



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 5 August 2016 and the information is correct at the time of publication (03:03 P.M., 05 August 2016). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

### CONTENTS

<b>ANSWERS</b>	<b>3</b>	■ Universities	12
BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY	3	FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	13
■ Biofuels	3	■ British Indian Ocean Territory: Military Bases	13
■ Department for Energy and Climate Change: UK Withdrawal From EU	3	■ Companies: Ownership	13
■ Electricity Generation	3	■ Diego Garcia: Aviation	13
■ Energy	4	■ Diego Garcia: Detainees	14
■ Internet	4	■ EU Internal Relations	14
■ Mental Health: Research	4	■ Foreign and Commonwealth Office: UK Withdrawal from EU	14
■ Nuclear Power: Inspections	5	■ France: Terrorism	14
■ Office for Life Sciences	5	■ Germany: Thalidomide	15
■ Pneumoconiosis: Compensation	5	■ International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance	15
■ Research	7	■ Islamic State	16
■ Research: Finance	8	■ Latvia: World War II	16
COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	9	■ Republic of Ireland: Foreign Relations	16
■ Housing: Construction	9	■ Turkey: Capital Punishment	17
EDUCATION	10	■ Turkey: Politics and Government	17
■ Foreign Students: EU Countries	10	■ UK Membership of EU: Referendums	18
■ Foreign Students: European Economic Area	10	■ UK Withdrawal from EU	18
■ Higher Education	11	■ UK Withdrawal from EU: Scotland	19
■ Students: Hearing Impaired	11		
■ Students: Loans	12		

■ UN Refugees and Migrants Summit	19	■ Venezuela: Politics and Government	21
■ Venezuela: Economic Situation	20	HOME OFFICE	21
■ Venezuela: Human Rights	20	■ Hate Crime	21

**Notes:**

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

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

## ANSWERS

### BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

#### ■ Biofuels

**Andrew Percy:**

[42089]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he has taken to engage with (a) coal generators and (b) the biomass sector on whether a future biomass auction will take place.

**Jesse Norman:**

We plan to hold the next Contracts for Difference allocation round in due course. We will announce further details about the allocation round and engage with stakeholders in good time.

#### ■ Department for Energy and Climate Change: UK Withdrawal From EU

**Dr Paul Monaghan:**

[42339]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential policy implications for his Department of the UK leaving the EU.

**Mr Nick Hurd:**

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will be responsible for helping to ensure that the economy grows strongly in all parts of the country, based on a robust industrial strategy. The Department will ensure the UK has secure energy supplies that are reliable, affordable and clean; encourage investment and innovation that fully utilises the UK science base; and enable a whole economy approach to deliver our climate change ambitions.

The UK remains a member of the European Union and all existing rules still apply. The negotiations to leave the UK will be a long, complicated process and in the meantime, Departments will continue working to deliver the Government agenda.

#### ■ Electricity Generation

**Sir William Cash:**

[42748]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what the financial cost will be to other electricity generators of the proposed supplementary balancing reserve and Black Start payments made to Fiddlers Ferry and Drax power plants.

**Jesse Norman:**

Details of charges and how they are applied are available through National Grid's website: <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/bsuos/>. However National Grid does not provide a public breakdown of the costs of individual Black Start and SBR contracts.

## ■ Energy

**Jim Shannon:** [\[42834\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to encourage de-carbonisation of the UK energy market.

**Jesse Norman:**

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will now hold responsibility for climate change issues.

We are taking action across the economy to encourage the decarbonisation of energy and last month we set the fifth carbon budget in law in line with the recommendations of the independent Committee on Climate Change.

## ■ Internet

**Nigel Adams:** [\[42624\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what representations he has received on the potential merits of requiring search engines to change their algorithms to reduce the visibility of illegal streaming websites.

**Joseph Johnson:**

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Intellectual Property, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, chairs regular roundtable meetings between the UK's leading search engine providers, representatives of the music and film industries, and government officials.

Since the instigation of these roundtables, Google, Yahoo! and Bing have all taken steps to reduce the prominence of copyright infringing websites in their search results. These steps have included algorithm changes as well as changes to the autocomplete suggestions offered to users.

