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

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# Written Statements

*Monday, 9 January 2017*

## Clerk of the Parliaments

[HLWS399]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** I informed the House on 1 November of David Beamish's intention to retire from the office of Clerk of the Parliaments with effect from 15 April 2017. A recruitment process for David's successor as Clerk of the Parliaments, as well as any vacancies arising consequentially in the posts of Clerk Assistant and Reading Clerk, has now concluded.

There were six applicants, all of whom were interviewed by a board consisting of myself, the Lord Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers and Dame Janet Paraskeva, a former First Civil Service Commissioner.

The unanimous recommendation of the board is that Edward Ollard should succeed David Beamish as Clerk of the Parliaments. We will have an early opportunity to pay tribute to David Beamish's career in the House nearer to the date of his retirement.

With Edward's appointment the post of Clerk Assistant will fall vacant. The board unanimously recommended that Simon Burton should succeed Edward as Clerk Assistant. Simon's appointment also means that the post of Reading Clerk will fall vacant. The board unanimously recommended that Jake Vaughan should succeed Simon as Reading Clerk. The Lord Speaker will move Motions to appoint both Simon and Jake to those posts at the appropriate time.

## Mental Health

[HLWS401]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** My Rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Jeremy Hunt) has made the following written statement:

I would like to update the House following today's announcement made by the Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Theresa May MP about this Government's plans to reform mental health services in this country.

For too long those suffering mental illness in England have experienced a hidden injustice. Mental illness has been shrouded in stigma and the needs of those with mental health problems have been neglected compared to those with physical illness. An estimated one in four people in the UK will experience a mental health problem at any one time and the economic and social cost of mental illness is estimated to be £105 billion a year. Left unaddressed, mental illness can destroy lives, cause untold pain to families and prevent people from fulfilling their potential at work, school or in society.

This Government is determined to address the historic failure - over successive generations and governments - to

tackle mental illness. We are grateful to the Independent Mental Health Taskforce for publishing the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health last year, which set out a clear roadmap for the NHS, our Arm's Length Bodies and Government. In February, the Department for Health supported their recommendations with an additional investment of £1 billion per year by 2020. NHS England accepted the recommendations for the National Health Service in full and have published an Implementation Plan. Today the Prime Minister announced that the Government accepts all the recommendations made to it by the Independent Task Force on Mental Health and is publishing an update on our progress against these recommendations. The Government's response to the Mental Health Task Force is attached.

But we must go further still. The challenge of mental illness is growing and we must all - at every stage of life and every level in society - take steps to tackle it.

First, because we know that children and young people are most susceptible to mental illness and most disorders originate in childhood, we must make mental health a priority in our classrooms and in our families. The Government had therefore announced a series of steps to ensure children and young people get the support they need. We will:

- commission a major thematic review of children and adolescent mental health services across the country, led by the Care Quality Commission with assistance from Ofsted – the first of its kind.
- bring forward a new Green Paper on Children and Young People's Mental Health later this year, to set out plans to transform services in schools, universities and for families.
- introduce new support for schools with every secondary school in the country to be offered mental health first aid training and new trials to look at how to strengthen the links between schools and local NHS mental health staff.
- develop peer support for children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing - confirming a programme of pilot activity on peer support, as outlined earlier in the year, along with £1.5 million in funding.
- launch a programme of randomised control trials of promising preventative programmes, across three different approaches to mental health promotion and prevention.

Second, we must work with employers to ensure better mental wellbeing in the workplace. Because we know that there are important steps businesses can take to support their workforce, and those that do see benefits in higher productivity and lower absence. The Prime Minister has therefore appointed Lord Dennis Stevenson, the long-time campaigner for greater understanding and treatment of mental illness, and Paul Farmer CBE, CEO of Mind and Chair of the NHS Mental Health Taskforce, to drive work with business and the public sector to support mental health in the workplace. These experts will lead a review on how best to ensure employees with mental health

problems are enabled to thrive in the workplace and perform at their best. This will involve practical help including promoting best practice and learning from trailblazer employers, as well as offering tools to organisations, whatever size they are, to assist with employee wellbeing and mental health. We will also review recommendations around discrimination in the workplace on the grounds of mental health.

Third, we need to offer alternatives to hospital to support people in the community. We recognise that seeing a GP or going to A&E is not or does not feel like the right intervention for many people with mental ill-health, the government will build on its initial £15m investment to provide and promote new models of community-based care such as crisis cafes and community clinics. The initial £15m investment led to 88 new places of safety being created. Since 2011-12, there has been an almost 80 per cent reduction in England of people experiencing a mental health crisis being taken to police cells, utilising health-based place of safety, rather than being held in a cell, ensuring people get the best support – in the right place, at the right time, in the right way. The Government now plans to spend up to a further £15m to build on this success.

Fourth, we will expand treatment by investing in and expanding digital mental health services. Digitally assisted therapy has already proved successful in other countries and the government will speed up the delivery of a £67.7m digital mental health package so that those worried about stress, anxiety or more serious issues can go online, check their symptoms and if needed, receive clinically-assisted therapy over the internet, when this is clinically appropriate for the person rather than waiting weeks for a face-to-face appointment – with face-to-face sessions offered as necessary. We will:

- introduce a major £60m investment, £30m from Government and £30m from Trusts, of digitally assisted mental health services in six mental health trusts, badged Global Digital Exemplars for Mental Health. Global Digital Exemplars will be expected to make a step
- change in their use of digital technology, informatics and data to improve value overall by improving the processes of care, using information to better inform decision making about care, improving the levels of safety and effectiveness of care, improving the ability to sustain
- continuous quality improvement and improving patient access to appropriate evidence based care.
- pilot digitally-assisted therapy for the NHS's talking therapies programme. This £3m pilot will trial existing treatments and offer patients faster effective therapy for illnesses such as anxiety and depression and involve working with NICE to establish a new accelerated
- accreditation process, to ensure mental health patients can access treatments that take full advantage of changing technology which have been properly tested

and accredited, with products becoming part of the mainstream offer to people if meeting NICE standards.

- strengthen the mental health content of the clinical triage platform for NHS 111 with a £3.3m investment, ensuring improved triaging of those experiencing mental ill-health using the NHS' online platforms, as well as allow self-referrals online.

- Pilot and further roll out the Health Based Place of Safety Capacity Management App at a cost of £900,000 to help police and health services manage places of safety spaces in real time.

- Develop a set of apps and resources for £500,000, which will be included on an online digital health tools library, and rolled out on commercial platforms like the Apple App store.

Fifth, we must right the everyday injustices that those with mental health problems face. We will:

- work with Money and Mental Health Policy Institute to undertake a review of the mental health and debt form and agree an approach that will end this unfair practice.

- support NHS England's commitment, made this year, to eliminate inappropriate placements to inpatient beds for children and young people by 2020/21.

- publish the refreshed Government Suicide Prevention Strategy, a copy of which is attached.

*Suicide Prevention* The latest figures from the Office of National Statistics show that 4,820 suicides were registered in England during 2015 - equivalent to 13 people per day. Self-harm is also on the rise, with up to 300,000 hospital attendances per year in England categorised as resulting from self-inflicted injury.

We are already taking steps to help reduce suicide. The £247 million investment in mental health liaison services will see trained psychiatrists and counsellors made available in Emergency Departments to assess, counsel and refer patients onto other mental health services if they present with signs of self-harm or other psychological distress.

Local authorities will also be expected to strengthen local suicide prevention plans, and there is an explicit focus on improving how services respond to cases of self-harm, which is the biggest single indicator that a person may be at increased risk of suicide.

It is hoped that the new strategy, which sets out how local areas should do more to support those at high risk of suicide, will also encourage local authorities strengthen efforts to reach other groups known to be at increased risk.

These include young men – who are three times more likely to die by suicide than women - those in contact with the criminal justice system and certain occupational groups.

Many parts of the country already have established preventative plans. These vary by area, but have included:

stronger outreach and liaison services, dedicated services for young people who self-harm and training programmes to help health professionals, police and other community services to understand how to identify and respond to people in acute distress.

All local authorities will now be expected to develop strong, multi-agency suicide prevention plans by the end of 2017, ahead of these being checked and approved by the Department of Health.

In addition, NHS England will develop a new care pathway for self-harm, which will provide greater consistency in how those groups are cared for across the NHS, with consistent treatment guidelines for the recognition, treatment and management of self-harm.

There will also be an increased focus on ensuring those who have been recently bereaved – which are another group at increased risk of suicide – receive information and follow-up support to help them cope with their loss.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Mental Health Taskforce Response [2906083 Five Year Forward View\_accessible.pdf]

Suicide Prevention Strategy (Annual Report 2016) [Annual Report 2016 formatted V6.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2017-01-09/HLWS401/>

## “Securing the Ballot”: Government Response

[HLWS400]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** My Honourable friend the Minister for the Constitution (Chris Skidmore) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Government has published its response to “Securing the ballot”, the review of electoral fraud conducted and published by my Rt Hon Friend, the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Sir Eric Pickles), in August 2016. I would like to thank Sir Eric for the work involved in his comprehensive and detailed report, which the Government believes is an important step in our commitment to tackling all types of electoral fraud in the UK. I add my thanks to all those individuals and organisations who contributed to Sir Eric’s important review.

The Government has given each of Sir Eric’s fifty recommendations careful consideration. In setting out the Government’s view on each of the recommendations in turn, the response presents a package for reform that will ensure we can build a democracy that is clear and secure. We intend to achieve the changes we propose through a combination of primary and secondary legislation, where Parliamentary time allows, and through new or reinforced guidance. As a central part of the reform package, the Government will look to identify legislative opportunities to give electoral administrators greater powers to protect voters from intimidation and undue influence, and to end the dubious practice of postal vote harvesting by political parties.

We will also look to introduce a number of pilot schemes at local government elections in 2018 to trial the use of voter identification in polling stations. The Government agrees with Sir Eric that asking voters to prove their identity before receiving their ballot paper may be an effective way to enhance the security of the democratic process. Using existing legislative provisions, we will invite those local authorities identified by the Electoral Commission as being at risk of electoral fraud to take part in pilots, as well as authorities who are not considered at risk. The pilots will enable the Government to assess the impact of voter identification on elections in the UK.

The Government is aware of the consequences of devolution for this programme of reform. As with all legislation that relates to the division of competence on electoral matters between the UK Government and the devolved administrations, we are clear that decisions on these changes are ultimately the responsibility of those administrations. We will consult with the Scottish, Welsh, and Northern Irish administrations to ensure that there is an effective and consistent fit for any changes brought forward.

The response presents a challenging programme of reform, which we will work hard to implement over the coming years. The Government will continue to work closely with the devolved administrations and with interested organisations to ensure that we can provide a democracy that works for everyone.

Copies of the response will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

## Written Answers

Monday, 9 January 2017

### A34

*Asked by Lord Lloyd-Webber*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the proposed Oxford and Cambridge expressway, what is the plan for the A34 north of Chieveley. [\[HL4290\]](#)

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As the Minister of State for Transport, the Rt Hon John Hayes CBE MP, alluded to previously in the A34 Safety Westminster Hall Debate on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016, the stage 3 study report for the Oxford to Cambridge expressway was published on 28 November 2016. This study informs current discussions on the future of the A34.

Highways England is also currently updating their route strategies, including the Solent to Midlands strategy the includes the A34. These strategies will be published in Spring 2017 and will highlight current route issues as well as challenges for the future. This will inform future infrastructure improvement bids. The current Road Investment Strategy announced two schemes on this section of the A34- Technology enhancements between the M4 and M40 and improvements to the Peartree and Botley interchanges. Highways England is working on options for these schemes.

*Asked by Lord Lloyd-Webber*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any specific proposals relating to the A34 to the south of the Chieveley interchange; and if so, which agency is responsible for them. [\[HL4291\]](#)

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The current A34 safety review includes the section south of Chieveley. Improvements are planned to relieve congestion at the interchange between the A34 and the M3 at Junction 9 as set out in the Road Investment Strategy.

Highways England is responsible for the whole of the A34.

### Abortion

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take following the Care Quality Commission's findings concerning Marie Stopes abortion clinics. [\[HL4324\]](#)

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Regulatory action in response to the findings in the reports has been taken forward by the Care Quality Commission. The Department continues to monitor the situation with particular regard being had to the statutory power of the Secretary of State to approve independent sector abortion providers to perform the termination of pregnancy under Section 1(3) of the Abortion Act 1967.

### Agriculture: Seasonal Workers

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports of a fall in the number of temporary migrant agricultural workers since the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, what steps they are taking to encourage migrant workers to apply for seasonal jobs on farms. [\[HL4222\]](#)

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** I refer the Noble Lady to the Oral contribution given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Immigration during the Westminster Hall debate on the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme; Volume 617, Column 576WH on 30 November.

I would draw your attention in particular to his reference to recently published Office for National Statistics figures that:

"the number of workers from the eight countries of eastern and central Europe that joined the EU in 2004, and from Bulgaria and Romania—the countries most commonly associated with low-skilled labour—are also up year on year. To be precise, there were 129,000 more workers from those countries in the UK in the third quarter of 2016 compared with a year earlier. That does not suggest that there is a major exodus from the United Kingdom although, as I have said, I will continue to monitor the situation carefully."

### Air Pollution

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) deaths, and (2) emergency hospitalisations, were caused due to excess PM2.5 in the air pollution episode of March to April 2014; and whether they will publish the research. [\[HL4217\]](#)

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** There was an estimate of 600 deaths across the United Kingdom over the 10 days of High and Very High air pollution compared to around 300 associated with typical particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) air pollution levels.

The mortality estimates are calculated based on published epidemiological exposure response coefficients. It is not possible to determine which individuals were impacted by this episode specifically, nor the length of time that deaths were brought forward by.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they took to warn the public, media and government departments during the air pollution episode of 29 November to 6 December. [\[HL4218\]](#)

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they issued to members of the public, during the air pollution episode of 29 November to 6 December, to avoid



driving polluting vehicles and to use public transport, walk or cycle in the areas affected. [HL4219]

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they took during the air pollution episode of 29 November to 6 December to ensure that all health care practitioners in the areas affected were aware of the public health impacts. [HL4220]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government takes its responsibility for informing members of the public about air pollution events very seriously. The Government-funded website, UK-AIR, makes available a five day forecast from the Met Office on predicted air pollution levels across the United Kingdom, allowing members of the public to take action. This information is available on the Met Office website alongside the weather forecast. Members of the public or other organisations may also sign up to email bulletins via UK-AIR which provide timely information, including the air pollution forecast and latest monitoring information directly to subscribers when they need it.

Defra has developed a multi-agency response group to be convened in the event of any air pollution event. This group comprises representatives from Defra, the Department of Health, Public Health England, the Met Office and Devolved Administrations. This group decides on the severity of the event, appropriate escalation and communication to ensure that consistent, evidence based key messages reach the public quickly.

Between the 29 November and 6 December 2016 the group convened on three occasions at 10.15am each morning. As part of the agreed agenda a communications approach was discussed and agreed between all attendees. During the three events Defra issued proactive tweets on Twitter referring to the health advice, which was then re-tweeted by Public Health England. Defra took steps to inform the health charity network, which includes Asthma UK and the British Heart Foundation who work directly with vulnerable groups.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what regulatory and legal mechanisms will be available to hold the United Kingdom accountable for failing to meet air quality targets once it has left the European Union. [HL4224]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Reducing air pollution is a priority for this Government. UK law sets out legally binding targets to reduce concentrations and emissions of key air pollutants. The Ambient Air Quality Directive was made law in England through the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. The National Emission Ceilings Directive 2016 will be transposed into UK legislation by the end of June 2018. Current legal mechanisms for enforcing UK law, such as judicial review, will continue to be available when the UK leaves the European Union.

Air quality has improved significantly in recent decades; we are working at local, national and international levels and will continue to do more. As we prepare to negotiate our exit from the European Union, the Government will continue to ensure that the right policies are in place for a cleaner, healthier environment for everyone.

The Government will set out further actions to improve air quality next year including consulting on a revised National Air Quality Plan for nitrogen dioxide by 24 April. The final plan will be in place by the end of July. We will also publish the UK Government's air pollution action plan, which will include all pollutants and implement the requirements of the National Emissions Ceilings Directive, no later than March 2019.

### **Air Traffic Control**

*Asked by **Baroness Randerson***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to set out a framework for airspace modernisation; and if so, when. [HL4380]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The framework for implementing airspace modernisation is set out in the Future Airspace Strategy which was published by the Civil Aviation Authority in 2011. Its implementation is a matter for the aviation industry.

To help assist the process of airspace modernisation, the Government intends to consult on airspace policy shortly.

### **Andargachew Tsege**

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made representations to the government of Ethiopia to release the British citizen Mr Andy Tsege; and if not, why not. [HL4298]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government has taken every opportunity to raise Mr Tsege's case at the very highest levels in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Government are in no doubt about our concern for Mr Tsege and the priority we place on his wellbeing. We have not directly called for Mr Tsege's release. The UK does not interfere in the legal system of other countries by challenging convictions, any more than we would accept interference in our judicial system. Our priority is to ensure Mr Tsege's wellbeing and access to legal advice. We believe that calling for his release would not be successful at this stage and could put at risk the progress that has been made, including our access to Mr Tsege.

### **Antimicrobial Resistance Review**

*Asked by **Baroness Masham of Ilton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their response to the independent Review on Antimicrobial Resistance, published on 19 May. [HL4276]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Government published its response to the Independent Review on Antimicrobial resistance, on the 16 September 2016. A copy of the response, *Government response to the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance September 2016*, is attached.

The Government's response strongly supported the recommendations to use global financing to reinvigorate both early stage research and the development of new drugs. We continue to work internationally, most recently at the United Nations, to support global action on antimicrobial resistance.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Govt response AMR review [Gov\_response\_AMR\_Review.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-20/HL4276>

### Antisemitism

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proposed official definition of anti-semitism will include criticism of the government of Israel. [HL4088]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism adopted by Her Majesty's Government does not preclude criticism of Israel. As the definition makes clear, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic.

The full text of the working definition of anti-Semitism and examples (attached) can be found

at: <http://european-forum-on-antisemitism.org/report/working-definition-antisemitism-ihra>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Anti-Semitism [pressreleasedocumentantisemitism.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-13/HL4088>

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their new definition of anti-Semitism will allow for the criticism of the government of Israel and its policies towards the Palestinian people. [HL4162]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism adopted by Her Majesty's Government does not preclude criticism of Israel. As the definition makes clear, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic.

