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Tuesday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Tuesday, 15 November 2016

General Affairs Council: November 2016

[HLWS251]

Lord Bridges of Headley: My right honourable friend the Minister of State, the Department for Exiting the European Union (David Jones) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) on Tuesday 15 November is expected to focus on: preparation for the December European Council; October European Council follow-up: the Mid-Term Review of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF); the Commission Work Programme 2017 and a joint institutional declaration on legislative programming for the coming year; rule of law; and the Roadmap for the European Semester 2017.

Preparation for the December European Council

The annotated agenda for the December European Council has been issued and will cover: migration, security, economic and social development - youth, and external relations. In line with the PM's commitment, the UK will play a full and constructive role at the December European Council and in discussions at the GAC to prepare it.

October European Council follow-up

The Presidency will present an update on the implementation of the October 2016 European Council Conclusions on migration, trade, Russia and other global and economic issues.

Mid-Term Review of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

Following initial discussions in September and October, there will be a further discussion on the Commission's proposals regarding the Mid-Term Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Commission Work Programme 2017

Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans will present the Commission Work Programme (CWP) 2017. The CWP is adopted annually by the European Commission. It contains a list of the legislative and non-legislative priorities that the Commission intends to bring forward in the course of the following calendar year.

Inter-Institutional Agreement on 'Better Law-Making'

The Council, Commission and Parliament are to agree a 'joint declaration' on the priorities for the EU for the year ahead, based on the Commission Work Programme 2017 which was published on 25 October. The Presidency will update on progress at the GAC.

Rule of Law

The Slovak Presidency will present a paper, based on written returns from Member States, assessing the

effectiveness of the annual rule of law discussions among member states.

European Semester 2017

The Presidency will present the timetable for the 2017 round of economic coordination with Member States, otherwise known as the European Semester.

High Speed Two: Update

[HLWS253]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Grayling), has made the following Ministerial Statement.

I would like to update the House on the progress of High Speed Two.

This Government is planning for the future and investing in world class transport infrastructure to ensure that the UK can seize opportunities and compete on the global stage.

In a clear signal of how work is progressing on HS2 Phase One, this morning I am announcing that the following companies have been awarded the Phase One Enabling Works contracts:

- Area South - CS JV (Costain Group Plc, Skanska Construction UK Limited)
- Area Central - Fusion JV (Morgan Sindall plc, BAM Nuttall Limited, Ferrovial Agroman (UK) Limited)
- Area North - LM JV (Laing O'Rourke Construction Limited, J. Murphy & Sons Limited)

These contracts are worth up to £900m in total and cover the whole of Phase One. The works include archaeological investigations, site clearance and the setting up of construction compounds ahead of the start of the main civil engineering work.

Today I have published a command paper, 'High Speed Two: From Crewe to Manchester, the West Midlands to Leeds and beyond', and accompanying maps setting out the detail of my preferred route for HS2 from Crewe to Manchester, and from the West Midlands to Leeds, with junctions onto the existing network. This is known as HS2 Phase 2b.

This means that following on from the 2013 consultation and work we have done since, I am pleased today to be confirming the majority of the route. There are also a number of cases, including the proposed route through South Yorkshire recommended by Sir David Higgins in a report earlier this year, where I am proposing substantial refinements. I am launching a consultation to seek the views of communities and other interested parties before reaching a decision on those sections next year.

In all, there are seven refinements on which we are consulting, these are:

On the western leg:

- To move the previously proposed Rolling Stock Depot at Golborne to a site north of Crewe;

- To move the approach to Manchester Piccadilly 370 metres eastwards with the northern tunnel portal in Ardwick, to avoid direct impacts on residential properties and a school at West Gorton; and,
- To move the route in the Middlewich - Northwich area in Cheshire up to 800 metres westwards.

On the eastern leg:

- To move the route to the east of Measham in Leicestershire, avoiding the most significant impacts on local manufacturing businesses and development sites;
- To go around instead of tunnel under East Midlands Airport;
- To amend the alignment of the preferred route as it passes through Long Eaton to reduce severance in the local community and reduce impacts on the highway network and existing rail infrastructure; and,
- To move the alignment of the route from Derbyshire to West Yorkshire to reflect a change in the proposals for serving the Sheffield city region, as recommended by Sir David Higgins in his report “Sheffield and South Yorkshire” published in July 2016.

In order to ensure our case is robust we have of course considered alternatives to the Phase 2b scheme, but we have found no alternative that could deliver the same level of benefit for the country.

I am also issuing Safeguarding Directions for the whole of the preferred Phase 2b route today. This protects the preferred route from conflicting development. But it also means that those people who are most affected by the plans to build Phase 2b will now be able to access statutory compensation.

In addition, I will be consulting on discretionary property schemes. These will go over and above what is required by law and give assistance to those who will be adversely affected by the railway. These schemes are the same as those currently in operation for people living along the Phase One route and I aim to be able to confirm the schemes on which I am consulting for Phase 2b next year.

Two of these schemes will enter into operation on an interim basis, from today, these are Express Purchase and Need to Sell. Further information on property schemes can be found at www.gov.uk/hs2

I am placing copies of the documents in the Libraries of both Houses. Following consultation I plan to make a decision on these route refinements next year and to bring forward a hybrid Bill on Phase 2b to lay before Parliament in 2019.

HS2 is an ambitious and exciting project and we must seize the opportunity it offers to transform our country for future generations. The route decision I have published today takes us an important step closer to realising the full potential of HS2.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Command [Command Paper.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-11-15/HLWS255/>

Higher Education and Research Bill: EVEL

[HLWS255]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: My honourable friend the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation (Jo Johnson MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce the publication of analysis of English Votes for English Laws in relation to Government amendments to the Higher Education and Research Bill at Commons Report

The English Votes for English Laws process applies to public bills in the House of Commons. To support the process, the Government has agreed that it will provide information to assist the Speaker in considering whether to certify that Bill or any of its provisions for the purposes of English Votes for English Laws.

The memorandum provides an assessment of tabled Government amendments to the Higher Education and Research Bill, for the purposes of English Votes for English Laws, ahead of Commons Report. The Department's assessment is that the amendments do not change the territorial application of the Bill.

This analysis reflects the position should all the Government amendments be accepted.

I have deposited a copy in the Library of the House of Commons.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Memorandum on English Votes for English Laws
[memorandum.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-11-15/HLWS255/>

HMRC Contract: Concentrix

[HLWS252]

Lord Young of Cookham (Lord in Waiting): My honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Ellison) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has concluded discussions with Concentrix regarding the negotiated early exit of its contract to investigate fraud and error in the tax credits system.

As previously announced to the House, HMRC acted quickly to address the unacceptable level of customer service that tax credits claimants faced when contacting Concentrix and as a result, HMRC took back a significant number of cases. All 181,000 cases HMRC took back from Concentrix have been finalised. As of 13 November HMRC has completed around 28,500 of the approximately 32,500 requests for review of Concentrix

decisions (known as Mandatory Reconsiderations) and will continue to handle any new cases as they arise.

On 14 September, the House was informed that HMRC would not be extending its contract with Concentrix beyond its scheduled expiry date in May 2017. On 26 October, the House was further updated that HMRC had entered into discussions with Concentrix on a negotiated early exit from the contract. Those discussions have now concluded and the Chief Executive and Permanent Secretary of HMRC has decided to bring the contract to an early close.

As a result of the contract ending, around 250 Concentrix staff have transferred to HMRC following completion of appropriate checks and HMRC has put in place a programme of induction and training. All these new staff are to receive formal training and support from team members, their managers and from subject experts. Managers will also receive bespoke management training to assist them in supporting teams.

The latest estimated saving to the Exchequer from reducing fraud and error as a result of this contract is £193 million. The amount paid to Concentrix over the life of the contract is approximately £32.5 million.

The £32.5 million overall cost of the contract includes the following:

HMRC has paid approximately £15.3 million in 2016-17 with respect to work completed or work in progress at the end of the contract.

As part of this, HMRC has applied the provisions of the contract that allow for reductions in payment when Concentrix has not achieved the required levels of performance against the indicators. For 2016-17, HMRC reduced payments to Concentrix by £1.9 million, and over the lifetime of the contract payments to Concentrix were reduced by a total of £3.5 million.

HMRC has paid approximately £500,000 towards some of Concentrix's exit costs from its subcontracts.

Tackling error and fraud in the tax credits system remains a priority for the Government, and HMRC will continue to bear down on this. However HMRC recognises that the service provided to tax credit claimants deteriorated in recent months, which is why HMRC has negotiated an early exit from this contract. The National Audit Office has announced a wider examination of the contract, and HMRC will be working with them on their report.

Off-payroll Review 2014-15

[HLWS254]

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

The Treasury has concluded its annual evaluation of departments' compliance with the rules governing off-payroll appointments in central government for 2014-15.

Specific rules implemented in 2012 require departments' most senior staff to be on payroll, and departments now have stronger powers to seek assurance in relation to the tax arrangements of their long-term, high-paid contractors who are off-payroll. These rules do not cover other off-payroll engagements, which will include a broader category of staff and public sector organisations.

Below board-level off-payroll engagements

These rules apply where a new off-payroll engagement is for more than six months with a daily rate above £220. All engagements from 23 August 2012 meeting these criteria must include contractual provisions that allow the department to seek assurance that the worker is either not a disguised employee, or, if they are, that they are paying the right amount of tax and national insurance contributions. If assurance is not provided the contract must be terminated. For any individuals where their engagement has either been terminated, ended as a result of the assurance process, or ended after assurance was sought but before it was received, departments have been asked to provide personal details of the worker to HMRC for further investigation.

In accordance with the guidance, departments adopt a risk-based approach in deciding which contractors to seek formal assurance from. In 2014-15, departments sought assurance on the tax affairs of **3,034** of their contractors and informed the Treasury that they received satisfactory assurances from **2,530** of these engagements. In the remaining **504** cases, contracts were either terminated or came to an end before assurance was received. Referrals to HMRC occurred in all relevant cases across government. Further details can be found in the table annexed.

The review found that not all relevant contracts contained the clause required to allow departments to seek assurance. At the time of the review period the rules had been in place for over 2 years, and it is reasonable to expect departments to have these clauses in place. Departments can expect to be fined if breaches of this nature are found in the next review.

Board-level and senior appointments

The rules also specify that board-level appointments and those with significant financial responsibility should be on the payroll of the department or other employing body, unless there are genuinely exceptional circumstances. Any such exceptions should not exist for longer than six months.

The review has uncovered two cases where there have been breaches of these rules. The Ministry of Defence and Department for Communities and Local Government have brought to my attention instances where a board member or senior official with significant financial responsibility at their arm's length bodies remained off-payroll for longer than 6 months. Steps have been taken to resolve these breaches and, as the value of the salaries in question was considerably below the £58,200 annual rate at which

Treasury monitors non-board level appointments, I have decided not to impose sanctions this time.

As in previous years, the review found instances where off-payroll workers at board level or with significant financial responsibility have been seconded to the department from another organisation. Where the full value of payments from the department to the individual are put through the payroll of the seconding organisation this has not been treated as a breach of the Treasury rules.

Next steps

The Treasury will continue to monitor department's compliance with these rules and will conduct a similar review for the 2015-16 financial year. The Treasury is keen to increase compliance both with the Treasury rules, and also with the 'intermediaries legislation' – the tax rules for disguised employees.

While not directly covered by this review, the 'intermediaries legislation' will apply to some of the engagements covered by the Treasury rules, and the government's overall assessment is that compliance with this legislation, across the contractor population as a whole, is only 1 in 10. A separate consultation published on 26 May 2016 proposed moving the responsibility and liability for applying the intermediaries rules from the individual to the public sector engager or agency. The government will announce the outcome of that consultation shortly.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Attached Table for Off-payroll Engagements WMS [(Table) WMS Off-payroll review 2014-15.docx.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-11-15/HLWS254/>

Written Answers

Tuesday, 15 November 2016

Agriculture: Seasonal Workers

*Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the demand for seasonal workers in the agricultural industry to ensure crops are harvested in the required timescales. [[HL2807](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Supporting our farmers and protecting the environment will form an important part of our exit from the EU. We are now focused on making sure that all our policies are delivering for the UK and to grow our world-leading food and farming industry.

