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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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# Written Statements

*Monday, 16 January 2017*

## Defence Infrastructure Review

[HLWS414]

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

Defence infrastructure is a vital component in enabling the Armed Forces to train and prepare for operations, and for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to deliver its outputs. The MOD spends nearly £5 billion each year operating, maintaining, constructing and disposing of its extensive infrastructure base, which represents 1.8% of the UK land area.

In November, we announced a long term programme to invest £4 billion over the next decade in an estate that will help deliver Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015's ambitious plan for Joint Force 2025 enabling savings in running costs of £140 million over 10 years, whilst releasing 91 of our most expensive sites by 2040. This will help to deliver the MOD's contribution of land sufficient for 55,000 new homes towards the Government's housing target.

In parallel, we have reviewed how our estate is managed and infrastructure decisions are approached, taken, and implemented across the whole of Defence. This includes the role of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), the Royal Navy, Army and Air Force Commands and MOD Head Office. The aim has been to ensure that every pound we spend on our estate represents optimum value for money.

We have reached two principal conclusions from this review. First, we will achieve improved allocation of available funding if infrastructure decisions that bear on the work of the military Commands are taken by them rather than by the DIO. The Commands are better placed to balance infrastructure requirements against other enablers of military capability such as equipment and trained personnel for which they already hold the budgets. In line with the Defence operating model, we therefore plan to delegate this authority, and the relevant funding, to the Commands and to Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) from April 2018, subject to confirmation later this year that all parts of the organisation are ready to support this, and that effective safeguards are in place to ensure that we continue to drive towards a better estate that more efficiently and effectively enables military capability.

Secondly, we will restructure the DIO to operate more effectively in the new delegated environment. This means making it more customer-facing at both the strategic and operational level, improving its internal operation so that it can work better with, and deliver better value from infrastructure providers, and also strengthening its

abilities to act to assure that appropriate standards are being met across the Defence estate and to provide Ministers with advice on the long term affordability of the estate and the strategic implications for the estate of decisions taken by the Commands. Since 2014 a Strategic Business Partner contract has been in place with Capita, under which they lead and manage the DIO. Capita have been instrumental in helping us deliver the Better Defence Estate Strategy and in sustaining specialist capability. We are reviewing with Capita how their continued support can be adapted to the new infrastructure model we now envisage.

## OSCE Ministerial Council, Hamburg

[HLWS415]

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

I represented the United Kingdom at the 23rd Ministerial Council meeting of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), held in Hamburg, Germany on 8-9 December 2016 and hosted by German Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The Council is the top decision-making body of the OSCE and was attended by Ministers from across its 57 participating States.

The Council took place in the final month of a year when the OSCE has continued to be at the centre of the international response to the Ukraine crisis, via its Special Monitoring Mission, its Observer Mission to two Russian checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian border and through its membership of the Trilateral Contact Group. Ukraine remained the core element of many statements in plenary by participating States including by US Secretary of State Kerry, German Foreign Minister Steinmeier, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Klimkin and EU High Representative Mogherini among others. In my interventions in the discussions that took place on 8 December I repeated our strong support for Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity and expressed deep concern at the ongoing situation in eastern Ukraine and Crimea.

A number of other important issues were also discussed. The UK used the event to highlight the need to resolve other protracted conflicts and to minimise the risk of new conflict, including by reducing military risk through conventional arms control. I joined Georgian Foreign Minister Janelidze and other 'Friends of Georgia', including US Secretary of State, John Kerry in expressing our support to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and calling on Russia to reverse its recognition of Georgia's regions as independent states. I also underlined the UK's ongoing support for the OSCE's Autonomous Institutions and its Field Missions including in my bilateral discussions with Michael Link, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and Dunja Mijatović, the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Behind the scenes, the UK delegation continued to negotiate a range of Declarations and Decisions for adoption by the Ministerial Council. These negotiations made progress in a number of areas, resulting in a Declaration welcoming the broad range of the OSCE's project assistance in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. A Declaration on the OSCE Framework for Conventional Arms Control was also agreed, signalling approval for a structured dialogue between participating States on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area. Declarations and Decisions were also made on migration, on reducing the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communication technologies, on enhancing the use of Advance Passenger Information, and on strengthening good governance and promoting economic connectivity.