The full text of the working definition of anti-Semitism and examples (attached) can be found

at: <http://european-forum-on-antisemitism.org/report/working-definition-antisemitism-ihra>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Anti - Semitism [HL4162 pressreleasedocumentantisemitism.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-14/HL4162>

### Apprentices: Travellers

*Asked by Baroness Whitaker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Nash on 12 December (HL3767), how they are encouraging young people from the Gypsy and Traveller communities into apprenticeships through the Get In Go Far campaign and by other means. [HL4110]

**Lord Nash:** We are committed to ensuring that apprenticeships are as accessible as possible to all people from all backgrounds, including young people from Gypsy and Traveller communities. Apprenticeships give young people the chance to build a better future by taking their first step on the employment ladder and they give those already in work the opportunity to progress further. We are encouraging a wide range of people from all backgrounds into apprenticeships through our 'Get In Go Far' campaign which is aimed at 14-24 year-olds, their parents, teachers and employers. We are increasing numbers of traineeships to further support young people into apprenticeships and further work.

In the apprenticeship funding policy published in October, we announced extra payments for 16-18 year olds and 19-24 year olds formerly in care or with an Education, Health and Care Plan. Employers and providers will receive a payment of £1,000 to support additional costs associated with these apprentices.

We want to ensure we overcome barriers so all can access apprenticeships and support those from disadvantaged areas with over £60m of funding. Providers will receive an additional £600 for training an apprentice who lives in one of the top 10% of deprived areas (as per the Index of Multiple Deprivation), £300 for any apprentice who lives in the next 10% of deprived areas (the 11-20% range), and £200 for those in the next 7% (the 21-27% range). This will be in place for one year whilst we review our approach to supporting disadvantaged apprentices; ensuring apprenticeships provide equal opportunity to all, regardless of their circumstances.

### Asylum: Children

*Asked by Baroness Sheehan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied minors from the Calais camp known as the Jungle have been transferred to the UK since 2



November (1) through the Dublin III family reunification route; and (2) through provision made under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. [HL4358]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have been working closely with the French authorities to bring eligible children eligible to the UK under the Dublin Regulation and the wider criteria of the Immigration Act. Since 10 October, more than 750 children have arrived.

This is in line with the commitments made by the Home Secretary to Parliament on 24 October. We will publish a total number of transfers as a result of the operation in France in due course.

### Asylum: LGBT People

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 December (HL4183) concerning the publication of information on the number of people claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation, what reporting standards they have adopted; whether they have assessed that any aspects of those standards are not currently being met; and if any are not, which aspects, and why not. [HL4355]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which can be found at <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/code-of-practice/>, sets out eight principles to be followed in publishing official statistics, including 'sound methods and quality assured'.

Home Office officials continue to review the quality of the information on the number of people claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation, which is manually captured by caseworkers through a "special conditions flag" on the Home Office Case Information Database.

### Aviation

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to include aviation and airport connectivity in the

remit of the National Infrastructure Commission. [HL4377]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The National Infrastructure Commission's (NIC) remit includes all sectors of economic infrastructure, including transport (road, rail, ports and airports). The NIC will examine strategic transport infrastructure when it conducts its first National Infrastructure Assessment.

### Baltic States: Armed Forces

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British military personnel are now serving in the three Baltic States and what is the current total NATO deployment there. [HL4302]

**Earl Howe:** The United Kingdom (UK) currently has 21 Service personnel in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as fellow members of NATO. In the Baltic States there is a persistent NATO presence through three NATO Force Integration Units and three NATO-accredited centres of excellence.

Since Russia's actions in Ukraine, we have continually demonstrated our commitment to regional defence and security by contributing to NATO assurance activity, including: providing ships to NATO's Standing Naval Forces in the Baltic Sea; deploying RAF Typhoons to deliver Baltic Air Policing; and conducting exercises in the region, with 400 UK personnel participating in exercise SILVER ARROW in October 2016.

At the Warsaw Summit in July 2016, NATO Allies agreed to enhance the Alliance's presence in the Baltic States and Poland through the deployment of four highly capable battalions. The UK will be lead the Enhanced Forward Presence battalion in Estonia and it is anticipated that up to 800 UK personnel will be deployed in the Spring of 2017. The contributions from NATO Allies will be:

Host Nation	Framework Nation	Based from	Contributing Nations	Number of Personnel	Deployed from
Estonia	UK	Tapa	France, Denmark	Each Enhanced Forward Presence deployment is expected to have around 1,000 personnel, but this will vary over time due to planned rotations of units.	Each Enhanced Forward Presence battalion will be deployed from early 2017.
Latvia	Canada	Adazi	Albania, Italy, Poland, Slovenia		
Lithuania	Germany	Rukla	Belgium, Croatia,		

			France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway		
Poland	US	Several locations including Żagań, Świętoszów, Skwierzyna, and Bolesławiec			

### Bill of Rights

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have not yet responded to the report by the EU Justice Sub-Committee, The UK, the EU and a British Bill of Rights, published on 9 May 2016; and when they plan to issue the response. [HL4085]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Sir Oliver Heald wrote on 30 November concerning the Government's response to Lord Boswell in his capacity as Chair of the EU Committee. In his letter, Sir Oliver said that the Government is currently considering human rights reform in the context of the future constitutional framework of the United Kingdom following the vote to leave the EU, and is therefore not in a position to provide a substantive response to the Sub-Committee's report at this time.

### Brexit

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the speech by Lord Bamford on 27 October during the debate on the domestic and international implication of Brexit (HL Deb, cols 347–8), and whether it will have any effect on their Brexit negotiating position. [HL4373]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** We welcome all contributions to the debate over the domestic and international implications of Brexit. We want to build a national consensus to our approach to the negotiations with the EU. We need to listen and talk to as many organisations, companies and institutions as possible. That is why we are engaging with the devolved administrations and a wide range of stakeholders, including academia, industry, and civil society. As the Prime Minister has said, we need to think through the issues in a sober and considered way. We have been clear that we intend the UK to be an outward-looking and global leader of free trade.

### British Council: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Brown of Cambridge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to increase funding for the British Council, in the light of the UK's exit from the European Union and the British Council's role in, and potential for, developing

strong relationships with future trading allies through cultural diplomacy and soft power. [HL4087]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government will continue to invest in the British Council, which plays a critical role in developing international cultural relations and delivering programmes around the world which support economic and social development; help strengthen institutions, good governance and civil society; encourage debate and dialogue; and develop creativity and the arts.

The British Council has worked successfully with European neighbours for over eighty years. We have no plans at present to increase grant funding to the British Council, but will continue to support them as they find ways to work in partnership with European countries and with EU institutions to create opportunities, build connections and engender trust.

### British Nationality

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 25 April (HL7517) and 4 May (HL8199), prior to 1 July 2006, how many citizenship by descent applications were denied to individuals of British Overseas Territories descent wishing to register as British Overseas Territories citizens, where the reason for the denial was that the applicant was born to an unmarried father who at the time of the applicant's birth held British Dependent Territories citizenship and who then automatically gained full British citizenship under the British Overseas Territories Act 2002. [HL4079]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I am sorry but we do not have this information. These cases are decided in individual overseas territories, and information on refusals is not readily available. To obtain these figures would require each territory to go through individual records and so would result in disproportionate cost.

### British Overseas Territories: Taxation

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British territories have special tax regimes and what action they are taking to address this. [HL4106]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Overseas Territories (OTs) are responsible for setting their own rates of taxation, and the Government respects their right

to compete in this area. All relevant OTs have committed to greater tax transparency by adopting the new global standard for the automatic exchange of financial account information, which will combat tax evasion. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs have begun to receive information on the accounts held in OTs by UK taxpayers, one year earlier than from the rest of the world.

### Burma: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the human rights situation in Arakan state in Myanmar; and what representations they have made to the government of Myanmar regarding reports of the killing of Rohingya Muslims. [HL4161]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government is concerned by a number of disturbing recent reports of human rights violations by security forces in Rakhine State. We have made several representations to the government of Burma calling for humanitarian access both through our Ambassador and also through Ministerial contacts. When I visited Burma from 9-12 November, I urged Burmese Government Ministers to set up a full and independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations. The Investigation Commission has now been established and will report back by 31 January 2017. We will continue to monitor its progress closely.

### Burma: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to address the reported humanitarian and human rights crises in Rakhine State, Burma. [HL4204]

**Lord Bates:** The UK remains deeply concerned by the ongoing persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State and allegations of human rights abuses. In response, UK Ministers and Ambassador have called on both civilian and military Ministers in the Government to urge a restrained response in line with international human rights standards, immediate and unfettered access for humanitarian aid and an investigation into allegations of human rights violations. Baroness Anelay, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, visited Burma from 9-12 November specifically to address issues of human rights, with a focus on the prevention of sexual violence in conflict.

The UK has long been one of the biggest bilateral humanitarian donors to Burma and to Rakhine State. Since 2012, we have provided over £23 million in humanitarian assistance. DFID is currently managing to get humanitarian support to over 100,000 people in Rakhine, including providing assistance in IDP camps outside of northern Rakhine and limited support in northern Rakhine. DFID is also continuing to support development activities in Rakhine where possible. DFID

stands ready to provide more humanitarian support to people in northern Rakhine State as soon as better access is granted.

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Burma calling for an end to restrictions on humanitarian aid access to Rakhine State, Burma. [HL4206]

**Lord Bates:** The UK Government has repeatedly urged the Government of Burma to allow the immediate resumption of humanitarian access. Ministers continue to lobby at every occasion. My colleague, the Minister of State Rory Stewart MP, raised the issue personally with Burmese ministers in recent meetings in Burma and the UK. Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Baroness Anelay, pressed the Burmese Government in Naypyidaw for the immediate resumption of humanitarian access in Rakhine, and our Ambassador has visited Northern Rakhine together with a number of international counterparts and lobbied five separate Burmese Ministers on this issue. The UK has also discussed the issue at the UN Security Council on 17 November, where we raised our concerns about the lack of humanitarian access.

The Government of Burma has now committed to restoring humanitarian access and we are pressing for, and stand ready to support, the delivery of this commitment.

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of calls for the UN Secretary-General to visit Burma as a matter of urgency to negotiate humanitarian aid access to Rakhine State, Burma. [HL4207]

**Lord Bates:** The UN Secretary General visited Burma and raised humanitarian issues with Aung San Suu Kyi in August 2016. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, also raised issues of humanitarian access with Aung San Suu Kyi during his October 2016 visit to Burma.

The UK, along with other countries and the UN, continues to urge the Government of Burma to allow immediate unrestricted access for humanitarian aid. The Government of Burma has now committed to restoring humanitarian access and we are pressing for, and stand ready to support, the delivery of this commitment.

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Burma calling for an end to restrictions on humanitarian aid access to Kachin and northern Shan States, Burma. [HL4208]

**Lord Bates:** The UK Government is deeply concerned by the conflict in Kachin and Northern Shan, and

particularly by reports of violations involving civilian casualties and the restriction of humanitarian access to internally displaced people. We continue to raise these issues with the Government of Burma as a matter of urgency, including during the human-rights focused visit to Burma from 9 – 12 November of the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Baroness Anelay.

The UK has provided over £18.1 million in essential humanitarian and health assistance in Kachin and Northern Shan states from 2012 until the end of the last financial year, and approximately a further £5 million this year.

### **Burma: Rohingya**

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which the reported human rights violations faced by the Rohingya people in Burma amount to crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. [[HL4205](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are deeply concerned by reports of human rights violations in Rakhine State, though the lack of access makes facts hard to verify. When I visited Burma from 9-12 November, I urged Burmese Government Ministers to set up a full and independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations. We note the establishment of the Rakhine Investigation Commission, which is due to report back by 31 January 2017. I discussed its work with Kofi Annan on 20 December and we will continue to monitor its progress closely. Any judgment on whether crimes such as war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide have been committed is a matter for competent national or international courts.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings on the use of violence by Myanmar security forces against Rohingya since 9 October, contained in the report from Amnesty International We are at breaking point. [[HL4320](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of a number of recent reports by human rights organisations, including Amnesty International, indicating that the Burmese military has used violence against the Rohingya during security operations in Rakhine since 9 October. We view these reports with deep concern. I raised our concerns when I visited Burma from 9-12 November, and urged Burmese Government Ministers to establish a full and independent investigation into human rights violations.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the recommendations concerning (1) the cessation of violations of international law, and (2) the need for immediate unhindered access for human rights monitors and journalists, in northern Rakhine State,

contained in the report from Amnesty International We are at breaking point. [[HL4321](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I have lobbied the government of Burma for an immediate resumption of humanitarian access to northern Rakhine State, and pressed for a full and independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations. The Burmese Government has committed to restore access and investigate allegations of violations. While we have seen a limited resumption of aid in some areas, in practice worrying restrictions on humanitarian access remain. Ministers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development, as well as our Ambassador in Rangoon, continue to call on the Burmese Government and the military to restore access as a matter of urgency.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the recommendations concerning the initiation of an independent, impartial and effective investigation into alleged violations of international law in northern Rakhine State, contained in the report from Amnesty International We are at breaking point. [[HL4322](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government agrees there should be an independent investigation into allegations of human rights abuses perpetrated by the Burmese military during security operations in northern Rakhine State. I urged the Burmese Government to establish such an investigation when I visited Burma from 9-12 November. We note the creation of the Rakhine Investigation Commission, as well as concerns raised about its composition and impartiality. Now that the investigation is under way we call on the commission to demonstrate the commitments to impartiality made on its behalf by the Burmese Government.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to provide assistance to the government of Bangladesh to help meet the humanitarian needs of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. [[HL4323](#)]

**Lord Bates:** The UK Government remains deeply concerned by the current situation in Rakhine and the persecution of the Muslim minority Rohingya community. The UK Government has repeatedly called on the Government of Bangladesh not to return the people seeking refuge back into danger and we continue to offer support through our work with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Food Programme. The UK is the largest provider of food aid to the 34,000 Rohingya refugees already living in official camps in Bangladesh. Since 2014 the UK has provided nearly £8 million to address the humanitarian suffering of Rohingya refugees and the vulnerable Bangladeshi communities that host them. UK-funded humanitarian programmes have benefitted 82,000 people in the south east of Bangladesh. Also in Bangladesh we are increasing



access to nutrition, health and education services for refugees living in makeshift settlements and the host communities that support them.

The UK Government has also engaged the Government of Burma to urge a restrained security response, an independent investigation into allegations of human rights abuses, and for the immediate resumption of access for humanitarian aid. The Government of Burma has now committed to restoring humanitarian access and investigating allegations of human rights abuses. We will continue to monitor and support the delivery of these commitments.

### Burma: Sexual Offences

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking in response to reports of the use of rape and sexual violence in conflicts in Burma, particularly in (1) Kachin, (2), northern Shan, and (3) Rakhine, States. [HL4209]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I raised issues of conflict-related sexual violence with the Government of Burma at a senior level when I visited from 9-12 November in my capacity as the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict. I pressed the Minister of Defence on the importance of the army handling allegations of sexual violence against women in a thorough and transparent manner. I pushed for early adoption of a law on preventing violence against women that is compliant with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. I also hosted a workshop dedicated to tackling the stigma associated with survivors of conflict, and met survivors of sexual violence as part of our efforts to formulate policy.

### Care Proceedings

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the concerns raised by the President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales about the impact on the Family Court of the sharp rise in the number of child care cases, what steps they are taking to reduce the pressure on the court service. [HL3561]

**Lord Henley:** We want family cases to be resolved as quickly as possible and with the minimum amount of stress, especially for children. That is why we have taken action to increase sitting days to alleviate the pressure on courts. We will continue to do all we can to make sure our family justice system places the welfare of children at its heart.

The Government is working to understand the reasons behind the rise in cases and what more we can do to support the court service and others, including local authorities, on this matter.

### Chiltern Railways

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to ensure that Chiltern Railways improves its performance against the five standards as set out in the Rail Compensation – update report published by the Office of Rail and Road in December. [HL4379]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government expects that the information provided by train operators to passengers wishing to make a claim is easy to find, easy to understand and empowers passengers to claim. The process of claiming must be as quick and straightforward as it can be.

The Government Response to the Which? Super-complaint report outlines the steps that the industry is committed to taking and the role that Government is playing in this, including through franchising.

A copy of this document has been placed in the libraries of both Houses for the convenience of Noble Lords.

### Civil Proceedings: EU Law

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to negotiate the UK's continued participation in those aspects of the Brussels I framework which provide that civil and commercial judgments are recognised and enforced throughout the EU, and provide for consumers to sue or defend themselves in domestic courts and have any judgment enforced across the EU. [HL4096]

**Lord Henley:** The Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) has responsibility for overseeing negotiations to leave the EU and establishing the future relationship between the UK and the EU. The Ministry of Justice, which has responsibility for civil judicial cooperation legal instruments such as the Brussels I recast Regulation, has been working closely with DExEU to consider options for the future relationship between the UK and the EU. We will work to ensure the best outcome for the UK, including its consumers and businesses.

### Civil Servants: Minimum Wage

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many civil service employees are paid the minimum wage; and what the implementation of the National Living Wage for civil servants will cost. [HL4277]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The Government is committed to helping the lowest paid. We are the first government to introduce a compulsory Living Wage. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, the new National Living Wage was introduced for workers aged 25 and above, initially set at £7.20 per hour.



The Chancellor announced a further increase to the National Living Wage in the Autumn Statement. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, the National Living Wage will be set at £7.50 per hour.

The Low Pay Commission advises the Government on the rate of annual increases required to achieve a National Living Wage that will represent 60% of median earnings by 2020. The Low Pay Commission amended its recommendations this year to meet this target, based on the latest market forecasts. In light of these changes, government departments are currently reviewing the cost and number of civil servants that will benefit from future National Living Wage increases.

### Civil Servants: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Northern Ireland Executive concerning the protection of Northern Ireland civil servants from inappropriate political interference and influence. [HL4316]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Northern Ireland Office has had no discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive regarding the protection of Northern Ireland civil servants from inappropriate political interference and influence.

The conduct of the Northern Ireland Civil Service is a devolved matter.

### Consumer Protection Measures in the Ticket Resale Market Review

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their response to the Independent review of consumer protection measures concerning online secondary ticketing facilities. [HL4212]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Government is looking very carefully at Professor Waterson's recommendations and a response will be published in due course.