We regularly meet farmers and industry representatives and are well aware of the challenges farmers face as their need for workers fluctuates depending on the season and the state of the crop.

With regard to seasonal labour, until we leave the EU, there are no changes to labour movements. Defra is very aware that migrant workers from other EU countries will be one of the complex issues that will have to be resolved as part of our exit negotiation and future relationship with the EU. We are currently working with colleagues across government to understand the issues and explore options.

Agriculture: Subsidies

*Asked by **Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to introduce a subsidy ceiling on farm payments; and if so, what ceiling. [[HL2788](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: There are currently no plans to introduce a subsidy ceiling on farm payments. Previously, the Government has opposed the European Commission's proposals for capping farm payments due to the risk that to do so would simply encourage farms to restructure into smaller, and perhaps, less efficient units to avoid losing out on payments.

However, the government is looking at how best to support farming and the countryside after we leave the EU.

Air Pollution: Urban Areas

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Chesterton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their policies for reducing air pollution in cities include expanding the areas of planting of trees and other vegetation on the ground and on buildings by public and private organisations. [[HL2893](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Air Quality Expert Group, a group of independent air quality experts responsible for advising the Government, is currently

working on a report considering air quality impacts of tree planting.

The Government is currently considering the extent to which trees might be used as part of the wider mix of actions to improve air quality and this will be informed by the above report.

Arctic: Russia

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Chesterton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the House of Lords Arctic Committee's Responding to a Changing Arctic report, what steps they are taking with other EU and Arctic Council countries to exchange data with Russia about the Arctic region, especially regarding the methane and dangerous greenhouse gases being generated in this region. [[HL2894](#)]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Arctic Council plays a key role in gathering and acting on evidence about environmental change in the region. As an Observer State, the UK engages periodically with the Arctic Council's Black Carbon and Methane Expert Group, including through submitting its National Report on Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions Reduction in 2015. This was done alongside seven other nations and the EU.

In October 2016, scientists from UK, Russia, EU and Arctic Council countries met. One of the main issues discussed was the consequence of thawing permafrost in Russia. A key outcome of the discussions will be the development of a roadmap for future research, monitoring and collaboration.

The Government recognises the importance of understanding change in the Russian Arctic and looks forward to seeing valuable new opportunities arising from the new Agreement on Enhancing Arctic Scientific Cooperation reached by the Arctic States this year. This is expected to be signed and come into operation in 2017. The Government will continue to support UK scientific engagement with the Russian Arctic through the work of the Natural Environment Research Council Arctic Office and others.

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by **Lord Ouseley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in recruiting black and ethnic minority personnel to the armed services in each year from 2010 to 2015, excluding those from the Commonwealth. [[HL2878](#)]

Earl Howe: The Defence workforce is not representative of the demographic within society. In order to address this the Defence Diversity and Inclusion Programme was established to increase the diversity of the civilian and military workforce, and to create a more inclusive working environment in which people are able to reach their full potential.

The Armed Forces are working towards a target of 10 per cent of recruits to come from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds by 2020, as announced by the Prime Minister prior to the 2015 election. Additionally, the Minister for the Armed Forces agreed a 15 per cent female recruitment target by 2020.

Information on recruitment of black and ethnic minority people to the UK Armed Forces from 2010 to 2015, excluding those from the Commonwealth, is shown below.

Table 1:

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) intake^{6,7} to UK Regular Forces¹ and Future Reserves 2020² (FR20) excluding personnel from the Commonwealth by calendar year

12 Month ending	31 December 2010	31 December 2011	31 December 2012	31 December 2013	31 December 2014	31 December 2015
UK Regulars and FR20	*	*	*	600	820	1,040
UK Regulars	370	400	500	430	570	640
FR20 ³	*	*	*	160	250	400

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Rounding: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sums of their rounded parts.

*Unavailable

1. UK Regular Forces comprise full-time personnel but does not include Gurkhas, Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel and Reservists.

2. Future Reserves 2020 includes volunteer reserves who are mobilised, High Readiness Reserves (HRR) and volunteer reserve personnel serving on Additional Duties Commitment (ADC) or FTRS contracts. Sponsored Reserves who provide a more cost effective solution than volunteer reserves are also included in the Army Reserve FR20. Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) and University Officer Cadets and Regular Reservists are excluded.

3. Figures for FR20 Volunteer Reserves are only available from April 2012 onwards.

4. It is not mandatory for Service personnel to declare their ethnicity on the Joint Personnel Administrative (JPA) system. Figures reflect the number of personnel who declared themselves as BAME on JPA.

5. Figures are based on personnel with a known nationality as reported on JPA.

6. Intake to UK Regular Forces comprises new entrants, re-entrants, direct trained entrants (including professionally qualified officers), intake to the Army from the Gurkhas and intake from the Reserves. All movements within the Regular Forces, including flows from untrained to trained strength, transfers between Services and flows from rank to officer due to promotion are excluded.

7. Intake to FR20 comprises new entrants, Regular to Reserve transfers, Reserve re-joiners, and Reserve personnel joining from another part of the Reserves that are not included in the FR20 target population. Intake to

UK Regular Forces comprises new entrants, re-entrants, direct trained entrants (including professionally qualified officers), intake to the Army from the Gurkhas and intake from the Reserves. It excludes all movements within the Regular Forces; including flows from untrained to trained strength, transfers between Services and flows from rank to officer due to promotion.

Asylum: Children

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the recommendations concerning guardianship in paragraphs 320 and 321 of the 2nd report of the EU Select Committee Children in Crisis:

unaccompanied migrant children in the EU, published on 26 July, and concerning the availability of legal aid for unaccompanied migrant children for the purposes of proceedings for family reunification, in paragraph 291. [HL2873]

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to ensure that child asylum applicants admitted to the UK are not moved to areas where specialist legal advice on immigration matters is unavailable. [HL2874]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government responded to the European Union Committee's report on 1 November. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) are looked after by local authorities, in keeping with arrangements for other children. They are provided with a social worker and an independent reviewing officer to oversee their care arrangements, as well as access to an independent advocate and an independent visitor. We are working with the Legal Aid Agency and local authorities to ensure that UASC get the legal advice they need.

Children are not eligible to sponsor relatives for family reunion under the Immigration Rules. Allowing them to do so would create perverse incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and

risk dangerous journeys to the UK rather than stay with their family and seek protection in the first safe country they reach.

Atrial Fibrillation

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of clinical commissioning groups commission community pharmacists to support patients with atrial fibrillation to adhere to anticoagulation therapy. [HL2896]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Information on the number of clinical commissioning groups commissioning such a service from community pharmacies is not held centrally.

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to run a public awareness campaign to improve the diagnosis of atrial fibrillation. [HL2897]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Public Health England (PHE) has recently run a Be Clear on Cancer campaign to raise awareness of respiratory symptoms, including breathlessness, which can be a symptom of Atrial Fibrillation.

The campaign aimed to encourage those with inappropriate breathlessness or a persistent cough lasting three weeks or more to go and see their general practitioner.

PHE also manages the Act FAST campaign to raise awareness of the signs of a stroke and encourage people to call 999 immediately, so that those experiencing a stroke get to hospital as soon as possible. People seen within three hours have a better chance of recovery and reduced disability. The campaign focuses on the FAST acronym that helps people to recognise the signs of stroke and understand the importance of emergency treatment. Atrial Fibrillation is one of the most common forms of abnormal heart rhythm and a major cause of stroke.

BBC Monitoring: Finance

Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to fund the monitoring work of the BBC directly through grant in aid. [HL2962]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The BBC is responsible for the funding, staffing and administration of the Monitoring service, which is provided under a specific agreement between the BBC and government, with the Cabinet Office being the lead department. The monitoring service is funded through the licence fee and there are no plans to change this arrangement.

Belfast Agreement

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 31 October

(HL2406), whether parity of esteem, as set out in the Belfast Agreement 1998, relates to (1) individuals, (2) communities, or (3) both. [HL2983]

Lord Dunlop: This Government understands the concept of parity of esteem, as set out in the 1998 Belfast Agreement, as relating to and placing a general obligation on the UK Government to treat people of different traditions or communities in Northern Ireland fairly and with equal respect.

Borders: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ireland regarding security arrangements on the border with the Republic following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. [HL2931]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is regular engagement between UK and Ireland officials, including with the Department of Foreign Affairs, and there continues to be excellent government and operational cooperation. These discussions focus on existing joint work and the implications of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. This is supported by the annual summit, held in London this autumn, between the Permanent Secretaries of the UK Government and Irish Government which overseas and takes forward this work. The Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangement pre-dates the EU and we remain committed to it. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach have stated their intention for both countries to work together to maintain the CTA.

Brexit

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the significance and the implications of the reported rise in the prices for (1) Apple Mac computers, (2) motor vehicle fuel, and (3) Marmite. [HL2830]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR will publish a full analysis on the prospects for inflation in their forecast at Autumn Statement.

We are going through a period of adjustment as the economy responds to the vote to leave the European Union. The fundamental strength of the UK economy means that it is well-placed to deal with the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead. I would like to reassure the Noble Lord that the Government is working hard to lay the foundations for stable long term growth.

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend that the UK's future relationship with the

European Union will be established in the withdrawal agreement or whether further negotiations will be required. [HL2842]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Article 50 states that the process for withdrawal will take account of the 'framework' of the leaving Member State's future relationship with the EU, and there is a clear connection between the terms of our withdrawal and the future relationship that we want to establish.

We do not want to get ahead of the negotiations or set out unilateral positions. How we take the process forward will be a matter for discussion with the EU institutions and our European partners. But given the language in Article 50, and the connection between our withdrawal and our future relationship, it is our intention to seek to deal with both sets of issues together wherever possible, something that would clearly be in the interests of the EU as well as the UK.

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the statement by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on Question Time on 3 November, whether it is their view that the bringing of a court case on the triggering of Article 50 was an attempt to frustrate the will of the British people and was unacceptable. [HL3047]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The Government believes in and values the independence of our judiciary, the foundation upon which our rule of law is built. In respect of the ongoing litigation over the process for invoking Article 50, the Government disagrees with the Court's judgment and will appeal it at the Supreme Court.

British Business Bank

Asked by Lord Shipley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are planning to take to ensure that the British Business Bank lends to all parts of the UK. [HL3160]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The role of the British Business Bank is to increase the supply of finance available to smaller businesses where markets are not working well, wherever in the UK that might be. The Bank's programmes are supporting almost £3.2 billion of finance to more than 51,000 smaller businesses and are participating in a further £4.6 billion of finance to small mid-cap businesses across the UK. The British Business Bank is further supporting the availability of finance by creating the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine investment funds to provide debt and equity to small growing companies. These investment funds have been designed in close partnership with Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure they respond to regional demand where market failures exist, to promote local growth and help create an economy that works for everyone.

British Nationality

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Supreme Court judgement *R (on the application of Johnson) v the Secretary of State for the Home Department*, on 19 October on the matter of the granting of British citizenship, (1) when the Home Office website and other materials will be changed to reflect the decision, (2) when all consulates and embassies will be notified of changes to policy and practice resulting from the decision, and (3) when the Home Office will change the Form UKM and Form UKF application forms to reflect the decision. [HL2835]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are carefully considering the implications of the 19 October Supreme Court judgment in *Johnson*. Applications under routes to citizenship identified in the judgment have been put on hold where the good character requirement would be the sole basis for refusal. The Home Office intends to publish information on the Home Office immigration website as soon as possible.