The discussions are supported by research undertaken by OFCOM which has shown a decrease in the prominence of the most infringing websites (as measured by the number of notifications Google have received about infringing content for those sites).

## ■ Mental Health: Research

**Luciana Berger:** [\[43208\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to ensure that research with European research partners into mental health continues after the result of the referendum on the EU.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The Government recognises the importance of our research base, which is why we have protected the science budget in real terms from its current level of £4.7 billion for the rest of the parliament.

The referendum result has no immediate effect on the right of researchers to apply to or participate in EU research programmes. While the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU arrangements continue unchanged. UK participants, including those researching mental health issues, can continue to apply to programmes in the usual way. The future of UK access to these programmes will be determined as part of a wider discussion with the EU.

#### ■ Nuclear Power: Inspections

**Caroline Lucas:** [\[42312\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps would be needed to replace EU Atomic Energy Community safeguards inspectors with International Atomic Energy Agency Inspectors to implement safeguards provisions on (a) UK nuclear installations and (b) nuclear material used and created at UK nuclear sites under treaties to which the UK is a party.

**Jesse Norman:**

Until the UK leaves the EU, it is expected to remain a full member with all relevant rights and obligations. The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy will continue to work closely with stakeholders and the rest of Government during our negotiations to exit the EU to deliver energy which is secure, affordable and clean.

#### ■ Office for Life Sciences

**Andrew Gwynne:** [\[43369\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what his Department's plans are for the Office for Life Sciences; and if he will make a statement.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The Office for Life Sciences was established in 2011 to support the development and adoption of 21st century health and life sciences technology, delivering the improved patient outcomes and increasing wider growth and prosperity. This agenda remains a core part of the Government's plans for a comprehensive industrial strategy and for transforming health and care.

#### ■ Pneumoconiosis: Compensation

**Sir Alan Meale:** [\[43331\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many posthumous claims for compensation under the (a) Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 and (b) Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis Scheme 1974 were successful in each of the last 30 years.

**Sir Alan Meale:** [\[43332\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many posthumous claims for compensation under the (a) Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers'

Compensation) Act 1979 and (b) Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis Scheme 1974 were submitted in each of the last 30 years.

**Jesse Norman:**

With regards to the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers Compensation) Act 1979, the Department for Work and Pensions have advised that the information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

For the Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis Scheme 1974 (CWPS) the figures for posthumous claims received and paid, and the reasons for the difference between the two are shown in the table below:

	YEAR		DECEASED CLAIMS RECEIVED	DECEASED CLAIMS PAID	DENIALS & WORK IN PROGRESS (WIP)
Duplicate Claim Denial	Failed Eligibility Denial	Nil Offer*	Work In Progress/Withdrawn/Other Denial		
2011	41	17	5	153	1
2012	104	65	20	63	10
2013	160	103	18	1314	12
2014	153	96	19	1318	7
2015	169	101	20	2024	4
2016	70	33	6	77	17

\* Nil Offer – a claim under the 1979 Act resulted in a higher award than would have been payable under the CWPS

N.B. Figures only available from July 2011 onwards when current claims handler took on the contract.

**Sir Alan Meale:**

[\[43333\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, for what reasons his Department included in the tender document to administer the Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis Scheme 1974 a requirement that all posthumous claims to that scheme be accompanied by a grant of probate.

**Jesse Norman:**

There was no separate tender document for the administration of the Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis Scheme. The Department's tender did not therefore have any bearings on the requirements under the Scheme.

Before payments can be made under the CWPS, claims handlers must ensure that the person making the claim is entitled to do so. Provision of probate is sometimes necessary in posthumous claims to ensure that the correct person receives the compensation and also to ensure that the positions of both the estate and the taxpayer are adequately and proportionately protected against fraud.

**Sir Alan Meale:**

[\[43334\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, which signatories to the Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis Scheme 1974 were consulted by his Department prior to the inclusion in the tender document to administer that scheme a requirement that all claims to that scheme be accompanied by a grant of probate.

**Jesse Norman:**

There was no separate tender document for the administration of the Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis Scheme (CWPS), hence there was no such consultation.