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the written submissions received in response to the Waterson review into the consumer protection measures concerning online secondary ticketing facilities which was published on 26 May. [HL4267]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** This will be considered as part of the government's response to Professor Waterson's review.

### Contracts: EU Law

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to negotiate for the UK's continued participation in those aspects of the Rome I Regulation which require a contract between a business and a consumer to be

governed by the law of the country where the consumer lives; and if so, whether they will convert the rules set out in Rome I into domestic law by including them in the legislation required to withdraw from the EU. [HL4095]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) has responsibility for overseeing negotiations to leave the EU and establishing the future relationship between the UK and the EU. The Ministry of Justice, which has responsibility for civil law instruments such as the Rome I Regulation, has been working closely with DExEU to consider options for the future relationship between the UK and the EU. We will work to ensure the best outcome for the UK, including its consumers and businesses.

### Coroners: Greater London

*Asked by Baroness Sharples*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are delays of six months or more in holding inquests in London, and if so, why. [HL3788]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Coroners must by law complete an inquest within six months or as soon as practicable after the death has been reported to them. Inquests may take longer than six months due to the complexity of the case or other factors such as the need to wait for other investigations to finish.

Across the eight coroner jurisdictions in London 1,901 inquests were completed within 6 months and 1,747 inquests were completed in six months or more in 2015.

### Counter-terrorism

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 December (HL3756), whether they will create a process whereby people outside the Home Office can directly feed back and challenge Prevent training when it is considered to be straying beyond a remit of safeguarding people from becoming involved in terrorism, such as by identifying anti-fracking protesters as extremists. [HL4032]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Prevent is about safeguarding vulnerable people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This cannot be done by Government alone, and training in Prevent plays a vital part in empowering people to safeguard those who need our help. Prevent training is kept under continued review. Those who receive training are encouraged to provide feedback on all aspects of it.

### County Courts

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to strengthen procedures designed to protect

those against whom costs are awarded without their knowing that a case is proceeding in the County Court, resulting in a County Court Judgment being registered on their credit record. [HL4009]

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that companies which sue individuals for non-payment of monies in the county courts have taken adequate steps to ensure that they have the correct and up-to-date address for the person against whom they are taking action, in those cases where the individual does not lodge a defence. [HL4010]

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to penalise companies which repeatedly take action against individuals who do not lodge a defence and who are subsequently discovered not to have received any notification of the relevant County Court action. [HL4011]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** On 23 December the Ministry of Justice announced a consultation on ways to protect people from having their credit ratings affected despite being unaware of the claims made against them. The consultation, which will be launched in the spring will consider how the current system can be improved and reinforced to ensure that companies take all reasonable steps before they are able to apply to a court for a claim. We will also examine to what extent unscrupulous debt agencies have contributed to the problem.

To accompany the consultation the Ministry of Justice will also launch a new public advice campaign on how to protect people unaware of their debts and will remind people of the importance of informing companies of their new address.

## **Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Reviews**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reviews have been announced in Parliament by the Department of Culture, Media and Sports in the last six years; how many have been completed; how many are still ongoing; and what is the timescale for completion of those reviews still ongoing. [HL4336]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** This information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur a disproportionate cost.

## **Department for Work and Pensions: Reviews**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reviews have been announced in Parliament by the Department for Work and Pensions in the last six years;

how many have been completed; how many are still ongoing; and what is the timescale for completion of those reviews still ongoing. [HL4334]

**Lord Henley:** There is no formal definition of "reviews". The Department regularly reviews policies, programmes, projects and pilots to ensure that they meet their objectives. All important announcements are made to Parliament first by way of ministerial statements, replies to parliamentary questions, or in debate contributions by Ministers.

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

## **Deportation: Democratic Republic of Congo**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 December (HL3748), what steps they are taking to assess the safety of those removed from the UK to the Democratic Republic of Congo, once they are in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [HL4329]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office does not monitor returnees after they have returned to their country of origin.

All returns to the Democratic Republic of Congo, including those persons who raise a protection claim, are considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account their individual facts, credible and up-to-date country of origin information and relevant case law.

## **Diplomatic Service: Ethnic Groups**

*Asked by Baroness Berridge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many resident heads of mission from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are from a black or minority ethnic background. [HL4025]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As of the 30 November, 5.3% of our Heads of Mission reported they were from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background (based on a 98% reporting rate).

*Asked by Baroness Berridge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many heads of mission to international organisations from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are from a black or minority ethnic background. [HL4026]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As of the 30 November, of the seven of Heads of Mission to international organisations that have reported their ethnicity (86% of the total number of Heads of Mission to international organisations), none are from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background.

Continuing to improve the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's record on diversity, equality and inclusion is fundamental to our aim of being the best diplomatic

service in the world. We undertake a range of interventions to improve our leadership and management capability and to remove barriers to the progress of under-represented groups in the FCO, to help people reach their full potential. Action includes a bespoke talent development scheme for BME staff; role models from all backgrounds; diverse interview panels at all grades; diverse shortlists for senior positions as the norm; and outreach to attract diverse talent into the FCO, focused on BME candidates and those from a low-socio economic background.

### **Directors: Registration**

*Asked by **Baroness Altmann***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent people being registered as company directors without being aware of their responsibilities. [[HL4008](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Since 10 October 2015, the Registrar of Companies has been required under section 1079B of the Companies Act 2006 to provide newly appointed company directors with information about their duties and responsibilities as a director. This information is contained in a leaflet which the Registrar sends to all newly appointed directors.

### **Domestic Violence**

*Asked by **Baroness Manzoor***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that abandonment, as well as coercive and controlling behaviour, is included as part of their strategy to tackle domestic violence. [[HL3961](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This Government will not tolerate abuse through marriage or other relationships. We have taken a lead in tackling modern slavery, forced marriage and domestic violence and will continue to do so. All victims of domestic violence are entitled to the protection of the civil and criminal law while in the UK - regardless of immigration status. We will look carefully at any evidence of where further action might help to prevent abuse or support victims.

Abandonment can include blackmail, fraud, emotional abuse, financial abuse, controlling and coercive behaviour and domestic servitude and the Government has strengthened the law to capture these behaviours by, for example, introducing the new coercive or controlling behaviour offence which came into force on 29 December 2015. It carries a maximum 5 years imprisonment, a fine or both. It will mean victims who experience coercive and controlling behaviour that stops short of serious physical violence, but amounts to extreme psychological and emotional abuse, can bring their perpetrators to justice.

### **Ecorys**

*Asked by **Lord Beecham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 20 October (HL1997), whether they will now answer the question whether the fee payable to Ecorys for their evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme has been reduced in the light of the reported problems with methodology and the consequent delay in the completion and publication of their report; and if so, by how much. [[HL4166](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Data-quality issues required necessary quality assurance checks and this delayed the completion of one part of the evaluation whilst the evaluators addressed these issues. However, this did not warrant a reduction in payment as the work was subsequently completed. The outstanding fee payable to Ecorys for delivery of the final set of reports has now been paid in full and the contract concluded.

### **Egypt: Coptic Orthodox Church**

*Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what offers of help or advice they have made to the government of Egypt about the improvement of security of the people attending places of worship following the bombing of the Coptic Orthodox Cathedral of St Mark in Cairo; and what assessment they have made of the levels of persecution and discrimination against the Coptic minority. [[HL4112](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Following the attack against El-Botrosiya Church on 11 December, the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) wrote to the President of Egypt to express her deep condolences and reiterate the UK's support for Egypt in its fight against terrorism. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), Her Majesty's Ambassador to Egypt, and officials in London have also expressed their condolences to the Egyptian authorities. The UK Government continues to work closely with the Egyptian authorities on security and counter-terrorism, including through training Egyptian officers in countering improvised explosive devices and close protection.

The UK Government has been clear that freedom of religious belief needs to be protected and that the ability to worship in peace is a vital component of a democratic society. We are concerned about recent reports of sectarian violence in Egypt, and welcome President Sisi's consistent calls for peaceful coexistence and the government of Egypt's expression of support for the rights of Christians and for religious tolerance.

## Egypt: Non-governmental Organisations

*Asked by **Baroness Royall of Blaisdon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Egypt about the new law on civic associations and its implications for civic society in that country, including non-governmental organisations. [HL4006]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Following the Egyptian Parliament's passing of the draft Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Law for the second time on 29 November, we have frequently raised our concerns with the Egyptian authorities. The Parliamentary Under Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) expressed our concern with the draft law in a statement he made on 1 December.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Minister for North Africa statement on civil socie [Minister for North Africa statement on civil society in Egypt.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-09/HL4006>

## Electricity

*Asked by **Lord Empey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the UK's electricity distribution system is owned and operated by companies based outside the UK. [HL4173]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** All of the GB electricity distribution network companies are owned and operated by companies registered and based in the UK, and are subject to a domestic legal and regulatory framework. These companies are owned by a diverse range of stakeholders based both within the UK and outside:

- Electricity North West, which owns and operates one electricity distribution network, is owned by a consortium managed by Colonial First State and JP Morgan Asset Management, based in Australia and the USA respectively.
- Northern Powergrid, which owns and operates two electricity distribution networks, is a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway based in the United States of America (USA).
- Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, which owns and operates two electricity distribution networks, is part of the SSE Group based in the UK.
- SP Energy Networks, which owns and operates two electricity distribution networks, is part of the Scottish Power Limited, which is an unlisted sub-holding company of the Iberdrola Group based in Spain.
- UK Power Networks, which owns and operates three electricity distribution networks, is owned by a consortium, including Power assets Holdings Ltd, Li Ka

Shing Foundation Ltd, Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Ltd, all of which are based in Hong Kong.

- Western Power Distribution, which owns and operates four electricity distribution networks, is owned by PPL Corporation based in the USA

## Electricity Generation

*Asked by **Lord Empey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the UK's electricity is generated by companies based outside the UK. [HL4172]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The United Kingdom's electricity producers have a 73GW power generation capacity, of which 58.8%, representing 43GW, is generated by companies whose parent company is based outside the UK.

The UK is open for business and welcomes investment that meets the UK's legal and regulatory standards.

## Electronic Commerce

*Asked by **Lord Blencathra***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, whether they have any plans to investigate working conditions in warehouse distribution centres operated by large online retailers. [HL4169]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is absolutely clear that employers must take their employment law responsibilities seriously - this means making sure workers are paid properly and enjoy the employment rights they are entitled to.

However, I am sure the Noble Lord will understand that it would be inappropriate for me to comment on proposed or ongoing investigations.

## Employment Tribunals Service

*Asked by **Lord Beecham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 24 October (HL2341), how many penalties have been issued in respect of the failure of employers to pay employment tribunal awards since the new penalty system was introduced in 2016; and with what results. [HL4265]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Since April 2016, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has issued 60 penalty notices as a result of 164 warning notices to employers for failure to comply with orders of employment tribunals to pay compensation to applicants.

As a result of the Employment Tribunal Penalty regime the department has secured over £83,000 in previously unpaid awards for applicants.



## Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much an international student applying for a visa to study in the UK would need to have available in order to demonstrate that they have sufficient funds to cover their living expenses if they were applying to study in (1) England, (2) Scotland, (3) Wales, and (4) Northern Ireland. [HL4023]

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 11 November (HL2633), whether the amount that an international student applying for a visa to study in the UK would need to have available in order to demonstrate that they have sufficient funds to cover living expenses has changed since the replacement of maintenance grants with loans for UK home students. [HL4024]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** An international student studying in the UK must demonstrate that they have:

- £1,265 per month for living costs if they are studying in London for the majority of their study (more than 50% of study time);
- £1,015 per month for living costs if they are studying outside London, or anywhere else in the UK, for the majority of their study (more than 50% of study time).

In most cases, an international student will need to show that they have money for their living costs for each month of their course, up to a maximum of nine months. The amount of funds that international students must demonstrate for living costs were raised in November 2015 in line with the combined maximum maintenance loan and grant available to English students living away from home starting courses in September 2015.

## EU Energy Policy

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to remain part of the European Union energy union following Brexit. [HL4221]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government is carefully considering all aspects of our future relationship with the European Union, including the energy acquis. We want to achieve the best possible outcome for the UK.

## EU Justice and Home Affairs

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have not yet responded to the report by the EU Justice Sub-Committee, The UK's opt-in Protocol: implications of the Government's approach, published on 24 March

2015; and when they plan to issue the response. [HL4084]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As a result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU on 23 June, the Government is considering its approach to the application of the JHA Opt-in and will inform the Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees once the Government has completed its consideration.

## European Fighter Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Typhoon fighter aircraft are in service; how many are serviceable; how many could be serviceable within a week; how many are in longer-term maintenance; and whether any are considered to be in reserve. [HL4278]

**Earl Howe:** The Forward Fleet comprises serviceable and short term unserviceable aircraft. Typically the short term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or any other unforeseen rectification or technical inspection that can arise on a day-to-day basis. The Sustainment Fleet includes aircraft undergoing deep maintenance, upgrade programmes or being held in storage.

The total in service Typhoon fleet is 134 airframes, of which 91 airframes are in the Forward Fleet and 43 airframes are in the Sustainment Fleet.

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any Typhoon aircraft are yet to be delivered; and if so, to what timescale. [HL4279]

**Earl Howe:** The UK has taken delivery of 134 out of 160 Typhoon aircraft ordered, with the remaining 26 expected to be delivered by summer 2019.

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the length of time and cost required to retrain a Tornado pilot to fly a Typhoon aircraft. [HL4281]

**Earl Howe:** The time required to retrain a Tornado pilot to fly a Typhoon aircraft is dependent on a number of factors. However, generally it is expected to take 24 weeks, which is the time to complete the full Typhoon Operational Conversion Unit course.

Information regarding the cost to retrain a Tornado pilot to fly a Typhoon aircraft is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## European Games: Belarus

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, or plan to have, with the British Olympic Committee concerning the presence of UK athletes at



the 2019 European Games, in the light of the human rights record of the host country, Belarus. [\[HL4360\]](#)

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has had no such discussions with the British Olympic Association. The participation of British athletes in the 2019 European Games is ultimately a decision for the British Olympic Association and the appropriate National Governing Bodies of Sport.

### **Falkland Islands: Sovereignty**

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the governments of the Falkland Islands and Argentina regarding the desire of the Islanders to remain British; and what assessment they have made of the impact that the territorial dispute will have on the UK becoming a full member of the World Trade Organisation. [\[HL4073\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and surrounding maritime areas. The principle of and the right of the Falkland Islanders to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Charter and in Article 1 of the two UN Covenants on human rights means there can be no dialogue on sovereignty unless the Falkland Islanders so wish. The UK Government will always support the right of the Falkland Islanders to determine their own future and we have consistently reiterated this to Argentina.

The UK is already a full member of the World Trade Organisation.

### **Financial Services: City of London**

*Asked by Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to offer early clarification to City institutions on how they will be able to operate within the European Union after Brexit. [\[HL4200\]](#)

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Prime Minister has been clear that the Government will set out its position on withdrawing from the EU before Article 50 is invoked. This is consistent with providing clarity to all parties.

The Government maintains a close dialogue with market actors across the financial services industry.

### **Fire and Rescue Services: Floods**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make it a statutory duty for fire and rescue services to deal with flooding. [\[HL3920\]](#)

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have no plans to make it a statutory duty for fire and rescue services to make provision to protect life and property in the event of flooding.

Fire services already respond to flooding under their general duties in the Fire Services Act and Civil Contingencies Act, and in response to the risks set out in their Integrated Risk Management Plans.

### **Fly-tipping**

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost to local authorities of cleaning up fly tipping of waste. [\[HL4136\]](#)

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what remedies are available to local authorities against fly tippers. [\[HL4137\]](#)

*Asked by The Earl of Shrewsbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what compensation and remedies are available to private landowners with regard to fly tipping on their land. [\[HL4138\]](#)

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The estimated cost of clearance of fly-tipping to local authorities in 2014/15 was nearly £50 million. Local authorities dealt with nearly 900,000 incidents of fly-tipping in 2014/15, with nearly two thirds of fly-tips involving household waste.

The penalties for fly-tipping are imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine, or both, on summary conviction; or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or a fine, or both, on conviction on indictment.

In May 2016 the Government gave local councils the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for small-scale fly-tipping as an alternative to prosecution. The fine for a Fixed Penalty Notice is between £150 and £400 as specified by the waste collection authority, and £200 if no amount is specified.

Local authorities are not under any legal obligation to clear fly-tipped waste from private property, so this responsibility falls to the landowner. Depending on the circumstances, local authorities will often provide advice and guidance on measures that can be taken to prevent further fly-tipping, or may investigate an incident if there is sufficient evidence. Some authorities may also offer a clearance service but they are likely to charge for this. Government officials chair the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group to promote and disseminate good practice in the prevention, reporting, investigation and clearance of fly-tipped waste.

### **Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Senior Civil Servants**

*Asked by Baroness Berridge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff members in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in the top five civil service grades; and how many of

those are from a black or minority ethnic background. [HL4027]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As of the 30 November the total number of staff in the top five civil service grades and those that were from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background were:

Grade	Total	Total number of staff who have reported an ethnicity	Those that reported they were BME
D7	430	368	22
SMS1	263	230	11
SMS2	102	92	6
SMS3	27	24	1
SMS4	3	2	0

### Fracking: Protest

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have given, or will give, to the North Yorkshire police and York City Council over their reported inclusion of anti-fracking campaigning and sentiments as requiring monitoring and intervention in their Prevent strategy. [HL3906]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Prevent is about safeguarding vulnerable people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Political interest and protest, including in anti-fracking groups operating within the law, are entirely legitimate activities and are not of interest to Prevent. The Home Office and Police continually work together to improve the utility of Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLPs).

### Gaza: Breast Cancer

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following reports that it has refused to allow Palestinian women suffering from breast cancer to leave Gaza for treatment. [HL4018]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised or made an assessment on this specific issue, we have consistently called on the Israeli government to ease movement and access restrictions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, most recently on 5 December. We are also supporting the UN Access Coordination Unit to work with the Israeli Government, Palestinian Authority and aid agencies to facilitate the transfer of medical equipment and supplies, and patient referrals in and out of Gaza.

### Hate Crime: EU Nationals

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to counter xenophobia towards European Union nationals. [HL4132]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have been working with the police at national and regional levels to monitor hate crime since the EU Referendum and to ensure that local forces have the necessary assistance and guidance to respond.

Police forces are responding robustly to recent incidents, and victims can be reassured that their concerns about hate crime will be taken seriously by the police and courts.