Built Environment Select Committee (HL)

Asked by Baroness Young of Old Scone

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their response to the report of the Select Committee on National Policy on the Built Environment, *Building Better Places*, published on 19 February. [HL2884]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Department for Communities and Local Government has been coordinating the Government's response to the report of the Select Committee on National Policy on the Built Environment. The response was published (attached) on Tuesday 8 November, see below the link.

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/financial-exclusion/CM9347-Select-Committee-Response-on-Built-Environment-updated-1-Print.pdf>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

National Policy on the Built Environment [161110 Select-Committee-Response-on-Built-Environment- HL2884.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-01/HL2884>

Burma: Rohingya

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of an upsurge in violence against Rohingya Muslims by the Burmese military. [HL2815]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We condemn the attacks on 9 October in northern Rakhine and the killing of nine Burmese Border Guard policemen. Since then, we have become increasingly concerned by emerging reports of human rights violations committed by security forces. The British Ambassador to Burma travelled to Northern Rakhine on 2 November and along with our US and EU partners have pressed the Burmese Government for a full and transparent investigation. I made these concerns clear to the Burmese Government during my visit there last week (9-12 November) when I met the Minister of Defence, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. I reiterated the UK Government's call for restraint and the restoration of humanitarian and other access. I also met Rohingya representatives in Rangoon. We welcome Aung San Suu Kyi's commitment to a fair and legally compliant investigation and urge the security forces to abide by international norms and commitments. We will continue to monitor developments closely.

By-elections: Richmond Park

Asked by Lord Naseby

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated cost to the public purse for the by-election in the Richmond Park constituency following Zac Goldsmith's resignation. [HL2993]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The total cost to the public purse of a UK parliamentary by-election comprises two main elements: the expenditure incurred by Returning Officers in running the poll; and the cost of delivering election mailings produced by candidates. The Returning Officer for Richmond Park will have six months from the day of the poll to submit his expenses claim, and so the final cost will not be known until this has been received, scrutinised and settled. The actual cost of delivering candidates' mailings will also not be known until after the election.

Carbon Emissions

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of (1) burning heather, and (2) depleted peat bogs, on the UK's carbon emissions. [HL2915]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government's Greenhouse Gas Inventory publishes an annual assessment of the greenhouse gas impacts of wildfire burning in grasslands, which includes heather moorland. The most recent inventory shows that in 2014 15.6 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂e) were emitted from wildfires on grasslands, including moorland, which represents around 0.003 % of UK greenhouse gas emissions. The inventory does not include estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from the controlled burning of heather moorlands as there are insufficient data.

The inventory assesses greenhouse gas emissions from peat bogs that have been cleared and drained for peat extraction. The most recent inventory shows that 379 kt CO₂e were emitted in 2014, which represents around 0.07 % of total UK greenhouse gas emissions. The inventory includes estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from improved grassland on drained organic soils, but due to a lack of data it does not assess emissions from semi-natural grassland and moorland on drained organic soils.

Cardiovascular Disease

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of clinical commissioning groups commission technologies to support atrial fibrillation detection in routine care. [HL2895]

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to support the implementation of the NHS RightCare cardiovascular disease prevention optimal value pathway. [HL2898]

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that all stroke victims are able to receive thrombectomies where appropriate. [HL2899]

Lord Prior of Brampton: NHS England's Sustainable Improvement Team is taking action to promote the use of Guidance on Risk Assessment and Stroke Prevention for Atrial Fibrillation (GRASP-AF) within general practitioner practices in England. This is a software audit tool developed by and trialled in the National Health Service. It greatly simplifies the process of identifying patients with Atrial Fibrillation who are not receiving the right management to help reduce their risk of stroke. As of 31 October 2016:

- 2,220 of 7,619 practices had uploaded data from the latest version of GRASP-AF;
- 152 of 209 (73%) clinical commissioning groups have at least one practice uploading data from the latest version of GRASP-AF; and
- 18 CCGs (9%) have 100% of practices uploading data.

On 29 September 2016, NHS RightCare introduced an optimal value pathway on cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention. NHS RightCare is a programme committed to reducing unwarranted variation to improve people's health and outcomes and reduce inequalities in health access, experience and outcomes.

The CVD prevention pathway is the first in a series of optimal value pathways on a number of conditions. These evidence based pathways are being developed in close collaboration with NHS England's National Clinical Directors, Public Health England, the Royal Colleges, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and other non-statutory stakeholders, including patient groups.

NHS England's National Clinical Director for stroke is leading work to develop a full proposal which will consider the evidence and logistical issues involved in delivering mechanical thrombectomy to stroke patients across the country. This includes working with the relevant specialist societies, Royal Colleges and Health Education England to consider the workforce implications. Once the proposal has been developed, NHS England will decide whether the procedure should be made widely available.

Cereals

*Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the harvest forecast for arable crops across the EU. [HL2809]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The UK contributes statistical data to the European Commission cereals harvest forecast, which is reviewed each month. The EU forecast for 2016/17, as at the end of October, indicates total cereals availability of 294.8 million tonnes. This represents a 5.4% reduction on 2015/16. EU harvest forecasts are published on the Commission's website.

Children: Day Care

*Asked by **Lord Willis of Knaresborough***

To ask Her Majesty's Government why North Yorkshire County Council receives the sixth lowest allowance for childcare providers amongst 160 county councils; and what plans there are to develop a "more level playing field" for providers as set out in the Department for Education consultation 'Early years funding: changes to funding for 3 and 4 year olds'. [HL2940]

Lord Nash: This Government is investing £1 billion of additional funding per year in the early years free entitlements, including £300 million per year to increase the national average funding rate. We are determined to allocate this record investment fairly and transparently and that is why we have consulted on an Early Years National Funding Formula, which will determine the funding rates of all local authorities, including North Yorkshire. This consultation has now closed and we will respond in the Autumn.

The consultation included a proposal to require all local authorities to use a universal base rate for all providers from 2019-20 at the latest. This approach will ensure that no child is disadvantaged, in terms of the funding available to support their early education, by the type of childcare setting which they attend.

*Asked by **Lord Willis of Knaresborough***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional funding they plan to provide to compensate childcare providers for increased costs as a result of proposed increases in training requirements applicable to

childcare providers and in the National Minimum Wage. [HL2941]

Lord Nash: This Government is investing £1 billion of additional funding per year in the early years free entitlements, including £300 million per year to increase the national average funding rate. This record level of investment was based on a rich source of evidence – the 'Review of Childcare Costs' which looked at both the current costs of childcare provision and the implications of future cost pressures facing the sector (including the National Living Wage). Copies of the Analytical Report and the Executive Summary are attached.

We are determined that the maximum amount of this record level of investment reaches childcare providers. That is why, as part of our recent consultation 'Early years funding: changes to funding for 3- and 4-year-olds', we proposed that local authorities pass through 95% of their allocated funding to the frontline. Providers will then have the funding and increased choice in how to invest in the quality of their offer, including how to invest in their workforce.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Analytical report of the review of childcare costs [Review of childcare costs - the analytical report.pdf]

Executive summary of the review of childcare costs [Review of childcare costs - Exec Summary of analytical report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-02/HL2941>

College of Policing

*Asked by **Lord Wasserman***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 1 November (HL2530), whether, in the light of the fact that Dame Shirley Pearce has already stepped down as Chair of the College of Policing, it is their intention to appoint an interim Chair to oversee and direct the activities of the College until the new Chair takes up their duties. [HL2938]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office will announce an interim Chair of the College of Policing in due course.

Interim arrangements will ensure the functions and oversight of the College continue unabated during this period of transition.

Companies House

*Asked by **Lord Wills***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Companies House intends to launch a public consultation on the proposal to reduce the amount of time that records of dissolved companies are retained from 20 years to six; and if so, when. [HL2851]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government has no current plans to bring forward proposals to reduce the period of time that Companies House retains records of dissolved companies.

We will continue to keep the retention period under review. Any future proposal to change the retention period would be subject to public consultation.

Compass Contracts

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether local authorities are informed of the identity and location of asylum seekers who are housed on behalf of the Home Office in their area. [HL2774]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office works closely with COMPASS providers and local authorities through Strategic Migration Partnerships to ensure the impacts of dispersal on local communities and services are considered when allocating accommodation to asylum seekers.

Local authorities and statutory bodies are consulted prior to the proposed use of all new asylum accommodation. However, in accordance with data protection principles, the identity of individual applicants is not routinely shared.

Counter-terrorism

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last met with the Muslim Council of Britain to discuss the Prevent strategy. [HL2748]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The threat from radicalisation cannot be tackled by Government alone. We meet regularly and work with a wide range of organisations and charities involved with safeguarding people from radicalisation.

Cybercrime

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many additional cybersecurity experts they estimate are needed to implement the National Cyber Security Strategy, (2) what priority is being given to the education and training of cybersecurity experts, and (3) what is being done to encourage young people to study computer sciences at university and to recruit them to the cybersecurity industry. [HL2910]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The National Cyber Security Strategy 2016 -2020 outlines the government's ambition to deliver a self-sustaining pipeline of talent providing the skills to meet our national needs across the public and private sectors.

Ensuring the UK has the cyber security experts it needs is a key government priority and much work was done to improve required skills at every level of education under the first 2011 - 2015 National Cyber Security Strategy. However ambitious new initiatives are still needed and being prioritised under the new strategy. This includes a national schools programme to provide intensive after-school training and mentoring; establishing cyber apprenticeships in critical sectors; and a re-training programme to attract and support people to transition into cyber security mid-career. To identify additional actions we will also develop a self-standing cyber skills strategy that will build on our existing work

In universities we have ensured cyber security is an integral part of all computer science degrees accredited by the Institution of Engineering & Technology and British Computer Society. GCHQ have also established a certification programme, certifying nearly 20 courses to date, that will help students identify high-quality course to undertake in order to pursue a cyber security career

Disposable Wipes

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to consult the public on the case for banning all wet wipes which contain plastic fibres. [HL2901]

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to (1) require the packaging for wet wipes containing plastic fibres to display a warning that the wipes must not be flushed down toilets, (2) carry out a public awareness campaign regarding the dangers wet wipes with plastic particles pose to the environment, wildlife and public health, and (3) list publicly all the brands which use plastic particles in their wet wipes. [HL2902]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: There is currently no plan to consult on banning wet wipes containing plastic fibres, except where those fabrics also contain microbeads.

On 3 September, the Secretary of State announced plans to ban the sale and manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing microbeads which may cause harm to the marine environment. The Government's plans will be informed by a formal consultation later this year. At the same time, evidence will be gathered on the extent of the environmental impacts of microbeads found in other products, such as domestic and industrial cleaning products, before considering what more can be done in future to tackle other plastics, including microfibres, which enter the marine environment.

It is important that people receive the information they need to dispose of the personal and cleaning products they buy in the most appropriate way to minimise their impact on the environment. The Minister for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities has written to leading manufacturers and retailers of wet wipes and other products that should not be flushed into the sewer system, to encourage them to work closely with the water and

sewerage companies on this issue, as well as on the information provided to customers on product packaging. While the packaging of some such products makes clear that they should not be flushed into the sewer system, others do not.

The Minister for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities plans to meet with leading manufacturers, retailers and water companies to discuss the matter further.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking with manufacturers to improve the labelling of wet wipes to avoid them being flushed into the sewers and becoming a marine pollutant. [HL2916]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government agrees it is important that people receive the information they need to dispose of the personal and cleaning products they buy in the most appropriate way to minimise their impact on the environment.

The Minister for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities has written to leading manufacturers and retailers of wet wipes and other products that should not be flushed into the sewer system, to encourage them to work closely with water and sewerage companies on this issue, and on the information provided to customers on product packaging. While the packaging of some such products makes clear that they should not be flushed into the sewer system, others do not.

