on need and it prioritises those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin. We work closely with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify vulnerable Syrians that they deem in need of resettlement and whose particular needs can only be met in countries like the UK.

UNHCR identifies refugees for resettlement under the Syrian VPR scheme using their established vulnerability criteria. We do not resettle unaccompanied minors under the Syrian VPR scheme.

■ Schools: Undocumented Migrants

Martyn Day:

[\[56897\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions the Government had with the Scottish Government on proposals to require schools to carry out immigration checks and to propose changes to the prioritisation of illegal migrants in the school admissions process before the introduction of the Immigration Bill 2015-16.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Government did not have any discussions with the Scottish Government about requiring schools to carry out immigration checks or changes to the prioritisation of illegal migrants in the school admissions process before the introduction of the Immigration Bill 2015-16. It is not the policy of this Government to require schools to carry out immigration checks or de-prioritise the children of illegal migrants in the admissions process.

■ Torture

Tommy Sheppard:

[\[57496\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will issue a response to the report by Freedom from Torture, *Proving Torture*, published in November 2016; and if she will take steps to roll out training developed by her Department to decision-makers.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

We consider all asylum claims in a sensitive manner on an individual, objective and impartial basis ensuring that all cases are managed effectively throughout the asylum process to avoid unnecessary delay.

The policy guidance sets out how to properly consider, and afford appropriate weight to, medico-legal evidence as part of a claim for protection. It states explicitly that it is not the role of decision makers to dispute clinical findings in the medico-legal reports or make clinical judgments of their own about medical evidence or medical matters generally and all decision makers are trained in the application of this policy. Officials will review the cases that are referred to in the report and will continue to work closely with Freedom from Torture and others to review and develop further our policy and training.

All members of staff who make decisions in asylum receive the same level of training. This includes training on international and domestic law and safeguarding issues supplemented by a mentoring programme with an experienced caseworker that can last up to 6 months. Within the training there are specific sections that detail torture and Medico Legal Reports and how they should be used and analysed in asylum claims.

Asylum Operations recently received funding from the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund to review and redevelop its training prospectus. As part of that work, Asylum

Operations is liaising with a range of external stakeholders -including migrant charities and non-governmental organisations - to ensure a robust and effective safeguarding training product.

■ Visas

Paul Blomfield: [\[53343\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visitor visas have been granted in each of the last five years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The information requested for the last 5 calendar years is published in table vi_01_q (visa data tables volume 1) in 'Immigration Statistics, April - June 2016', available from the Home Office website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016/list-of-tables#visas>

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

■ Bangladesh: Environment Protection

Callum McCaig: [\[57709\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to build climate resilience in Bangladesh.

James Wharton:

DFID is supporting climate resilience in Bangladesh in line with the Government's manifesto commitment to work to prevent climate change and assist the poorest in adapting.

Current programmes are, for example, improving infrastructure and developing early warning systems to handle extreme weather. Since 2010/11 DFID has supported more than 2 million people in Bangladesh with improved access to clean energy. Bangladesh was one of the first countries to benefit from the international Green Climate Fund, with a \$40 million project for climate resilient infrastructure.

■ Department for International Development: Pay

Jake Berry: [\[56991\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the highest-paid and lowest-paid full-time employee in her Department.

James Wharton:

DFID does not publish details of the salary of their highest to lowest paid employees.

The Office for National Statistics do, however, publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organization. These ratios are published annually as part of Civil Service Statistics and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website at www.ons.gov.uk/

employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016

Jake Berry:

[57035]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the pay of full-time staff in the highest pay grade in her Department and average full-time pay in that Department.

James Wharton:

The Office for National Statistics publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organization. These ratios are published annually as part of Civil Service Statistics and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website at www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016

■ Ethiopia: Environment Protection

Callum McCaig:

[57708]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to build climate resilience in Ethiopia.

James Wharton:

DFID is supporting climate resilience in Ethiopia in line with the Government's manifesto commitment to work to prevent climate change and assist the poorest in adapting to it.

We are providing technical assistance to the Ethiopian Government's Climate Resilient Green Economy Facility, working to build the resilience of Ethiopia's growth and help the most vulnerable Ethiopians. This includes supporting Ethiopia to access the Green Climate Fund to which the UK has pledged up to £720 million.

■ Kenya: Environment Protection

Callum McCaig:

[57713]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to build climate resilience in Kenya.

James Wharton:

DFID is supporting climate resilience in Kenya in line with the Government's manifesto commitment to work to prevent climate change and assist the poorest in adapting to it.

We are building resilience by supporting 1 million people to cope with the effects of climate change, and have integrated climate-proofing across the UK's development work in Kenya. We are enabling private sector investment and innovation in green energy by mobilizing £17 million private sector finance to invest in green technologies, and are supporting the development of policies through which Kenya can fulfil its international climate commitments.

■ Uganda: Overseas Aid**Andrew Rosindell:**[\[57563\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what organisations received UK Aid Direct International Development funding for projects in Uganda in each of the last three years.

James Wharton:

The following organisations received UK Aid Direct funding to support projects in Uganda in each of the last 3 years (2014 – 2016): AbleChildAfrica; Lively Minds; Living Earth Foundation (LEF); International Rescue Committee UK; Act4Africa UK; Hospice Africa Ltd; War on Want NI; KwaAfrica (Africare); and Signal (Sensory Impairment Globally Nationally and Locally).

In addition:

- PONT - Partnerships Overseas Networking Trust and Build Africa received funding for a project in Uganda just in 2014;
- All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development Fund); Samaritan's Purse UK; APT Action on Poverty; The Motivation Charitable Trust; Target Tuberculosis and; Send a Cow Uganda received funding in 2014 and 2015; and
- Protecting Families Against HIV/AIDS (PREFA) received funding in 2015 and 2016.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE**■ Business: Wales****Jo Stevens:**[\[57609\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what representations he has made on behalf of businesses in Wales in discussions with foreign (a) businesses and (b) trade ministers.

Greg Hands:

The Department for International Trade supports businesses across the whole of the UK and we are developing a trade policy to reflect this in preparation for our exit from the European Union. Welsh businesses accompanied my Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade during his recent visit to India in November 2016 as part of the business delegation. Within the last few weeks, both my noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade Policy (Lord Price) and the Secretary of State met with businesses based in Wales in order to hear about opportunities and concerns, and will continue to hold such meetings.

■ Department for International Trade: Domestic Visits

Jo Stevens: [57610]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how many meetings he has had with (a) Ministers in the Welsh Government, (b) businesses in Wales and (c) Ministers in the Wales Office since his appointment.