On 26 July we published the cross-Government Hate Crime Action plan which includes actions to drive down hate crime across all communities, including £2.4million for security at places of worship and £300,000 funding for community groups who wish to start innovative projects. We have allocated some of that funding to a project which will support Polish and Romanian nationals dealing with hate crime incidents in London.

Ministers and officials have also met Ambassadors and High Commissioners from all EU states and offered reassurance and a single point of contact for them to raise concerns over hate crime on behalf of their citizens. We have also given advice to embassies on practical steps they can take to help their citizens and we continue to work closely with them on this issue.

### Heathrow Airport

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they propose to designate a national policy statement on the expansion of Heathrow Airport separately from dealing with airspace policy. [HL4365]

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether it is necessary to consult on airspace policy for the UK as a whole before designating a national policy statement on Heathrow Airport. [HL4366]

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether it is possible to undertake proper consultation on a national policy statement on Heathrow Airport and on airspace policy as separate matters. [HL4367]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The consultations on the draft airports National Policy Statement on Heathrow Airport and on airspace policy are both matters of national importance in their own right, but are clearly related. The Government intends to bring forward the two consultations at the same time to enable the public and the

aviation industry to consider all proposals together. Consulting in parallel can also enable the policy proposals set out in the airspace consultation which are adopted to be in place to influence decisions taken later on in the planning process for a proposed Northwest Runway at Heathrow. Equally, airspace is an important issue and the policy proposals cover the whole country, so it is right that we progress with policy proposals to bring improvements to the way it is handled nationwide.

## Hepatitis

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people they estimate will need to receive hepatitis C treatment in England over the next 13 years in order to achieve the World Health Organisation's goal of eliminating hepatitis C by 2030. [HL4284]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis 2016-21 proposes milestones and targets to achieve the aim of eliminating hepatitis C as a major public health threat. The WHO's strategy highlights the role of prevention activities, including blood safety, safe injections, and harm reduction interventions among people who inject drugs. The strategy also sets a 2030 target that 80% of eligible persons with chronic hepatitis C are treated. A copy of the strategy is attached. An estimated 160,000 persons are currently infected with hepatitis C in England, many of whom are not yet diagnosed.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

WHO strategy [Draft Global Health Sector Strategies - Viral Hepatitis 2016-21.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-20/HL4284>

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in England have purchased hepatitis C treatments online and are currently being monitored by the NHS. [HL4285]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Information on treatments prescribed and purchased privately online is not collected.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 21 November (HL3153), what plans they have to produce a national improvement framework for hepatitis C. [HL4286]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The United Kingdom has a comprehensive surveillance system in place combining laboratory diagnoses data, risk behaviour data, outcome data, statistical modelling and service evaluation. This enables the health and social care system to monitor the

cascade of care (the pathway for testing and diagnosis to contact with health services through to treatment and outcomes), detect outbreaks, and generate burden estimates. Prevention efforts in minimising harm to people who inject drugs are focused on increasing access to opiate substitution therapies and needle syringe exchange programmes, and the use of disinfection tablets in prisons. NHS England leads on treatment and continues to support National Health Service-led Operational Delivery Networks to provide National Institute for Health and Care Excellence approved treatments for hepatitis C.

Public Health England supports the Government's efforts by publishing hepatitis C metrics which are available in the report *Hepatitis C in the UK 2016 report: Working towards its elimination as a major public health threat*. A copy of the report is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hepatitis C in the UK report [HL 4286  
Hepatitis\_C\_in\_the\_UK\_2016\_report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-20/HL4286>

## Hepatitis: Drugs

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the NHS Commercial Medicines Unit has procured a new Hepatitis C treatment in the last 12 months; and if so, what was the cost. [HL4375]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Department's Commercial Medicines Unit has continued to procure medicines for hepatitis C as part of a nationally agreed programme, established in 2015, which establishes framework agreements.

The Unit undertakes a six-monthly rolling regional tender programme on behalf of National Health Service trusts in England, which includes all the new hepatitis C medicines on the market at the time of tendering. Regional annual framework agreements are then established for use by NHS trusts.

The costs associated with the regional tender programme are not separately identifiable.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether NHS England intends to reassess the cap on new Hepatitis C treatments for patients; and if not, why not. [HL4376]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in relation to new direct acting antivirals specifically requires Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) to prioritise hepatitis C patients on the basis of highest unmet clinical need. NHS England's commitment to treat 10,000 patients in 2016-17, increasing to 12,500 in 2017-18 and rising to 15,000 in 2021 is in line with NICE's

estimate of activity included in the costing tools published to support implementation of the guidance. Each ODN has a number of treatment slots available each month to treat eligible patients. This is known as the monthly treatment run rate, and it ensures the expansion of treatment takes place equitably across the country.

The High Court has considered NHS England's approach. Its judgement in September 2016 stated "a monthly run rate is not an arbitrary cap but a legitimate way of giving effect to the guidance".

The planning approach for hepatitis C is set out in the NICE Technological Appraisals 363, 364 and 365.

### **Hill Farming**

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 12 December (HL3633), what is their assessment of the contribution of pastoral hill farmers who are tenants of the National Trust to the conservation of heritage sheep breeds. [HL4252]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government recognises the important contribution of hill farmers to the conservation of heritage sheep breeds. We have no information on the particular contribution of hill farmers who are tenants of the National Trust.

### **Hill Farming: Lake District**

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 12 December (HL3631), what is their assessment of the environmental contributions made by hill farmers in the Lake District who are (1) landowners, and (2) tenant farmers; and what assessment they have made of the way in which landowners, including the National Trust and other charities, distribute payments resulting from environmental measures to tenants. [HL4255]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government has made no assessment which differentiates between the contribution of landowners and tenants. Payments under agri-environment schemes are made for carrying out environmental management and these payments are made directly to agreement holders, who may be landowners or tenants, depending on who has the required management control of the land under agreement. Whether there are further disbursements of monies received, or other contractual arrangements between landowners and tenants, is entirely a matter for the parties concerned.

### **Hindley Prison**

*Asked by Baroness Stern*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons on HM Prison Hindley describing the regime as "possibly the very

worst" that inspectors had ever seen in this type of prison, what action they are taking to (1) reduce the hours during which prisoners are locked up, (2) increase the hours during which prisoners are able to access education, (3) learn the lessons from cases of self-inflicted death, and (4) improve the governance of the deployment of batons against prisoners. [HL4185]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** A detailed action plan is being developed to address the weaknesses identified by the Chief Inspector and will be published in Spring 2017 on the Inspectorate's web site.

As set out in the Prison Safety and Reform White Paper, this Government will be investing over £100 million to recruit an additional 2,500 frontline staff across the prison estate by the end of 2018. This phased approach is to ensure officers are successfully inducted and can learn from experienced officers. From April 2017, we are giving prison governors the power and budget to determine how their prisons are run and the authority to do their own workforce planning, decide what staffing structures best meet their local needs and deciding how to deploy extra staff in prisons. Governors will also be fully responsible for the education delivered so that they can purchase services most appropriate to their establishment.

### **Housing Associations: Private Sector**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 30 November (HL3538), what action they are taking to enable the Office for National Statistics to reclassify housing associations to the private sector. [I] [HL3981]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government is committed to returning housing associations to the private sector where they clearly belong. We made changes to the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to address controls identified by the Office for National Statistics. Following on from this we will be laying regulations under section 93 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 in the New Year.

### **Housing Completions**

*Asked by Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many housing completions there have been in each year since 2004; and how these figures compare with the recommendations made in the Barker Review of Housing Supply. [HL4201]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Barker Review of Housing Supply made a number of policy recommendations. Estimates of net additional dwellings, the primary measure of housing supply, for England for the years requested are shown in the table below.



*Housing supply; net additional dwellings (financial year)*

2003-04	170,970
2004-05	185,550
2005-06	202,650
2006-07	214,940
2007-08	223,530
2008-09	182,770
2009-10	144,870
2010-11	137,390
2011-12	134,900
2012-13	124,720
2013-14	136,610
2014-15	170,690
2015-16	189,650

Source: 'Housing supply; net additional dwellings, England: 2015/16', Table 1

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/housing-supply-net-additional-dwellings-england-2015-to-2016>

The Government sees building more homes as central to our vision of a country that works for everyone and plans to spend over £25 billion on housing over the Spending Review period. This includes £5.3 billion of new investment as set out in the Autumn Statement.

### Housing: Construction

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 8 December (HL3536), what are the planning issues that can cause delay and prevent builders from getting on site and starting work quickly. [HL3995]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Because of the complexities of large sites, local authorities can require additional support to manage their applications, including: assessing pre-commencement conditions; negotiating s106 contributions including infrastructure requirements; and conducting viability and other technical appraisals. This capacity fund will provide support to successful local authorities to complete such work.

### Housing: Cooperatives

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last met a co-operative housing provider to discuss the provision of more co-operative housing. [I] [HL3985]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government continues to demonstrate its support for the community

led housing sector and we encourage community led groups, including housing co-operatives, to apply for funding from the expanded and more flexible Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme. Operational delivery of the programme is delegated to the Homes and Communities Agency and the Greater London Authority and so they will work with individual providers. However, my officials also regularly meet representatives of the community led housing sector, including the Confederation of Co-operative Housing (CCH), to discuss how they can positively contribute to the delivery of new housing.

### Human Rights Act 1998

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to authorise public access in 2017 to official records relating to the preparation of the Human Rights Bill in 1997. [HL4028]

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to arrange for the publication, under the 20-year rule, of official records relating to the preparation and passage of the Human Rights Act 1998. [HL4077]

**Lord Henley:** The Ministry of Justice's intention is for policy records created in 1997 and 1998 to be reviewed in 2019 for transfer to The National Archives in 2020. This is in accordance with the deadline specified by the Public Records (Transfer to the Public Record Office) (Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2012.

### Human Rights: EU Law

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish a list of the fundamental rights guaranteed under EU law and explain what approach they intend to take towards them before triggering Article 50. [HL4293]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The UK has a long-standing and proud tradition of ensuring our rights and traditional liberties are protected domestically, and of fulfilling our international human rights obligations. The decision to leave the European Union does not change that, and the UK will remain committed to its international human rights obligations. We are about to begin negotiations and it would be wrong to set out unilateral positions in advance.

### Immigrants: Detainees

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to change their revised definition of torture issued on 12 September, in the light of position statement PS07/16 of the Royal College of Psychiatrists



on the definition of torture in the context of immigration detention policy, issued in December. [HL4080]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Following a court order dated 2 December 2016 in the case of R (on the application of Medical Justice) v the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in respect of the Home Office policy on adults at risk in immigration detention, the Home Office has reverted to the pre-12 September definition of torture in the context of immigration detention, until the Court reaches its final judgment in the case. As court proceedings are ongoing it would not be appropriate to comment on the statement from the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in introducing individual removals plans as outlined in their response to the independent review into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons, published on 14 January. [HL4081]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Since the publication of the Government's response to Stephen Shaw's Report into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons on 14 January, work has been ongoing to design a more effective case management process to replace the existing method of reviewing detention.

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to bring into force paragraph 11 of Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016 regarding bail hearings for individuals in immigration detention. [HL4082]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are currently working with the Ministry of Justice, Her Majesty's Court Service and the First-tier Tribunal to implement the Secretary of State's duty to arrange consideration of bail, as set out in paragraph 11 of Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016. This is just one part of a large number of changes necessary to implement the wider immigration bail provisions in Schedule 10 and will be commenced alongside those other provisions in due course.

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assurances they intend to give to UK citizens' spouses and civil partners who were born in another EU member state that they will be able to remain in the UK indefinitely. [HL4076]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living in the UK, and the only circumstances in which that wouldn't be possible is if British citizens' rights in other EU Member States were not protected in return.

### **Islamic State: British Nationals Abroad**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether evidence of atrocities committed by individual UK citizens as members of Daesh is being collected; if so, whether this is being done as part of an investigation into sexual violence in the Middle East; and who is collecting this evidence. [HL4304]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are doing everything we can to assist in the gathering and preservation of evidence that could be used in future by judicial bodies to make a judgement on Daesh crimes. We are providing financial support to a specialist organisation to conduct investigations in Syria and build prosecution ready criminal case files against the high level perpetrators, in accordance with international standards. These cases are built for international prosecution should a referral to the International Criminal Court be forthcoming or should individuals be subject to litigation by hybrid, specialised or national courts.

We are also funding a project through our Human Rights and Democracy Programme, aimed at improving the documentation of sexual violence and other gender based cases in a victim sensitive way, in several areas of Iraq. The project is training a team of human rights defenders to document sexual violence and establish a database of cases across a two year period to inform policy development in the government of Iraq.

As a first step in the 'Bringing Daesh to Justice' campaign, we are working with the government of Iraq to bring a proposal before the United Nations on evidence gathering and preservation in Iraq. It is vital that this is done now, before evidence is lost or destroyed.

### **Islamic State: Crimes against Humanity**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on 20 April (HC Deb, col 996) concerning the gathering and preservation of evidence that could in future be used in a court to hold Daesh to account for its crimes against Shi'a and Sunni Muslims, Christians, Yazidis, Kurds and other groups, what steps they are taking to ensure that genocide committed against Christians is included in their proposals for the prosecution of Daesh. [HL4319]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government is committed to ensuring there is no impunity for these heinous crimes committed by Daesh, as shown by the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson)'s launching of the global campaign Bringing Daesh to Justice. As a first step in this campaign, we are working with the government of Iraq to bring a proposal before the UN on evidence gathering and preservation in Iraq. It is vital that

this is done now, before evidence is lost or destroyed. This campaign is about justice for all Daesh victims and we expect it to cover all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law by Daesh including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following reports of the confiscation of an Islamic cemetery adjacent to the Al-Aqsa mosque and the prevention of Palestinian burials from taking place there. [[HL4017](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Whilst we have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, we call on all parties to appreciate the unique sensitivities in Jerusalem, a city which holds particular significance for many groups especially the three Abrahamic faiths of Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following reports that the majority of building permits applied for by Palestinians in existing Palestinian villages are rejected. [[HL4020](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We recognise that Palestinians face severe difficulty in securing building permissions for homes and infrastructure in Area C. We continue to urge the government of Israel to develop improved mechanisms for zoning, planning and permitting in Area C, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes. The UK provides technical assistance to support Palestinian villages currently threatened with demolition and funding to support long-term planning for Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel regarding alleged reports of withholding of the corpses of Palestinians killed in suspected stabbing attacks. [[HL4246](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have raised the return of Palestinian bodies with the Israeli authorities.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions are they having with the government of Israel over reports of the continued demolition and seizure of structures in Area C and East Jerusalem on the grounds of lack of building permits. [[HL4247](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We continue to raise our concerns with the Israeli authorities about demolitions with the government of Israel and in international forums. We also continue to urge the government of Israel to develop improved mechanisms for zoning, planning and permitting in Area C for the benefit of the Palestinian population, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes. The UK provides technical assistance to support Palestinian communities currently threatened with demolition action to meet the requirements of the Israeli planning system and funding to support long-term planning for Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem 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 designation of nearly 30 per cent of Palestinian land in Area C as firing zones for military training. [[HL4248](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, we regularly press Israel to ease the current restrictive permitting regime and to transfer control of Area C to the Palestinian Authority as per the Oslo Accords.

### Israeli Settlements

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of preliminary approval having been given by the Knesset of Israel to a bill to retroactively legalise Jewish settlement outposts in the occupied West Bank, what is the most recent estimate of the total number of unofficial Jewish settlement outposts in the West Bank; what is their assessment of the impact of such legislation on any two-state solution for Israel; what representations they have made, alone and with other governments, to the government of Israel in respect of the plans; and what steps they are taking to monitor the impact of any such representations. [[HL4124](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is extremely concerned that the Knesset has passed the first reading of a bill which would retroactively "legalise" around 55 settlement outposts, expropriate privately owned Palestinian land and pave the way for a significant further expansion of settlements in the West Bank. This would be illegal under international law, and once again calls into question the Israeli Government's commitment to a two-state solution. The UK urges the Israeli Government to reconsider the land regulation bill at the earliest opportunity. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr. Ellwood), raised the issue with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister when they met in London on 12 December. Minister Ellwood also raised the issue with the Israeli ambassador to

London and issued two press statements expressing the UK's concerns.

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning the consequences of the proposed legislation by the Knesset retroactively legalising Jewish settlement outposts in the occupied West Bank; what response, if any, they have received; and how they intend to pursue the issue. [HL4177]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr. Ellwood), raised the issue with the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister when they met in London on 12 December. Minister Ellwood also raised the issue with the Israeli Ambassador to London and issued two press statements on the issue. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv has raised our concerns about the bill with the Minister for Strategic Affairs, the Minister for Science, the Deputy Finance Minister and a range of members of the Knesset. We continue to urge the Israeli Government to reconsider this legislation at the earliest possible opportunity.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following reports of the approval of a plan to build a further 770 housing units in the Gilo neighbourhood, south of Jerusalem. [HL4251]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr. Ellwood), issued a statement on 8 December expressing our deep concern about 770 units in Gilo receiving final approval. We strongly condemn the pace of settlement advancement, increased plans for new settlements deep in the heart of the West Bank, and moves to retroactively approve unauthorised settlement outposts. We continue to raise our grave concerns about expansion of Israeli settlements with the Israeli Government.

### Israeli Settlements: Water Supply

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following reports that thirty springs are under full Israeli settler control and inaccessible to Palestinians, with another 26 springs at risk of becoming similarly controlled. [HL4249]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not discussed this specific issue, we regularly raise the issue of water in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Israeli authorities. We have stressed the urgent need for Israel to take immediate and practical measures to

improve the current situation and ensure fair distribution of water in the West Bank and Gaza.

### Kashmir: India

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of the use of high-powered pellet guns against civilian protesters in Kashmir by Indian forces; and what representations they have made to the government of India regarding this issue. [HL4160]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma) discussed the use of pellet guns and alternative methods of crowd control in India administered Kashmir with Indian Government representatives in October. The government of India has been reviewing the use of pellet guns in Kashmir. It has yet to make the review's conclusions public, but there are reports that alternative methods of crowd control will be introduced. The UK abides by its commitments under international law and expects all countries to comply with their international legal obligations. We engage with India on human rights matters and will continue to work collaboratively on the promotion and protection of human rights.

### Lebanon: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Lebanon following the condemnation by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees of armed violence in Ein El Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp. [HL4022]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The violence and instability in Lebanon's twelve Palestinian refugee camps remains a concern for the UK. The armed violence that took place in Ein El Hilweh on 5 December was a shocking example of the serious problems affecting daily camp life. Although it is not the UK's policy to raise specific camp security incidents with the government of Lebanon, we monitor Palestinian refugee issues closely and raise these in our regular discussions with the Lebanese Government.