## ■ Research

**Dan Jarvis:**

[\[43232\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether the Government plans to maintain the current level of EU funding for research and innovation to recipient institutions.

**Joseph Johnson:**

*[Holding answer 21 July 2016]:* The UK economy is fundamentally strong and our research and innovation are world leading. While the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU funding arrangements continue unchanged, including those that apply to students, researchers, and businesses.

The Government intends to maintain and enhance the strength of our research base, which is why we have protected the science resource budget in real terms from its 2015/16 level of £4.7 billion for the rest of the parliament.

**Dan Jarvis:**

[\[43236\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions have taken place with the EU Science Commissioner on the future of EU funding for research and innovation in the UK.

**Joseph Johnson:**

*[Holding answer 21 July 2016]:* No formal discussions have taken place with the EU Science Commissioner. The Minister of State for Universities and Science has been in close contact with Commissioner Moedas on the topic of the Horizon 2020 programme. While the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU funding arrangements continue unchanged, including those that apply to students, researchers, and businesses. Setting

out arrangements for those currently in receipt of EU funds is one of many issues that will need to be addressed during the negotiations for leaving the EU. The Government intends to maintain and enhance the strength of our research base, which is why we have protected the science resource budget in real terms from its 2015/16 level of £4.7 billion for the rest of the parliament.

■ **Research: Finance**

**Daniel Zeichner:** [\[42240\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will take steps to ensure that UK researchers have the same level of funding as before the EU referendum.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The UK economy is fundamentally strong and our research and innovation are world leading. We have a long established system that supports, and therefore attracts, the brightest minds, at all stages of their careers. We fund excellent science wherever it is found, and ensure there is the freedom to tackle important scientific questions. While the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU arrangements continue unchanged, including those that apply to students, researchers, and businesses. We remain fully open to scientists and researchers from across the EU. We hugely value the contribution of EU and international staff and there are no immediate changes to their rights to live and work in the UK. The Government intends to maintain and enhance the strength of our research base, which is why we have protected the science resource budget in real terms from its 2015/16 level of £4.7 billion for the rest of the parliament.

**Daniel Zeichner:** [\[43083\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the suitability of proposed new innovation finance products for life sciences research and development and other high-risk innovation sectors.

**Joseph Johnson:**

We are looking to provide a range of innovation finance products to meet the needs of businesses, which will include loans, grants, and other types of innovation finance. Some of our competitor economies (like France, Finland, and the Netherlands) use a variety of financial instruments to support innovative businesses. We have engaged with their innovation agencies to learn from these established approaches to support, drive and encourage innovation in the UK. We are conducting market research to engage with, and fully understand the needs of, innovative businesses of all sizes and across many UK industry sectors with a high level of innovation, including life sciences. As part of the first phase of implementation the Government will announce the details of a pilot and accompanying evaluation in late 2016. The pilot will test specific financial products ahead of progressing to full roll-out.



**Stephen Gethins:**

[43451]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with further and higher education sectors on future research funding once the UK leaves the EU.

**Joseph Johnson:**

We want to reassure UK universities there is no immediate effect on them and their students and staff from EU countries. As has been made clear, while the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU funding arrangements continue unchanged. I issued a statement on 28 June addressing the most immediate questions raised by the sector (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-higher-education-and-research-following-the-eu-referendum>). Ministers have also had discussions with a range of higher and further education stakeholders and our priority will be to work with the sector to help shape our approach in the coming months.

The Government intends to maintain and enhance the strength of our research base, which is why we have protected the science resource budget in real terms from its 2015/16 level of £4.7 billion for the rest of the parliament and will seek to secure the best deal possible for UK research in future negotiations.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### ■ Housing: Construction

**Mr David Anderson:**

[42999]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether the Government is ensuring that programmes involving the regeneration of public land require a proportion of the new homes delivered to be accessible for disabled people.