Greg Hands:

Wales plays an important role as part of the UK's strategy for boosting exports and inward investment and DIT has good relationships with the Welsh Government. My Rt Hon friend the Secretary of State met with a range of businesses during his recent visit to Wales and has regular discussions with cabinet colleagues and the Wales Office regarding trade and investment. The Prime Minister led her first business delegation to India in November, and the Secretary of State and I were able to engage with Welsh businesses that joined the visit.

■ Moldova: Overseas Trade

Stephen Gethins: [56876]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps his Department is taking to help improve trade with Moldova.

Greg Hands:

Her Majesty's Ambassador, and her staff, responds positively to British businesses seeking meetings to discuss the market and potential business opportunities.

The total value of UK exports to Moldova in 2015 was £109m.

■ Ukraine: Overseas Trade

Stephen Gethins: [56877]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps his Department is taking to help improve trade with Ukraine.

Greg Hands:

The Department for International Trade (DIT) helps British companies enter the Ukrainian market and increase their competitiveness through overseas trade. We also offer professional and personalised assistance to help companies in Ukraine locate and expand in the UK. So far this year DIT has helped British companies deliver more than £40m of export wins in Ukraine. At the same time we ensure that UK companies are aware of the specific business risks which they might encounter when operating in Ukraine. More details are on our website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/uk-trade-investment-ukraine> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-business-risk-ukraine>.

JUSTICE

■ Guardianship: Powers

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[57641\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what progress her Department is making on introducing guardianship powers for families of missing relatives; and if she will make a statement.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The government is preparing legislation to create a new legal status of guardian of the property and affairs of a missing person and will introduce it as soon as parliamentary time permits.

■ Immigration: Legal Aid Scheme

Paul Blomfield: [\[53308\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many legal aid applications for exceptional funding in relation to immigration matters were refused on means grounds in each of the last four years; and of those decisions how many were subsequently overturned.

Sir Oliver Heald:

We believe that the exceptional case funding (ECF) scheme is functioning as intended. Its purpose is to provide funding where it is legally needed. Every ECF application is carefully considered by the Legal Aid Agency on an individual basis.

The volume of ECF applications refused on means grounds since April 2013, by financial year, is provided in the table below.

FINANCIAL YEAR	QUARTER (IF APPLICABLE)	VOLUME
2013-14		2
2014-15		6
2015-16		12
2016-17	Q1 only	4

Of these 24 applications, none of the refusal decisions were subsequently overturned. We have here used the definition of an “overturned decision” to be where a solicitor has set out that the original ECF means assessment was incorrect, as opposed to where further means information later in time led to a subsequent application being granted for the same individual for immigration proceedings.

■ Life Imprisonment

Andy Slaughter:

[\[42915\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average tariff given with a mandatory life sentence was in each of the last 10 years.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

A life sentence is mandatory for murder and the courts must follow statutory guidance on determining the minimum term, or tariff, in these cases. A life sentence must be imposed for a second, very serious, specified violent or sexual offence – for example, manslaughter, GBH with intent, rape, and sexual assault on a child under 13 - unless the court finds that there are particular circumstances relating to the offence or the offender which would make it unjust to do so. Sentencing in individual cases is a matter for our independent judiciary.

The average tariff given to offenders receiving all mandatory life sentences and life sentences for murder, England and Wales, 2005 to 2015, can be viewed in the table. The total number of offenders receiving a life sentence is published in the criminal justice system statistics quarterly bulletin on gov.uk.

TABLE: AVERAGE TARIFF⁽¹⁾ GIVEN TO OFFENDERS RECEIVING MANDATORY LIFE SENTENCES AND LIFE SENTENCES FOR MURDER, ENGLAND AND WALES, 2005 TO 2015⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

	Mandatory life sentences ⁽⁵⁾
	(average tariff, years)
2005	15.7
2006	17.4
2007	16.2
2008 ⁽⁴⁾	18.9
2009	18.3
2010	19.2
2011	19.3
2012	20.6
2013	21.1

2014 20.7

2015 21.2

. = No automatic life sentence given or all tariff lengths missing

Source: Court proceedings database

(1) Averages exclude tariffs that are missing or whole life (recorded as '99 years' in the data).

(2) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. Please note that there is variable completeness of recorded tariff length over the years, with lower completeness in certain years.

(3) Data are given on a principal disposal basis - i.e. reporting the most severe sentence for the principal offence.

(4) Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates' court for April, July and August 2008.

(5) Includes life sentences for murder and automatic/two-strike life sentences: s2 Crime (Sentences) Act 1997, s122 Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012

(6) This includes all life sentences for murder.

Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice. Ref: PQ 42915

■ Matrimonial Proceedings: Legal Aid Scheme

Tulip Siddiq: [\[54120\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if she will publish any assessment her Department has made of the effect of reduction in legal aid on the ability of those with low incomes to afford representation in divorce proceedings.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The Government will carry out a Post Implementation Review of the legal aid provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, including the changes to the scope of legal aid in private family law proceedings. An announcement on this will be made in due course.

■ Ministry of Justice: Equal Pay

Jake Berry: [\[56608\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what plans her Department has to publish information on the gender pay gap among its employees.

Dr Phillip Lee:

MoJ collects data on pay, broken down by gender, and plans to publish information in line with legislation.

■ Nuisance: Sentencing

Rebecca Long Bailey: [\[56873\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what guidance is issued to the Crown Prosecution Service and Crown Court judges on sentences for the offence of public nuisance; and how many guilty verdicts in such cases have led to custodial sentences in the last 12 months.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The government does not issue guidance to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Crown Court judges.

The CPS follow the Code for Crown Prosecutors and the independent Sentencing Council issue sentencing guidelines to the courts.

The statistics regarding the number of guilty verdicts for the offence of public nuisance are available online and can be accessed on gov.uk.

■ Pentonville Prison

Richard Burgon: [\[52499\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Annual Report 2015 on HM Prison Pentonville, published by the Independent Monitoring Board in July 2016, what progress her Department has made on the replacement of (a) the worst 100 windows by the end of 2016 and (b) every cell window by September 2017.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The window replacement programme at HMP Pentonville is underway and is making good progress. The Secretary of State has spoken with the Governor about the programme to ensure that the appropriate support is being provided, and the plan is being reviewed in order to accelerate progress.

The recently published White Paper on prison reform announced a major shake-up of the prison system with 2,500 extra prison officers and new security measures to tackle drones, phones and drugs and help make prisons places of safety and reform.