The Minister for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities plans to hold a meeting with leading manufacturers, retailers and water companies to discuss the matter further.

Economic and Social Research Council

*Asked by **Lord Donoughue***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Economic and Social Research Council's process for verifying applications for grants of public funds, in the light of their £9 million grant to the Centre for Climate Change Economics. [HL2887]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is aware of allegations made against the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (CCCEP) and the public responses issued by the CCCEP and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

BEIS takes its responsibilities to protect public funds very seriously. BEIS has received assurances from ESRC that appropriate oversight arrangements are in place.

Economic Situation: Forecasts

*Asked by **Lord Myners***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 25

October (HL2429) about economic forecasting, whether they will now answer the question asked. [HL2928]

Lord Young of Cookham: HM Treasury does not produce economic forecasts. As such, there are no forecasts on which to evaluate performance.

Elections

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Electoral Commission in respect of changes to electoral law. [HL3009]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The Cabinet Office is in regular contact with the Electoral Commission on all aspects of electoral policy and legislation. These conversations cover a wide range of subjects from significant policy considerations to queries on how specific areas of legislation could be improved.

We will continue to work with the Electoral Commission in making our electoral law more efficient, cost-effective and secure, and building a democracy that works for all.

Ellie Butler

*Asked by **Lord Warner***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any complaint has been made to the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office about the conduct of Mrs Justice Hogg in the case of Ellie Butler. [HL2653]

Lord Keen of Elie: Correspondence was received at the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (JCIO) about the decisions reached by Mrs Justice Hogg in the Butler case. The JCIO has no remit to investigate judicial decisions. These can be appealed through the Court, where the right of appeal exists.

Energy Supply

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of forecasts that the UK's coal-fired electricity will fall by two thirds this year, what steps are being taken to ensure that the overall energy capacity will be sufficient to meet demand this winter. [HL3089]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Keeping the lights on is non-negotiable for this government. National Grid has the tools they need to manage the system and we will ensure that they continue to do so in future. For winter 2016/17, this includes 3.5GW of Supplemental Balancing Reserve which is available to be called on if required. This contributes to a forecast electricity margin 29% higher than the margin we had last winter.

English Baccalaureate

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Department for Education will publish their response to the consultation on their plans to make it compulsory for all pupils starting secondary school in 2015 to take the English Baccalaureate subjects when they reach their GCSEs in 2020. [[HL3002](#)]

Lord Nash: We are considering the responses to the consultation on the implementation of the EBacc, and will publish the Government response in due course.

Ethnic Groups: Veterans

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made regarding the employment prospects of black and minority ethnic personnel leaving the Armed Forces and entering the job market. [[HL2877](#)]

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to deal with reported discrimination in the job market experienced by black and minority ethnic personnel leaving the Armed Forces. [[HL2879](#)]

Earl Howe: The latest Department for Work and Pensions 'Labour market status by ethnic group' report, based on annual data to 2015, shows that the ethnic minority employment rate in 2015 was 62.8 per cent. The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) employment rates of Service leavers who have used the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) is 68 per cent, 5.2 percentage points higher than the general UK BAME population. This demonstrates that serving in the Armed Forces enhances the employment prospects of BAME Service leavers when they choose to enter the employment market at the end of their military career.

The CTP is the official Ministry of Defence (MOD) provider of resettlement services to members of the Armed Forces. The latest CTP Annual Statistics for Financial Year 2014-15 show that six months after leaving the Armed Forces BAME Service leavers who used CTP services had a lower estimated employment rate than white Service leavers (87 per cent). They also had a higher estimated unemployment rate and economically inactive rate. These differences were statistically significant and replicated differences seen in the general UK population. 89 per cent of CTP users were white, which was comparable to the UK population, where 86 per cent of the population was white.

All Service leavers bring significant transferable skills to the job market along with a proven ability to learn new skills and concepts quickly.

The CTP contract provides employers with unique access to the Service leaver talent pool. Employers can upload job opportunities to RightJob via the CTP website,

which receives over 50,000 unique hits per month, and promotes employment opportunities through regular e-bulletins sent to over 20,000 active clients. Through the resettlement contract, the CTP can link employers with the best Service leaver candidates for their vacancies. The CTP offers a high quality, no-cost recruitment service for organisations looking to recruit highly motivated, skilled and experienced Service leavers.

The MOD and the CTP strive to further improve the employment prospects of BAME Service leavers and to work with other Government Departments to help overcome potential societal barriers which may be experienced by some. The MOD is not aware of any specific civilian employment discrimination related to the military service of BAME Service leavers.

EU Budget: Contributions

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the difference between the UK's gross and net contributions to the EU budget, in sterling, is attributed to spending in the UK on (1) regional aid, (2) agriculture, (3) universities through programmes such as Erasmus, and (4) other areas of domestic spending. [[HL2994](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: HM Treasury have published the expected sectoral split under the current multiannual financial framework, which can be found on the gov.uk website. This analysis of spending in the UK shows that we expect 7% of receipts to cover rural development and the environment, 44% to cover agriculture and fisheries and 27% to cover research and development.

European Arrest Warrants

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 24 October (HL2171) concerning the European Arrest Warrant system, whether they will now answer the question asked. [[HL2739](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are exploring options for cooperation arrangements once the UK has left the EU. It is too early to say what the final outcome of the negotiations with the EU will be and it would be wrong to set out unilateral positions at this time, however as indicated in answer HL2171, we will do what is necessary to keep people safe.

Farmers: Age

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the average age of farmers in England; and what assessment they have made of the impact of farmers' ages on the future of English farming. [[HL2791](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government publication Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2015 shows that the median age of farm holders in the UK is 59.

Having a skilled workforce in place, attracting new talent and ensuring that there are opportunities to enter and progress through the farming sector is vital for the future of UK food and farming. The Government is aware of concerns about the aging profile of farming and recognises the challenges facing young new entrants to farming including the high cost of land and access to finance.

The Government is keen to work with industry to explore and promote a range of different farm business models where established farmers can open up opportunities to the next generation of young farmers to gain a foothold and experience in the sector such as agricultural tenancies, share-farming, contract farming, franchise farming and joint ventures.

Farmers: Recruitment

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to support young farmers to stay in farming and to encourage new entrants to become farmers. [HL2786]

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what they have identified as the main barriers to young entrants hoping to become farmers. [HL2787]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Having a skilled workforce in place, attracting new talent and ensuring there are opportunities to enter and progress through the farming sector is vital for the future of UK food and farming. The Government recognises there are barriers facing young new entrants to get started in farming including the high cost of land and access to finance.

The Government is exploring the range of different farm business models that can open up opportunities for new entrants such as agricultural tenancies, share-farming, contract farming, franchise farming and joint ventures. These business models can provide young new farmers with an opportunity to gain experience and build up capital to progress their careers in farming.

The Government is currently providing additional support for young new entrants into farming through the EU Basic Payment Scheme where eligible farmers aged between 18 and 40 can claim a 25% uplift on up to 90 hectares of their Basic Payment Scheme payments for up to five years after they have started in business.

Support is also provided through EU Rural Development Programme schemes including the Growth Programme and LEADER providing help for rural entrepreneurs including farmers setting up a new business or expanding or improving an existing business. In addition the Countryside Productivity scheme provides

support to help increase productivity and enhance the competitiveness of farming and forestry industries. Defra also provides grant support to the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs to provide training opportunities for young farmers and we are working with the Food and Drink Federation to treble the number of apprenticeships across the sector.

Whilst the UK is a member of the EU these funding streams will remain in place and Defra continues to engage with young farmers to help shape our future plans for UK agricultural policy outside of the EU.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Russian Language

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fluent Russian speakers have been trained or recruited by the FCO since June 2015, and how many fluent Russian speakers are presently employed by the FCO. [HL2911]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Central records confirm the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has 163 employees with some level of Russian, language skills, ranging from basic Russian to operational (equivalent to degree level).

Russian is a priority language for the FCO, and since 2010 we have increased the number of Russian-language speaker positions in our Russian and former Soviet Union Posts by 30% and increased the minimum duration for Russian-language training from 10 to 14 months.

Fracking

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps will be taken to mitigate the effects of sand used in the fracking process being released into the atmosphere. [HL3169]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Sand is used in the hydraulic fracturing process to keep the tiny fractures in the shale open. Sand itself does not pose a risk to health, but in some situations where sand is used on well sites the risk of occupational exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) should be considered by the employer. Occupational Health and Safety is under the remit of the Health and Safety Executive, who have issued guidance and advice to help employers manage risks and to raise awareness of the importance of controlling exposure to harmful materials at work.

Free School Meals: Richmond upon Thames

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children received free school meals as part of the universal free school meals programme in the constituency of Richmond Park in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [HL2822]

Lord Nash: 4,519 pupils in Richmond Park constituency received a free school meal as part of the universal infant free school meals programme in January 2016.

4,453 pupils received a free school meal as part of the universal infant free school meals programme in January 2015.

Universal infant free school meals were introduced in September 2014, therefore data for earlier years do not exist.

Gaza

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to make representations to the governments of Israel and Egypt to provide entry permits to Gaza for UN and international NGO personnel. [HL2871]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We continue to call on the governments of Israel and Egypt to show maximum flexibility in opening the crossings into Gaza to help facilitate travel in and out of Gaza. While we have not raised the specific issue of United Nations and Non-Governmental Organisation personnel, officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv most recently raised the issue of movement and access with the Head of Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories Civil Division on 7 September. We remain concerned that the Rafah crossing has been mostly closed since October 2014.

General Practitioners

Asked by Lord Luce

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to encourage retired general practitioners to work part-time for the NHS; and, if so, on what terms and conditions. [HL2918]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Health Education England's Induction and Refresher (I&R) Scheme gives general practitioners (GPs) who have retired the opportunity to return to general practice. The scheme is also open to those who have taken a career break or spent time working abroad.

On 6 October 2016, NHS England set out the latest measures it is implementing to help general practice cope with increasing demand, boosting GP numbers and tackling burnout as part of the *General Practice Forward*

View, a copy of which is attached. This includes increased financial support, increased practical support and making the process more flexible. For example, working to develop a national framework so that suitably qualified and experienced doctors can be added to the Medical Performers List without the need to complete the I&R process.

On completion of the I&R Scheme, GPs may take up a post as a salaried general practitioner. There are model terms and conditions of service for a salaried general practitioner, a copy of which is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

General Practice Forward View [GPFV.pdf]

Model terms and conditions [salaried GPs ToS.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-01/HL2918>

Gibraltar: Spain

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incursions by Spanish state vessels into British territorial waters around Gibraltar there were in the 12 months to 31 October 2016; and whether this represents an increase or a decrease in the number of such incursions. [HL2957]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: There were 434 incursions by Spanish State vessels into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters from 1 November 2015 – 31 October 2016, compared to 404 in the preceding 12 months. This represents an increase of 7%.

Government Departments: Computer Software

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many licences for Microsoft Office have been held by each government department in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what is the total cost of those licences by department. [HL2825]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The following table sets out departmental spend on new Microsoft Office licences:

Department	2014	2015	2016 (to date)	Total
Cabinet Office	£0	£48,815.02	£138,647.17	£187,462.19
DBEIS	£339,553.68	£488,004.20	£377,843.23	£1,205,401.11
DCLG	£650.16	£21,457.26	£0	£22,107.42
DCMS	£0	£58,385.22	£0	£58,385.22
Defra	£1,056,578.18	£517,819.56	£489,118.51	£2,063,516.25

<i>Department</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016 (to date)</i>	<i>Total</i>
DfID	£0	£6,931.75	£0	£6,931.75
DfT	£188,703.66	£393,645.55	£384,243.74	£966,592.95
DWP	£3,880,932.44	£5,025,522.79	£4,525,591.34	£13,432,046.57
DoH	£702,942.90	£528,051.90	£133,152.74	£1,364,147.54
FCO	£64,282.38	£586,512.28	£575,664.47	£1,226,459.13
HM Treasury	£95,598.92	£322,993.02	£333,636.00	£752,227.94
Home Office	£341,555.06	£567,879.52	£1,930,110.02	£2,839,544.60
MoD	£1,759,378.42	£1,673,981.45	£4,370,288.88	£7,803,648.75
MoJ	£1,764,374.57	£2,175,918.38	£2,114,130.28	£6,054,423.23
Total	£10,194,550.37	£12,415,917.90	£15,372,426.38	£37,982,894.65

Information on the exact number of licences held is not recorded centrally.