**Gavin Barwell:**

The Government is committed to addressing the supply of new land for housing. The Public Land for Housing programme has set an ambition to dispose of surplus government-owned land in England with capacity for at least 160,000 homes by 2020. And at Budget 2016 the Chancellor announced a local government land ambition to release land with the capacity for a further 160,000 homes. Individual local planning authorities will decide the type and number of homes developed on the land released - including those for disabled people - in order to meet local need. We have put in place new, flexible Building Regulations which allow local authorities to apply appropriate access standards for new homes to meet the needs of their communities while ensuring that development can happen. Building regulations require minimum standards of accessibility for all new dwellings. Local authorities are able to set policies for a proportion of new development to be built to higher standards of accessibility in order to meet local needs in accordance with national planning policy and guidance. The Government is committed to helping older and disabled people to live independently and safely in their own homes for as long as possible. The Disabled Facilities Grant funds the provision of home adaptations (including stair lifts, level access showers and in

some instances home extensions) to help older and disabled people to live as comfortably, safely and independently as possible in their own homes for longer. Since 2010 we have invested over a billion pounds into the grant providing around 250,000 adaptations to older and disabled people's homes in England. Government is also boosting the supply of specialised housing through the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund, with 79 schemes receiving more than £84.2 million to develop up to 2,000 affordable homes over the next few years.

## EDUCATION

### ■ Foreign Students: EU Countries

**Mr Jamie Reed:** [42397]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will take steps to reassure university students that the outcome of the EU referendum will not prevent those students from studying abroad in Europe.

**Joseph Johnson:**

There are no immediate changes following the EU Referendum, including in the circumstances of British citizens studying, or planning to study, in the EU. Future arrangements for studying abroad will need to be considered as part of wider discussions about the UK's relationship with the EU.

**Craig Whittaker:** [43115]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the outcome of the EU referendum on the ability of UK students studying language courses to work, study and live in other EU countries.

**Joseph Johnson:**

There are no immediate changes following the EU Referendum, including in the circumstances of British citizens studying, or planning to study, in the EU. Future arrangements for studying abroad will need to be considered as part of wider discussions about the UK's relationship with the EU. For further information, see the Government Statement at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-higher-education-and-research-following-the-eu-referendum>

### ■ Foreign Students: European Economic Area

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** [42374]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to safeguard the status of UK nationals studying in other member states of the EEA as a result of the outcome of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The EU referendum result has no immediate effect on students abroad or those applying for 2016/17. Payments will be made in the usual way. Access after we leave the EU is a matter for the forthcoming negotiations.

## ■ Higher Education

**Jeff Smith:** [\[42759\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure that academics in the UK will be able to continue collaborating with academics in universities in EU member states after the UK leaves the EU.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The EU Erasmus+ programme provides opportunities for schools and colleges to collaborate with their counterparts in Europe, and with universities. Access to the programme after we leave the EU is a matter for the forthcoming exit negotiations.

**Paul Blomfield:** [\[42984\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2016 to Question 42021, if she will make it her policy to consult on the detail of the proposed changes to the Degree Awarding Powers before the Higher Education and Research Bill becomes law.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The Higher Education and Research Bill provides for powers to vary or revoke Degree Awarding Powers. We plan to set out the proposed changes to the exact Degree Awarding Powers requirements and processes in new DfE criteria and guidance. The department intends to consult on the detail before publishing this guidance. Subject to the passage of the bill, we intend to consult before summer 2017.

## ■ Students: Hearing Impaired

**Richard Fuller:** [\[42694\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the number of sign language interpreters and electronic note takers registered with the Disabled Students Allowance Quality Assurance Group to provide support to deaf students from September 2016.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The Department is currently working with Disabled Students' Allowances Quality Assurance Group to review the number of support workers that have registered to provide each support role funded through Disabled Students' Allowances. Organisations and individuals are continuing to register to provide these roles, so final figures are not yet available. We will not be able to confirm these numbers until the first DSA QAG audit cycle is completed (which will include an audit of staff details), in December 2017.

The Student Loans Company will monitor any reports about the supply of non-medical support so as to identify whether there are any issues with their availability.

**■ Students: Loans**

**Valerie Vaz:** [42641]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the proportion of student loan borrowers who took out their loan after 2012 who have read the contract terms contained in a separate online document.

**Joseph Johnson:**

All borrowers applying for support must sign a declaration to confirm that they have read and understood the terms and conditions that apply to their loans.