### Life Expectancy

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the ranking of the UK for life expectancy of (1) men, (2) women, and (3) both groups, aged 65, amongst EU member states. [HL4237]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The information is not held in the Government. I refer the noble Lord to the Euro Stat website below which might be of some help.

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Mortality\\_and\\_life\\_expectancy\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Mortality_and_life_expectancy_statistics)

### Local Government Finance

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the terms of reference of the fair funding review; when they expect to complete and publish the results of that review; and whether the review will take into account the different funding needs of different local authority areas. [HL3990]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Fair Funding Review is a thorough reassessment of the relative needs and resources formula for local government for a world in which local government spending will be funded by local resources not central grant. The Review will establish the funding baselines for the introduction of 100 per cent Business Rates Retention, which will be implemented by the end of the Parliament.

Since we announced the Review we have collaborated closely with local government representatives. We published a Call for Evidence in July which sought views on key questions the Review will address and are currently considering the responses.

### Mastercard: Class Actions

*Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have undertaken any consultation with consumer groups about whether consumers involved in the recent Mastercard court case were adequately protected by the provision of the Consumer Rights Act 2015. [HL4215]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Consumer Rights Act enhances consumers' ability to seek full compensation for any detriment suffered as a result of a breach of competition Law. Schedule 8 of the Act amended the Competition Act 1998, expanding the jurisdiction of the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT), to hear standalone actions (powers akin to those of the High Court) and to hear collective proceedings.

A case was filed against Mastercard at the CAT in September this year (by representative Walter Merricks) on behalf of up to 40 million consumers, which is still in its early stages. It is the first claim of its sort, for a potential £14 billion pounds, brought on behalf of all UK consumers who have suffered loss, following the long-running European Commission case that ended in 2014 and the Commission's decision that Mastercard had infringed EU competition law. Developments in the case can be followed through the CAT website.

It would be premature to undertake a consultation on the Act's impact at present. The Government is required to carry out a full review, consulting a wide variety of stakeholders, including consumer groups, once the Act has been in force for five years.

### Military Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many pilots currently serving in the RAF are qualified to fly (1) the Typhoon, and (2) the Tornado, aircraft. [HL4280]

**Earl Howe:** I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or the security of the Armed Forces.

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for (1) upgrading, or (2) changing the purpose or function of, (a) Typhoon, and (b) Tornado, aircraft. [HL4350]

**Earl Howe:** There are no plans to upgrade or change the function of Tornado, which is due to be withdrawn from service in 2019. Under Project Centurion, Typhoon is currently undergoing a series of upgrades. These include the integration of Meteor, Brimstone and Storm Shadow missiles, allowing the transition of our air attack capability to Typhoon when Tornado is finally withdrawn from service.

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government under current plans, when will the last (1) Tornado, and (2) Typhoon, aircraft leave service. [HL4351]

**Earl Howe:** The planned out of service date for Tornado is 2019 and for Typhoon it is 2040.

### Minimum Wage

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 24 October (HL2092), whether they will now answer the question concerning the number of criminal prosecutions that have been initiated in relation to the 700 employers "named and shamed" for failing to pay the minimum wage since October 2013; how many civil proceedings have been initiated; and what financial penalties were issued as a result of those proceedings. [HL4167]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government has named 687 employers for failing to pay at least the appropriate minimum wage rate to their workers, since the inception of our naming scheme in October 2013. Civil proceedings were initiated against all 687 of these employers, resulting in almost £1.4 million of penalties being levied. In addition, over £3.5 million of underpayments were identified, which the employers are required to repay to workers. Public naming represents the final element of the civil enforcement process. No criminal prosecutions were initiated against these employers.

The Government's priority is to ensure low paid workers receive the money they are owed, as quickly as



possible. Civil proceedings are generally the most effective means of achieving this. However, where there is evidence that an offence has been committed the case will be considered for criminal investigation, which may lead to prosecution.

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 26 October (HL2092), how many cases relating to failure to pay the minimum wage have been considered for criminal investigation; and how many have led to prosecutions. [HL4264]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is determined that everyone who is entitled to the National Minimum Wage (NMW) and the National Living Wage (NLW) receives it. Anyone who believes they have been underpaid NMW or NLW should contact the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) helpline on 0300 123 1100. HMRC reviews all complaints referred.

There have been 13 successful prosecutions for NMW offences since 2007, with 4 of these in the 2016 calendar year. However, prosecutions are not necessarily the best approach in most cases. Criminal sanctions against companies mean that workers – the ultimate beneficiaries of enforcing the NMW and NLW – end up waiting longer for their lost earnings to be paid back.

### Ministry of Defence: Reviews

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reviews have been announced in Parliament by the Ministry of Defence in the last six years; how many have been completed; how many are still ongoing; and what is the timescale for completion of those reviews still ongoing. [HL4337]

**Earl Howe:** Since 1 January 2011 the Ministry of Defence has announced 11 reviews in Parliament, of which 10 have been completed and one, the Review of the Service Museums announced on 15 October 2015 (HLWS241), is due to be completed shortly.

### Mohammad Faisal Abu Sakha

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding reports of the continued administrative detention of Mohammed Abu Sakha. [HL4250]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not raised the particular case of Mr Sakha with the Israeli authorities but we are following his case closely. We remain concerned about Israel's extensive use of administrative detention which, according to international law, should only be used when security makes this absolutely necessary rather than as routine practice, and as a preventive rather than a punitive measure. We continue to call on Israeli

authorities to comply with their obligations under international law, and either charge or release detainees.

### Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency will provide information to MoT testers enabling them to confirm that originally fitted catalytic converters and diesel particulate filters are present and operating effectively. [HL4270]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency is currently revising the MOT Inspection Manual for cars and light goods vehicles to enable compliance with EU Directive 2014/45/EU. This includes amended advice to detect where catalytic converters and diesel particulate filters have been removed from vehicles where they were fitted as standard. It will be issued by summer 2017.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cars have failed an MoT test since 1 January 2016 as a result of problems with originally fitted catalytic converters or diesel particulate filters, in (1) the UK, and (2) the London area. [HL4271]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Since 1 January 2016 a total of 4,925 cars and light vans have failed an MOT test in GB for defects with the catalytic converter and a further 468 have failed the MOT test for problems with the diesel particulate filter. The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency cannot readily separate figures for the London area, and does not have figures from Northern Ireland, as this is a devolved issue.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their timescale for developing methods which can detect the removal or effectiveness of a particulate filter during an MoT check-up; whether they have commissioned research into this; and if so, from whom. [HL4272]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport has commissioned research by Ricardo Ltd into how new technology can improve detection of diesel particulate filter removal or the effectiveness of such a filter. It is not possible to give a timescale at this early stage to determine how these findings may be used.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered requiring all authorised MoT test centres to enter information on a database whenever they remove the internal core of a particulate filter, so that other test centres can be required to check with the vehicle's owner that the filter is working again when it is presented for MoT. [HL4273]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Garages conducting such modifications to particulate filters are generally not



MOT garages – and so the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) would not consider such a database to be of value. Where the garage making modifications is an authorised MOT garage, DVSA will take appropriate action against them.

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will pursue against garages, drivers or others whose actions have contributed to the illegal driving of vehicles without an originally fitted catalytic converter and diesel particulate filter. [\[HL4274\]](#)

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Existing legislation makes the owner or user of the vehicle responsible for its condition. Removal of a diesel particulate filter will almost invariably result in a contravention of the regulations, making the vehicle illegal to use on the road. The potential penalties are £1,000 for a car and £2,500 for a van. Action can be taken against garages who are promoting services in a way that makes it likely car owners will break the law by making such changes to their vehicle.

## Muslims

*Asked by **Lord Patten***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the contribution of Ahmadi Muslims to the UK. [\[HL4253\]](#)

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Faith communities make a vital contribution to Britain, guiding the moral outlook of many, inspiring great numbers of people to public service and providing help to those in need. Ahmadiyya Muslims have made an immeasurable contribution to this country through their representation in business and public services, as well as charitable work such as the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association's support for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal which has raised thousands of pounds.

## National Identity

*Asked by **Lord Ahmed***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports that civil servants and other holders of public office might be required to swear an oath to British values, what is their definition of British values. [\[HL4191\]](#)

*Asked by **Lord Ahmed***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that any British values are different from universal values; and, if so, which ones are different. [\[HL4192\]](#)

*Asked by **Lord Ahmed***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any major religions that do not subscribe to universal values. [\[HL4193\]](#)

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** As the then Home Secretary explained in her speech of 23rd March 2015, British values – such as regard for the rule of law, participation in and acceptance of democracy, equality, free speech and respect for minorities – are supported by the overwhelming majority of British people. They are sustained by our most important local and national institutions. And they are the means by which we have made our multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious society succeed.

*Asked by **Lord Lester of Herne Hill***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to require public servants to take an oath of obedience to British values; and if so, what sanctions will apply for a refusal to do so. [\[HL4229\]](#)

*Asked by **Lord Lester of Herne Hill***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to require public servants in Northern Ireland to take an oath of obedience to British values. [\[HL4230\]](#)

*Asked by **Lord Lester of Herne Hill***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any calculation has been made of the estimated cost to the public purse of administering the proposed oath of obedience to British values. [\[HL4231\]](#)

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made clear he will be studying Dame Louise Casey's Review of integration and opportunity closely. As part of those considerations, we will consider carefully, in consultation with government colleagues in both the United Kingdom and devolved administrations, Dame Louise's recommendation that British values be included in a new oath for those in public office.

In spring, we will come forward with our plans for tackling the issues raised by Dame Louise, so that we can continue to build a country that works for everyone.

## NATO

*Asked by **Lord Jopling***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the NATO battalion-sized battlegroup to be established in Poland; which NATO members will contribute; how many NATO personnel will be involved; where the battlegroup will be based; and which will be the lead nation. [\[HL4225\]](#)

*Asked by **Lord Jopling***

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the NATO battalion-sized battlegroup to be established in Lithuania; which NATO members will contribute; how many NATO personnel will be involved; where the battlegroup will be based; and which will be the lead nation. [\[HL4226\]](#)

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the NATO battalion-sized battlegroup to be established in Latvia; which NATO members will contribute; how many NATO personnel will be involved; where the battlegroup will be based; and which will be the lead nation. [HL4227]

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the NATO battalion-sized battlegroup to be established in Estonia; which NATO members will contribute; how many NATO personnel will be involved; where the battlegroup will be based; and which will be the lead nation. [HL4228]

**Earl Howe:** The information requested is set out in the table below:

<i>Host Nation</i>	<i>Framework Nation</i>	<i>Based from</i>	<i>Contributing Nations</i>	<i>Number of Personnel</i>	<i>Deployed from</i>
Estonia	UK	Tapa	France, Denmark	Each Enhanced Forward Presence deployment is expected to have around 1,000 personnel, but this will vary over time due to planned rotations of units.	Each Enhanced Forward Presence battalion will be deployed from early 2017.
Latvia	Canada	Adazi	Albania, Italy, Poland, Slovenia		
Lithuania	Germany	Rukla	Belgium, Croatia, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway		
Poland	US	Several locations including Żagań, Świątoszów, Skwierzyna, and Bolesławiec			

**Natural Gas***Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the UK's gas distribution industry is owned and operated by companies based outside the UK. [HL4171]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** All of the GB gas distribution network companies are owned and operated by companies registered and based in the UK, and are subject to a domestic legal and regulatory framework. These companies are owned by a diverse range of stakeholders based both within the UK and outside:

- National Grid Gas Distribution, which operates four gas distribution networks, is currently owned in full by National Grid, based in the UK. However, a consortium managed by Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets, based in Australia has recently been named as successful in its bid to co-own the company, although the deal is not yet complete.
- SGN (previously known as Scotia Gas Networks) operate two gas distribution networks and are owned by SSE plc, Borealis Infrastructure Management Canada and Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan with SSE recently

announcing their intention to sell part of their stake to the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. These companies are based in the UK, Canada and the United Arab Emirates respectively.

- Northern Gas Networks run one gas distribution network and are owned by companies associated with Li Ka Shing including Cheung Kong Infrastructure based in Hong Kong and SAS Trustee Corporation based in Australia.
- Wales and West Utilities run one gas distribution network and are also owned by companies associated with Li Ka Shing, notably Cheung Kong Infrastructure based in Hong Kong.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received regarding the publication of the letter they sent to Nissan regarding investment in its Sunderland plant. [HL4128]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** I refer the noble Lord to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's evidence to the Business,

Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee on 14 December 2016, [HC 566](#).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Secretary of State's evidence to Select Committee [hc-566.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-14/HL4128>

## Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to introduce a windfall tax to ensure that participants in Northern Ireland's Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme do not make super profits as a result of their tariff regime. [[HL4210](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government does not have plans to introduce such a tax.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure value for money for the taxpayer as a result of the introduction in Northern Ireland of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme. [[HL4257](#)]

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what supervisory measures they employ to monitor the spending plans of the Northern Ireland Executive, and in view of recent financial mismanagement allegations; what additional measures they will employ; and what steps they are taking to ensure value for money in the future. [[HL4258](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Northern Ireland Department of Finance provides the Treasury with monthly electronic returns recording the Northern Ireland Executive's forecast spending against allocated budgets. It is the Executive's responsibility to constrain spending within the resources available to it.

Scrutiny arrangements in relation to devolved responsibilities, including value for money assessments of the Executive's spending, are matters for the devolved administration in Northern Ireland.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have been approached by the Northern Ireland Executive to discuss ways in which the anticipated overspend of £400 million on the Executive's Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme can be alleviated. [[HL4259](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Treasury Ministers have had no such discussions with Northern Ireland Executive Ministers. It is for the Northern Ireland Executive to deal with budgetary pressures within the overall resources available to it, and to manage policy development and implementation of matters within its devolved remit.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money remains available to the Northern Ireland Executive to promote renewable heating schemes; and what conditions, if any, apply for accessing such funds. [[HL4331](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Northern Ireland Executive's budget allocation from the Treasury for renewable heat schemes has been set through to 2019-20 and is set out in the table below. Spending in relation to this allocation can only be used to support renewable heat schemes.

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
£18.3m	£22.3m	£25.7m	£28.9m

Allocations for future years will be set out at future Spending Reviews in the normal way.

## Occupied Territories

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the International Criminal Court's affirmation of the occupied status of the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. [[HL4019](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of the International Criminal Court's position and are following closely. It has been the position of every British Government since 1948 that the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs, i.e. the West Bank including East Jerusalem and Gaza) were not lawfully part of the state of Israel at its creation or at any point thereafter. We consider that the level of control that Israel retains over these territories amounts to occupation under international law and hence that Israel's presence in the OPTs is governed by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Israel is a state party.

## Pakistan: Education

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 5 December (HL3360), what assessment they have made of the impact on the education of students from religious minorities of reductions by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the budget reserved for religious minorities. [[HL4308](#)]

**Lord Bates:** DFID has not undertaken an assessment of the impact of budget cuts by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the education of students from religious minorities. Cuts were reported to have been made by the Department of Auqaf and Minority Affairs for the financial year 2016/17, reducing the funding available for textbooks and fees for pupils attending Christian schools. All UK financial support to education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is made through the Elementary and

Secondary Education Department in support of the government's five-year Education Sector Plan which supports government schools attended by pupils of all religious backgrounds. No UK funding goes to the Department of Auqaf and Minority Affairs.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 5 December (HL3360), what assessment they have made of reports that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has offered Rs 150 million of British aid funding to the Islamic religious seminary Darul Uloom Haqqani. [HL4309]

**Lord Bates:** The Islamic religious seminary Darul Uloom Haqqani receives funding from the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Department of Auqaf and Minority Affairs, however, no UK funding has been provided to that Department. All UK financial support to education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is made through the Elementary and Secondary Education Department in support of the government's five-year Education Sector Plan.

### **Pakistan: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan following reports of a raid on the Ahmadi community headquarters in Rabwah. [HL4013]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of reports of the raid on the Ahmadiyya office in Pakistan. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of people based on their beliefs. Our concerns are reflected in the latest update to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annual human rights report.

The Government regularly raises our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities, with the Pakistani Government at a senior level. During his visit to Pakistan in November, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) raised religious tolerance and the importance of safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan's citizens. The Government continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the attack on 12 December on the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Dolmial, in the district of Chakwai, Pakistan; and what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan about the treatment of Ahmadiyyas. [HL4111]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We condemn the attack on the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Chakwal on 12 December. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of people based on their beliefs. Our concerns are reflected in the latest update to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annual human rights report.

The Government regularly raises our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities, with the Pakistani Government at a senior level. During his visit to Pakistan in November, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), raised religious tolerance and the importance of safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan's citizens. The Government continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

*Asked by Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan about the treatment of Ahmadi Muslims following a recent attack on the Ahmadi Muslim mosque in Chakwal in Pakistan. [HL4310]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We condemn the attack on the Ahmadiyya mosque in Chakwal on 12 December. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of people based on their beliefs. Our concerns are reflected in the latest update to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annual human rights report.

We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities at senior level, with the government of Pakistan. During his visit to Pakistan in November, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) raised religious tolerance and the importance of safeguarding the rights of all Pakistan's citizens. The Government continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

### **Pakistan: Schools**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 5 December (HL3360), which organisation or agency independently assessed that the implementation of the 2006 national curriculum by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was based on the values of democracy, pluralism and peace. [HL4305]

**Lord Bates:** The assessment was provided in the review undertaken by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. This is a German development organisation, commonly known as GIZ and



owned by the German government. The September 2013 review, 'An Overview of Curriculum Reform', examined the implementation of the 2006 national curriculum across Pakistan.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 5 December (HL3360), what consideration was given by the Department for International Development to other international and local assessments of the implementation of the 2006 national curriculum by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. [HL4306]

**Lord Bates:** The Department for International Development has taken into consideration a number of reports over recent years which have looked, in part, at implementation of the 2006 national curriculum. These include the November 2011 report from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, 'Connecting the Dots: Education and Religious Discrimination in Pakistan'. The Department is currently supporting the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to review its textbooks with the aim of improving overall quality and reducing all forms of bias. This work will be completed by March 2018.