Grouse Moors

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have undertaken to assess the impact of grouse moors on the management of water flows and flooding. [HL2914]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Various studies have been undertaken to look at the impact of the management carried out on grouse moors. These include a Natural England Review of Upland Evidence published in 2013.

Peatbog restoration is also being carried out on grouse moors, which could potentially help to reduce flood risk. The Government has invested £1.69 million in community partnerships looking at natural flood management solutions including peatbog restoration.

Defra is currently funding a York University project entitled "Restoration of blanket bog vegetation for biodiversity, carbon sequestration and water regulation", which look at the different impacts of cutting and burning as heather management tools, including the impact on hydrology. The results of this research will be published in 2017.

Hate Crime

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 18 October (HL Deb col 2279), what they consider to be the normal levels of hate crime; whether these are acceptable; and if not, whether they have a target for their further reduction. [HL2829]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is no acceptable level for hate crime; it is a pernicious crime that affects victims disproportionately and it has no place in a Britain that works for everyone.

Government statistics show that 62,518 hate crimes were recorded by the police between April 2015 and March 2016. There was a sharp increase in racially and religiously aggravated crime in the month following the EU Referendum, but we have now seen a fall to pre-referendum levels.

One of the aims of Action Against Hate is to reduce incidence of hate crime through education and changing attitudes. We have not set a numerical target for this.

Health Services: Foreign Nationals

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to consult the public on proposals to make doctors personally liable to the NHS if they fail to collect fees from health tourists, and to make it a disciplinary offence for any doctor to fail to check whether a patient is a health tourist. [HL2903]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government has no plans to make doctors personally liable to the National Health Service if they fail to collect fees from health tourists, nor to make it a disciplinary offence for any doctor that fails to check whether a patient is a health tourist.

Our plans are instead to ensure that those who do not live here and contribute financially to this country make a fair contribution to the cost of their NHS care.

Higher Education: Disability

Asked by Lord Addington

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Equality and Human Rights Commission was asked to prepare specific guidance on managing reasonable adjustments in higher education. [HL2814]

Lord Nash: The Equality and Human Rights Commission published guidance for further and higher education providers on how to avoid unlawful discrimination in 2014. The guidance – "What equality law means for you as an education provider – further and

higher education” includes guidance and information about reasonable adjustments in higher education.

Hinkley Point C Power Station

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what financial caps have been agreed with EDF and the Chinese investors in relation to the cost of storage of Hinkley Point’s nuclear waste. [HL3090]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Waste Transfer Contracts for Hinkley Point C were agreed between the Government and NNB Generation Company (HPC) Ltd, which will be the operator of the Hinkley Point C power station, and is owned by EDF and their investment partner, China General Nuclear.

The costs of nuclear waste have been dealt with in the contract to avoid the legacy issues associated with previous nuclear projects. Owners will pay for waste disposal and all costs of interim waste storage. The financial cap set for disposing of waste for Hinkley Point C is £1,159,250/tU for spent fuel and £65,850/m3 for intermediate level waste. These values will be indexed for inflation.

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment has been made of the likelihood of taxpayers having to fund any additional cost of storage of Hinkley Point’s nuclear waste. [HL3091]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: As stated in the Departmental Minute on potential liabilities arising in relation to Hinkley Point C laid before Parliament on 21 October 2015, the likelihood of any liabilities to the taxpayer arising as a result of the arrangements to dispose of the plant’s higher activity waste is judged to be very low.

House of Lords: Ministerial Statements

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many references to *Pepper v Hart* have been made in ministerial statements in the House of Lords. [HL2891]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The Government does not hold this information. Information on Parliament and Ministerial Statements can be accessed online using the Hansard service.

Housing Benefit: Newcastle upon Tyne

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many households in Newcastle upon Tyne they estimate will suffer reductions in housing benefit as a result of the new cap on housing benefits to be introduced on 7 November, and what they estimate will be the size of

the annual savings engendered by the cut in Newcastle. [HL2900]

Lord Freud: It is estimated that around 500 households in Newcastle Upon Tyne will be affected by the lower benefit cap in 2016/17. The annual benefit reduction from the lower cap is estimated to be around £1.3 million in 2016/17 if the cap was in place for the full financial year, however actual savings will be much lower in view of the lower cap only applying to the latter part of the year.

Notes:

i) Estimates assume no behavioural responses - any behavioural responses to the lower cap, such as claimants moving into employment, would cause the number of households affected to reduce.

ii) The number of capped households has been rounded to the nearest 100 households

iii) Annual benefit reduction has been rounded to the nearest £100,000 per year.

iv) Modelling for this assessment was conducted using administrative records held by the Department for Work and Pensions containing amounts of benefit paid (including Child Benefit, as paid by HM Revenue and Customs) and indicators of receipt of Working Tax Credit and exemption benefits such as Disability Living Allowance. This enables the separation of households into those excluded from the cap, and those which will be subject to it and by how much. The administrative records relate to November 2015, but have been adjusted to reflect the future benefit regime.

The benefit cap will be lowered from 7th November from £26,000 to £20,000, except in London where it will be lowered to £23,000 (a lower cap applies to single adult households). To help ensure Local Authorities are able to protect the most vulnerable Housing Benefit claimants and to support households adjusting to our welfare reforms, the Government will provide £870m funding for Discretionary Housing Payments over the next 5 years from 2016/17.

Immigration Controls

Asked by Lord Livermore

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they remain committed to reducing net migration to the tens of thousands per year. [HL2923]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Yes. The Government remains committed to reducing net migration to sustainable levels which we believe to be the tens of thousands per year.

Immigration Controls: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what policy options they have considered regarding controls on EU citizens entering the UK through Northern Ireland and

the Republic of Ireland following the UK's departure from the EU. [HL2441]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: At present, the UK remains in the EU and there have been no immediate changes to the rights and obligations that membership entails. This means that EEA, Swiss and UK nationals continue to have the same rights and status that they had before the referendum.

The Prime Minister has been clear that a practical solution in the interests of all parts of the UK should be found to manage the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland once the UK has left the EU. Senior Officials from the UK, Ireland and Northern Ireland are working closely to consider the implications of the UK's exit from the EU on the Common Travel Area (CTA). The CTA arrangement predates the EU and leaders in the UK and Ireland have been unequivocal – both want to maintain the current arrangement.

Iran: Bank Services

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have taken any action to prevent the Iranian Embassy in London from opening a UK bank account; and if so, why. [HL2944]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not taken any action to prevent the Iranian Embassy in London from opening a UK bank account.

Iran: Sanctions

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any EU sanctions are currently in place against Iran; and if so, what they are. [HL2945]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: There are a number of remaining EU sanctions on Iran relating to proliferation, human rights, Syria and terrorism.

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any UK sanctions are currently in place against Iran; and if so, what they are. [HL2946]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: As well as implementing EU autonomous controls for which the UK imposes export controls (dual use goods, nuclear technology, sensitive software and technical assistance etc), the UK also has national export controls that go beyond the EU measures. In particular there are two controls that cover the aviation and marine sectors.

The UK controls are contained on two lists: PL9008 for marine vessels and parts, and PL9009 for aircraft and parts.

These controls are not related to Iran's nuclear programme – they were imposed during the Iran - Iraq

war on both countries. The controls have since been removed against Iraq and now apply only to Iran.

These controls do not prohibit the export of these goods but require an export license to be granted before they can be exported. Our controls are in place to minimise the risk of the goods being diverted for military use. A license application would judge whether this risk was great enough to reject it.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have they had with the government of Israel regarding Israel's regulations for operating drones in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. [HL2847]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not had any discussions with the Israeli authorities over the use of drones over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding reports of the levelling of Palestinian owned land east of Nablus on 22 October. [HL2849]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities. The UK Government continues to argue for a just outcome for all the people affected by illegal settlement construction. The UK's position on settlements is clear: they are illegal under international law, present an obstacle to peace and take us further away from a two state solution. We regularly raise our concerns on this issue and strongly urge the government of Israel to reverse its systematic policy of settlement expansion.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding reports of a raid on al-Aqsa Mosque on 23 October. [HL2850]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities. The UK continues to support preservation of the longstanding status quo at the Haram al Sharif/Temple Mount compound.

Israel: West Bank

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to protest to the government of Israel about the number of demolitions of houses, farm buildings and other structures in the West Bank since 2015, affecting both Palestinian homes and livelihoods; and what assessment they have made of the prospect of an EU approach on the issue. [HL2872]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: According to the UN, since the start of 2016, 946 Palestinian-owned structures were demolished in Area C and in East Jerusalem, displacing 1420 people, including 662 children, already surpassing the number of demolitions in the whole of 2015. We are extremely concerned by this trend. We have raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities on numerous occasions. On 28 July, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), issued a public statement condemning demolitions. On 7 September, during a meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Lieberman in London, Mr Ellwood also raised our concerns about demolitions. We have consulted EU partners on the issue of demolitions and they share our views. The EU collectively condemned demolitions in Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on 18 January.

Jordan: Migrant Camps

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will seek to obtain full access for representatives of the UNHCR to the refugee camp at al-Rukban on the frontier of Jordan, together with the provision of water, food and medical supplies for its inhabitants. [[HL2870](#)]

Lord Bates: The UK remains deeply concerned about the situation of many Syrians in genuine need of support at Rukban. However, a minority of individuals pose a security threat there, as was demonstrated by the terrorist attack on a Jordanian army border post near the camp on 21st June 2016.

At present, because of security concerns the staff of UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies do not enter the camp. They have been operating through the use of local volunteers. Only limited amounts of aid have been delivered over the last few months. Water supply, however, has continued.

UK government officials along with our international partners and the Government of Jordan have been working tirelessly to find a viable modality of aid distribution which will not jeopardise border security.

Considerable progress has been made in recent weeks and we anticipate that deliveries of food and daily essential items, as well as access to a basic medical provision for children, will resume shortly.

Kids Company

*Asked by **Baroness Barker***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the investigations into Kids Company by the Metropolitan Police and the Charity Commission to conclude and when they expect those bodies to report their findings. [[HL2812](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Charity Commission has an ongoing statutory inquiry into Kids Company and will publish a report once its investigation has concluded.

The Metropolitan Police Service announced that it had discontinued its investigation into Kids Company in January 2016.

Languages

*Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of UK nationals who speak a second language fluently; what strategy they have to improve foreign language skills in the UK; and what estimate they have made of the cost to the economy per year in lost trade resulting from the lack of foreign language skills. [[HL2751](#)]

Lord Nash: The 2011 Census does not include information about the number of UK nationals who speak a second language fluently. However, it shows that 7.7% of the population had a main language other than English.

Studying a language provides an opening to other cultures and is important to prepare students to compete in a global jobs market. A 2013 report by Cardiff Business School, 'The Costs to the UK of Language Deficiencies as a Barrier to UK Engagement in Exporting', estimated that the gross costs of language ignorance might have been 3.5% of national income in 2006 - £48 billion.

The Government is committed to increasing the proportion of the population gaining language qualifications. Thanks to the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), the number of students studying a language at GCSE has increased from 40% in 2010 to 49% in 2016. In August, we confirmed that EBacc entry would become a headline measure in school performance tables from this year, alongside EBacc achievement. This will encourage schools to enter more pupils for the EBacc and for languages in future, which should increase the pool of potential people studying languages at A level and beyond.