■ Prison Service: Pay

Carolyn Harris: [\[42038\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much has been paid in Payment Plus to prison officer grades in each prison establishment since January 2016.

Carolyn Harris:

[\[42041\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many hours were worked in Payment Plus by prison officer grades in each prison establishment since January 2016.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

A core part of our prison safety and reform plan is the recruitment of an additional 2,500 additional prison officers. In 10 of our most challenging prisons we have already started a recruitment programme. I am pleased to say that we have already made 280 job offers for those 400 jobs, on top of 1,400 new officers appointed in the last 12 months.

The information requested is shown in the tables below. Since the summer of 2014, NOMS have effectively managed operational stability through arrangements that redeploy staff to neighbouring establishments. Payment Plus is one of the measures available to NOMS that has been used alongside national Detached Duty arrangements.

TABLE 1: AMOUNT PAID IN PAYMENT PLUS TO PRISON OFFICER GRADES IN PUBLIC SECTOR PRISON ESTABLISHMENTS, ENGLAND & WALES, JANUARY TO JUNE 2016

Establishment	Amount paid (£)
Askham Grange	£53,966
Aylesbury	£114,236
Bedford	£107,126
Belmarsh	£408,134
Berwyn	£7,656
Blantyre House	£9,914
Brinsford	£155,297
Bristol	£186,862
Brixton	£310,220
Buckley Hall	£58,778
Bullingdon	£152,195
Bure	£134,621
Cardiff	£161,887
Channings Wood	£224,931
Chelmsford	£197,975

TABLE 1: AMOUNT PAID IN PAYMENT PLUS TO PRISON OFFICER GRADES IN PUBLIC SECTOR PRISON ESTABLISHMENTS, ENGLAND & WALES, JANUARY TO JUNE 2016

Coldingley	£102,609
Dartmoor	£174,874
Deerbolt	£160,088
Downview	£26,317
Drake Hall	£65,000
Durham	£135,114
East Sutton Park	£21,566
Eastwood Park	£199,070
Elmley	£327,682
Erlestoke	£152,538
Exeter	£190,904
Featherstone	£208,686
Ford	£7,238
Foston Hall	£155,197
Frankland	£321,288
Full Sutton	£567,156
Garth	£223,294
Gartree	£272,563
Glen Parva	£121,023
Grendon	£94,195
Guys Marsh	£141,972
Hatfield (Moorland Open)	£45,869
Haverigg	£86,923
Hewell	£454,012
High Down	£342,476

TABLE 1: AMOUNT PAID IN PAYMENT PLUS TO PRISON OFFICER GRADES IN PUBLIC SECTOR PRISON ESTABLISHMENTS, ENGLAND & WALES, JANUARY TO JUNE 2016

Highpoint	£244,358
Hindley	£131,269
Hollesley Bay	£16,086
Holloway	£209,281
Holme House	£307,052
Hull	£238,159
Humber	£165,014
Huntercombe	£107,684
Isis	£96,820
Isle Of Wight	£382,856
Kennet	£183,808
Kirkham	£45,668
Kirklevington	£5,895
Lancaster Farms	£69,263
Leeds	£440,738
Leicester	£179,259
Lewes	£136,246
Leyhill	£18,890
Lincoln	£224,213
Lindholme	£274,453
Littlehey	£328,434
Liverpool	£395,283
Long Lartin	£277,298
Low Newton	£94,181
Maidstone	£86,621
Manchester	£512,558

TABLE 1: AMOUNT PAID IN PAYMENT PLUS TO PRISON OFFICER GRADES IN PUBLIC SECTOR PRISON ESTABLISHMENTS, ENGLAND & WALES, JANUARY TO JUNE 2016

Moorland	£211,444
Mount	£172,257
New Hall	£243,754
North Sea Camp	£61,284
Norwich	£169,808
Nottingham	£199,626
Onley	£222,811
Pentonville	£337,910
Portland	£135,591
Preston	£219,840
Ranby	£263,513
Risley	£290,675
Rochester	£187,269
Send	£64,962
Stafford	£260,602
Standford Hill	£36,655
Stocken	£164,759
Stoke Heath	£193,471
Styal	£217,226
Sudbury	£76,363
Swaleside	£334,679
Swansea	£180,804
Swinfen Hall	£243,478
Thorn Cross	£70,784
Usk	£176,746
Wakefield	£342,440

TABLE 1: AMOUNT PAID IN PAYMENT PLUS TO PRISON OFFICER GRADES IN PUBLIC SECTOR PRISON ESTABLISHMENTS, ENGLAND & WALES, JANUARY TO JUNE 2016

Wandsworth	£485,973
Warren Hill	£83,083
Wayland	£191,846
Wealstun	£300,915
Whatton	£211,304
Whitemoor	£290,559
Winchester	£126,752
Woodhill	£368,543
Wormwood Scrubs	£576,507
Wymott	£230,368
Total	£19,997,439

Notes

Figures are provided for public sector prison establishments, excluding Juvenile prisons and Immigration Removal Centres.

The figures in the above table will not necessarily correspond with the figures for hours worked given in Table 2 below, as there is a time lag between hours being incurred and hours being paid.

The figures in the above table relate to the cost of Payment Plus hours for Band 3, Band 4 and Band 5 officers; it should be noted that not all Band 5 hours are included in the data for PQ 42041.

The term 'Overtime' is used in payroll for Payment Plus for Bands 3 and above, but elsewhere the term 'Payment Plus' is used.

TABLE 2: PAYMENT PLUS HOURS INCURRED IN PUBLIC SECTOR PRISON
ESTABLISHMENTS, ENGLAND & WALES, JANUARY TO JUNE 2016

Establishment	Hours
Askham Grange	663
Aylesbury	6,028
Bedford	5,851
Belmarsh	18,828
Brinsford	3,795
Bristol	7,735
Brixton	15,976
Buckley Hall	1,226
Bullingdon	9,211
Bure	6,875
Cardiff	6,427
Channings Wood	9,681
Chelmsford	11,276
Coldingley	3,674
Dartmoor	5,003
Deerbolt	8,521
Downview	1,020
Drake Hall	3,191
Durham	6,770

East Sutton Park	1,097
Eastwood Park	11,458
Elmley	11,558
Erlestoke	8,815
Exeter	9,627
Featherstone	9,219
Ford	396
Foston Hall	7,239
Frankland	17,507
Full Sutton	28,012
Garth	5,917
Gartree	12,839
Glen Parva	6,721
Grendon	5,216
Guys Marsh	6,314
Hatfield (Moorland Open)	384
Haverigg	4,209
Hewell	21,407
High Down	13,609
Highpoint	5,501
Hindley	6,195
Hollesley Bay	731