### **Pakistan: Textbooks**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 5 December (HL3360), whether, as part of the independent assessment, Urdu books were studied by speakers of Urdu; and if so, which books. [HL4307]

**Lord Bates:** The independent assessment completed in 2013 by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, 'An Overview of Curriculum Reform', looked at the policy implications for government stemming from the new 2006 curriculum. It did not focus specifically on textbooks. The November 2011 report from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, 'Connecting the Dots: Education and Religious Discrimination in Pakistan', looked in more detail at textbooks, including Urdu textbooks for Grades 1 to 10 across Pakistan. The Sustainable Development Policy Institute, a Pakistani think tank organisation, which carried out this review of textbooks for the Commission, used a team of Pakistani Urdu-speaking nationals.

### **Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education**

*Asked by Baroness Massey of Darwen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that sex and relationship education will form part of a wider programme of personal, social and health education, including skills for life and character building. [HL4349]

**Lord Nash:** We want all schools to provide young people with a broad and balanced curriculum that equips them for success in modern Britain. High quality personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education has an important role to play in this by helping young people understand the world around them, building resilience and helping them to make positive choices and stay safe.

Sex education is compulsory in secondary maintained schools. The Government is clear that all schools should make provision for high quality, age-appropriate sex and relationship education (SRE) which is a vital part of preparing young people for life.

The Government's current approach is for schools to develop their own local PSHE programme to reflect the needs of their pupils. For some schools, their PSHE programme may include elements of SRE.

The Secretary of State agrees that we need to look again at the case for further action on PSHE and SRE provision, as a matter of priority with particular consideration to improving quality and accessibility. We are actively considering all our options and will give a view soon.

### **Police: Mass Media**

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 12 December (HL Deb, col. 1064), for how long the College of Policing's authorised professional practice on media relations has been in preparation; when it will be published; and whether a copy will be placed in the Library of the House. [HL4133]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The College of Policing is developing new Authorised Professional Practice (APP) guidance on media relations. Consultation on the new APP ran from May-July 2016. Responses are being analysed and the guidance is due for publication in early 2017, once it has been through the College's approval process. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

### **Prison Officers**

*Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the ratio of prison staff to prisoners in English and Welsh prisons in each year since 2009. [HL3443]

**Lord Henley:** Information on prisoner population and staffing levels is published on gov.uk and is copied in the table below.

We are committed to transforming prisons into places of safety and reform, and we have announced a major overhaul of the prison system including the recruitment of 2,500 extra frontline officers.

As an immediate action we have already invested £14 million to provide more than 400 extra staff in ten of the most challenging prisons.

We are also introducing a new scheme to attract top graduates and former servicemen and women into the service, and giving governors greater flexibility over recruitment so they can address staffing quickly.

*Prisoner/Officer ratio in public sector prisons in England and Wales, 31 March 2009 to 2016 (Full Time Equivalent)*

Year	Prisoner/Staff ratio
31/03/2009	2.9
31/03/2010	3.1
31/03/2011	3.1
31/03/2012	3.4
31/03/2013	3.4
31/03/2014	3.9
31/03/2015	3.9
31/03/2016	3.9

<sup>1</sup> Ratio is calculated using the standard approach of dividing the prison population by the number of band 3-5 officers (FTE equivalent)

<sup>2</sup> NOMS only holds responsibility for staff in public sector prisons, and only holds figures for these staff accordingly. Staff numbers in private prisons are not the responsibility of NOMS and are not held. Ratios can only be calculated for public sector prisons.

### Prisoners' Transfers

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prison transfers owing to shortage of space have taken place in each month over the last 12 months in each prison in England and Wales. [HL4342]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** We are investing £1.3 billion to reform and modernise the prison estate to make it more efficient, safer and focused on supporting prisoner rehabilitation. We will build new prisons and close prisons that are in poor condition and those which do not have a long-term future in the estate. We will also simplify the organisation of the estate so prisoners are placed at the right level of security in prisons with appropriately tailored regimes. This will ensure that the supply of places providing rehabilitation and resettlement services, and those that serve the courts, are balanced with demand.

Data on the number of prisoner transfers due to shortages of space is not held centrally.

### Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people of each ethnic group, broken down by religion, were in prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [I] [HL3275]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The information requested is provided in the quarterly offender management statistics publication, which is published on gov.uk. A copy of the information is included in the attached table.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

prison population by ethnicity and religion [HL3275 - Table.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-16/HL3275>

### Prisons: Drugs

*Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of drug use in prisons and its impact on violence levels. [HL3442]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** As the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman has said, the rise in dangerous psychoactive substances has been a game-changer in terms of its impact on levels of safety in prisons. The Justice Secretary has been clear that levels of violence in prisons are unacceptable and has announced a major overhaul of the prison system including 2,500 extra frontline prison officers. These extra officers and new safety measures will help us crack down on the toxic cocktail of drugs, drones and mobile phones that are in our prisons. Our measures will create prisons that are places of safety and reform, giving prisoners the education and skills they need to turn their back on crime for good.

We take a zero tolerance approach to drugs in our prisons. We have rolled out tests for new psychoactive substances, and have trained 300 dogs to detect these drugs. We have introduced tough new laws which will see those who smuggle packages over prison walls face up to two years in prison. And every prisoner will have a dedicated officer to support them as they quit drugs, get back into learning and break the cycle of reoffending.

### Private Rented Housing: Undocumented Migrants

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many calls they have received to their landlord helpline from landlords wanting to verify whether a tenant has the right to rent in the UK in the last year for which figures are available. [HL3405]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The landlord's helpline does not verify whether a tenant has the right to rent. The helpline provides information to landlords on their responsibilities and signposts to the relevant guidance on GOV.UK.

The helpline has received 7806 calls of which 7738 (99.13%) were answered from 1st July 2015 to 30th June 2016.

*Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many tenants and landlords have been investigated by enforcement officers under the right to rent checks scheme in the last year for which figures are available. [[HL3406](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many landlords have been fined for housing a tenant who does not have the right to rent in the UK in the last year for which figures are available. [[HL3407](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal immigrants have been identified as a result of the right to rent checks scheme since its inception. [[HL3408](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal immigrants found to be residing in private rented housing have been deported since the start of the right to rent checks scheme. [[HL3409](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** From 1 November 2015 to 31 October 2016 75 initial civil penalties were issued to individual landlords of tenants who do not have the right to rent in the UK.

As with right to work checks, the Right to Rent scheme is predicated on checks being carried out by third parties (in this case landlords and lettings agents). This means that the majority of illegal migrant prospective tenants will be denied access to the private rented sector as a result of these checks with no intervention by enforcement officers and no reference to the Home Office. The sanctions set out in the Immigration Acts 2014 and 2016 in relation to the Right to Rent scheme are there to address circumstances where the scheme is not adhered to by landlords and agents.

The Home Office does not hold information about the overall numbers of illegal migrants found in private rented accommodation. However our records show that between the start of the scheme and 30 September 2016, 654 individuals were either named on a Civil Penalty Referral Notice served on a landlord, or encountered on an enforcement visit during which such a Notice was served, or encountered as a result of information provided through the Landlords Checking Service, or encountered as a result of other intelligence provided about property let to illegal migrants.

Of these individuals, 31 were removed from the UK over the same period. Other cases may be being progressed to removal, or have been made subject to reporting restrictions, or have sought to regularise their stay, or have left the UK voluntarily. The Right to Rent scheme is designed to restrict access to the private rented sector for illegal migrants in order to encourage voluntary departure from the UK and discourage illegal migration. The Home Office will always investigate information it receives about illegal migrants and take appropriate

enforcement action according to the information available and the circumstances of the case. It is not always possible to attribute a return or other enforcement activity to the application of a sanction earlier in the case or to the route through which a particular individual was brought to the attention of the Home Office.

## Propaganda

*Asked by **Viscount Waverley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent of misinformation by foreign states and its impact on UK relations with those states; and what action they are taking to counter this. [[HL4051](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Relationships between states should be built on honest foundations and our Government takes seriously any attempts by Foreign States to deliberately mislead. We monitor and assess these cases and respond appropriately.

## Public Expenditure: Wales

*Asked by **Lord Hain***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which the agreement on the government of Wales' Fiscal Framework published on 19 December compensates for the lower percentage increase in income tax receipts in Wales compared to the UK since 2010–11. [[HL4318](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** As set out in the Welsh Government's fiscal framework, the UK and Welsh governments have agreed to apply a block grant adjustment for each band of income tax separately. Doing so will fully account for the different proportions of basic, higher and additional rate income tax payers in Wales and the rest of the UK.

This means that the Welsh Government will hold an appropriate set of risks and opportunities regarding their new income tax powers, as part of a wider funding agreement that the UK and Welsh governments agree is fair for Wales and fair for the rest of the UK.

## Public Sector: Interpreters

*Asked by **Baroness Coussins***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have been held between the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office about the eligibility of public service interpreters for a criminal records check at enhanced disclosure level; and what has been the outcome of those discussions. [[HL3280](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** An individual who is seeking to work with children or vulnerable adults may be eligible for an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, eligibility for which is set out in Part V of the Police Act 1997. Eligibility takes into account the

activities and circumstances under which the person is performing the role, and not necessarily the profession.

Interpreters in certain public service positions may already be eligible for enhanced checks, for example those working within prisons or those working in certain roles with children or vulnerable adults. It is for an employer to satisfy themselves that the relevant position is eligible under the current legal provisions. Detailed guidance on eligibility is provided by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

### Public Sector: Pensions

*Asked by **Baroness Altmann***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many public sector workers who earn less than £11,000 a year are (1) men, and (2) women. [[HL4194](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Altmann***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many public sector workers who earn less than £11,000 a year belong to a public sector pension scheme provided by their public sector employer. [[HL4195](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Altmann***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many public sector workers who earn less than £11,000 a year and belong to public sector pension schemes are in receipt of the equivalent contribution for basic rate tax relief. [[HL4196](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Altmann***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they provide to public sector employers on the steps they should take to ensure their low-paid workers do not lose basic rate tax relief on their pension contributions, even if they are non-taxpayers; and what steps they take to inform low-paid workers about their pension contributions. [[HL4197](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government does not centrally collate data on the annual earnings of public sector workers.

Defined Benefit public sector pension schemes operate on a net pay basis. The Partnership scheme, which is a defined contribution scheme open to civil servants and other public sector workers, operates a relief at source system for payment of pension contributions.

The Pensions Regulator provides all employers with guidance on how different forms of administering pensions tax relief affect different employees. This guidance is available on its website and it applies to public sector employers in the same way as private sector employers. It is up to the individual schemes how they communicate this information to their employees.

### Pupils: Personal Records

*Asked by **Lord Storey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what personal pupil data the Department for Education shares with the Home Office, and for what purpose. [[HL4311](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The Memorandum of Understanding between the Home Office and the Department for Education outlines the purpose and the personal pupil data shared. The Memorandum of Understanding is available in the house library.

### Railways: Compensation

*Asked by **Baroness Randerson***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that train operating companies offer compensation for delays and cancellations in cash rather than in vouchers. [[HL4378](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** National Rail Conditions of Carriage were amended in July 2015, providing passengers with the right to claim compensation in cash rather than only vouchers. Passengers want to be able to claim compensation quickly and simply and that includes getting the payment in the form that suits them best.

From 1 October 2016, under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, where a delay was caused by a fault of the train company, passengers are entitled to payment by the same means as the ticket was paid for unless the passenger agrees to another payment method.

### Refugees: Children

*Asked by **Lord Blencathra***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, of those child refugees who have been brought to the UK from Calais, how many fall into the age ranges of (1) under 10 years, (2) 10–12 years, (3) 13–15 years, (4) 16–18 years, (5) 19–21 years, (6) 22–24 years and (7) 25 years or over. [[HL4151](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office will publish information on the transfer of unaccompanied asylum seeking children from France in due course.

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risks of unaccompanied child refugees in Europe being recruited by terrorists and other extremist groups, including organised crime. [[HL4154](#)]

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to propose a high-level pan-European meeting to consider the development and implementation of



effective responses to the needs of unaccompanied refugee and migrant children. [[HL4155](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We work with a wide range of organisations both in the UK and across Europe to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals and prevent them from becoming radicalised.

The Government recognises the plight of vulnerable children in Europe and we are taking action on a number of fronts to address this issue. We have established a £10 million Refugee Children Fund for Europe to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe. Since 10 October over 750 unaccompanied minors have been transferred from France and more eligible children will be transferred from Europe, in line with the terms of the Immigration Act, in the coming months. We will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin Regulation. The Home Secretary and Immigration Minister have met with their Italian counterparts recently to discuss this issue, and the UK is in regular contact with our European partners at all levels. There is already sufficient scope for the UK to discuss responses to the needs of unaccompanied children with our European partners.

*Asked by Baroness Sheehan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of their commitment to resettle 3,000 unaccompanied minors from the Middle East and North Africa, how many have been resettled in the UK to date. [[HL4357](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Vulnerable Childrens Resettlement (VCR) scheme has been designed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to resettle 'vulnerable children' and their families from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The Government has committed to resettling several hundred individuals in the first year with a view to resettling up to 3,000 individuals over the lifetime of this Parliament. Children who are identified as at risk will be resettled with their family members or carers where appropriate. The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The figures for the VCR scheme will be published in the usual way, and will feature in future releases of the Home Office's immigration quarterly statistics. We will not be providing a running commentary.

*Asked by Baroness Massey of Darwen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been brought to the UK in 2016 under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 from (1) France, (2) Greece, and (3) Italy. [[HL4344](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Massey of Darwen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been brought to the UK in 2016 under the

family reunion provisions of the Dublin Regulation from (1) France, (2) Greece, and (3) Italy. [[HL4345](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Massey of Darwen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the capacity of local authorities to resettle child refugees; and what steps they are taking to secure that capacity. [[HL4346](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Massey of Darwen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Home Office staff are working on resettlement under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in (1) France, (2) Greece, and (3) Italy. [[HL4347](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Massey of Darwen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Home Office staff are working on resettlement under the family reunion provisions of the Dublin Regulation in (1) France, (2) Greece, and (3) Italy. [[HL4348](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has transferred more than 900 unaccompanied children to the UK this year under both the family reunification provisions of the Dublin Regulation and the terms of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. This includes more than 750 children from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance almost half of the unaccompanied children who were in the camp at the time of the clearance.

We have consulted local authorities on their capacity to care for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children and will publish the total number of children to be transferred under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in due course.

In July, the Home Office increased the funding provided to local authorities by up to 33 percent for the care and support of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children. The recent operation to transfer children from Calais involved over 300 officials at home and abroad and the Government continues to work closely with partners across Europe to ensure the timely and effective operation of the Dublin Regulation. We have seconded experts to France and Greece, and we have a long standing secondee in Italy to support the work on unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Europe, including the Dublin Regulation.

## Refugees: Employment

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether refugees from any countries are allowed to work immediately after being accepted into the UK; and, if so, from which countries. [[HL4047](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** All those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK or resettled under one of our resettlement schemes are allowed to work immediately.

## Refugees: Syria

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the status of young Syrian refugees in the EU and the UK when they reach the age of 18. [HL4048]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Children of all nationalities who qualify for refugee status in the UK will normally be granted five years' limited leave to remain. At the end of that five year period they will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain if they continue to require protection.

The status of young Syrian refugees in other EU Member States is a matter for the relevant authorities in those countries.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have been resettled under the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement programme; and how many, as a number and as a percentage, came from the Christian or Yazidi communities. [HL4101]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Latest statistics published on 01 December confirmed that a total of 4,414 Syrians have been resettled under the scheme since it began, 4,162 of these arriving in the 12 months to the end of September 2016.

Religious affiliation of those resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme is monitored, but not routinely reported.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what account is taken of the resolution of the House of Commons on the Daesh genocide of minorities (HC Deb, 20 April, col 608) when prioritising victims of genocide for resettlement under the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement programme. [HL4102]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are clear that our scheme will prioritise the most vulnerable refugees, and that is why under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies refugees for resettlement using its established vulnerability criteria. The seven vulnerability criteria used by the UNHCR are Legal and or Physical Protection Needs; Survivors of Torture and/or Violence; Medical Needs; Women and Girls at Risk; Family Reunification; Children and Adolescents at Risk and Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions.

*Asked by Baroness Sheehan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of their target to resettle 20,000 people via the Syrian

Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme, how many have been resettled in the UK to date. [HL4356]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Latest statistics published on 1 December confirmed that a total of 4,414 Syrians have been resettled under the scheme since it began, 4,162 of these arriving in the 12 months to the end of September 2016.

## Religious Freedom: Pakistan

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with the Ahmadi Muslim community in the UK concerning the welfare of their co-religionists in Pakistan. [HL4254]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regularly meet representatives of the UK Ahmadiyya Muslim community to discuss the human rights of Ahmadiyya in Pakistan.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma) met members of the community at the Annual General Meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK on 23 November. I met community leaders in May. Earlier this week, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials met members of the community to discuss the raid on the Ahmadiyya offices in Rabwah on 5 December and the attack on the mosque in Chakwal on 12 December. We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities, with the Pakistani Government at a senior level.

## Renewable Energy

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 20 December (HL3914, HL3915, HL3916), whether the fact that renewable energy is a devolved matter means that they did not have any discussions or consultations with the Northern Ireland Executive during or after the introduction of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive scheme; whether advice was given to the Northern Ireland Executive regarding the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive scheme's compliance with EU law; and what discussions they have had with the Scottish and Welsh governments regarding their implementation of renewable energy schemes. [HL4330]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme in Great Britain covers England, Scotland and Wales. Section 113 of the Energy Act 2011 contains provisions to enable the Northern Ireland Executive to make regulations to introduce and operate a

Renewable Heat Incentive scheme in Northern Ireland. Records suggest officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (now the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - BEIS) discussed the introduction of these provisions with officials in the Northern Ireland Executive.

BEIS does not hold records of any subsequent discussion with the Northern Ireland Executive in relation to the design or operation of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive scheme until March 2016 when the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment confirmed the closure of the RHI scheme in Northern Ireland. There is no record of advice being provided on the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive scheme's compliance with EU law.

BEIS has engaged closely with the Welsh and Scottish Governments on all amendments to the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme in Great Britain, and informed the Northern Ireland Executive in parallel.

### Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the operation of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme in Great Britain. [\[HL4260\]](#)

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in Great Britain is administered by Ofgem. They are responsible for the day-to-day running of the scheme.

On the 14th December we published the government response and accompanying impact assessment to the consultation on reforming the RHI. The reforms will ensure that the scheme is affordable and incorporates robust scheme design. The changes will focus on long-term decarbonisation, offering better value for money to the tax payer and protecting consumers.