Divergent approaches limited the scope to reach consensus on a number of proposed Declarations. It was particularly disappointing that disagreement from certain participating States to the inclusion of a reference to

Crimea meant that a Declaration on the OSCE's role in, and support to, Ukraine could not be agreed, despite 56 of the 57 participating States agreeing the text. It was also disappointing that, despite the best efforts of the UK and other States, attempts to agree Decisions in the Human Dimension failed, primarily due to further Russian obstructionism. However, the UK was instrumental in securing the agreement of 42 participating States to a joint Statement on human rights which was delivered by the Ambassador to Norway to the OSCE during the closing session.

I met Irish Foreign Minister Dara Murphy and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavuşoğlu on non OSCE business.

A copy of the UK plenary intervention can be found online on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world-location-news/united-kingdom-statement-to-the-23rd-osce-ministerial-council>.

# Written Answers

Monday, 16 January 2017

## Blue Badge Scheme

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent the abuse of the blue badge scheme for disabled drivers. [[HL4543](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Local authorities are responsible for enforcing the scheme but the Department for Transport has taken a number of steps to assist them: making it easier to withdraw a badge for reasons of misuse; providing local authorities with powers to seize badges on-street; introducing fraud resistant badges; and establishing a single national database of all badges that can be accessed by on-street enforcement officers to identify genuine badge holders.

The Department shares examples of best practice amongst local authorities and is currently hosting a series of regional workshops aimed at making authorities aware of the powers they have to address abuse.

## Church Schools: Admissions

Asked by *Lord Murphy of Torfaen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the comparative demand between regions from parents for places in Catholic schools. [[HL4421](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The department makes no assessment of the comparative demand for specific types of school places. Local authorities (LAs) have a statutory responsibility to ensure there are sufficient school places for their areas and they will take parental demand into account when deciding where additional places are needed. Where there is specific demand for additional Catholic school places, it is for the LA to decide how best to meet that demand. This could be through establishing a new school or expanding an existing school.

## Communities and Local Government: Reviews

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reviews have been announced in Parliament by the Department for Communities and Local Government in the last six years; how many have been completed; how many are still ongoing; and what is the timescale for completion of those reviews still ongoing. [[HL4332](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** There is no formal definition of "reviews". We regularly review our policies, programmes, and projects to ensure that they meet their intended objectives. Important announcements are made to Parliament by way of ministerial statements, replies to

parliamentary questions, or in debate contributions by Ministers.

The information requested is not collated centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

## Defence: Expenditure

Asked by *Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent representations they have made to other members of NATO about the need to reach and maintain the agreed minimum of two per cent per annum of gross domestic product to be spent on defence. [[HL4502](#)]

**Earl Howe:** Government Ministers and officials regularly discuss with NATO Allies the Defence Investment Pledge, which was a key outcome of the NATO summit in Wales in 2014.

The United Kingdom already meets this target, will continue to do so for the rest of this decade, and will increase defence spending by 0.5 per cent above inflation every year until 2021.

## Developing Countries: Sustainable Development

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will conduct the voluntary national review relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [[HL4433](#)]

**Lord Bates:** The Government is considering the best timing for putting itself forward for a voluntary national review at the UN High Level Political Forum. We welcome this year's reviews which provided an opportunity to learn from other countries' approaches to delivering the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what processes they will use in developing the national reports relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [[HL4435](#)]

**Lord Bates:** The Sustainable Development Goals have been integrated into relevant Departments' Single Departmental Plans. Departments will report against progress towards the Goals through their Annual Reports and Accounts.