Holloway	8,369
Holme House	15,128
Hull	11,350
Humber	8,099
Huntercombe	4,006
Isis	6,218
Isle Of Wight	19,796
Kennet	4,761
Kirkham	455
Kirklevington	88
Lancaster Farms	1,835
Leeds	20,327
Leicester	6,956
Lewes	8,169
Leyhill	929
Lincoln	11,913
Lindholme	12,585
Littlehey	9,400
Liverpool	19,911
Long Lartin	5,249
Low Newton	4,495
Maidstone	1,630

Manchester	27,948
Moorland	9,294
Mount	8,024
New Hall	12,887
North Sea Camp	3,587
Norwich	7,787
Nottingham	7,572
Onley	11,227
Pentonville	17,611
Portland	4,992
Preston	11,123
Ranby	13,099
Risley	8,638
Rochester	8,936
Send	3,589
Stafford	13,631
Standford Hill	1,516
Stocken	8,670
Stoke Heath	9,577
Styal	9,161
Sudbury	2,601
Swaleside	13,248

Swansea	6,845
Swinfen Hall	11,398
Thorn Cross	3,208
Usk	6,914
Wakefield	19,293
Wandsworth	19,391
Warren Hill	4,133
Wayland	9,433
Wealstun	15,382
Whatton	8,896
Whitemoor	15,123
Winchester	5,475
Woodhill	21,575
Wormwood Scrubs	27,242
Wymott	9,575
Grand Total	905,988

Notes

Figures are provided for public sector prison establishments, excluding Juvenile establishments and Immigration Removal Centres.

The figures for hours provided in the above table will not necessarily correspond with cost data given in Table 1 above, as there is a time lag between hours being incurred and hours being paid.

The figures for hours in the above table are the Payment Plus hours for rostered Band 3, Band 4 and Band 5 officers; the figures for Payment Plus costs in the accompanying PQ 42038 will include the cost of some non-rostered Band 5 officers.

■ **Prison Service: Staff**

Richard Burgon:

[\[54359\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to her oral contribution of 15 November 2016, Official Report, column 131, what her policy is on the introduction of a programme to re-recruit prison officers who have recently left the service on temporary contracts.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

We currently offer permanent flexible contracts to ex-prison officers under the HMPS Reserve Scheme which was established in November 2015. This was preceded by a Fixed-Term Contract project to recruit ex-officers which ran between 2014 and 2015.

Under the HMPS Reserve Scheme, we offer a permanent flexible contract to prison officers who have left voluntarily within the preceding 2 years. These staff will work flexibly to meet the needs of the estate. This helps to support the current operational workforce across the estate and to complement existing methods for meeting the staffing needs of prisons around the country.

HMPS Reserve staff provide a valuable flexible resource for NOMS by supporting prison regimes. Former prison officers can also request to be re-employed. Under the Civil Service Commission Recruitment Principles we can re appoint those who have left within the last 5 years.

Richard Burgon:

[\[55488\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to paragraph 5.17 of the Autumn Statement 2016, how many of the additional prison staff paid for by the £500 million of extra funding to enable the recruitment of 2,500 extra prison officers and wider reforms will be (a) Band 3 to 5 Officers, (b) Operational Support Grade officers and (c) other grades.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Justice Secretary announced major reforms to the prison system in the Prison Safety and Reform White Paper published on 3 November, to cut reoffending and help reduce crime.

As part of these reforms, we are going to empower governors, giving them the freedom to drive forward reform. That is why from April 2017, we are giving governors the power and budget to determine how their prisons are run. This includes governors having the authority to do their own workforce planning, decide what staffing structures best meets their local needs and deciding how to deploy extra staff in prisons.

■ Prisoners: Suicide

Paul Flynn:

[55394]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment her Department has made of implications for its policies of the findings of the report of the Howard League, Preventing prison suicide, published on 28 November 2016.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Government is committed to making prisons safe. Reducing self-inflicted deaths is a key priority for the Government.

As part of this, providing the right intervention and treatment is vital to improving the outcomes for people who are suffering or otherwise vulnerable. All prisons have established procedures in place to identify, manage and support people with mental health issues or at risk of suicide or self-harm.

But we recognise that more can be done. That is why we have invested in specialist mental health training for prison officers, allocated more funding for prison safety and have launched a suicide and self-harm reduction project to address the increase in self-inflicted deaths and self-harm in our prisons.

■ Prisons

Paul Flynn:

[55241]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the timetable is for (a) recruitment and posting of the extra prison officers and (b) the special measures for vulnerable and mentally ill inmates announced in November 2016.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Justice Secretary announced major reforms to the prison system in the Prison Safety and Reform White Paper published on 3 November, to cut reoffending and help reduce crime.

To achieve this, we are investing more than £100 million to boost the frontline with 2,500 extra staff by the end of 2018. This will help drive forward our reforms to reduce violence, improve standards and increase the staff to prisoner ratio. One of our first steps will be to invest an extra £14 million at 10 priority sites, including HMP Berwyn in Wales, which will pay for an extra 400 prison officers.

Governors are critical to the successful delivery of safe prisons. That is why from April 2017, we are giving governors the power and budget to determine how their prisons are run. This includes governors having the authority to do their own workforce planning, decide what staffing structures best meets their local needs and deciding how to deploy extra staff in prisons.

With regards to special measures for vulnerable and mentally ill inmates, it is vitally important that we provide the appropriate mental health care to prisoners to support their rehabilitation. That is why we are giving prison governors more say in delivering healthcare services in their prisons.

As part of these reforms, we will move to a joint approach to commissioning health services in England. Governors, working closely with local health commissioners and clinical experts, will be involved in the decision making process at each stage of the commissioning cycle. In Wales, where health is a devolved matter, we will liaise with the responsible Local Health Boards and the Welsh Government.

All prisons have procedures in place to identify, manage and support people who are at risk of harm to themselves.

All new intake prison officers receive mental health awareness training as part of their entry level training.

Luciana Berger:

[\[56044\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many safer cells were built in prisons in England in each year since 2010; and how many existing prison cells were converted into safer cells in each such year.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Safer cells are designed to make an act of suicide or self-harm as difficult as possible. However, no cell is totally safe, and where a prisoner is accommodated in a safer cell, this forms only a part of the package of support measures that are put in place to manage the risk of self-harm or suicide.