**Valerie Vaz:** [42642]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has conducted an (a) impact and (b) equality assessment of the effect that freezing the student repayment threshold at £21,000 for five years will have on (i) low-income, (ii) women, (iii) BAME and (iv) disabled graduates; whether she plans to amend that threshold; and if she will make a statement.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The Department carried out an Equality Analysis in November 2015, which is available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/479559/bis-15-635-freezing-student-loan-repayment-threshold-equality-analysis.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479559/bis-15-635-freezing-student-loan-repayment-threshold-equality-analysis.pdf). We have already announced that the threshold will be frozen for five years from April 2016, and it will be reviewed for April 2021, and we have no plans to change this.

**Valerie Vaz:** [42643]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department plans to alter the terms and conditions of student loans for existing borrowers.

**Joseph Johnson:**

My department has no current plans to alter the terms and conditions of student loans for existing borrowers.

**■ Universities**

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** [42512]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effect of the outcome of the EU referendum on the long-term ability of universities to maintain current levels of educational provision; and if she will make a statement.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The UK has some of the best universities and researchers in the world, and international students, academics and researchers play a significant part in that success. The impacts of the decision to leave the EU on universities will depend on a number of factors including the timing of the UK's exit from the EU and the details of our future relationship with the EU. Those are decisions for the new Prime Minister. The UK

remains a member of the EU, and we continue to meet our obligations and receive relevant funding.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### ■ British Indian Ocean Territory: Military Bases

**Mr Alistair Carmichael:**

[\[43346\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions his Department has had with the US administration on the extension of the use of British Indian Ocean Territory by the US for defence and other purposes in accordance with the agreement of 1966.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

We regularly meet the US at senior official level to discuss cooperation on Diego Garcia. The most recent meeting was held in June in Washington.

### ■ Companies: Ownership

**Jonathan Ashworth:**

[\[43422\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what plans the Government has to force Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies to establish public central registers of beneficial ownership.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

While the Overseas Territories (OTs) and Crown Dependencies (CDs) are separate jurisdictions, and are responsible for their own fiscal matters, we are working closely with them on their role on company transparency. Our priority has been for them to establish a central register of beneficial ownership information (or a similarly effective system) where they do not already have one, and for UK law enforcement and tax authorities to have full and automatic access to that information. Bilateral arrangements to this effect have now been concluded with all the relevant OTs and with the CDs, and these will enter into effect by June 2017. The registers will, with one exception, not be public, but these measures will place our Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories well ahead of other similar jurisdictions and represent a significant step forward in our ability to counter criminal activity.

### ■ Diego Garcia: Aviation

**Mr Alistair Carmichael:**

[\[43452\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the status is of the monthly log of flights which passed through Diego Garcia between January 2002 and January 2009; and whether those logs are available to be published.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The monthly logs between January 2002 and January 2009 along with all other historic flight records held by the FCO, were released to the ISC in December 2015.

■ **Diego Garcia: Detainees**

**Mr Alistair Carmichael:** [\[43347\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the latest arrangements are between the UK and US governments on holding detainees in Diego Garcia.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The US provides the UK with an annual assurance that they have not held any detainees in, nor transported any detainees through, the territorial land, air or seas of the United Kingdom or its territories. The latest assurance was sent on 27 June 2016. Diego Garcia is one of the UK territories.

■ **EU Internal Relations**

**Mr Jamie Reed:** [\[42275\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to maintain relationships with his European counterparts as a result of the outcome of the UK referendum.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) and I have spoken to a number of European colleagues since taking office to discuss a full range of international business, and will continue to do so.

■ **Foreign and Commonwealth Office: UK Withdrawal from EU**

**Tom Brake:** [\[41970\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of which policy areas within his Department's remit will be affected by the outcome of the EU referendum.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

A new Department for Exiting the European Union has been established by the Prime Minister, which is responsible for overseeing negotiations for the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. It will also lead work to establish the future relationship between the UK and EU. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will work closely with this new Department, as it will with the new Department for International Trade.