The Higher Education and Research Bill, currently before Parliament, contains provisions that would allow Government to direct public funding to protect the supply of strategically or economically important subjects at university, such as modern foreign languages.

List of Ministerial Responsibilities

*Asked by **Lord Marlesford***

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the List of Ministerial Responsibilities published by the Cabinet Office in October (1) describes Earl Howe as Parliamentary under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, (2) omits the Private Office telephone numbers for the Treasury ministers, (3) gives

unobtainable numbers for Cabinet Office and Department of Health ministers, and (4) gives incorrect numbers for some Home Office ministers including Baroness Williams of Trafford; and whether they will issue a corrected edition of the publication. [[HL2927](#)]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The Government is grateful to the Noble Lord for drawing attention to these points. We are updating the List of Ministerial Responsibilities in both electronic and paper form.

Livestock: Animal Feed

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made a comparative assessment of the animal welfare, environmental and human health benefits of pasture-fed livestock, against livestock raised on a primarily grain-based diet. [[HL2789](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Department has not made a direct comparative assessment of the animal welfare, environmental and human health benefits of grass-fed against grain-fed diets, although we are aware of various research reports and industry initiatives which support the view that grass feeding can have benefits for animal welfare and the environment, and play a part in determining meat quality.

Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will develop guidance on the use of the term "grass-fed" for livestock so that consumers can make more informed decisions when buying meat and dairy products. [[HL2790](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: There is no legal definition of "grass-fed" in relation to livestock rearing practice, although there is a general obligation in food labelling and consumer law that food labelling should not mislead the consumer and this obligation remains in place. Previous voluntary labelling guidance defined grass-fed as "fed primarily on grass in the field".

Defra is currently working on a range of proposals to inform discussions about the shape of a future agriculture policy and we want to ensure that the future regulatory framework continues to provide consumers with confidence in the food that they are buying, and continues to secure our world-leading reputation for high quality and standards.

Local Government Finance: Richmond upon Thames

Asked by Baroness Kramer

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total block grant given to Richmond Council in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [[HL2821](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: It is not possible to directly compare the figures across years due to changes

in the services funded through the block grant for each year. However, I will place the figures in question in the libraries of both Houses.

	Revenue Redistributed Support Grant	Business Rates	Estimated Retained Business Rates	Formula Grant	Settlement Funding Assessment
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)= (1)+(2)	(5)= (1)+(3)
2012-13	572,601	29,538,726		30,111,328	
2013-14	29,642,189	19,720,137	49,362,326		
2014-15	25,785,909	20,104,296	45,890,205		
2015-16	21,584,278	20,488,454	42,072,732		
2016-17	12,333,794		20,659,191		32,992,985

Local Government: Devolution

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the annual report on devolution required by section 1 of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016. [I] [[HL2836](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government intends to publish and lay before Parliament the Annual Report on Devolution for 2015-16 as required by section 1 of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 later this month. The Report will show the progress made on devolution up to 31 March 2016 as required by the Act.

London Stock Exchange: Deutsche Borse

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the importance of the merger of the London Stock Exchange and the Deutsche Börse being effected through a holding company incorporated and headquartered in the UK. [[HL2929](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: I refer the noble Lord to the reply of 26 April, provided by Lord O'Neill of Gatley. Further information about the group's proposed structure, and the merger process in general, is available on the LSE Group investor relations website.

In addition, once formally notified of the proposed merger, the Bank of England and the Financial Conduct Authority must assess the proposal from a regulatory standpoint.

Maldives: British Nationals Abroad

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their current assessment of the security issues facing UK tourists visiting the Maldives. [[HL2956](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK Government's foreign travel advice states that crime levels in Maldives are relatively low, but petty crime does occur. Gang related violence in locally populated areas, including the capital Male, has increased recently. There is no evidence to suggest that British nationals are being targeted. As in many parts of the world, there is a general threat from terrorism and attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by tourists. Our assessment of security issues is regularly reviewed and reflected in our travel advice. We do not advise against travel to the Maldives.

Manufacturing Industries: Investment

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their strategy to encourage and attract investment to the steel, aerospace and pharmaceutical industries in the UK. [HL2909]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government has worked hard to make Britain one of the best places in the world to start and grow a business, creating a business environment that supports growth and encourages long-term investment; as well as a dynamic economy with open and competitive markets. This has included backing the steel, aerospace and pharmaceuticals sector, cutting corporation tax to 17% by 2020, and making major investments in the UK's research infrastructure.

We are also developing an Industrial Strategy which will embrace the opportunities of our new global role and upgrade our economy so it works for everyone. We will be engaging fully with all sectors of the economy to deliver a successful strategy and create the conditions for future success.

Mesothelioma: Compensation

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the proposal by Companies House to change the policy of retention of dissolved company records from 20 years to six years will affect the ability of those who have contracted mesothelioma to seek to bring claims for compensation against their former employers and companies which have dissolved before the claimants' diagnosis. [HL2862]

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place with the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum UK, the British Lung Foundation and other relevant bodies regarding the proposal by Companies House to change the policy of retention of dissolved company records from 20 years to six years. [HL2863]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government has no current plans to bring forward proposals to reduce the

period of time that Companies House retains records of dissolved companies.

We will continue to keep the retention period under review. Any future proposal to change the retention period would be subject to public consultation.

National Insurance

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many national insurance numbers are currently in circulation in the UK; what is the current official population of the UK; and if these two numbers differ, what is the explanation of that difference. [HL2937]

Lord Freud: The information requested for the number of NINOs currently in circulation in the UK is not available.

However, the latest available figures (04/09/2016) show approximately 92 million National Insurance number (NINO) records on the Department's Customer Information System (CIS). These consist of approximately:

- 69 million – Live Adult NINO records
- 23 million – Deceased Adult NINO records

The figures provided are the result of a routine scan of the Departments Customer Information System (CIS).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing information relating to the UK population.

Whilst we cannot confirm the number of NINOs in circulation in the UK, we can advise the number of NINOs held on DWP systems is always higher than the UK population. This is because once allocated, a NINO remains on the department's computer system. This includes both deceased records and where an individual has been allocated a NINO leaves this country. This is because a NINO provides a permanent numerical link between the individual and their National Insurance record, which determines entitlement to contributory benefits and state pension.

National Insurance Contributions

Asked by Lord Lipsey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an estimate of the revenue that would be raised by (1) a one percentage point rise in the rate of national insurance, and (2) the imposition of national insurance contributions of one per cent on employees who have reached State Pension age; and if so, how much those estimated revenues would be. [HL2925]

Lord Young of Cookham: The estimated impact of increasing the rate of employees National Insurance Contributions (NICs) can be found in HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) 2016 publication *the Direct effects of illustrative tax changes*, which can be found on the gov.uk website. The 2018-19 figures are given in the table below:

Direct effects of illustrative changes (£m)

<i>National Insurance Contributions Rates</i>	<i>2018-19</i>
Change Class 1 employee main rate by 1 percent point	4,100
Change Class 1 employee additional rate by 1 percent point	920
Change Class 1 employer rate by 1 percentage point	5,200
Change Class 2 rate by £1 per week	160
Change Class 4 main rate by 1 percentage point	340
Change Class 4 additional rate by 1 percentage point	210

HMRC currently estimates that the direct effect of imposing NICs charged at 1% on those over State Pension age would raise around £100m in employee NIC receipts in 2018-19. This is comparable to the table above.

The estimate is based on the latest Survey of Personal Incomes (2013-14), which has been projected in line with Budget 2016 economic assumptions from the Office of Budget Responsibility.

Navy: Officers

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the responsibilities of each of the 40 admirals in the Royal Navy; and what is the total cost of their posts including salaries, expenses and supporting staff. [HL2818]

Earl Howe: Not all senior posts are directly employed by the Royal Navy; senior appointments are filled on a rotational or competition basis across the Ministry of Defence, NATO and the European Union Military Staff. The number of Admirals increases and decreases in accordance with which 'Joint' positions are filled by the Naval Service.

A list of Senior Naval Service personnel was released in June 2016 and is available on the Government website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/535041/Navy_FOI_2016_05868__Information_of_4_3_and_2_star_officers_on_the_active_list_of_Royal_Navy_RN_and_Royal_Marines__Annex_A_June_and_July_2016.pdf

The salary range for these officers is between:

Admiral/General (Royal Marines) - £185,000 - £189,999

Vice Admiral/Lieutenant General (Royal Marines) - £130,000- £139,999

Rear Admiral/Major General (Royal Marines) - £110,000- £114,999

Further information on the roles and salaries of officers serving in the Naval Service, Joint Forces Command, in Head Office and the Defence Equipment and Support organisation is available on the Government website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-roles-and-salaries-2016>

The Service and civilian personnel supporting Royal Navy Senior Officers varies between appointments, but can include office support, those at official residences and staff both inside and outside of their individual Command Chains. Identifying the Department's expenditure on individual support structures and any additional expenses would incur disproportionate costs.

Four roles (three Rear Admirals and one Vice Admiral) are NATO appointments, with their salary commensurate with the salary ranges included above. Information related to expenses and support staff for these roles cannot be provided as their staff will include non-UK nationals with many of their expenses provided by NATO.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL2818 - List of Senior Naval Service personnel
[Navy_FOI_2016_05868__Information_of_4_3_and_2_star_officers_on_the_active_list_of_Royal_Navy_RN_and_Royal_Marines__Annex_A_June_and_July_2016.pdf]

HL2818 - RN Senior Officer Salaries April 2016 [Copy of Royal Navy Senior Officer salaries as of April 2016.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2818>

NHS: Finance

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the official figure of £10 billion extra in funding for the NHS by 2020-21 is correct. [HL2907]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Spending Review in November 2015 settled the level of funding that the National Health Service in England will receive over the course of this Parliament. The NHS will be receiving £10 billion more per year in real terms by 2020-21 compared to 2014-15.

In 2014-15, the NHS budget was £98.1 billion, in 2020-21 it will be £119.9 billion. That is a £21.8 billion increase in cash terms, or £10 billion in real terms.

The following table provides the agreed figures as set out in the Spending Review 2015 document:

	<i>NHS funding</i>	<i>Annual real terms increase</i>	<i>Cumulative delivery of £10 billion</i>
2014-15	£98.1 billion	n/a	n/a
2015-16	£101.3 billion	1.9%	2
2016-17	£106.8 billion	3.6%	6
2017-18	£110.2 billion	1.3%	7
2018-19	£112.7 billion	0.4%	8
2019-20	£115.8 billion	0.7%	9

	<i>NHS funding</i>	<i>Annual real terms increase</i>	<i>Cumulative delivery of £10 billion</i>
2020-21	£119.9 billion	1.4%	10

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the public sector spend on health per head of population in real terms for each of the years from, and including, 2010; and what is the projected spend per head in real terms for each of the years up to, and including, 2020. [HL2868]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Public sector spend on health in England per head of population from 2010-11 to 2015-16 and projected spend per head from 2016-17 to 2020-21 in cash and real terms is shown in table below:

Department spend per head in England 2010-11 to 2020-21

<i>Year</i>	<i>Plan/Outturn</i>	<i>Spend per head (£)</i>	<i>Spend per head 2016/17 prices (£)</i>
2010/11	Outturn	1,908	2,077
2011/12	Outturn	1,937	2,079
2012/13	Outturn	1,967	2,069
2013/14	Outturn	2,038	2,109
2014/15	Outturn	2,087	2,127
2015/16	Outturn	2,140	2,172
2016-17	Plan	2,184	2,184
2017-18	Plan	2,223	2,184
2018-19	Plan	2,254	2,168
2019-20	Plan	2,287	2,159
2020-21	Plan	2,340	2,166

Notes:

Real terms growth calculations based on Gross Domestic Product deflators 30 September 2016.