Since 2010 all new prison accommodation has been built to safer cell standards. There is no central record of the number of cells that were converted into safer cells during this period.

■ Prisons: Security

Richard Burgon:

[\[52494\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what plans she has to review guidance in Prison Service Instruction 09/2016, cell, area and vehicle searching, in respect of the regularity of accommodation fabric checks and cell searches outside the high security estate.

Richard Burgon:

[\[52495\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent discussions she has had with the (a) Prison Governors Association and (b) Prison Officers Association on the regularity of accommodation fabric checks and cell searches outside the high security estate.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Prison Service Instructions are reviewed on a regular basis in keeping with changes in policy and legislation and where new threats or opportunities arise. As part of the Prison Reform programme, work is underway to revise all Prison Instructions, providing simpler and more manageable documents which will allow prisons to operate more effectively.

Meetings held by Ministers are published on .gov.uk. The Secretary of State has met recently with representatives of the Prison Officers' Association and Prison Governors Association and discussed a range of issues. Officials from the National Offender

Management Service regularly hold discussions with staff associations, including on matters relating to security.

As part of the work on prison reform announced by the Government in the recent White Paper, we are planning to boost our searching capability within prisons and are examining options for better equipped and more widely deployed searching teams at national, regional and local levels. We are also investing in improved intelligence capabilities at all levels to enable searching and other security activities to be targeted more effectively.

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ Brexit: Republic of Ireland

Tom Brake: [\[57282\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what discussions his Department has had with the Irish government on the rights of Irish citizens in Northern Ireland after the UK leaves the EU.

James Brokenshire:

The UK Government's relationship with the Irish Government has never been stronger. I regularly meet counterparts in the Irish Government and will continue to do so as we prepare for the UK's exit from the EU.

The Government is committed to preserving the current reciprocal status of Irish citizens within the United Kingdom, including in Northern Ireland, as originally provided for in the Ireland Act 1949 and in subsequent legislation.

■ Common Travel Area

Chris Leslie: [\[57207\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what his policy is on maintaining the Common Travel Area border between the UK and the Republic of Ireland following the UK leaving the EU; and if he will make a statement.

James Brokenshire:

There is a strong will to preserve the Common Travel Area. The UK Government, the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government have been unequivocal – all want to maintain the current arrangements and avoid the introduction of physical border controls within the CTA.

■ Lough Foyle

Mr Nigel Dodds: [\[57558\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to the Answer of 13 December 2016 to Question 56613, whether the Government has had recent discussions with the government of the Irish Republic on ownership of Lough Foyle.

James Brokenshire:

I regularly engage with the Irish Government on a number of issues. The management of Lough Foyle is the responsibility of the Loughs Agency, a North-South body established under the Belfast Agreement. Discussions continue between the UK Government and the Irish Government on further improvements to the day to day management of the Lough.

■ **Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme: Northern Ireland**

Mr David Anderson:

[\[57481\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, with reference to the Northern Ireland Office Renewable Heating Incentive Scheme, published on 5 July 2016, what steps his Department is taking to support the Northern Ireland Executive to create an open and accountable process to investigate Renewable Heating Incentive overspend.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 16 December 2016]: The Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive and not the Northern Ireland Office. The Northern Ireland Audit Office has responsibility for the financial and value for money audit of central government bodies in the Northern Ireland Executive.

PRIME MINISTER

■ **Prime Minister: Christmas Cards**

Luciana Berger:

[\[57758\]](#)

To ask the Prime Minister, how much 10 Downing Street has spent on (a) Christmas cards and (b) postage of Christmas cards in December 2016 to date.

Mrs Theresa May:

I have sent Christmas cards to a wide range of people, as previous Prime Ministers have done. All expenditure incurred in the purchase and posting of these cards is in accordance with the departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety.

SCOTLAND

■ **Abortion: Scotland**

Robert Flello:

[\[57679\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what information the Government holds on the number of abortions performed in 2015 in Scotland on Ground E (disability) of the Abortion Act 1967; how many such abortions were performed beyond 13 weeks' gestation; and what the total number of abortions performed in that year was (a) before and (b) after 13 weeks' gestation.

David Mundell:

Abortion law was devolved under the Scotland Act 2016.

The number of abortions performed in 2015 in Scotland on Ground E (disability) of the Abortion Act 1967 was 186. The total number of abortions performed in Scotland in 2015 was 12,082.

The number of these abortions that were performed beyond 13 weeks' gestation; and the total number of abortions performed in that year (a) before and (b) after 13 weeks gestation are not available.

The published data on abortions provides information on the number of Ground E abortions by diagnosis. Estimated gestation is presented for all abortions and is grouped into under 10 weeks, 10 to 13, 14 to 17, 18 to 19 and 20 weeks and over. The data are available in Table 1 on the Information Services Division (ISD) website from the following link:

https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Sexual-Health/Publications/2016-05-31/mat_aas_table1.xlsx.

■ Scotland Office: Pay

Jake Berry: [56996]

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the highest-paid and lowest-paid full-time employee in his Department.

David Mundell:

The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. Matters relating to the terms and conditions of service of staff, including pay and gender pay gap analysis, are matters for the employing bodies.

Jake Berry: [57040]

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the pay of full-time staff in the highest pay grade in his Department and average full-time pay in that Department.

David Mundell:

The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. Matters relating to the terms and conditions of service of staff, including pay and gender pay gap analysis, are matters for the employing bodies.

TRANSPORT

■ B5345

Mr Jamie Reed: [57608]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many applications have been made for the installation of permanent traffic lights on the B5345 (Whitehaven) in the last five years.

Andrew Jones:

Installation of traffic lights is the responsibility of the local traffic authority. They do not have to obtain approval to do so from the Department.

Cumbria County Council sought advice from the Department in January 2016 about placing traffic signals on the B5345 at Meadow View, but this did not constitute an application for approval.

Legislation restricts the use of traffic lights to places where there is conflict, either between vehicles or vehicles and pedestrians. This means junctions, places where the headroom or width of the road is permanently restricted, or crossing places. The Department's view was that this site did not fall within any of these circumstances and Cumbria County Council was advised accordingly.

■ Bus Services

Valerie Vaz: [\[57604\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what guidance his Department has issued on accessibility standards for bus provision.

Andrew Jones:

I am committed to building transport networks that work for everyone, including ensuring that disabled people have the same access to transport services as other members of society.

Guidance was issued in 2005 to support the implementation of the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR).

