



## Daily Report

Friday, 17 February 2017

This report shows written answers and statements provided on 17 February 2017 and the information is correct at the time of publication (11:07 A.M., 23 February 2017). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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**Notes:**

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

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

## ANSWERS

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

#### ■ Attorney General: Pay

Jon Trickett:

[\[63063\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in the Law Officers' Departments in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

Jeremy Wright:

Total paybill for men and women in 2015/16 for the Law Officer's Departments is as follows:

2015/16	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
<b>Attorney General's Office (AGO)</b>	£886,880	£915,959	£1,802,839
<b>Government Legal Department (GLD)</b>	£34,495,709	£47,247,217	£81,742,926
<b>Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI)</b>	£901,144	£663,854	£1,564,998
<b>Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)</b>	£93,856,000	£151,612,000	£245,468,000
<b>Serious Fraud Office (SFO)</b>	£9,770,000	£7,163,000	£16,933,000

The per capita spend for each man and woman is as follows, based on the total full-time equivalent number of men and women averaged out over the year.

2015/16	MEN	WOMEN
<b>AGO</b>	£58,463	£46,900
<b>GLD</b>	£51,222	£46,316
<b>HMCPSI</b>	£61,302	£40,504
<b>CPS</b>	£41,200	£35,200

2015/16	MEN	WOMEN
SFO	£44,008	£39,578

Pay bill figures for men and women in each department can vary significantly based on representation at different grades and how many staff in the department are in full or part time work. A more meaningful way of considering existing pay disparities amongst men and women would be to look at each department's gender pay gap. The Civil Service has been publishing mean and median gender pay gaps for each department since 2008 as part of the annual release of *Civil Service Statistics* by the Office for National Statistics. The latest gender pay gap data (published in October earlier this year) can be found on the Office for National Statistics website.

■ Attorney General: Security

Jon Trickett:

[\[63255\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, how many security passes into the Law Officers' Departments are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in the Law Officers' Departments.

Robert Buckland:

The number of security passes issued to people not directly employed by the Law Officer's Departments and who are not civil servants are shown in the table below. A breakdown of the staff and nature of work has been provided. Individual departments are responsible for managing access to their sites.

LAW OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT	SECURITY PASSES HELD BY NON-STAFF	TYPE OF STAFF AND NATURE OF WORK.
Serious Fraud Office	232	Legal counsel, specialist contractors or secondees working on SFO casework: 210 Technology support or cleaning services: 22
Government Legal Department and HMCPSI	328	Medical Research Council: 272 London Continental Railways: 56
Crown Prosecution Service	82	Facilities staff (building maintenance, cleaning, security): 40 IT contractors: 37 Records management



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LAW OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT	SECURITY PASSES HELD BY NON-STAFF	TYPE OF STAFF AND NATURE OF WORK.
Attorney General's Office	15	contractors: 3 Confidential waste contractors: 2  Advocate General, Legal Secretary & Head of Advisory: 3 Ministerial Drivers: 2 Maintenance, cleaning and security: 10

## ■ Attorney General: Staff

Philip Davies: [\[62949\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, how many former prisoners have been employed by the Law Officers' Departments in each of the last five years.

Robert Buckland:

No former prisoners have been employed in the past five years in the Law Officers' Departments.

## ■ Dangerous Driving: Sentencing

Jim Shannon: [\[63425\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the Government's consultation on sentences for dangerous driving.

Jeremy Wright:

The Law Officers have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and are sighted on a number of Government consultations where necessary. The consultation on sentences for dangerous driving closed on 1 February and the Law Officers will continue to be engaged in the development of the Government response.

## ■ Phil Shiner

Sir Julian Brazier: [\[63372\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what discussions he has had with the CPS on the potential grounds for prosecuting Phil Shiner for his role in making false allegations against members of the Armed Forces and the misuse of public funds.

Robert Buckland:

I regularly meet the Director of Public Prosecutions at which we discuss a range of issues. In common with the practice adopted by previous administrations, I do not routinely comment on what is discussed at these meetings.

