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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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<b>Lord Prior of Brampton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
<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 Williams of Trafford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Lord Young of Cookham</b>	Whip
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# Written Statements

*Tuesday, 10 January 2017*

## 21st Century Fox/Sky Merger

[HLWS403]

**Baroness Buscombe:** My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Karen Bradley) has made the following Statement:

Sky PLC announced on Friday 9 December that it had received an approach from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox Inc to acquire the 61% share of Sky PLC which it does not already own and I made a statement on 20 December about the proposed merger and the process that would need to be followed.

21st Century Fox have been in contact with my officials and have confirmed that they intend to notify the proposed merger to the European Commission for review under the EU Merger Regulation. Before formal notification, the parties intend to engage in pre-notification discussions with the Commission from January onwards. The timing of a formal notification to the Commission is therefore not fixed and will happen dependent on the parties' ongoing discussions with the Commission. It is in the nature of this process that we cannot know in advance the dates upon which certain steps will happen.

As I made clear to the House on 20 December, I will aim to make a decision on whether or not to intervene within 10 working days of formal notification being made to the European Commission. Given the clear intention of the parties to engage with the Commission informally, I have asked my officials to prepare and put in place the necessary procedures to ensure that when I need to make a decision I can do so as quickly as possible and with the relevant information in front of me. As such, my officials have commenced their work to analyse the relevance of the public interest considerations as set out in the Enterprise Act 2002 to the merger. In doing so, they will look at the available evidence and will consider representations which are relevant to those specified public interests. This is preparatory work, and I am clear that the point has not yet been reached where I will be taking a decision on whether or not to intervene.

Any decision I do take on whether or not to intervene will be a quasi-judicial one and it is important that I am able to act independently and that the process is scrupulously fair and impartial. As a result, I will not be commenting on the merits of the proposed merger. I do, however, I recognise that this is an issue of significant interest to the public and has raised a lot of interest in Parliament, as well as being a significant issue for the parties concerned. I will therefore be keeping Parliament informed of the process as it moves ahead and will make a further statement when the parties have formally notified the Commission, ahead of making any decision about whether to intervene.

## Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

[HLWS404]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Eighth Review Conference to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention held in Geneva concluded on 25 November 2016.

At the Review Conference, States Parties agreed a Final Declaration reaffirming their continued commitment to the Convention's objectives and their determination to exclude completely the possibility of the use of biological weapons. States Parties reviewed the operation of the Convention and expressed views on its Articles. States Parties agreed that the prohibitions in Article I, defining the scope of the Convention, apply to all scientific and technological developments in the life sciences and in other fields of science relevant to the Convention that have no peaceful purpose.

The Conference also agreed to:

- hold meetings of States Parties of up to five days every year before the next Review Conference in 2021. The first meeting in December 2017 will seek progress on issues of substance and process, aiming to agree a substantive programme of work up to 2021.
- renew for five years the mandate of the three-person Implementation Support Unit, which serves as a focal point and support for States Parties' work under the Convention.
- continue to seek improvements to the Convention's assistance and co-operation database and to ensure specific, timely and concrete offers to States Parties seeking assistance under the Convention.
- renew the sponsorship programme to support participation by States Parties otherwise unable to attend key meetings, funded by voluntary contributions.

The United Kingdom worked closely with other European Union Member States and likeminded partners in preparatory meetings and at the Review Conference to secure an outcome which strengthened implementation of the Convention. Despite our best efforts and the support of an overwhelming majority of States Parties, a more ambitious work plan proved impossible to secure.

The UK will continue to support work in this field, addressing substantive issues with likeminded States Parties and others; where necessary, we will do so outside the formal framework of Convention-sponsored meetings. The UK will engage constructively in future annual meetings of States Parties to support and strengthen the Convention which remains a foundation stone of the international non-proliferation system.

## UK HPR1000 Reactor

[HLWS402]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Energy and Industry (Jesse Norman) has made the following written ministerial statement:

I have today asked the UK's independent nuclear regulators, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency, to begin a Generic Design Assessment of the UK HPR1000 reactor.

This is the nuclear reactor design by China General Nuclear which General Nuclear Services (a subsidiary of Electricite de France SA and China General Nuclear) propose to use at a prospective new nuclear power station at Bradwell in Essex.

In September the Secretary of State confirmed that the Government had decided to proceed with the first new nuclear power station for a generation at Hinkley Point C. This will see the start of a new nuclear programme that will help provide the energy security we require as we move to a low carbon energy future.

The investment by General Nuclear Services (GNS) in committing the resources required for the UK HPR1000 reactor (Hualong Reactor) to go through the Generic

Design Assessment underlines the fact that international companies continue to view investment in the UK's low-carbon energy future positively.