### Reoffenders

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) men, and (2) women, are currently in prison having broken the terms of their licences on a fixed-term recall. [\[HL4338\]](#)

**Lord Keen of Elie:** We are unable to provide the data on the number of men and women currently in custody on fixed term recall. Whilst this information is held on individual case files, a manual exercise would be required to locate and collate this information. Such an exercise would incur disproportionate cost.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost of returning people to prison following breaches of their licences during the last 12 months. [\[HL4339\]](#)

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The recall of offenders who are serving their sentence on licence and in the community is a preventative measure. It is instigated by the probation services only when the offender's behaviour or non-compliance with their licence conditions suggest that they present as an increased risk of harm to the public or an increased risk of committing further offences.

There has been no estimate of the cost to the various agencies of recalling offenders on licence during the last 12 months, but any such cost would have to be offset by the potential costs arising from the offender remaining in the community and committing further offences.

### Road Traffic Offences

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the value to the development of enforcement policy of collating data on the number of people killed or injured resulting from drivers breaking the law. [\[HL4033\]](#)

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The enforcement of road traffic offences is an operational matter for the police, drawing on relevant statistical information as appropriate, and taking into account any specific local problems and demands.

### Rural Payments Agency

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the performance of the Rural Payments Agency over the last 12 months. [\[HL4235\]](#)

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Rural Payments Agency's performance in delivering 2016 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments has improved considerably compared with 2015. A record proportion of 2016 BPS applications, over 80 per cent, were received online which has enabled quicker processing of claims.

By 31 December the Rural Payments Agency had paid 91.2%, or over 78,300, claims for 2016 BPS. The payments, worth just over £1.4 billion, include a range of 2016 BPS claim types and sizes, including claimants under the young farmer scheme, those inspected and farmers with common land.

### Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the decision by the government of the United States not to proceed with a number of munitions sales to Saudi Arabia, whether they intend to cancel planned weapons sales; what is the value of UK sales of arms to Saudi Arabia which have been licensed since March; and whether they have sought legal advice about potential UK complicity in war crimes as a consequence of armaments originating in the UK being used by Saudi

Arabia against civilians in that country and elsewhere. [HL4113]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As the Secretary of State for Defence, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) said in his statement on Monday 19 December, we operate one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world – we have our own robust evidence-based process and reach our own conclusions.

The UK takes our arms export responsibilities very seriously. The key test for our continued arms exports to Saudi Arabia is whether there is a clear risk that the items concerned might be used in the commission of a serious violation of international humanitarian law. The situation is kept under careful and continual review.

The US continues to export a wide range of military equipment to Saudi Arabia, including combat aircraft and attack helicopters and munitions. In response to concerns over certain elements of the conflict in Yemen, the US announced a single upcoming munitions sale would not be taken forward. We are in contact with US authorities on this issue.

Statistics on licences for the export of strategic goods are published on a quarterly basis. The most recent published figures cover March – June 2016. In this period the value of standard individual export licences which were granted for military goods to Saudi Arabia was worth £6,235,378.

### Schools: Census

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information was given to those completing the national school census regarding the sharing of details with the Home Office for immigration purposes. [HL4240]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education (DfE) provide a privacy notice template <sup>[1]</sup> for schools to use to explain to parents what personal data they collect, why it is collected, who it is shared with and what it is used for. The template we provide to schools also gives parents access to further information about the Department's use of their children's data <sup>[2]</sup>.

With regards to data sharing with the Home Office, a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Home Office and the Department for Education, which covers the sharing of limited information between those parties, is available in the house library. This sharing does not include data relating to the nationality, country of birth and proficiency in English of pupils which is collected solely for Department for Education analysts to use for research. These data items have not, and will not, be shared by the Department for Education with other government departments.

Whilst it is not possible for a parent/guardian or an individual child to opt out of the school census collection, there is certain information (including ethnicity, first language, country of birth, nationality and whether a child

is the child of someone in the Armed Services) which must always be as declared by the parent / guardian or the pupil. The school census guidance <sup>[3]</sup> is clear that the return of this information is voluntary and parents can withhold this information if they choose.

References:

[1] Privacy notice template:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-protection-and-privacy-privacy-notices>

[2] DfE guidance for how we share data:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data>

[3] School census data collection guide:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-census-2016-to-2017-guide-for-schools-and-las>

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government under what legislation is information from the national school census passed to the Home Office for immigration purposes. [HL4241]

**Lord Nash:** A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Home Office and the Department for Education which covers the legal basis is available in the house library.

### Schools: Defibrillators

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Oliver King Foundation's five-year campaign to provide defibrillators in schools and public places, and what plans they have to ensure that every school has a defibrillator. [HL4312]

**Lord Nash:** The Government recognises how important swift access to defibrillators can be in cases of cardiac arrest. The Government applauds the work of organisations such as the Oliver King Foundation in placing defibrillators locally, and raising awareness of sudden cardiac death.

The Department's policy is to encourage schools to purchase a defibrillator as part of their first-aid equipment. To help schools to do so, we have negotiated a deal with NHS Supply Chain to offer defibrillators to schools at a reduced cost, and have published advice on installing and maintaining defibrillators on school premises.

Since this scheme was launched in 2014, over 1600 schools have purchased defibrillators through this route. We continue to work with the sector to raise awareness of the scheme and to refine our guidance to schools on installing and maintaining these devices.

### Schools: Standards

*Asked by Lord Murphy of Torfaen*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of pupils' achievement in non-selective



schools operating in areas where there are existing grammar schools. [HL4145]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The number of entries and achievements of pupils at the end of key stage 4 by school admission basis in England for academic year 2015/16 are publicly available.

The latest statistics, for 2015-2016, are available in Table 2b in the attached tables that accompanied the statistical first release 'GCSE and equivalent results: 2015 to 2016 (provisional)', which was published in October 2016.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Statistical First Release 48-2016 provisional GCSE  
[Statistical\_First\_Release\_48\_2016\_provisional\_GCSE\_and\_equivalent\_results 2015-16.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-14/HL4145>

*Asked by Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 20 December (HL4031), and following the Programme for International Student Assessment survey, whether they have made an assessment of the level of progress made by English schools since 2010 in closing the achievement gap with the world's best performing countries. [HL4328]

**Lord Nash:** In 2015, fewer countries performed significantly ahead of England than in 2012. In 2012, out of 65 participating countries, 10 performed significantly ahead of England in science, 19 in mathematics and 17 in reading. In 2015, out of 70 countries, nine performed significantly ahead of England in science, 19 in mathematics and 14 in reading.

The average performance of 15-year-olds in England, and the UK, has remained stable in each three-year cycle since 2006. As participating countries improve or decline, the performance of the UK relative to other countries has improved in science, moving from 21<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> position and has remained virtually unchanged in reading and mathematics.

## Schools: Vocational Guidance

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) maintained schools, (2) academies, and (3) free schools, invited outside organisations to provide careers guidance and advice to their pupils in the academic years (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, and (c) 2015-16. [HL4359]

**Lord Nash:** The Government does not collect data on the number of schools that invite outside organisations to provide careers advice and guidance to pupils.

Schools have a duty to secure independent careers guidance on the full range of education and training options, including apprenticeships and other technical education options. Sources of independent careers guidance can include, but not be limited to, external organisations such as education and training providers, employers and careers providers.

The Government's statutory guidance on careers is clear that schools should give other providers who wish to do so the opportunity to engage with pupils, on school premises, to inform them directly about what they offer. These could include further education and sixth form colleges, studio schools, university technical colleges and employers and other providers delivering apprenticeships.

The Government has established The Careers & Enterprise Company to increase the level of employer input into schools. The Company's Enterprise Adviser Network is now live in over 1,300 of the secondary schools and colleges across the country, connecting young people with local employers to provide experiences of the workplace.

Careers organisations provide another external source of advice and guidance. The statutory guidance encourages schools to consult a register of accredited careers organisations when securing access to face-to-face careers guidance.

## Social Services: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Gardner of Parkes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the demand for, and demographic pressures on, adult social care local authority budgets in order to inform national and local budget planning and further assess the dependencies between health and social care. [HL3989]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Adult social care provides a vital service to millions of people across the country. It is for local authorities to choose how much to spend on social care to meet their duties. We recognise there are pressures on these services, and the Spending Review 2015 as a whole paid particular attention to adult social care services. As a result the 2015 Spending Review provided a package of almost £3.5 billion of support for adult social care by 2019-20.

Following representations from local authorities and care providers that funding is needed sooner, the Provisional Local Government settlement included further measures to tackle these pressures, increasing the potential total funding available for social care during this Parliament.

The Government announced on 15 December that savings from reforms to the New Homes Bonus will be retained in full by local government to contribute towards adult social care, through a new dedicated £240 million Adult Social Care Support Grant in 2017 to 2018, distributed according to relative need. In recognition of the immediate challenges faced in the care market,

Councils will be also be granted flexibility to raise the social care precept on council tax by up to 3 per cent next year and the year after, but by no more than 6 per cent over the three years. This could provide a further £208 million to spend on adult social care in 2017 to 2018 and £444 million in 2018 to 2019.

*Asked by **Baroness Gardner of Parkes***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the adult social care precept announced in the 2015 Spending Review, how much this was intended to raise; how many local authorities have used it; how much additional money has been raised; and whether alternatives to the precept were considered prior to its announcement. [HL3991]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The social care precept created in the 2015 Spending Review works by giving local authorities the flexibility to raise council tax in their area by up to 2 per cent above the existing threshold. If all local authorities used this to its maximum effect it could help raise nearly £2 billion a year by 2019-20. In 2016-17 144 out of 152 (95 per cent) of adult social care authorities took up the precept, raising £382m extra for social care this year. The precept was accompanied by the introduction of the 'improved Better Care Fund' grant for social care from 2017-18, worth £105million in that year and £1.5billion in 2019-20.

The Government announced on 15 December that, in recognition of the immediate challenges faced in the care market, Councils will be granted flexibility to raise the social care precept on council tax by up to 3 per cent next year and the year after, but by no more than 6 per cent over the three years. This could provide a further £208 million to spend on adult social care in 2017 to 2018 and £444 million in 2018 to 2019.

*Asked by **Lord Warner***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, assuming current prices and that all English local authorities with adult social care provisions make two per cent increases in the council tax precept, how much will be raised in total for adult social care in England (1) in the first year of operation, and (2) for all years of operation up to and including the financial year 2019-20. [HL4036]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The social care precept created in the 2015 Spending Review works by giving local authorities the flexibility to raise council tax in their area by up to 2 per cent above the existing threshold. If all local authorities used this to its maximum effect it could help raise nearly £2 billion a year by 2019-20. In 2016-17 144 out of 152 (95 per cent) adult social care authorities took up the precept raising £382 million extra for social care this year. The core spending power tables published alongside the Local Government Finance Settlement provide set out estimates of how much each council might raise in later years, and an explanatory note sets out the assumptions that these are based on.

*Asked by **Lord Warner***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they estimate could be raised for adult social care by each one per cent increase in the council tax precept for (1) each named local authority with responsibilities for adult social care, and (2) the total for all such local authorities in England. [HL4037]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The attached table shows a council by council breakdown of potential receipts from use of the Adult Social Care precept.

17-18 ASC precept receipts include an element due to take-up of ASC precept in 16-17 (which councils would not have in 17-18 had they not taken this option)

17-18 receipts also factor in tax base growth in line with the geometric mean average tax base growth seen between 13-14 and 16-17

Potential council tax receipts due to Adult Social Care precept in 2017-18, £m

ASC Precept increase in 2017-18	1%	2%	3%
England	606	814	1,023
Camden	2.9	3.9	4.8
City of London	0.1	0.1	0.2
Greenwich	2.3	3.1	3.9
Hackney	2.1	2.8	3.5
Hammersmith & Fulham	0.6	1.1	1.7
Islington	2.3	3.1	3.9
Kensington & Chelsea	0.8	1.5	2.3
Lambeth	3.1	4.1	5.1
Lewisham	2.6	3.5	4.4
Southwark	2.6	3.5	4.4
Tower Hamlets	2.4	3.2	4.0
Wandsworth	1.6	2.1	2.6
Westminster	1.5	2.0	2.5
Barking & Dagenham	1.5	2.0	2.6
Barnet	4.2	5.8	7.4
Bexley	2.9	3.8	4.8
Brent	3.1	4.1	5.1
Bromley	4.1	5.4	6.8
Croydon	4.4	5.9	7.3
Ealing	1.2	2.4	3.6
Enfield	3.3	4.4	5.5

Haringey	2.7	3.6	4.5	Solihull	2.7	3.6	4.5
Harrow	3.2	4.3	5.3	South Tyneside	1.5	2.0	2.6
Havering	3.3	4.4	5.5	St Helens	1.9	2.5	3.1
Hillingdon	1.1	2.2	3.3	Stockport	3.9	5.3	6.6
Hounslow	0.9	1.8	2.7	Sunderland	2.5	3.4	4.2
Kingston upon Thames	2.6	3.4	4.3	Tameside	2.2	3.0	3.7
Merton	0.8	1.6	2.4	Trafford	2.5	3.4	4.2
Newham	2.1	2.8	3.5	Wakefield	3.4	4.6	5.7
Redbridge	2.9	3.9	4.8	Walsall	3.1	4.1	5.2
Richmond upon Thames	3.5	4.6	5.8	Wigan	3.2	4.2	5.3
Sutton	2.6	3.5	4.3	Wirral	3.6	4.8	6.0
Waltham Forest	2.7	3.6	4.5	Wolverhampton	2.6	3.5	4.4
Barnsley	2.3	3.1	3.9	Bath & North East Somerset UA	2.4	3.2	3.9
Birmingham	8.7	11.6	14.5	Bedford UA	2.3	3.0	3.8
Bolton	2.8	3.8	4.7	Blackburn with Darwen UA	1.3	1.8	2.2
Bradford	4.9	6.5	8.1	Blackpool UA	1.4	1.9	2.4
Bury	2.1	2.8	3.5	Bournemouth UA	2.4	3.2	4.0
Calderdale	2.3	3.1	3.9	Bracknell Forest UA	1.5	2.0	2.5
Coventry	3.4	4.5	5.7	Brighton & Hove UA	3.6	4.9	6.1
Doncaster	2.8	3.7	4.7	Bristol UA	5.4	7.2	9.1
Dudley	3.1	4.2	5.2	Central Bedfordshire UA	3.9	5.3	6.6
Gateshead	2.3	3.1	3.9	Cheshire East UA	5.4	7.2	9.0
Kirklees	4.5	6.0	7.5	Cheshire West and Chester UA	4.6	6.1	7.7
Knowsley	1.3	1.8	2.2	City of Nottingham UA	2.9	3.8	4.8
Leeds	8.0	10.7	13.4	Cornwall UA	7.4	9.9	12.4
Liverpool	4.6	6.1	7.7	Darlington UA	1.3	1.7	2.1
Manchester	4.0	5.3	6.7	Derby City UA	2.4	3.3	4.1
Newcastle upon Tyne	2.7	3.6	4.6	Durham UA	5.6	7.5	9.4
North Tyneside	2.4	3.2	4.0	East Riding of Yorkshire UA	4.2	5.6	7.1
Oldham	2.4	3.2	4.0	Halton UA	1.2	1.7	2.1
Rochdale	2.2	2.9	3.6	Hartlepool UA	1.0	1.4	1.7
Rotherham	2.7	3.6	4.5	Herefordshire UA	2.7	3.6	4.5
Salford	2.6	3.5	4.4	Isle of Wight UA	2.2	2.9	3.6
Sandwell	2.6	3.5	4.3				
Sefton	3.3	4.5	5.6				
Sheffield	5.4	7.2	9.0				

Isles of Scilly	0.0	0.1	0.1	West Berkshire UA	2.5	3.3	4.1
Kingston upon Hull UA	2.1	2.8	3.5	Wiltshire UA	6.8	9.1	11.4
Leicester City UA	2.9	3.8	4.8	Windsor & Maidenhead UA	1.9	2.5	3.1
Luton UA	1.9	2.6	3.3	Wokingham UA	2.6	3.4	4.3
Middlesbrough UA	1.4	1.9	2.3	York UA	2.3	3.1	3.9
Milton Keynes UA	2.9	3.9	4.9	Buckinghamshire	7.4	9.9	12.4
North East Lincolnshire UA	1.7	2.2	2.8	Cambridgeshire	7.7	10.3	12.9
North Lincolnshire UA	1.9	2.5	3.1	Cumbria	6.1	8.1	10.2
North Somerset UA	2.8	3.7	4.6	Derbyshire	8.3	11.1	13.9
Northumberland UA	4.4	5.9	7.4	Devon	10.1	13.5	16.9
Peterborough UA	1.9	2.6	3.2	Dorset	6.1	8.2	10.2
Plymouth UA	2.9	3.8	4.8	East Sussex	7.3	9.8	12.2
Poole UA	2.1	2.8	3.5	Essex	17.2	23.0	28.9
Portsmouth UA	2.0	2.6	3.3	Gloucestershire	7.4	9.9	12.4
Reading UA	2.2	2.9	3.7	Hampshire	16.0	21.4	26.8
Redcar & Cleveland UA	1.6	2.2	2.7	Hertfordshire	15.3	20.4	25.6
Rutland UA	0.7	0.9	1.1	Kent	17.6	23.5	29.5
Shropshire UA	3.8	5.1	6.4	Lancashire	12.4	16.5	20.7
Slough UA	1.5	2.0	2.5	Leicestershire	7.5	10.0	12.5
South Gloucestershire UA	3.6	4.8	6.0	Lincolnshire	7.5	10.0	12.5
Southampton UA	2.5	3.3	4.2	Norfolk	10.0	13.4	16.8
Southend-on-Sea UA	2.0	2.7	3.4	North Yorkshire	7.7	10.3	12.9
Stockton-on-Tees UA	2.3	3.0	3.8	Northamptonshire	7.7	10.4	13.0
Stoke-on-Trent UA	0.7	1.4	2.2	Nottinghamshire	9.3	12.5	15.7
Swindon UA	2.5	3.4	4.2	Oxfordshire	9.2	12.3	15.4
Telford and the Wrekin UA	1.7	2.3	2.8	Somerset	6.2	8.2	10.3
The Medway Towns UA	3.0	4.1	5.1	Staffordshire	8.8	11.8	14.8
Thurrock UA	1.7	2.3	2.9	Suffolk	8.4	11.2	14.0
Torbay UA	1.7	2.3	2.8	Surrey	18.5	24.8	31.0
Warrington UA	2.5	3.3	4.1	Warwickshire	7.3	9.7	12.2
				West Sussex	11.5	15.4	19.3
				Worcestershire	6.8	9.1	11.4

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to introduce smoothing mechanisms or adjustments of grants to assist those local authorities where permitted increases in the council tax precept produce insufficient income relative to the demographic demands on their adult social care services. [HL4038]



**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Local Authorities fund adult social care services through a combination of local taxes and central grants, and make local choices about how much to spend in order to meet their duties.