The conduct of criminal investigations is a matter for the police. Should the police wish to seek a charging decision from the CPS, the CPS will consider any papers supplied in accordance with the two stage test set out in the Code for Crown

Prosecutors: firstly, is there sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction and, if so, is a prosecution needed in the public interest.

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[63373\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, whether the CPS has made an assessment of the potential grounds for prosecuting Phil Shiner for the false allegations he made against members of the Armed Forces; and if he will make a statement.

Jeremy Wright:

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is not an investigative agency and has no power to investigate allegations of crime. The CPS will review any cases referred to it by the police or other investigators in accordance with the two stage test that is set

out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors. Where there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction and it is in the public interest, such cases will be prosecuted.

Any criminal allegations would need to be reported to the relevant police force to investigate in the first instance.

#### ■ Plea Bargaining

Dr Andrew Murrison:

[\[61736\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what information his Department holds on the number of plea bargains offered to defendants in England since 2010.

Jeremy Wright:

All decisions by the prosecution are made in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors which sets out a Full Code Test that applies at all stages of any prosecution.

In addition to the principles set out in the Code, a prosecutor considering a plea offered by the defence will have regard to the Attorney General's Guidelines on the Acceptance of Pleas and the Prosecutor's Role in the Sentencing Exercise [2009] and the Attorney General's Guidelines on Plea Discussions in cases of serious or complex fraud (where appropriate).

The Full Code Test states that a prosecution will only proceed if the prosecutor finds sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction and that a prosecution is in the public interest. As such a prosecutor will assess the acceptability of a plea to determine whether it accords with the broad extent of the criminality that met the evidential stage of the Full Code test.

If this stage is met the prosecutor will further consider whether it is in the public interest to accept the plea. In addition the prosecutor will ensure that the basis of a guilty plea is not based on a misleading or untrue set of facts and that proper account is taken of the victim's interests prior to any plea being accepted. The Code is clear that prosecutors should only accept such pleas if the court is able to pass a sentence that matches the seriousness of the offending.

Neither the Crown Prosecution Service nor the Serious Fraud Office maintain a central record of cases involving the acceptance of a guilty plea to some or alternative charges, or whether they were accepted on a particular basis. This information could only be obtained by examining CPS or SFO case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

#### ■ Witnesses: Older People

Jim Shannon:

[\[63426\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what steps he is taking to ensure that the CPS deal sensitively with elderly witnesses who are afraid of giving evidence in court.

Robert Buckland:

For elderly people who are vulnerable or intimidated, the CPS supports them as witnesses to give the best evidence that they can. The CPS does this by applying for special measures to, for example, allow them to give evidence by video link, or behind screens. The CPS can also apply for the use of an intermediary and/or communication aids to assist the witness.

The CPS published a policy statement and guidance on prosecuting crimes against older people in 2009. The CPS has committed to updating both documents during 2017 to take into account the larger numbers of older people in society and changes to the nature of crime, such as on-line fraud targeting. The revised guidance and policy statement will address the support available to older victims of crime. The policy statement will be subject to a public consultation to ensure that the CPS considers the views of interested parties.

## BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

### ■ Counterfeit Manufacturing: Electrical Engineering

Dame Caroline Spelman:

[\[63443\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps the Government is taking to prevent counterfeit electrical goods from entering the UK.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government views the problem of counterfeit electrical goods extremely seriously and a range of work is ongoing that aims to intercept and prevent all types of counterfeit products entering the UK.

The Government is working closely with a number of source countries around the world to prevent counterfeit goods being shipped. When suspected counterfeit items are identified at the UK's borders, customs legislation enables goods arriving from outside the EU to be detained and destroyed, which prevents them from entering the UK market.

The National Trading Standards 'Safety at Ports and Borders Teams' work across 14 local authorities at ports, airports and postal hubs intercepting dangerous and illegal items, including electrical appliances. The UK is also part of the EU rapid alert system for dangerous consumer products.