■ **France: Terrorism**

**Catherine West:** [\[42882\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his French counterpart about the attack in Nice on 14 July 2016.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

*[Holding answer 20 July 2016]:* The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), spoke to French Foreign Minister Ayrault on 16 July, and again at the Foreign Affairs Council on 18 July, to offer his condolences

for the appalling loss of life in Nice and to stress that the UK will stand shoulder to shoulder with France following this tragedy. We are determined that our close co-operation will continue and the Foreign Secretary offered UK support and assistance to France to help counter the threat of terrorism.

■ **Germany: Thalidomide**

**Scott Mann:**

[42407]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what progress has been made in his talks with the German government on compensation for British citizens affected by Thalidomide.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The UK Government has not been involved in talks with the German Government on compensation for British survivors of Thalidomide. We have been assisting the Thalidomide Trust in making their own representations directly to the German Government.

At the request of representatives of the Thalidomide Trust the then Minister for Europe (Rt Hon David Lidington MP) wrote on 4 February to the German Ambassador to London, setting out the Trust's desire for further discussions with the German Government and requesting his support in raising the matter within Germany. The Ambassador passed this request to the German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The FCO received a response from the Families Ministry on 1 June. In this response the German Government sets out that UK survivors of Thalidomide are able to apply for compensation from the Contergan Foundation For Disabled People.

The Contergan Foundation was established by the German Government to help disabled people whose deformities can be linked to their mothers taking medicinal products during pregnancy which contained thalidomide. While funded in part by the German Government, the Contergan Foundation is independent of the German Government who do not control or influence the awards made. As such the Families Ministry declined to meet the Thalidomide Trust for further discussions and reiterated their belief that British survivors should contact the Contergan Foundation.

The UK Government remains in contact with the Thalidomide Trust to discuss all aspects of this case.

■ **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance**

**Richard Burden:**

[42733]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will list the UK representatives appointed to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

**Alok Sharma:**

*[Holding answer 19 July 2016]:* The list of the members of the UK delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is available on the country pages of the IHRA website. The current UK delegation is:

Sir Eric Pickles (UK Envoy for Post Holocaust Issues) – Head of Delegation Sue Breeze (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) – Deputy Head of Delegation Karen Hamling (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) – Deputy Head of Delegation Samantha Abrahams (Holocaust Educational Trust) - Communication Working Group Paula Cowan (University of the West of Scotland - Faculty of Education, Health and Social Sciences, School of Education) – Academic Working Group Alan Fell (JW3 - Jewish Community Centre London) – Education Working Group Trudy Gold (JW3 - Jewish Community Centre London) Jerold Gotel (JW3 - Jewish Community Centre London) – Education Working Group Ben Helfgott ('45 Aid Society of Holocaust Survivors) – Museums and Memorials Working Group Olivia Marks-Woldman (Holocaust Memorial Day Trust) – Museums and Memorials Working Group Alex Maws (Holocaust Educational Trust) – Education Working Group Michael Newman (Association of Jewish Refugees) – Communication Working Group Alice Pettigrew (Institute of Education, University of London) – Education Working Group Karen Pollock (Holocaust Educational Trust) – Education Working Group Paul Salmons (Institute of Education, University of London) – Education Working Group

## ■ Islamic State

**Kirsten Oswald:**

[\[43327\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has classified the armed conflict with Daesh as international or non-international.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

The United Kingdom is engaged in armed conflict against Daesh in Syria and Iraq which we have classified legally as non-international armed conflict, since Daesh is a non-State actor. We are however quite clear, as is the UN Security Council, that Daesh represent a threat to international peace and security.

## ■ Latvia: World War II

**Dawn Butler:**

[\[42779\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what diplomatic representations the Government made to Latvia on the Latvian Legion Day event on 16 March 2016.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The UK made no representations about the event on 16 March 2016. The Latvian government has made clear that it does not support Legion Day, but that it respects and also guarantees freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

## ■ Republic of Ireland: Foreign Relations

**Andrew Rosindell:**

[\[41921\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Irish counterparts since the EU referendum; and what steps he plans to take



to ensure that relations with the Irish government are unaffected by the outcome of that referendum.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

On 26 July the Prime Minister, my RT Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), held meetings with the Taoiseach in London. They discussed the economic relationship and travel between the UK and Ireland, and the peace process. They agreed that the excellent relationship and strong collaboration between our countries should continue and looked forward to working together to make the most of the opportunities ahead. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) spoke to his Irish counterpart on 18 July at the EU Foreign Affairs Council.