The improved Better Care Fund grant, worth £1.5 Billion in 2019-20 by allocation to local authorities using a methodology which ensures every authority gets its share of the total funding available through this grant and the Social Care precept on council tax, as measured by the social care Relative Needs Formula. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017-18, published on 15 December, confirmed this method following a public consultation

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the transfer of business rates to local authorities will provide any scope for improving the funding of local authority adult social care services before the financial year 2020–21. [HL4039]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** By the end of the Parliament, local government will retain 100 per cent of taxes raised locally, giving councils control of around an additional £12.5 billion of business rates to spend on local services as they see fit, including on Adult Social Care. To ensure the reforms are fiscally neutral, new responsibilities will be devolved to local authorities. We recently conducted a consultation on our approach to the implementation of 100 per cent Business Rates Retention, which received over 450 responses. My officials are currently considering all responses and we will publish a summary of the responses and our proposals for the broad way forward in due course.

In the meantime, we will continue close collaboration with local government in taking this work forward, including through the Business Rates Retention Steering Group, which is jointly chaired by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The Steering Group was established to consider the mechanisms needed to set up and run the new business rates system, as well as the timetable and implementation of the reforms. It oversees the work of a set of technical working groups, each looking at particular aspects of the reforms. The Group meets on a regular basis and has done so on 7 occasions since April 2016. All papers for meetings are published here: <http://www.local.gov.uk/business-rates>

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities in England with responsibilities for adult social care will not use, in the financial year 2016–17, their power to increase their council tax precept by 2 per cent to pay for such care services. [HL4083]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Eight social care authorities chose not to use the adult social care precept in 2016-17. They were: Stoke-on-Trent and 7 London

Boroughs (City, Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Merton).

## Social Services: Greater Manchester

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much additional revenue will be raised through the adult social care council tax precept by an increase of (1) three per cent in 2017–18, and (2) three per cent in 2018–19, for each of the 10 districts of Greater Manchester. [HL4292]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Government has given local councils the flexibility they have asked for to bring forward funding for adult social care. The table shows how much each council in Greater Manchester could raise in each year if they chose to use this flexibility in full alongside the existing 2 per cent referendum principle; whether or not they wish to do so would be a matter for each council.

*Potential Adult Social Care precept receipts each year with 3 per cent increase*

<i>Greater Manchester Districts</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>
Manchester	£6.7 million	£11.5 million
Metropolitan Borough of Stockport	£6.6 million	£11.0 million
Tameside	£3.7 million	£6.3 million
Metropolitan Borough of Oldham	£4.0 million	£6.8 million
Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale	£3.6 million	£6.1 million
Metropolitan Borough of Bury	£3.5 million	£5.8 million
Metropolitan Borough of Bolton	£4.7 million	£7.9 million
Metropolitan Borough of Wigan	£5.3 million	£8.9 million
City of Salford	£4.4 million	£7.5 million
Trafford	£4.2 million	£7.1 million

## Sovereign Grant

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which members of the Royal Family are in receipt of the Sovereign Grant; and whether they have any plans to extend the provision of the Grant to (1) Princess Beatrice, and (2) Princess Eugenie. [HL4266]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Sovereign Grant supports the Monarch's official business, enabling The Queen to discharge her duties as Head of State. It meets the central staff costs and running expenses of Her Majesty's official

household. It also covers maintenance of the Royal Palaces in England and the cost of travel undertaken by Members of the Royal Family to carry out official engagements.

Together, Members of the Royal Family complete over 3,000 engagements a year across the UK - many more than The Queen could undertake alone.

There are no plans to extend the Grant to other Members of the Royal Family in their own right.

### Special Forces

*Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether consideration is being given to the establishment of a parliamentary committee to oversee special forces operations in a closed and confidential setting. [HL4188]

**Earl Howe:** It is a longstanding position that Her Majesty's Government does not comment on Special Forces related activity.

I refer my noble Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Sir Michael Fallon) to Question 41980 on 11 July 2016.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Special Forces: Finance [Hansard Extract 11 July 2016 HOC 41980..docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-15/HL4188>

### Special Hospitals

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average waiting time over the last 12 months for transfer for (1) male, and (2) female, prisoners who have been assessed as requiring transfer to a secure hospital. [HL4340]

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many secure hospital beds are available for (1) male, and (2) female, prisoners in each region of England and Wales. [HL4341]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Information on average waiting times over the last 12 months for transfer of prisoners who have been assessed as requiring transfer to a secure hospital is not held in the format requested.

Information on the number of secure beds is not held in the format requested. Secure hospital beds are not specifically allocated to either prisoners or people in the community, but are allocated according to clinical need for all people who need them.

### Stun Guns

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what public consultation has been conducted on the potential introduction of the new X2 model of Taser firearms. [HL3946]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have now received a formal request from the police to authorise a new CED. Evaluation and assessment processes for such weapons include, where appropriate, a needs analysis, determination of operational requirement, technical evaluation, medical assessment and operational performance trials, and will take into account relevant strategic, ethical, operational and societal issues. The Home Secretary is considering this request and a decision will be made in due course.

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the Equality Impact Assessment on the expanded use of Taser firearms, and what assessment they have made as to whether they are disproportionately used against individuals from certain ethnic minority backgrounds. [HL3947]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Decisions on the deployment and resourcing of authorised conductive energy devices (CEDs) are operational matters for Chief Officers, based on their assessment of threat and risk.

The use of these sensitive powers warrants proper accountability and transparency. That is why the previous Home Secretary welcomed recommendations made by former CC David Shaw on the future collection of police use of force data, which will include the police recording the ethnicity, age, location and outcome of all serious use of force. These recommendations are currently being implemented by police forces.

### Supported Housing: Finance

*Asked by Lord Bird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the consultation Funding for Future Supported Housing, what steps they are taking to ensure that local top-up funding for supported housing proves sustainable beyond 2020. [HL4199]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government is committed to protecting and boosting the supply of supported housing. We are currently consulting on how to ensure the new funding model for the sector is workable and sustainable and to ensure that it provides value for money for those who use it as well as those who pay for it. The amount of ring-fenced top-up funding will be set on the basis of current projections of future need. Budgets for future years will be determined in the usual way at future Spending Reviews. We are also consulting on appropriate safeguards to ensure that this funding continues to support vulnerable people and promotes the

supply of supported housing. The consultation closes on 13 February 2017 – there will then be a Green paper in the spring on our detailed proposals on the top-up funding model, with a final package to be announced in autumn 2017.

### **Syria: Armed Conflict**

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the deal for Syrian rebel fighters to leave eastern Aleppo, as outlined by Russia's Ambassador to the UN. [HL4141]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government has repeatedly called for a ceasefire in Aleppo; for those who wished to leave to be allowed to do so and for humanitarian aid to be allowed in. We have used all our diplomatic tools to this end. Other international partners have also worked hard to secure a ceasefire.

Once an evacuation started, we made clear that protection of those leaving eastern Aleppo was paramount and urged the Syrian regime to allow the United Nations (UN) to oversee evacuation and reception processes.

There have been alarming reports from the UN of the disappearance of hundreds of men as they have entered regime held areas on leaving eastern Aleppo, and of atrocities committed by pro-regime militias in Aleppo. It is absolutely crucial that the UN and other impartial humanitarian actors are given full access across Aleppo, both to provide humanitarian aid and to ensure protection. It is vital that those who choose to leave the area are properly protected under the auspices of the UN and may go to where they want, not where they are forced.

It remains clear that the only solution to the crisis in Syria is a political settlement based on transition. We urge the regime and its backers to stop the bloodshed and return to diplomacy.

### **Syria: Military Intervention**

*Asked by **Lord Judd***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the remarks by the Prime Minister at the Berlin summit in November condemning the atrocities in Aleppo and stating her agreement with "the need to keep up the pressure on Russia, including the possibility of sanctions on those who breach international humanitarian law", whether they have summoned the Russian Ambassador; and if so, how many times. [HL4176]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) summoned the Russian Ambassador to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 15 December. The Foreign Secretary made clear the UK Government's concern over the actions of Russia in Syria, and in particular the situation in Aleppo where Russia has

failed to uphold its obligations under international humanitarian law. The Foreign Secretary made similar points in his telephone call with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov on 22 November.

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following their calling-in of Russian and Iranian ambassadors to discuss Syria, they will also call in the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and Qatar to discuss Syria. [HL4300]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have regular dialogue with Saudi Arabia and Qatar on Syria. Both states are members of the International Syria Support Group and supporters of the Syrian opposition. The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), recently discussed Syria with Saudi Arabia and Qatar at the Gulf Cooperation Council summit on 6 December. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) also attended a likeminded Ministerial meeting in Paris on 10 December at which Saudi Arabia and Qatar were represented.

The Foreign Secretary summoned the Russian and Iranian Ambassadors to the UK on 15 December to express the UK Government's profound concern over the actions of Iran and Russia in Syria. The Foreign Secretary made clear that both states have failed to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law. It is now imperative that the regime, Russia and Iran implement resolution 2328, providing the UN with unhindered humanitarian access and oversight of evacuation processes to ensure that all civilians and non combatants are properly protected.

### **Syria: Politics and Government**

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role they consider President Assad should play in the future of the government of Syria. [HL4139]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government supports a political transition away from the Asad regime. The Geneva Communiqué of 2012 sets out a transition process which retains and reforms the key institutions of the Syrian Government, leading to a process in which the Syrian people could fairly and freely decide their future. This was internationally agreed and ratified by the UN Security Council with the adoption of UNSCR 2254.

### **Television: Russia**

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Russian Television, based in Edinburgh, has paid in full all taxes and charges due and complied with any United Kingdom statutory requirements. [HL4301]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** HMRC has a statutory duty of confidentiality and therefore is unable to comment on individual cases.

UK tax law applies to all individuals and organisations that operate within the UK, and HMRC are responsible for ensuring the law is adhered to. Failure by any individual or organisation to comply with their statutory obligations is dealt with consistently.

### **Terrorism: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they are considering for offering rehabilitation and amnesty to members of militant groups in Northern Ireland who are willing to renounce violence and to pursue their aims by exclusively political and democratic means. [HL4071]

**Lord Dunlop:** There was never any justification for paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland and there is none today. The UK Government is committed to working with the Northern Ireland Executive to end paramilitary activity through the measures agreed in the Fresh Start Agreement, and to supporting legitimate and accountable community organisations. This Government believes in the rule of law and does not support amnesties.

### **Tickets: Sales**

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the evidence collected by the Competition and Markets Authority in relation to the secondary tickets platform compliance review. [HL4268]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Competition and Markets Authority is an independent enforcement body and draws on a range of sources when carrying out such investigations. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy does not hold this evidence.

### **Tornado Aircraft**

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Tornado fighter aircraft are in service; how many are serviceable; how many could be serviceable within a week; how many are in longer-term maintenance; and whether any are considered to be in reserve. [HL4282]

**Earl Howe:** The Forward Fleet comprises serviceable and short term unserviceable aircraft. Typically the short term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or any other unforeseen rectification or technical inspection that can arise on a day-to-day basis. The Sustainment Fleet includes aircraft undergoing deep maintenance, upgrade programmes or being held in storage.

The total in service Tornado GR4 fleet is 68 airframes, of which 46 are in the Forward Fleet and 22 are in the Sustainment Fleet.

### **Transport: Southampton**

*Asked by Lord Lloyd-Webber*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is an overall strategy for the long-term development of transport links between Southampton and the Midlands, particularly in regard to the volume of freight carried on the A34. [HL4289]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The A34 is part of the Solent to Midlands Route Strategy. Highways England is in the process of updating the route strategy for the A34 which will inform future bids to government for scheme funding. The updated strategies will be published in spring 2017. The updated strategy will reflect the current capacity issues on the A34 and the development proposals which are due to come forward over the coming years including those that could increase the volume of freight.

### **Trees**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 4 April (HL7141) and 19 September (HL1726), what further progress has been made in achieving their commitment of planting 11 million trees by 2020; and what is the estimated number of trees to be felled over the same period. [HL4223]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** A total of 1.35 million trees have been planted this Parliament, up to the end of September 2016, creating 1,009 hectares of new woodland. The next update, to the end of December 2016, will be published on 15 February 2017. The Woodland Carbon Fund opened on 10 November 2016 which, alone, could result in the planting of up to 11 million trees. On 8 December 2016 the Forestry Commission published guidance for Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant 2017, which opens for applications on 3 January 2017. We are also consulting on whether to raise the Environmental Impact Assessment threshold for afforestation projects to help further accelerate tree planting. No estimate has been made of the number of trees felled over the same period or of the number of trees to be felled during the remainder of this Parliament.

### **Turkey: Migrant Workers**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to join with the Turkish Federation of Employers Associations in making representations to the government of Turkey about the exploitation of Syrians working in Turkey and the restrictions on work permits;



and whether they plan to discuss those concerns with the International Labour Organisation. [HL4299]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government regularly raises human rights issues with Turkish counterparts. The UK Government is supporting work in Turkey to strengthen the Turkish clothing and textile sector's ability to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The project will bring together business, trade unions and civil society to raise awareness of business's role on human rights, promote workplace social dialogue and address the root causes of human rights issues in the sector, including issues relating to Syrian workers.

### UK Trade with EU

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of UK gross domestic product results from exports to the EU single market. [HL4370]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The latest available estimates produced by the OECD show that the value added from the UK's gross exports to the European Union accounted for 11.6 per cent of total UK value added in 2011.

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many jobs in the EU are dependent on EU trade with the UK, and how many UK jobs are dependent on trade with the EU single market. [HL4371]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government continues to undertake a range of analyses to inform the UK's position for the upcoming EU exit negotiations. We are seeking the best possible arrangement for the United Kingdom and the work being conducted reflects this.

### Universities: Standards

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 12 December, whether they will now answer the question asked; how they define "best"; and which universities they claim to be "best". [HL4067]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The immigration rules for study migration currently differentiate by types of institution. We will be shortly consulting on how we could differentiate further to support the sector.

### USSR: Debts

*Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the Soviet Union's international debt when it collapsed in 1989, and whether they held the new Russian regime responsible for that debt at the time. [HL4374]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** According to the OECD, the Soviet Union's debt was \$56bn in 1989 and \$65bn in 1991 when the Soviet Union was dissolved. In April 1993 Russia formally announced that it was assuming responsibility for the entire external debt of the Soviet Union.

### Visas: Middle East

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for asylum were made in 2015 and 2016 by those to whom they had previously granted visas to travel to the UK from Iraq and Syria. [HL3903]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Figures on asylum claims from Iraq and Syria are published as part of the Government's Transparency agenda. In the period concerned there were the following claims from Iraq and Syria:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Iraq</i>	<i>Syria</i>
2015 Q1	291	557
2015 Q2	295	403
2015 Q3	751	856
2015 Q4	1,311	978
2016 Q1	1,048	494
2016 Q2	838	478
2016 Q3	820	348
Totals	5,354	4,114

Identification of the number of these claims who had previously submitted a visa cannot be supplied for reasons of disproportionate cost.

### Voluntary Work

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will announce the Chairman and panellists for the independent review into full-time social action. [HL4232]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Government will announce the Chair of the independent expert advisory panel in due course. The Chair will then select other panellists.

*Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the independent review into full-time social action will consider evidence from the UK, France, and Germany regarding how their respective governments support full-time volunteers. [HL4233]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The review will gather a variety of evidence on the status of full-time volunteers, including international comparisons where relevant.

*Asked by **Baroness Scott of Needham Market***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the creation of a legal status for full-time volunteers will be considered as part of the independent review into full-time social action. [HL4238]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The review will look at the kinds of full-time volunteering and social action that young people take part in, and ask how we make it easier to take part in these valuable activities. This will include any legal barriers.

*Asked by **Baroness Scott of Needham Market***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the independent review into full-time social action will accept (1) oral, and (2) written, evidence from the public. [HL4239]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The study will be led by an independent expert advisory panel. It will be for the panel to decide how it will accept evidence.

### **Waste Management: EU Law**

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 29 November (HL3318), whether they will transpose into UK law any changes to EU waste legislation which are made before the UK leaves the European Union. [HL4086]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period the Government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation, including in relation to any changes to waste legislation.

### **Water Companies**

*Asked by **Lord Empey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the UK's water industry is owned and operated by companies based outside the UK. [HL4170]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In England and Wales, there are seventeen large regulated companies with a regional monopoly to provide water and/or sewerage services. Of these, fifteen are at least partially owned by investors outside the UK. All regulated water companies are headquartered in the UK.

In Northern Ireland, water and sewerage services are provided by a government-owned company. In Scotland, water and sewerage services are provided by a public corporation.

### **West Bank: Fire and Rescue Services**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel following reports that firefighting equipment intended for the West Bank has been detained in Haifa. [HL4021]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have been in touch with the Israeli authorities to ascertain the correct procedures which need to be followed to meet Israel's customs requirements. They have been in regular contact with the Fire Brigades Union, and provided advice on the correct steps which need to be followed to proceed with the shipment.

### **World Trade Organisation**

*Asked by **Lord Forsyth of Drumlean***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK pays a subscription to the World Trade Organisation; and if so, what is the amount. [HL4211]

**Lord Price:** The UK does pay a subscription to the WTO. The UK's net contribution to the WTO budget for 2016 was 7,441,960 Swiss francs (£4,989,388) and was paid on 1 March 2016.

### **Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques**

*Asked by **Lord Beecham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk of injury and fatalities resulting from restraint techniques currently used on minors in young offender institutions and secure training centres; whether they will publish the full findings of their assessment; and what steps they are taking to review and modify the use of the relevant techniques. [HL3852]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Restraint should only be used as a last resort, where there is a risk of harm, and where it is absolutely necessary to do so and no other form of intervention is possible or appropriate. Every incident of restraint is reviewed by the establishment. This includes looking at whether any lessons can be learned for the future.

We will consider publication of the risk assessment for MMRP as part of the Annual MMRP syllabus review.

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