We are currently developing best practice guidance in delivering disability awareness training. This has been informed by engagement with disabled people and the bus industry, and aims to ensure that bus drivers have the knowledge and skills to provide all passengers with the appropriate assistance.

■ Bus Services: Contracts

Valerie Vaz: [\[57597\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has power to intervene when bus companies terminate contracts without consultation.

Andrew Jones:

Bus services in England outside London are provided commercially by bus operators with local authorities able to subsidise additional services where these are not being provided on a commercial basis. The Secretary of State has no power to intervene when bus services cease to be provided by bus operators or supported by local authorities.

Bus operators are however required to provide a Traffic Commissioner with 56 days' notice of their intention to cancel a local bus service, and we would encourage operators and local authorities to consult with local communities before making changes to local bus services.

■ Driving under Influence

Dr Lisa Cameron: [\[57905\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to ensure that drivers living south of the Scottish Border are aware of the different drink driving limit in Scotland.

Andrew Jones:

A reduced drink driving limit came into effect in Scotland in December 2014, at which point rule 95 of the Highway Code was amended to reflect the change. It is essential that all road users in England, Scotland and Wales are aware of the Code.

At the time of its introduction, the Scottish Government advertised the lower limit on both sides of the border.

■ Electrification

Diana Johnson: [\[57210\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much from the public purse is allocated to rail electrification in each NUTS 1 region of the country in each of the next five years; and how many miles of track are to be electrified in each such region in each such year.

Paul Maynard:

We are currently delivering the largest railway modernisation programme for many years, including plans to electrify over 850 miles of track.

We have continued ambition for the rail network and expect to continue our significant investment in the funding period. The exact level of this investment will be set out in the Statement of Funds Available.

■ High Speed 2 Railway Line

Antoinette Sandbach: [\[57380\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the research survey of the UK rail customers undertaken by Future Thinking on behalf of HS2 Ltd, how many passengers have been surveyed and over what period of time; on which rail routes that survey has been carried out; what the cost to the public purse was of that survey; and whether the results of that survey will be made publicly available.

Andrew Jones:

The research being conducted by Future Thinking on behalf of HS2 Ltd will include a survey targeting 16,000 responses from passengers travelling on trains. In addition to the on-train surveys, an online survey will also be issued that will target an additional 1,000 responses. The research covers passengers travelling in both directions between London and Birmingham, Manchester, Preston, Glasgow, and Crewe. HS2 Ltd expect to publish the findings of this research in due course. The cost of the research was £119,216. The contract with Future Thinking ends on 31 January 2017.

Antoinette Sandbach:

[\[57381\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Answer of 4 May 2016 to Question 35401, if he will place a copy of the modelling report from Heriot-Watt University of the geodynamic effects of high speed railway operation referred to in that Answer in the Library.

Andrew Jones:

I have today arranged for the Heriot-Watt University report for HS2 to be deposited in the libraries of the House.

■ High Speed 2 Railway Line: Eddisbury

Antoinette Sandbach:

[\[57378\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the Health and Safety Inspectorate has been contacted in relation to the rate refinement proposals in Eddisbury constituency.

Andrew Jones:

Safety is, and will continue to be, at the core of all HS2 activities. During the design of the HS2 route regulatory and advisory bodies with safety responsibilities are, and will continue to be, involved and consulted as is appropriate.

Antoinette Sandbach:

[\[57379\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many properties in Eddisbury constituency are in a (a) safeguarded area, (b) rural support zone and (c) homeowner payment zone.

Andrew Jones:

The Eddisbury constituency property count reply is:

Safeguarding Zone: 10

Rural Support Zone: 7

Homeowner Payment Zone: 32

■ Highway Code

Sir Greg Knight:

[\[57450\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to update the Highways Code; and if he will make a statement.

Andrew Jones:

We frequently update The Highway Code to reflect changes in legislation. We are currently considering consultation responses on the safe use of automated vehicle technologies and advanced driver assistance systems and intend to include appropriate advice in the Code. We have no further plans to carry out a revision of the Code. When we carry out the next revision of the Code we will as usual undertake a consultation on proposed changes to the code.

■ Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Richard Burden: [\[57564\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the costs were to the public purse of the KPMG report into commercial opportunities for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; and if he will make a statement.

Mr John Hayes:

The cost for the provision of KPMG consultancy services to provide an analysis of commercial opportunities within the MCA, was £207,744 (inclusive of VAT).

Richard Burden: [\[57565\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will place an unredacted copy of the KPMG report into commercial opportunities for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency commissioned by his Department in the Library.

Mr John Hayes:

The KPMG report was commissioned in response to recommendations from the Maritime Growth Study to explore commercial opportunities in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. The report is informing the department's policy development in relation to these opportunities.

The sections of the report currently withheld are primarily concerned with potential pricing and commercial strategies, customer acquisition and market analysis. As these are all areas where policy development is at an early stage it would not be appropriate to disclose this information at this time. We will continue to keep Parliament informed as the policy is developed.

■ Motor Vehicles: Safety

Sir Greg Knight: [R] [\[57251\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when he plans to announce his final decision on implementing changes to the exemption from compulsory annual roadworthiness testing for vehicles of historic interest; and if he will make a statement.

Mr John Hayes:

The consultation on proposed changes to roadworthiness testing for vehicles of historical interest closed on 2 November. Over 2,000 responses were received. These are receiving consideration. We will be finalising the changes, including publishing our response, in the Spring of 2017.

■ Network Rail

Mr Ben Bradshaw: [\[57653\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the Great Western Rail and South Western franchises will be included in his Department's proposals for shared responsibility with Network Rail.

Paul Maynard:

The Secretary of State outlined his vision for the future alignment of track and train in the Written Ministerial Statement issued on 6 December. The current Great Western Direct Award franchise is assumed to expire March 2020. The Department is exploring a range of delivery options for the Great Western Franchise beyond March 2020 with the aim of closer integration between track and train. The Department is running a competition to award the next South Western franchise, which is expected to start in August 2017. In the Invitation to Tender the Department required the next franchisee to collaborate with Network Rail to improve performance, project delivery and service to passengers. Bidders were required to demonstrate how they had engaged with Network Rail in the development of aligned objectives for the Franchise going forward, including areas for joint working.

Public Transport: Older People**Valerie Vaz:**[\[57598\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what guidance his Department issues on the provision of alternative transport services for elderly people when bus services are removed.