This range of measures, together with proactive enforcement, is having a very positive preventative impact on the import of counterfeit goods.

### ■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Security

Jon Trickett:

[\[63254\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

Margot James:

The Department does not provide specific numbers or details on passes issued by the Departmental Security Unit. It issues security passes to Contractors not directly employed by the Department but who support it in its work, and to frequent visitors with a business need. It also issues security passes to Contractors who are not civil servants but work within the Department.

■ Energy: Conservation

Steve McCabe:

[63337]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 31 January 2017 to Question 61718, on energy: conservation, if he will make representations to the energy sector and the construction industry on developing more apprenticeship standards for energy efficiency; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The Government is working with industry to support robust and effective energy efficiency standards, taking into account the recommendations of the recently published Each Home Counts review. This includes recommendations regarding skills and training in the sector. Implementation of the recommendations will, as proposed by the review itself, be led by industry, and Government will work constructively with the sector to understand how and when they propose to implement the recommendations.

Employer led Trailblazers are designing apprenticeships that are responsive to the needs of business. A variety of standards has been developed, or is in development, to help employers in the energy efficiency sector and the construction industry develop the skills they need to grow their businesses. A list of published standards can be found online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standards-list-of-occupations-available>.

■ Energy: EU Law

Caroline Lucas:

[63048]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate his Department has made of (a) savings to UK consumers and (b) reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the implementation of the Eco Design and Energy Product Directives in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) in each year up to 2030.

Jesse Norman:

Estimates of the impact on energy bills of measures under the Ecodesign Directive and Energy Labelling Directive (referred to as “Products Policy”) are set out in Tables D1-D13 in Annex D here:

[http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/384404/Prices\\_Bills\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/384404/Prices_Bills_report_2014.pdf)

Estimated UK emissions savings, including those due to Products Policy, are also published here in Annex D of the ‘Updated energy and emissions projections: 2015’:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/updated-energy-and-emissions-projections-2015>

The estimated emissions savings due to Products Policy measures agreed so far are presented in the “All, by sector” spreadsheet within Annex D.

■ Green Investment Bank

Lady Hermon: [\[63460\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what criteria his Department used to determine the preferred bidder in the sale of the Green Investment Bank; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Nick Hurd:

In its “Green Investment Bank: sale of shares” report laid before Parliament on 3 March 2016, the Government set out its objectives for the sale and the process by which the sale would be conducted. Bids have been evaluated at each stage of the process against the Government’s sale objectives.

■ Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Pensions

Liz Saville Roberts: [\[63052\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January 2017 to Question 59477, how differences in the age and gender profiles of members of the final salary pension scheme across the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority estate and public sector pension schemes have been accounted for in the equalities analysis referred to in that Answer.

Jesse Norman:

High level analysis of the proposals on specific age profiles has been carried out and a full Equalities Analysis (EA) will be undertaken in order to comply in full with all of the requirements by the Public Sector Equality Duty, as set out in the Equality Act 2010. The EA will assess the equality impacts (including age and gender) of changes to two Nuclear Decommissioning Authority pension schemes which are in scope for public sector pension reform and will be taken into account by Government in finalising decisions. The EA will be published in due course.

Liz Saville Roberts: [\[63053\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January 2017 to Question 59477, what equalities assessment has been carried out on the cap on pensionable pay for final salary pension scheme members across the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority estate.

Jesse Norman:

A full a Equalities Analysis (EA) will be undertaken in order to comply in full with all of the requirements by the Public Sector Equality Duty, as set out in the Equality Act 2010. The EA will assess the equality impacts of introducing a pensionable pay cap to two Nuclear Decommissioning Authority pension schemes which are in scope for

public sector pension reform and will be taken into account by Government in finalising decisions. The EA will be published in due course.

■ Nuclear Reactors

Liz Saville Roberts: [\[63241\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when he plans to publish his Department's road map for the development of small modular reactors; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

Policy development is under way for small modular reactors. Phase One of the competition remains open, and plans for the future of the competition will be shared with the House in due course.