#### ■ Turkey: Capital Punishment

**Stephen Gethins:**

[\[43438\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his Turkish government counterpart on that country's obligations as a Council of Europe member not to re-introduce the death penalty.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

I visited Turkey on 20-21 July to emphasise our unequivocal condemnation of the attempted coup on 15 July and our support for Turkey's democratic institutions. During the visit in meetings with the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and others, I stressed the need for Turkey to respect human rights and the rule of law, and made it clear that the UK was opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances.

#### ■ Turkey: Politics and Government

**Andrew Rosindell:**

[\[43293\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent reports his Department has received on events in Turkey; and what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the coup attempt in that country on the stability of the Middle East.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The Government remains closely engaged with events in Turkey. The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) spoke to President Erdogan on 18 July; the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) spoke to Foreign Minister Cavusoglu on 16 July; and I visited Turkey on 20 and 21 July and met with the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and others. We continue to receive regular reports from HM Ambassador in Ankara and Embassy officials.

We condemn the attempted coup. We call for the full observance of Turkey's constitution and stress the importance of the rule of law prevailing in the wake of this failed coup.

We continue to consider the policy implications of developments in Turkey as the situation there evolves.

## ■ UK Membership of EU: Referendums

**Tom Brake:** [\[41955\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment the Government has made of the potential merits of holding a second referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The Prime Minister has been clear that Brexit means Brexit. We must now prepare for the process to leave the EU and the Government is committed to ensuring the best possible outcome for the British people in the negotiations.

## ■ UK Withdrawal from EU

**Daniel Kawczynski:** [\[42039\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has taken legal advice on whether the European Communities Act 1972 can be repealed by Royal Prerogative.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The process for leaving the EU and determining our future relationship with the EU, including changes to domestic legislation, is likely to be a long and complex one. We now need to work on the detailed arrangements to support that process.

**Mr Jamie Reed:** [\[42268\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will meet representatives of Norway and Switzerland to discuss the outcome of the EU referendum.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The former Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) held discussions with European counterparts and a range of other partners to explain the result of the referendum and next steps. Officials continue to be in frequent contact with their Norwegian and Swiss counterparts and have discussed a range of topics since 24 June, including the outcome of the EU referendum.

**Mr Jamie Reed:** [\[42269\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he plans to meet the President of the European Council to discuss the outcome of the EU referendum.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The former Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) and the former Minister of State, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington), have held discussions with EU counterparts and partners in the EU institutions to explain the result of the referendum and next steps. The former Foreign Secretary had discussed the outcome of the EU referendum with European Parliament President Martin Schulz and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission Federica Mogherini.

## ■ UK Withdrawal from EU: Scotland

**Mr Christopher Chope:**

[\[42762\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what his policy is on whether article 50 of the Treaty on the functioning of the EU enables the EU to negotiate separately with the Scottish Government towards a different agreement to that which applies to the rest of the UK.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

*[Holding answer 19 July 2016]:* The legal and constitutional responsibility for the UK's relationship with the EU lies at Westminster. The Government will fully involve the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Governments to ensure we get the best deal for the UK as a whole.

## ■ UN Refugees and Migrants Summit

**Tom Brake:**

[\[43262\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many delegates and from which Departments the UK plans to send to the UNGA Summit on Refugees and Migrants.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

*[Holding answer 21 July 2016]:* The Government has three priorities for the UNGA Summit on Refugees and Migrants:

- tackling forced displacement, including through conflict prevention and reduction, and safeguarding human rights and protecting civilians
- shared global responsibility for the protection of refugees, as well as for regular, safe, and orderly migration and control of irregular migration; and
- encouraging controlled, regular migration that has significant development benefits.

We are finalising details of the UK delegation, including plans for ministerial attendance.