Andrew Jones:

The Department has not issued guidance specifically on the provision of alternative transport services for the elderly when bus services are removed. However, the Department has published draft guidance for local authorities who are considering how to best improve their local bus services, and guidance about the role that can be played by the Community Transport sector and the application of Total Transport principles. This draft guidance was published in October to accompany the Bus Services Bill that is currently before Parliament. A final version of the guidance will be published in due course.

Valerie Vaz:[\[57599\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will make an assessment of the effect on elderly people of the 400 metre accessibility standard used by Transport for West Midlands.

Paul Maynard:

Whenever infrastructure at railway at railway station is installed, replaced or renewed it must meet the EU and UK accessibility standards published in "Design Standards for Accessible Railway Stations", which state that accessible routes to be "as short as possible". These standards are enforced by the Office of Rail and Roads.

Railways**Robert Ffello:**[\[57680\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will take steps to ensure that future franchises which incorporate reforms to the structure of the railways integrating Network Rail will incentivise new freight terminals and services.

Paul Maynard:

Rail Freight is a crucial part of our rail network. We published a Rail Freight Strategy in September 2016 which reaffirms our commitment to the rail freight industry and explains how we will work to advance its interests.

The Strategy commits to ensuring that the Government, in developing its strategy for new franchise competitions, will consider how rail freight can be more systemically considered in this process.

We want to ensure any proposals for rail reform work for everyone on the network, and we will be engaging with stakeholders as any new proposals develop.

Alongside this, progress has already been made with Network Rail creating a virtual freight and national passenger operator route to ensure the interests of freight operators are represented.

■ Railways: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**Mr Edward Vaizey:**[\[57618\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with Network Rail on the implications of section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for the placement of overhead line equipment in areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Paul Maynard:

Consultations with the relevant local communities are planned for January and February 2017, where residents will view the output of the Landscape and Visual Appraisals undertaken alongside potential design and mitigation measures that could be employed.

It would not be appropriate for the Department to pre-empt the outcome of that consultation process.

WALES**■ Wales Office: Equal Pay****Jake Berry:**[\[57159\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what plans his Department has to publish information on the gender pay gap among its employees.

Guto Bebb:

Wales Office staff are generally employed on Ministry of Justice terms and conditions in respect of pay. The Ministry of Justice collect gender pay gap data and plans to publish information on the gender pay gap amongst its employees in line with legislation.

■ Wales Office: Pay**Jake Berry:**[\[56999\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the highest-paid and lowest-paid full-time employee in his Department.

Guto Bebb:

Government Departments do not publish details of the salary of their highest to lowest paid employees.

The Office for National Statistics do, however, publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organization. These ratios are published annually as part of Civil Service Statistics and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016>

Jake Berry:

[57043]

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what the percentage gap in earnings is between the pay of full-time staff in the highest pay grade in his Department and average full-time pay in that Department.

Guto Bebb:

The Office for National Statistics publish the salary ratio of highest to median earners for each Civil Service organization. These ratios are published annually as part of Civil Service Statistics and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016>

■ **Wales Office: Staff**

Jake Berry:

[57021]

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what plans his Department has to include worker representation on its departmental board.

Guto Bebb:

I refer the hon Member to the oral statement on the Corporate Governance Green Paper of 29 November 2016, Official Report, Column 1408.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

■ **Government Equalities Office: Pay**

Paula Sherriff:

[57322]

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what the average hourly earnings are of her Department's (a) BME and (b) non-BME employees.

Paula Sherriff:

[57324]

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what the average hourly earnings are of (a) female and (b) male employees of the Government Equalities Office.

Caroline Dineneage:

The table below shows the average hourly earnings of the Department for Education (DfE) staff, including the Government Equalities Office (GEO) staff, by a) female b) male c) BME and d) non-BME.

Average Earnings of DfE Staff (including GEO)

	Nov-16
Female	£20.61
Male	£21.97
BME	£18.98
Non-BME	£21.93

The following table shows the average hourly earnings of GEO staff by a) female and b) male.

Average earnings of GEO Staff

	Nov-16
Female	£24.11
Male	£25.10

The Department and GEO records earnings as annual salaries. In order to convert the annual salaries to hourly rates the following calculation has been used: ((Gross Basic Salary*FTE)/52)/Weekly hours.

The pay gap is lower when analysed at grade level for men and women and BME and non-BME. The gaps can be largely attributed to the fact that is greater proportions of women and BME staff of the lower pay bands.

WORK AND PENSIONS■ **Department for Work and Pensions: Staff**

Jake Berry:

[\[57022\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans his Department has to include worker representation on its departmental board.

Caroline Nokes:

I refer the Hon. Member to the oral statement on the Corporate Governance Green Paper of 29 November 2016, Official Report, Column 1408.

The Green Paper can be found as follows:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573438/beis-16-56-corporate-governance-reform-green-paper-final.pdf

■ Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms:

[57677]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much of the additional £100 million funding for employment support announced in Summer Budget 2015 and referred in the Work, health and disability green paper: improving lives, published in October 2016, will be used to fund the new work and health programme.

Penny Mordaunt:

As part of our broader new Personal Support Package, we are investing £330m on support for people with limited capability for work, over the course of four years from April 2017, rising from £60m in 2017/18 to £100m in 2020/21. Details of the Package in 2017/18 were set out in the Improving Lives Green Paper. Decisions on future year spending will be made in due course. Participation on the Work & Health Programme will be voluntary; therefore, at this early stage we cannot exactly determine how much of the Personal Support Package will be spent on the new Work & Health Programme.

Stephen Timms:

[57678]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, on what the additional £100 million funding for employment support announced in Summer Budget 2015 and referred in the Work, health and disability green paper: improving lives, published in October 2016, will be spent.

Penny Mordaunt:

As part of our broader new Personal Support Package, we are investing £330m on support for people with limited capability for work, over the course of four years from April 2017, rising from £60m in 2017/18 to £100m in 2020/21. Details of the Package in 2017/18 were set out in the Improving Lives Green Paper. Decisions on future year spending will be made in due course.

■ Families

Fiona Bruce:

[57710]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 31 October 2016 to Question 50529, how much is being allocated for the bid process for contracts to deliver targeted relationship support from 2017-18 onwards.

Caroline Nokes:

A budget of £7.8m p.a. will be available for 2017-2018 and 2018-19

The budget may remain available in 2019-2020 to extend contracts for a further period, subject to the Department's review process of the programme as a whole.

Fiona Bruce:

[\[57711\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 31 October 2016 to Question 50529, which 12 local authorities the Government has been working with to help develop evidence-based strategic delivery plans to embed relationship support into local services for families.