The Government welcomes such investment. The nuclear industry in the UK is subject to a stringent regulatory regime to ensure safety, security and mitigation of any potential environmental detriment. Generic Design Assessment is now an established feature of the regulatory regime and is a respected process for rigorous and transparent nuclear regulation. I am therefore pleased to be asking the regulators to begin to assess the UK HPR1000 reactor through GDA.

As with previous such assessments, the full cost of the GDA will be charged to the Requesting Party (in this case GNS) which submits the design for assessment. This process is independent of any final agreement to commission a reactor of the relevant type.

## Written Answers

Tuesday, 10 January 2017

### Asylum: Children

*Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied children under 16 years of age have been granted asylum in the UK in the past (1) six months, and (2) 12 months. [HL4242]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children granted asylum in each quarter, by age at initial decision, in table as\_09q in volume 3 of the Immigration Statistics asylum data tables. These have been published online on the government website and attached to this answer.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table as\_09q from Volume 3 Immigration Statistics [asylum3-q3-2016-tables (2).xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4242>

### Asylum: Detainees

*Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied child asylum seekers under 16 years of age are currently being held in detention centres; and, of those, how many have been detained for periods of (1) less than six months, (2) six to 12 months, and (3) more than 12 months. [HL4244]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The United Kingdom ended the routine detention of children under the age of 18 years in immigration removal centres in 2010. However, unaccompanied children under the age of 18 may still be detained in limited, very exceptional circumstances, including at the border pending collection by parents or other relatives, or by local authority Children's Services. Under paragraph 18B of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 an unaccompanied child detained for the purpose of removal may not be detained for more than 24 hours and may not be held in an immigration removal centre.

Published Home Office data, including age, on individuals entering, leaving or in detention, solely under Immigration Act powers, at immigration removal centres, short-term holding facilities and pre-departure accommodation can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/546763/detention-q2-2016-tabs.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/546763/detention-q2-2016-tabs.ods). The most recent published statistics (Table Dt 13 q) shows that, as at the end of quarter 2 of 2016, there were no children in immigration detention.

### Greece: Migrant Camps

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Greece regarding the harassment and persecution of non-Muslims in refugee camps and the provision of appropriate protection. [HL4361]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK makes regular representations to the Greek Government and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the need for all individuals in refugee camps to be treated in line with internationally recognised humanitarian standards. The UK has committed up to £34 million to help address the migration crisis through the UNHCR, Non-Governmental Organisations, the Red Cross and the International Organisation for Migration. The Secretary of State for International Development, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel) recently announced a new £8 million Women and Girls Protection Fund to protect women, girls and other vulnerable groups in the Mediterranean region, including Greece.

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Greece regarding the prevention of radicalisation of unaccompanied minors in refugee camps. [HL4363]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have a regular dialogue with the Greek Government on counter-terrorism matters, including the risks of radicalisation in Greece.

In addition, we are working with the Greek authorities to identify unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who may be eligible for the transfer of their claim to the UK where they have close family here, and are working with Greece to identify unaccompanied refugee children in line with the Dubs amendment. As part of its humanitarian programming, the Department for International Development has set up the Refugee Children's Fund for Europe (RCFE). The RCFE is a £10 million one-year programme to provide shelter and protection services to children, especially unaccompanied ones, in Greece and the Balkans.

### Immigrants: Detainees

*Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children under 16 years of age are currently being held in detention centres; and, of those, how many have been detained for periods of (1) less than six months, (2) six to 12 months, and (3) more than 12 months. [HL4243]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The United Kingdom ended the routine detention of children under the age of 18 years in immigration removal centres in 2010. However, unaccompanied children under the age of 18 may still be detained in limited, very exceptional circumstances, including at the border pending collection

by parents or other relatives, or by local authority Children's Services. Under paragraph 18B of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 an unaccompanied child detained for the purpose of removal may not be detained for more than 24 hours and may not be held in an immigration removal centre.

Published Home Office data, including age, on individuals entering, leaving or in detention, solely under Immigration Act powers, at immigration removal centres, short-term holding facilities and pre-departure accommodation can be found in the table attached.

The most recent published statistics (Table Dt 13 q) shows that, as at the end of quarter 2 of 2016, there were no children in immigration detention.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Detention Statistics [detention-q2-2016-tabs.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4243>

## Immigration: EU Nationals

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many EU nationals in the United Kingdom have obtained the right to permanent residency; and how many applications for permanent residency are pending. [HL4131]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** EU nationals who have lived continuously and lawfully in the UK for at least 5 years automatically acquire a permanent right to reside under EU law. They can if they wish apply for documentation to confirm this right but there is no obligation nor requirement to do so. Statistics on grants of Documents Certifying Permanent Residence issued to EEA nationals are published quarterly in table ee\_02\_q of Immigration Statistics, which has been attached to this response.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

EEA Statistics [eea-q3-2016-tables.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-14/HL4131>

## Missing Persons

*Asked by Lord Morrow*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the letter from Karen Bradley MP to Lord Morrow on 21 February 2014 (CTS Ref MS16/14), what assessment they have made of the actions taken by police after the victim of Keith and Caroline Baker was reported missing from her home in England in 2004. [HL3997]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Department does not hold any information on this case.