## Electoral Register: Students

Asked by *Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the effectiveness of the pilot scheme involving combining the electoral registration process with registration to attend Sheffield University, in terms of the proportion of students included on the electoral register through the scheme, compared to the proportion

of students registered to vote at similar-sized universities. [HL4574]

*Asked by Lord Rennard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the advantages or disadvantages to the electoral process of implementing a scheme requiring students, as part of their registration with a college or university, to be given the opportunity to indicate whether or not they would like to be included on the local electoral register, having this information securely transferred to the local authority to check the student's eligibility to vote and, if eligible, adding the student to the electoral register. [HL4575]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The Government part-funded the University of Sheffield pilot, integrating electoral registration with the process of student enrolment, and has encouraged other providers of Higher and Further Education to implement a similar system.

An indicative assessment shows this project had successful outcomes. For example, in the 2015/2016 academic year, the university had 76% of eligible students registered to vote compared with figures as low as 13% for similar sized universities. The Government will further evaluate the University of Sheffield pilot to understand – in detail – the impact of the pilot and its critical success factors. We understand a number of institutions have already introduced a similar approach, or are actively considering doing so.

At the same time, we believe it is unlikely that any single approach would work in all cases. For example, the Sheffield system would not work in areas like London, or with Further Education colleges, where many students live in a different authority area from their institution, impeding the supply of information between the institution and Electoral Registration Officers. Furthermore, smaller institutions would be less able to absorb the costs associated with implementing such a system, risking the withdrawal of money from the frontline, such as providing the most up-to-date ICT equipment. For these reasons – amongst others – we believe it is right that each institution and local authority is able to choose what works best for them rather than introducing any kind of requirement for institutions to integrate enrolment and registration. Indeed, we are already seeing Higher and Further Education providers working closely with Electoral Service teams to deliver innovative ways to increase the number of students on the electoral register. The Government supports the Electoral Commission and Association of Electoral Administrators who are sharing this good practice.

## Environmental Health

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the adequacy of the powers of environmental health officers. [I] [HL4108]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government is satisfied that current legislation provides local authorities with the necessary powers to enforce the provisions of food law and local environment regulations.

## North Korea: Diplomatic Immunity

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Germany concerning reports that that government has stopped applying diplomatic immunity to North Korean diplomats. [HL4480]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We hold regular discussions with the German Government and other EU partners on policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The application of diplomatic immunity to North Korean diplomats in Germany is a matter for the German authorities.

## North Korea: South Korea

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they will take following Kim Jong Un's statement that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) must "wipe out South Korea"; what assurances they have given to the Republic of Korea; and what impact this will have on the UK's foreign policy and engagement with the DPRK. [HL4479]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Republic of Korea is one of the UK's closest partners in Asia and we are committed to its safety and security. We urge the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to end its threatening and aggressive rhetoric and halt its nuclear and ballistic missile programme.

## Prisoners: Suicide

*Asked by Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many female prisoners have been placed on 24-hour watch on at least one occasion in each women's prison in each of the last 12 months. [HL4343]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Information about the use of constant supervision in prisons is not centrally collected.

All prisons are required to have procedures in place to identify, manage and support people who are at risk of harm to themselves. These include the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) process, which is a prisoner-centred, flexible care planning system for those identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm.

A prisoner will be placed under constant supervision where that is determined to be necessary to address an immediate suicidal crisis. Such supervision will be one of a number of supportive measures put in place to manage



the risk and will remain in place only for so long as is strictly necessary.

### **Railway Stations: Accidents**

*Asked by Lord Lucas*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many train-platform interface injuries were recorded in the latest year for which figures are available; how many of those were on driver-only operated trains; and what each figure represents as a proportion of relevant passenger journeys. [HL4418]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** During 2015/16 there were 5 fatalities, 52 major injuries and 1,388 minor injuries recorded on the national rail network in passenger incidents at the platform/train interface; information is not recorded on which of these may have involved trains which were driver-only operated or which had a driver and a guard. These represent, respectively, around one fatality in every 350 million journeys, one major injury in every 30 million journeys, and one minor injury in every 1 million journeys.