**Tom Brake:**

[\[43263\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what his objectives are for the upcoming UNGA Summit on Refugees and Migrants.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

*[Holding answer 21 July 2016]:* The Government has three priorities for the UNGA Summit on Refugees and Migrants:

- tackling forced displacement, including through conflict prevention and reduction, and safeguarding human rights and protecting civilians
- shared global responsibility for the protection of refugees, as well as for regular, safe, and orderly migration and control of irregular migration; and
- encouraging controlled, regular migration that has significant development benefits.

We are finalising details of the UK delegation, including plans for ministerial attendance.

Tom Brake:

[\[43264\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will attend the UNGA Summit on Refugees and Migrants.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

*[Holding answer 21 July 2016]:* The Government has three priorities for the UNGA Summit on Refugees and Migrants:

- tackling forced displacement, including through conflict prevention and reduction, and safeguarding human rights and protecting civilians
- shared global responsibility for the protection of refugees, as well as for regular, safe, and orderly migration and control of irregular migration; and
- encouraging controlled, regular migration that has significant development benefits.

We are finalising details of the UK delegation, including plans for ministerial attendance.

## ■ Venezuela: Economic Situation

Calum Kerr:

[\[42488\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the government of Venezuela on the ongoing economic situation and food shortages in that country.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

*[Holding answer 20 July 2016]:* The Government shares the concern of the international community regarding the deteriorating economic and humanitarian situation in Venezuela. We have urged all sides to work constructively together in the best interests of the country and the people of Venezuela. We support the planned dialogue between the Venezuelan Government and Opposition, facilitated by the Union of South American Nations regional body. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in contact with their counterparts in the Department for International Development and the EU to discuss what future assistance might be offered, if requested by the Venezuelan Government.

## ■ Venezuela: Human Rights

Calum Kerr:

[\[42489\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has made representations to his Venezuelan counterpart on reports of detention without charge, arbitrary detentions, the excessive use of force by security forces and other human rights violations in that country.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

*[Holding answer 20 July 2016]:* The Government shares the concern of the international community regarding the deteriorating political situation in Venezuela. The then Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), conveyed his concerns at the detention of prominent political opposition figures, and human rights more generally,

directly to the Venezuelan Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister at bilateral meetings held in London during 2015. He has also discussed Venezuela extensively with counterparts from across the region.

Since 2012, we have funded 22 human rights and democracy projects in Venezuela, with both Government and Non-Government Organisations. These projects have varied from protecting the rights of indigenous people to supporting political dialogue and reconciliation and the promotion of electoral reform.

Venezuela was designated a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Priority Country for 2016/2017 in April. This status will allow us to further expand our work on human rights and democracy in the country, including project work with local communities.

## ■ Venezuela: Politics and Government

**Calum Kerr:**

[\[42299\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent reports he has received on the steps taken by the Venezuelan government in response to shortages of basic commodities and political unrest in that country.

**Sir Alan Duncan:**

The Government shares the concern of the international community regarding the deteriorating political, economic and social situation in Venezuela.

We have urged all sides to work constructively in the best interests of the country and the people of Venezuela. We support the planned dialogue between the Venezuelan Government and Opposition, facilitated by the Union of South American Nations regional body.

We are aware of the acute shortages of basic foods and medicines. On 10 July, parts of Venezuela's border with Colombia were opened temporarily for the first time since August 2015. This allowed thousands of Venezuelans to cross into Colombia to purchase basic food and medicines. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in contact with their counterparts in the Department for International Development and the EU to discuss what future assistance might be offered, if asked by the Venezuelan Government

## HOME OFFICE

### ■ Hate Crime

**Greg Mulholland:**

[\[43382\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of hate crime were reported in each region in the last 12 months.

**Sarah Newton:**

The Home Office collects information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police on an annual basis. The most recently published data are for 2014/15 and are shown in the attached table.

Data for 2015/16 are due to be published in October 2016.

This Government is committed to tackling hate crime. The UK has one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to tackle hate crime. We are working across Government with police, (including National Community Tensions Team), the Crown Prosecution Service and community partners to send out a clear message that hate crime will not be tolerated and we will vigorously pursue and prosecute those who commit these crimes.

**Attachments:**

1. Hate crimes recorded [Table 43382.xls]