Liz Saville Roberts: [\[63300\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the Government's Response to the Energy and Climate Change Committee's Sixth Special Report of Session 2014-15, HC1105, when his Department plans to publish its techno-economic assessment of the development of small modular reactors in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The techno-economic assessment (TEA) of small modular reactors (SMRs) was commissioned to provide a stronger evidence base to assess the benefits and risks of SMR deployment and inform a policy decision on whether the Government should support the development and deployment of SMRs within the UK. Together with phase one engagement, the findings of the TEA are being used in policy development, which remains under way. We will provide further information on the Government's plan for the publication of the TEA in due course.

■ Post Office

Simon Hoare: [\[63336\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the Post Office on the level of government investment in the Post Office and its profitability.

Margot James:

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy regularly engages with the Post Office on issues affecting the network including on the levels of investment, its overall profitability and thus sustainability. During the period 2010 to 2018, nearly £2bn of Government investment will have been provided to help maintain and protect a network of at least 11,500 post offices across the country with coverage in line with national access criteria, and to invest in modernisation and transformation of that network.

## ■ Pregnancy: Discrimination

Jim Shannon:

[63428]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to tackle discrimination against women who are expecting or have children; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation on maternity and flexible working pay.

Margot James:

On 26 January the Government responded to the Women and Equalities Select Committee report on pregnancy and maternity discrimination, setting out measures to protect pregnant women and new mothers in the workplace. This included a commitment to review existing redundancy protections. A copy of that response can be found [here](#).

The parental leave and pay system was reviewed in 2011 as part of the modern workplaces consultation. This resulted in the introduction of the Shared Parental Leave and Pay system in 2015 and the extension of the Right to Request Flexible Working to all employees with six months' continuous service in 2014. These policies are due to be evaluated in 2018-2019.

**CABINET OFFICE**

## ■ Air Pollution: Greater London

Tom Brake:

[63497]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many premature deaths have been attributed to the effects of particulate air pollution in London in each of the last five years.

Ben Gummer:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

**Attachments:**

1. UKSA Response to PQ63497 [PQ 63497 v.02 (3).pdf]

## ■ British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries

Keith Vaz:

[63101]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many British citizens live in (a) the EU and (b) each EU country other than the UK.

Ben Gummer:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.



**Attachments:**

1. UKSA Response to PQ63101 [PQ63101 v0.2.pdf]

## ■ Cabinet Office: Security

Jon Trickett:

[\[63256\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

Ben Gummer:

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2016, the number of Building Access (security) passes issued by the Cabinet Office to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants and who work or regularly visit the Cabinet Office was 39. The numbers of such passes will fluctuate over the course of a year.

Such passes are issued to contractors, secondees, other public sector workers or Crown Servant (such as the police or military forces) as well as to civil servants where it is necessary and appropriate to do so. This enables teams to work flexibly and effectively and best support the business need. The use of all such passes is underpinned by a strong physical security focus, access to control procedures and technologies, clear processes and assurance mechanisms that enable an integrated work force to operate in a secure manner.

## ■ Cabinet Office: Staff

Cat Smith:

[\[62994\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many staff of his Department at what grade were employed in the Cabinet Office youth policy team in July (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016.

Ben Gummer:

The youth policy team transferred to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport under machinery of government changes during December 2016. At the time of the transfer, the team comprised:

CO PAYBAND	CS EQUIVALENT GRADE	HEADCOUNT
SCS1	SCS1	1*
Band A	Grade 7	5
Band B2	HEO/SEO	6
Band B1	EO	1
<b>Total Headcount</b>		<b>13</b>

*\*Band A temporarily covering SCS1 post*

Previously, the youth policy team formed part of the Government Innovation Group and, more recently, the Office for Civil Society and Innovation and it is not possible to accurately determine the exact number of officials who worked in the team at that time.

■ Data Steering Group

Andrew Gwynne: [\[63361\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January 2017 to Question 59728, for what reasons the minutes of the Data Steering Group's meetings from February to September 2016 were not published until January 2017.