### **Railways: Greater London**

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they rejected the application by Transport for London to manage inner suburban rail services south of the Thames; and what evidence they have to support that decision. [HL4450]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Mayor of London presented a business case for the devolution of suburban London services on the South Eastern franchise. This was scrutinised by Departmental officials, analysing the costs and benefits of the proposal including the impact on the South Eastern franchise and the forthcoming competition.

Our analysis highlighted a number of uncertainties in the business case particularly around the operational risks associated with splitting the franchise, and around the benefits that were being claimed.

### **Schools: Radicalism**

*Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to take legal action to prevent the identification to litigants before the National College for Teaching and Leadership disciplinary tribunals of the whistleblowers in the Birmingham "Trojan Horse" investigation; and what is their policy regarding the anonymity of whistleblowing teachers and lecturers. [HL4390]

**Lord Nash:** We take the issue of witness anonymity extremely seriously.

The independent panel overseeing the teacher misconduct case of some of the individuals involved in

the events related to Trojan Horse recently ordered the full disclosure of transcripts of interviews given to Peter Clarke. As a result of the independent panel's direction, lawyers acting on behalf of NCTL wrote to witnesses to inform them of that decision, and stated that in the event that they had any comments or concerns in relation to the disclosure of their transcripts they should contact them. Since the direction, where we have written to witnesses and we have either not yet heard back from them or they have raised concerns, no disclosures have been made. We have informed the independent panel that a number of witnesses have raised concerns, and the panel has indicated that it wishes to consider the issue at a further hearing.

These issues are part of a set of complex legal proceedings and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it was ministers or civil servants who made the initial decision to reveal the names of the whistleblowers in the investigation into the Trojan Horse case in Birmingham schools; and what was the justification for that decision. [HL4476]

**Lord Nash:** We take the issue of witness anonymity extremely seriously.

The independent panel overseeing the teacher misconduct case of some of the individuals involved in the events related to Trojan Horse recently ordered the full disclosure of transcripts of interviews given to Peter Clarke. As a result of the independent panel's direction, lawyers acting on behalf of NCTL wrote to witnesses to inform them of that decision, and stated that in the event that they had any comments or concerns in relation to the disclosure of their transcripts they should contact them. Since the direction, where we have written to witnesses and we have either not yet heard back from them or they have raised concerns, no disclosures have been made. We have informed the independent panel that a number of witnesses have raised concerns, and the panel has indicated that it wishes to consider the issue at a further hearing.

These issues are part of a set of complex legal proceedings and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

### **Schools: Registration**

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools are currently unregistered; and in relation to how many unregistered schools Ofsted carried out investigative work in (1) 2014–15, and (2) 2015–16. [HL4485]

**Lord Nash:** Children have a fundamental right to be safe both in and out of school. We have made it very clear that it is an offence to operate an unregistered independent school. In January 2016, we announced

funding for Ofsted to establish a dedicated team of specialist inspectors to investigate such settings and since that time, there has been a significant escalation of Ofsted investigations.

The number of possible cases of unregistered independent schools that may be operating fluctuates all the time, as new settings come to our attention and existing ones are closed down or are confirmed as not operating as schools.

*Ofsted Annual Report 2015/16: education, early years and skills*, published on 1 December 2016, noted that at the time of publication, Ofsted was working on 152 cases of unregistered settings that they suspected may be

operating as schools. It also reports that from January 2016 to end August 2016 (the end of the period covered by the report), Ofsted inspected 38 such settings; Ofsted issued 19 warning notices telling proprietors to cease operating illegally; and 15 of those providers ceased to operate illegally following those inspections.

A copy of the report is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Ofsted-Annual\_Report\_on\_Education\_&\_skills:2015/16

[Ofsted\_annual\_report\_education\_and\_skills\_2015-16.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-10/HL4485>



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