## Refugees: Children

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish responses to the reports by (1) Help Refugees, Life for the Children of the Calais Jungle Post Eviction—An Uncertain Future, published on 15 December, and (2) the Oasis Foundation, A Moral Imperative: The UK's Response to Unaccompanied Child Refugees. [HL4174]

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the 10,000 missing unaccompanied child refugees in Europe, as estimated by Europol in January, have since been identified; and what assessment they have made of the extent to which those identified were then given appropriate care. [HL4175]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government values the work of NGOs and the volunteers, who have played a crucial role in Calais supporting children. The primary responsibility for unaccompanied children in Europe lies with the State in which they are present. There are no easy answers but our humanitarian and resettlement efforts will continue, as will our work with European and international partners to reach a political resolution so that those who have been displaced by conflict can eventually return to their homes and livelihoods in peace. The Government has established a £10 million Refugee Children Fund for Europe to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe. The UK is the largest bilateral contributor to the humanitarian response to the crisis in Europe and the Balkans with a total allocation of £70 million.

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many registered child refugees in France have been refused admission into the United Kingdom; and how many of those have been provided with written explanations for the decision. [HL4198]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK has been working closely with the French authorities to transfer eligible children to the UK under the Dublin Regulation and section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Since 10 October, we have transferred over 750 asylum seeking children from France. All unaccompanied asylum seeking children with close family in the UK will continue to be considered for transfer under the criteria set out in the Dublin Regulation, and the Government has committed to further transfers under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

We have been working closely with the French Government to communicate with the children. All remaining children should claim asylum in France.



*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children had been brought to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 by 20 December. [HL4287]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has transferred more than 750 children to the UK in support of the French operation to clear the Calais camp under both the family reunification provisions of the Dublin Regulation and the terms of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

More eligible children will be transferred from Europe, in line with the terms of the Immigration Act, in the coming months and we will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin Regulation.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 is still available to unaccompanied children in Europe who meet the defined criteria, on which guidance was published on 8 November. [HL4288]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has transferred more than 750 children to the UK in support of the French operation to clear the Calais camp under both the family reunification provisions of the Dublin Regulation and the terms of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

More eligible children will be transferred from Europe, in line with the terms of the Immigration Act, in the coming months and we will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin Regulation.

### Refugees: Greece

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that non-Muslim civilians who have been forced to flee from Greek refugee camps are eligible to apply for refugee status in the UK. [HL4362]

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Greece on preventing radicalised refugees from entering the UK. [HL4364]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There is no provision in the Immigration Rules for people to travel to the UK to claim asylum and we have no plans to change that. An individual should apply for protection from the authorities in the first available safe country or through the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

We work closely with European Union Member States to share best practice on preventing individuals from becoming radicalised and to share information relating to people of interest for law enforcement, immigration and border control purposes.

Individuals granted refugee status in another Member State are subject to the same visa requirements to enter the UK as other third country nationals. Any person arriving at the UK border is subject to stringent security checks and we will deny entry to individuals who present a risk to national security.

### Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 review will be published on the Home Office website. [HL4294]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has commenced the formal review of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 as required by section 18 of that Act. We will publish the findings of the review when completed during 2017.

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will extend the deadline for their consultation on the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 so that small dealers, including those from the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, can contribute. [HL4295]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have asked for written evidence to inform the review of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to be submitted by 30 January 2017.

We will, however, consider any reasonable request to submit evidence beyond this date, to ensure that we hear from as wide a range of interested parties as possible, including small dealers such as those from Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that oral consultation will be made available to scrap metal dealers from the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities during the consultation on the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013. [HL4296]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is in contact with representatives of the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities to enable them to present their evidence relating to the review of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 orally.

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adverse impact of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, and in particular its licensing requirements and fees, on dealers from the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities. [HL4297]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The formal review of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 will provide the Government with the opportunity to assess issues relating to scrap metal dealer licences, including the impact of the

licensing requirements on scrap metal dealers, including those from the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.

### **Sexual Offences: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Morrow*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 6 December (HL3671) concerning the actions taken by police after the victim of Keith and Caroline Baker was

reported missing from her home in England in 2004, why no assessment has been made; and whether they now intend to review the actions taken by police. [[HL4352](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This is an operational matter for the police and it would not be appropriate for the Department to undertake a review of police actions in this case.



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