Department public expenditure is classified as the Total Departmental Expenditure Limit set by HM Treasury.

Nissan

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have given Nissan any letter of comfort or undertakings that have not also been given to other businesses in connection with investment in new production capacity in the UK; and if so, what they were and whether they will publish copies of the correspondence. [HL2826]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: I refer the noble Lord to the statement I made to the House on this matter on 31 October 2016, Official Report, Vol 776. Col; 491-93.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Extract from Official Report [Attachment to HL2826.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2826>

Asked by Lord Livermore

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) whether they offered compensation to Nissan for any harm to its operations in the UK arising from the UK's future trade arrangement with the EU and, if so, what form of compensation; and (2) whether they will publish the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's letter to Nissan. [HL2919]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: I refer the noble Lord to the statement I made to the House on this matter on 31 October 2016, Official Report, Vol 776. Col. 491-503 and the resulting question and answer session.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Official Report 31.10.16 - Nissan: Sunderland [Official Report - Statement on Nissan 31.10.16.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-01/HL2919>

Oilseed Rape

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of erucic acid contamination of oilseed rape. [HL2810]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government is aware that a high level of erucic acid has been detected in some oilseed rape deliveries to crushing plants over the past year. The Government is working with the industry to understand the cause of the problem. A survey is being carried out by the supply chain to capture data on the seed used as well as the crop production, harvest and storage methods. This information will be independently analysed by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board.

Maximum permitted levels for erucic acid in products entering the food chain are set under EU Commission Regulation No 1881/2006 (as amended) setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs. Local authority enforcement officers undertake routine monitoring to check compliance with the legislation.

Older People: Abuse

Asked by Lord Wasserman

To ask Her Majesty's Government which police forces in England and Wales maintain units devoted exclusively or principally to tackling abuse of elderly

persons; and how many officers are employed full-time in each of those units. [[HL2885](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: This information is not held centrally by the Home Office.

Decisions about the size and composition of the police workforce are an operational matter for chief officers, in line with the local priorities set by their Police and Crime Commissioner.

Parades Commission

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Dunlop on 31 October (HL2453), whether the Northern Ireland Parades Commission is only accountable to the courts on issues of human rights within the terms of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998; and what scrutiny there is of the Commission's actions. [[HL2984](#)]

Lord Dunlop: The Parades Commission for Northern Ireland is required to comply with the Public Processions (NI) Act 1998, which is compliant with international treaty obligations on human rights. As a public authority the Commission also has general obligations under public law. The Commission is ultimately responsible to the courts for the discharge of its operations.

There is no one body or individual charged specifically with scrutinising the Parades Commission's compliance with international treaty obligations, including on human rights. Should any individual or organisation feel that the Commission has acted contrary to its obligations, they have a right to take steps to challenge those actions through the courts.

Plants: Imports

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to list all the UK's tree and plant species under threat from pests and diseases found in plants imported to the UK from the EU. [[HL2904](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: We are committed to doing all we can to prevent plant pests and diseases reaching our borders and to build the resilience of our trees and plants. Our approach, led by the Government Chief Plant Health Officer, involves the systematic, proactive screening of potential new and emerging risks, which are listed in the Plant Health Risk Register.

There are regulations on importing plants and products from outside the UK where it is known that certain pests or pathogens are present. These are updated regularly, in response to new evidence, such as that published by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation. We are working collaboratively with the EU and broader international community, industry, NGOs, landowners and the public to reduce the risks of pests and diseases entering the country and the impact of

newly established pests, including substantial programmes of work on the oak processionary moth and ash dieback.

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to draw up a new phytosanitary inspection regime for plants imported from the EU after the UK's withdrawal. [[HL2905](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: We recognise that the UK's exit from the EU may have implications for the way in which current UK plant health services operate, including phytosanitary certification on imports, quarantine measures to mitigate the highest risk pests and diseases, and plant passporting.

We are considering the implications and possible options as part of our planning for, and negotiations on, the UK's exit.

Continuing to deliver a risk-based, proportionate plant health regime that effectively protects the UK from plant pests and diseases, whilst maximising the free movement of goods, remains of the highest priority.

Playgrounds and Schools: Air Pollution

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps to provide compulsory air quality monitors outside all schools and children's playgrounds. [[HL2912](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Defra monitors, models and reports air quality at a national level in accordance with the requirements of EU and international legislation. There are 271 monitoring stations in the UK national monitoring network.

Local authorities are responsible for reviewing and assessing local air quality, including decisions on local air quality monitoring. Their local knowledge and interaction with the communities that they serve mean that they know the issues on the ground in detail and the solutions best suited to local circumstances.

Defra provides guidance, including helpdesk advice, to local authorities on the appropriate type of monitoring to install. Where local authorities conduct air quality monitoring, they are expected to site monitors in accordance with local and national priorities, which may include schools and other locations where there is high risk of public exposure.

Political Parties: Finance

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to change the law relating to political donations. [[HL3008](#)]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: Despite a decade of talks, there is still no cross-party consensus on the broad issues of party funding at this time. It is ultimately a matter for the political parties - the Government cannot impose consensus from Whitehall.

Poverty

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Eurostat figures and analysis published on 17 October, The share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU back to its pre-crisis level, what plans they have to work with (1) the EU and other international partners, and (2) the UK devolved administrations, in reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion. [HL2816]

Lord Freud: The PM has been clear that tackling poverty and disadvantage, and delivering real social reform, will be a priority for this Government. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has said that he will return to the House with further announcements over the coming months.

The Devolved Administrations have an important role in reducing the numbers of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion and we will continue to engage with them where appropriate.

Additionally, the UK participates in the Semester process. The European Semester was set up in 2010 to implement the Europe 2020 strategy, which includes a target for poverty reduction. As such, this includes looking at the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the UK.

Prisoners: Death

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many deaths have occurred in prisons in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [HL2876]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Safety in Custody statistics, including deaths in custody, are published quarterly. The latest bulletin was published on 27 October 2016 and can be found on gov.uk

Deaths in prison custody, England and Wales, 12 months ending September 2014, 2015 and 2016

	12 months ending		
	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16
Total deaths ¹	234	267	324

1. Figures include incidents at NOMS operated Immigration Removal Centres.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many assaults there have been on prison officers and prisoners in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [HL2875]

Lord Keen of Elie: The Safety in Custody statistics, including assaults on prison staff and prisoners, are published quarterly. The latest bulletin was published on 27 October 2016 and can be found on gov.uk

Prisoner on prisoner assaults, and assaults on staff in prison custody, England and Wales, 12 months ending June 2014, 2015 and 2016

	12 months ending		
	Jun-14	Jun-15	Jun-16
			(p)
ALL ESTABLISHMENTS			
Prisoner on prisoner assaults	12,039	13,472	17,782
Assaults on Staff	3,458	4,177	5,954

1. Figures include incidents at NOMS operated Immigration Removal Centres.

Private Equity

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to review the tax benefits extended to private equity partners by the application of a special rate to carried interest income. [HL2796]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government has taken decisive steps to ensure that asset managers pay their fair share of tax. In Summer Budget 2015, the Government closed loopholes to ensure that asset managers pay the right amount of Capital Gains Tax on their carried interest.

Legislation in the Finance Act 2016 ensures that this carried interest remains subject to a Capital Gains Tax rate of 28% for higher and additional rate tax payers, despite the cut in the main rate of Capital Gains Tax to 20%.

In addition, legislation in the Finance Act 2016 ensures that asset managers engaged in short-term trading activity are subject to income tax on the carried interest they receive, rather than Capital Gains Tax.

Public Libraries

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 24 October (HL2163), what assessment they have made of the case for intervening under sections 10 and 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 in order to ensure that

local authorities are discharging their function and meeting their statutory obligations to provide library services to the public. [HL2890]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Secretary of State can request an inspection under section 10 and intervene under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 where there is robust evidence that an authority is failing to comply with the best value duty. To date, the Government has taken the view that failures need to be very serious (and not narrowly focused on one single function) to warrant removing control from an independent council, which is run by locally elected representatives.

For a single function such as library services, the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 provides the Secretary of State with a statutory power to intervene by calling a local enquiry when a library authority fails, or is suspected of failing, to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service.

Refugees: Children

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to accepting a greater number of unaccompanied child refugees into the UK. [HL2769]

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the closure of the refugee camp at Calais, whether they intend to revise the rules concerning the acceptance of child refugees into the UK. [HL2770]

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied children have been accepted into the UK from the refugee camp at Calais. [HL2771]

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the devolved administrations of the UK have been consulted on the plans for acceptance of unaccompanied child refugees. [HL2772]

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the cost of accepting unaccompanied child refugees into the UK to date; and what provision has been made to meet the cost of an increase in the number of qualified children being accepted into the UK. [HL2773]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In response to the French Government's decision to close the camp in Calais, we have transferred over 200 asylum-seeking children to the UK, and we plan to transfer several hundred more children over the coming days and weeks.

Between 1 January and 1 October, over 140 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Europe were accepted for transfer to the UK under the family reunion provisions of the Dublin Regulation, of which over 80 are from France. This is in addition to our efforts in Calais.

Almost 3,000 people have been granted humanitarian protection under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme since it began. In the year ending June 2016, almost 50% of those were children.

There were 3,472 asylum claims from unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the year ending June 2016, a 54% rise compared to the year ending June 2015.

We continue to consult with every part of the UK including the devolved administrations, to encourage local authorities across the country to accept unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children under the National Transfer Scheme.

In July 2016, we increased the national rate of funding to local authorities taking responsibility for unaccompanied asylum seeking children; from £34,675 to £41,610 a year for those aged under 16 and from £25,915 to £33,215 a year for those aged 16 or 17. These rates were set following analysis of the costs of providing support to the two age groups based on financial information supplied by local authorities. We will keep these arrangements under review.

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding has been allocated to support unaccompanied children being resettled in the UK beyond 31 March 2017. [I] [HL2838]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In July 2016, we significantly increased the national rates of funding to local authorities taking responsibility for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. We will keep these arrangements under review, but we have no current plans to reduce the rates.

Asked by Baroness Doocey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all unaccompanied children they have brought to the UK from the Jungle camp in Calais are assessed by social workers or specialist charities for human trafficking or modern slavery indicators immediately upon their arrival. [HL2852]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum claimants who display possible indicators of trafficking are referred to the National Referral Mechanism by the appropriate First Responders. Those unaccompanied asylum seeking children who have recently been brought to the UK from Calais are assessed on arrival by Home Office officials who are trained to identify indicators of human trafficking or modern slavery and who are working closely with social workers and specialist organisations. Safeguarding checks are conducted before children brought to the UK

in accordance with the Dublin Regulation are allowed to join relatives.

*Asked by **Baroness Doocey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have accommodated any unaccompanied children from Calais in any immigration detention facility in the last month. [[HL2853](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is not using immigration detention facilities to accommodate unaccompanied children from Calais.

*Asked by **Baroness Doocey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether children brought to the UK from Calais in accordance with the Dublin Regulation are given safeguarding assessments by social workers before being handed over to relatives claiming the children. [[HL2854](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum claimants who display possible indicators of trafficking are referred to the National Referral Mechanism by the appropriate First Responders. Those unaccompanied asylum seeking children who have recently been brought to the UK from Calais are assessed on arrival by Home Office officials who are trained to identify indicators of human trafficking or modern slavery and who are working closely with social workers and specialist organisations. Safeguarding checks are conducted before children brought to the UK in accordance with the Dublin Regulation are allowed to join relatives.

*Asked by **Baroness Doocey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have contracted Oasis UK to provide accommodation for unaccompanied children coming from Calais, and if so, when was that agreement reached. [[HL2855](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office contracted with Oasis Charitable Trust on 20 October 2016 to provide welfare support services for unaccompanied children coming from Calais.