Caroline Nokes:

The 12 local authorities delivering the Local Family Offer, which is trialling evidence-based strategic delivery plans to embed relationship support into local services for families, are:

Blackpool

Blackburn with Darwen

Croydon

Dorset

Essex

Gateshead

Greater Manchester

Hertfordshire

Lambeth

Luton

Newcastle

Westminster

Fiona Bruce:

[\[57712\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 31 October 2016 to Question 50529, what plans his Department has to carry out a review of the link between poor relationship outcomes and child life chances and effectiveness of relationship support.

Caroline Nokes:

The Department funded the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) to complete the evidence review 'What works to enhance inter-parental relationships and improve children's outcomes', which was published on 22 March 2016. This evaluates the impact of inter-parental relationships on children's outcomes and is informing the development of our new programme to tackle parental conflict. This review included an assessment of the effectiveness of 15 UK programmes which aim to enhance the inter-parental relationship and improve outcomes for children, in addition to further international evidence. The Department continues to fund and work with the EIF to expand the evidence base for the effectiveness of such interventions.

■ **Social Security Benefits: Disqualification**

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[57611]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment he has made of the rate of error in his Department's decisions on benefit sanctions; and if he will make a statement.

Damian Hinds:

The latest available information on Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance sanctions, including the number of cancellations, Mandatory Reconsiderations and Appeals, is published at:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>.

Guidance on how to extract the information required can be found at: <https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Getting-Started.html>

■ **Universal Credit: Telephone Services**

Drew Hendry:

[57334]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make an assessment of the cost to claimants of the length of waiting times when making calls to his Department related to universal credits.

Damian Hinds:

The average cost for a claimant waiting when making a call from a landline to Universal Credit is £0.41. This is based on the Average Speed to Answer of 3 minutes 27 seconds for this financial year to date.

When a claimant phones Universal Credit and the Telephony Agent (TA) has established the reason for the call, the claimant may request a call back if they cannot afford the call. In these circumstances the TA must encourage the claimant to go online if the reason for the call is to make a claim to Universal Credit.

If the claimant is considered vulnerable or suffering hardship, the TA can agree to the call back. Where the TA can ring back immediately they will do that, alternatively where this is not possible they will advise the claimant they will be called back within 3 hours and wrap up the call.

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund

Chi Onwurah:

[\[57486\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has for the implementation of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund; and how that fund will be funded.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 16 December 2016. The correct answer should have been:

Margot James

Joseph Johnson:

Yes, employees are represented on the Department's board. The Permanent Secretary is a standing member of the Departmental Board, and meets with the Departmental Trade Unions as staff representatives.

There are several other ways in which the views of employees of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy are currently already taken into account by the Departmental Board and its supporting committees.

The Board regularly discusses staff related matters, such as the Civil Service People Survey results which reflect the views of the Department's employees, including views on the transition programme to create a new Department.

The Department's governance structure includes a People and Operations Committee, chaired by the Directors General responsible for People, Corporate Services and the transition programme. This Committee has standing representation from the HR Director and staff diversity networks as full members. Recommendations from the Committee are routinely taken to the Department's Executive Committee for endorsement and approval.

The composition of the Departmental Board is determined by Cabinet Office and HMT's Corporate Governance in Central Government Departments: Code of Good practice (2011). Cabinet Office and HMT are currently in the process of refreshing this guidance to reflect current best practice.

The Board also has external Non Executive Board Members (NEBMs) as standing members. NEBMs provide external challenge and scrutiny and offer wider stakeholder views to the Board.

A New Productivity Fund (NPIF) announced in the Autumn Statement will provide for £23 billion of spending between 2017-18 and 2021-22.

Through the NPIF the government will fund the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. The fund will cover a broad range of technologies, to be decided by an

evidence-based process. It will be delivered by Innovate UK and the Research Councils, and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) when it is established.

We will begin to identify different challenge areas between now and the Budget in 2017. More detail on funding breakdown and proposals will be set out in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Farmers: Mental Health

Tim Farron:

[56464]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 6 December 2016 to Question 55821, if she will make it her policy to provide support to farmers who are experiencing depression or anxiety related to delayed single payments and other financial issues.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 15 December 2016. The correct answer should have been:

George Eustice:

In 2015 the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) offered a hardship fund to help farmers with delayed payments and in financial need.

For 2016, the RPA began making Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments when the payment window opened on 1 December. On 13 December the Agency announced that it had made payments, worth £8 8 2 2 million, to approximately 68% (around 59,000) of eligible claimants with a range of claim types and sizes, including those inspected and with common land. The RPA remains focused on paying 90% of eligible claims by the end of the month.

The RPA is working with a range of farming help organisations such as the Farming Community Network and the Citizens' Advice Bureau. Should the RPA need to make use of BPS Financial Support Payments to deal with hardship cases it will do so.

TRANSPORT

■ South West Railway Line

Mrs Flick Drummond:

[56634]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment his Department has made of the causes of signal and power failures on the South West main line between Woking and Eastleigh on 6 December 2016.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 14 December 2016. The correct answer should have been:

Paul Maynard:

The Department does not generally make an assessment of the causes of individual operational incidents. Network Rail, as the infrastructure provider, is best placed to do this. I am aware, however, that on this occasion the problems were caused by ~~two power surges from the National Grid~~ **a failure of the power** supply to the signalling centre in Basingstoke that damaged the signalling equipment which had to be repaired and reset.

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

■ Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

Secretary of State for Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Karen Bradley):
[\[HCWS379\]](#)

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

Youth

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

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

Culture

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

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

The Council was invited to adopt a proposal to amend the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 to extend the access to EFTA/EEA countries. A general approach was

agreed, with UK government support of the proposal. The UK parliamentary scrutiny reserve was noted and maintained.

Finally there was a public debate, 'towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations'. This discussed how the EU and its Member States can cooperate to bring about a more strategic approach to culture in external relations. The UK's intervention focused on the work of the British Council and the need to respect the principle of subsidiarity as Member States must be free to pursue their own cultural agendas.

Sport

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

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

Other business

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

■ Multilateral Development Bank Replenishments

The Secretary of State for International Development (Priti Patel): [\[HCWS380\]](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WALES

■ Welsh Government Fiscal Framework

Secretary of State for Wales (Alun Cairns):

[\[HCWS377\]](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ International Labour Organization Recommendation 204

Minister of State for Employment (Damian Hinds):

[\[HCWS378\]](#)

The 104th Session of the International Labour Conference 2015 adopted Recommendation 204 concerning the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy. International

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