The contract with Oasis Charitable Trust was amended on 1 November 2016 to include the provision of accommodation for unaccompanied children coming from Calais.

*Asked by **Baroness Doocey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities have refused to provide reception and accommodation for any unaccompanied children brought from the Jungle camp at Calais. [[HL2856](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We do not routinely disclose details of our engagement with local authorities in relation to the transfer of children from Calais. This initiative is voluntary and it is often the case that local authorities do not wish to have their participation published.

Refugees: Syria

*Asked by **Baroness Helic***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Syrian vulnerable person resettlement programme should be expanded to include victims of sexual violence and torture by Daesh and other armed groups in Iraq. [I] [[HL2781](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Eligibility for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme (VPR) is based on established vulnerability criteria used by the UNHCR, which includes those who have been victims of sexual violence and torture.

Whilst the VPR is limited to Syrian nationals, the UK operates a number of other resettlement schemes which are open to all nationalities. This includes our long-running Gateway and Mandate schemes and our new Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme. In the year ending June 2016, the UK resettled over 100 Iraqis under the Gateway and Mandate schemes.

The UK continues to support humanitarian efforts by providing £79.5 million to help the three million Iraqis who have been displaced, and over eight million people in need, many of whom have been victims of Daesh's abuses and persecution.

Rights of Way: Driverless Vehicles

*Asked by **Lord Greaves***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether self-driving wheel-based robots can be used on footpaths, bridleways and cycleways which are public rights of way; and if so, in what circumstances. [[HL2833](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Public rights of way allow the public to pass and repass along linear routes, in accordance with the status of the route. For example, footpaths allow for passage on foot and in mobility scooters; bridleways allow for passage on foot or in mobility scooters, on horseback or by bicycle.

Any activity other than that which is in accordance with a right of way may amount to trespass if carried out without the permission of the landowner. Additionally, obstructing or rendering a public right of way dangerous is a public nuisance in common law.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

*Asked by **Baroness Byford***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are reviewing the decision to close the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme; and if so, when their findings will be published. [[HL3019](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme was open only to nationals of Bulgaria and Romania from 2007 onwards. It was closed at the end of 2013, on the basis of advice from the Migration Advisory Committee, when the transitional

employment restrictions applied to nationals of those countries were lifted. The arrangements which will apply to EU nationals coming to the UK for the purpose of work post-Brexit have yet to be determined.

Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the trial of an early warning sanctions system piloted in Scotland; and what plans they have to introduce an early warning system for people issued with benefit sanctions in England and Wales. [HL2817]

Lord Freud: A Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions "Early Warning" Trial was launched in March 2016 in Scotland. The trial ran until September 2016 and a full evaluation is being undertaken. The Government will respond to the final evaluation report in due course.

Social Services: Finance

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) what are the present costs to the NHS of adult social care, and (2) how much additional funding they estimate is required to ensure the adequate provision of social care, particularly for the elderly. [HL2908]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government recognises that adult social care and National Health Service costs are closely related, and that savings can be achieved through better integration. For this reason we introduced the Government's £5.3 billion Better Care Fund. This has provided much needed investment in better integrated care through locally developed plans, and by putting resources where the local NHS and social services think they are needed.

Calculating the exact relationship between health and social care expenditure is complex and the subject of further work.

The Autumn 2015 Spending Review settlement announced that local authorities who are responsible for social care would have the ability to raise additional funding to spend exclusively on adult social care through an annual council tax raise of up to two per cent above the existing threshold. The Government will be making further funding available to councils for adult social care through an improved Better Care Fund, rising to £1.5 billion by 2019-20. Taken together, this means local government has access to funding to increase social care spending in real terms by the end of the Parliament.

Somalia: Security

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the security situation

in Somalia as a result of the withdrawal of Ethiopian armed forces from that country. [HL2827]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are aware that Ethiopia has withdrawn some of their non-African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces. We are in close contact with the government of Ethiopia, other AMISOM troop contributing countries, and key donors to explore options to mitigate the effect of the withdrawal on security in Somalia and the wider region.

Al-Shabaab remains a threat and continues to launch attacks in Somalia and the wider region.

Sports

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will take steps to ensure that the UK remains a partner in collaborating, and sharing learning with EU member states to develop and improve the conditions of sport. [HL2857]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The UK continues to work with all our international partners to promote and develop sport. The Minister for Sport recently hosted her Polish counterpart in London and had similar meetings at the Rio Olympics with her counterparts from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Ireland & Iceland.

In addition, the UK has also welcomed visiting delegations from France and Kuwait to share our expertise.

Sudan: Doctors

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of the arrest and interrogation of Sudanese doctors across Sudan over the weekend of 29 and 30 October, including the president of the Sudanese Doctors Union, Dr Ahmed Abdallah El Sheikh. [HL2968]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are aware of reports of detention of a number of Sudanese doctors, and that others are required to report to the National Intelligence and Security Services daily. This follows the Doctor's Union strikes which began on the 6 October. The British Embassy in Khartoum raised our concern over these detentions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 7 November, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Syria

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 24 October (HL2327), whether they have studied the report by the multi-faith pastoral group. [HL2952]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are aware of this visit and have received reports from various members of the visiting group. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advised strongly against this visit, both for security reasons and because such visits can become tools of the Asad regime's propaganda.

The FCO's analysis – based on reports from the FCO network and a wide range of credible independent sources – is that the Asad regime is responsible for widespread atrocities against the Syrian people. This includes the death of an estimated 400,000 people in the last five years, the use of chemical weapons, torture, arbitrary detention and disappearances.

Syria: Armed Conflict

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) men, and (2) women, attended the talks between foreign ministers hosted in London by the Foreign Secretary on 16 October. [HL2979]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: 24 male representatives and zero female representatives attended the Foreign Ministers meeting in London on 16 October. The participating organisations and countries included: EU, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE, UK, and USA.

Tanzania: HIV Infection

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Tanzania concerning their decision to stop HIV prevent programmes for gay men. [HL2947]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The government of Tanzania has not said it is stopping HIV programmes for gay men. Ummu Mwalimu, the Tanzanian Minister of Health issued a statement on 26 October saying that all Tanzanians who need HIV services, including those who are gay, have access to HIV services. However, she also said outreach and drop in services for gay men are being reviewed. We will monitor future developments closely.

Taxation

Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 25 October (HL2200), whether they will consider using a more flexible and variable approach to setting VAT and Excise duties for different goods and services to improve the nation's health and wellbeing, after the UK leaves the EU. [HL2763]

Lord Young of Cookham: As I stated in my answer of 25 October (HL2200), until the UK has left the EU, we

will remain a member of the EU with all the rights and obligations that membership entails.

The Government will work hard to get the best deal for Britain, including for VAT and excise, and is determined to make the most of the opportunities that are presented.

Tenofovir

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences about the extension of its patent for the drug tenofovir. [HL2949]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: We are not aware of any such discussions. We are aware of three supplementary protection certificates (SPCs) granted in the UK to Gilead Sciences for products involving tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, of which one has been surrendered and two are the subject of revocation proceedings.

Terrorism: Finance

Asked by Lord James of Blackheath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to criminalise the withholding of knowledge relating to the presence or movement of funds for terrorist use made available through the co-operation of British business. [HL2834]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under Section 19, Part 3 of the Terrorism Act 2000, it is already a criminal offence to fail to disclose, without reasonable excuse, information which relates to a terrorist finance offence.

The Criminal Finance Bill will provide new measures to assist where incomplete information is provided and where a criminal prosecution would be disproportionate. The Bill will enable law enforcement officers to first issue a notice and then seek a Court order to compel any member of the regulated sector to provide further information in relation to a Suspicious Activity Report that has been made under the Terrorism Act 2000. Failure to comply with the order carries a fine of up to £5000.

The Bill will also make disclosure orders available for terrorist finance investigations, enabling a judge to make an order directing someone to answer questions, provide information or produce documents in relation to a terrorist financing investigation. Making a false statement or failing to comply, without reasonable excuse, will be a criminal offence.

Tomatoes: Research

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the research by Professor Graham Seymour into controlling the softening of the tomato fruit. [HL2808]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: We welcome Professor Graham Seymour's research project and my officials will be writing to him shortly to invite him to present his results to them.

UK Trade with EU

Asked by Lord Livermore

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an assessment since 23 June of the economic impact on the UK of leaving the Single Market. [HL2920]

Asked by Lord Livermore

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an assessment since 23 June of the economic impact on the UK of leaving the Customs Union. [HL2921]

Asked by Lord Livermore

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish any new analysis regarding the economic impact on the UK of the various future options for trade with the EU. [HL2922]

Lord Bridges of Headley: As the Prime Minister has made clear, the Government will give Parliament the opportunity to discuss our approach to leaving the EU - but will not show its hand in detail. We are continuing our analysis of over 50 sectors of the UK economy. Ministers are considering the UK's future customs relationship with the EU. In terms of trade we are evaluating a number of options, and we will negotiate the best unique deal for the UK.

UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) men, and (2) women, attended the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London on 8 September. [HL2978]

Earl Howe: There were 302 male and 40 female attendees for the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London on 8 September.

Undocumented Migrants

Asked by Lord Temple-Morris

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 11 October (HL1831), how many arrests of illegal immigrants, and how many arrests for immigration offences, there were in each of the last five years; and how many of those arrested in each year (1) were deported from the UK, (2) remained in custody, and (3) were released within the UK. [HL2328]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is not possible to provide information specific to the number of arrests for illegal immigrants because immigration offences cover a wide range of activities and the data specific to arrests for illegal immigration cannot be separated from arrests for other immigration offences. Additionally, an individual may be arrested for committing more than one offence, but as only one offence per arrest is recorded in a format that can be reported on centrally it is not possible to provide complete figures on arrests by individual offences type.

Information on arrests - either by an Immigration Enforcement or Police Officer - for committing an immigration offence is available. For the period 2011/12 to 2015/16, our records indicate that there were 119,730 arrests.

Data on the custody or detention status of those arrested cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost because checks of individual records would be required.

Visas: Overseas Students

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all international students applying to study in the UK are required in their visa applications to submit bank statements showing that they have sufficient available funds to cover their living expenses in the UK; and if not, what are the criteria for selecting which students are required to do so, and to students from which countries this requirement applies. [HL2631]

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what level of funds they deem sufficient to cover the living expenses in the UK of international students, and how this is calculated. [HL2632]

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the impact of the requirement that, in applying for a visa to study in the UK, international students should demonstrate they have sufficient available funds to cover their living expenses. [HL2633]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The maintenance requirements for Tier 4 (General) Students to cover living costs is set at the same level as the combined maximum maintenance loan and grant available to English students living away from home. These requirements are set out in paragraphs 153-176 of the Tier 4 Migrant Guidance.

All students need to meet the same maintenance requirements; however, some students are not required to provide documentation with their applications to confirm this, although the Home Office retain the right to request these documents at any point during the visa process. The details of this are set out in Appendix H of the Immigration Rules.

We will shortly be consulting on proposed changes to the non-EU work and study migration routes to see what more we can do to strengthen the system to support the best institutions – and those that stick to the rules – to attract the best talent.

Interested parties, including businesses and members of the education sector, will have the opportunity to engage with this consultation to help us get these reforms right.

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 4 November (HL2634), whether (1) nationality or country of origin, and (2) the status of the institution as a university or college, are factors taken into account in

the process for determining which international students applying for a visa to study in the UK should undergo an interview to assess that their course of study is genuine before a visa is issued; and what equality impact assessment has been carried out on the operation of these arrangements. [[HL3024](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Interviews are conducted with international students as part of the visa application process in order to confirm that the applicant meets the requirements of the UK immigration rules, in particular that he or she is a genuine student. A number of different factors including the status of the institution are taken into account to assess the potential level of risk that an applicant might pose to the UK border and these are used to determine whether or not an interview is required.

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