Ben Gummer:

Two Data Steering Groups took place during the period specified by this question, in May 2016 and September 2016. Our policy is to publish the minutes of the Data Steering Group quarterly, after they have been agreed at the following meeting. The minutes of the May meeting were delayed due to internal staff changes. However the September minutes were published on time, and in line with the policy.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[63362\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January 2017 to Question 59728, what steps he plans to take to ensure that minutes of meetings of the Data Steering Group are published in a timely fashion.

Ben Gummer:

Timely publication of meeting minutes is important for a transparent government. That is why we are committed to publishing the minutes quarterly, once they have been agreed at the following meeting. The minutes of the December 2016 meeting will be published by April 2017, after they have been agreed at the next meeting in March 2017.

■ Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

Andrew Gwynne: [\[63235\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many cases accepted for investigation by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman were classed as open in each month since January 2015.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[63236\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether his Department plans to move any of the operations carried out by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman outside of London.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[63237\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether his Department plans to converge services undertaken by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman with the Local Government Ombudsman.

Ben Gummer:

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman is independent of Government. It publishes information on staffing and its performance in its Annual Report and Resource Accounts which are laid before Parliament. Operational decisions on the location of PHSO offices are also matters for the Ombudsman and the Hon. Member should write to the Ombudsman on these matters.

The Government published the draft Public Service Ombudsman Bill in December 2016, setting out in detail its plans to introduce a new Public Service Ombudsman. The proposals contained in the draft Bill seek to bring together the responsibilities of the current Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and the Local Government Ombudsman to create a new organisation with strengthened governance and accountability. The Government intends to introduce the Bill when parliamentary time allows. A copy of the draft Bill has been placed in the Library of the House and it can also be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-public-service-ombudsman-bill>

Andrew Gwynne:

[63352]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what recent discussions he has had with the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) on staffing and funding levels in the PHSO offices.

Chris Skidmore:

I have not held any discussions with the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman on these matters. The Ombudsman is independent of Government and is accountable to Parliament, through the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, for its performance and the use of its resources. It is primarily resourced by funds approved by the House of Commons through the annual Supply & Appropriation Act.

#### ■ Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund

Caroline Lucas:

[63244]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2017 to Question 61923, what assessment he has made of the long-term risks to the financial performance of the Parliamentary Contributory Pensions Fund of that funds' investments in the fossil fuel extractive industry.

Ben Gummer:

Investment decisions within the Parliamentary Contributory Pensions Fund, including consideration of risks arising from investments in the fossil fuel extractive industry, are a matter for the Trustees who receive professional advice regarding decisions about the management of scheme assets.

## ■ Public Sector: Pay

Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck: [\[908675\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on when the Government plans to end the public sector pay freeze.

Ben Gummer:

The Government greatly values the important work that public sector workers do to deliver essential public services. I hold regular bi-laterals with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The Summer Budget 2015 confirmed that the Government would fund public sector workforces for an average pay award of 1 per cent for the next four years.

**TREASURY**

## ■ Arts: Tax Allowances

Rebecca Long Bailey: [\[63126\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many businesses received animation tax relief in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15.

Rebecca Long Bailey: [\[63127\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many businesses received video games tax relief in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15.

Rebecca Long Bailey: [\[63128\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many businesses received theatre tax relief in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15.

Jane Ellison:

Tax relief was claimed for 15 animations with a financial year of completion of 2013-14. This is the first year in which animation tax relief was available. This increased to 25 claims for animations with a financial year of completion of 2014-15.

Tax relief was claimed for 45 video games with a financial year of completion of 2014-15. This was the first year in which video games tax relief was available. Tax relief for video games expenditure was not available in 2013-14.

The first Official Statistics on the number of claims and cost of theatre tax relief will be published in summer 2017, presenting information for 2014-15. Theatre tax relief was available from 1 September 2014, so no claims were possible for 2013-14.

## ■ Child Trust Fund

Dr Matthew Offord: [\[63196\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the cost was of starting payment vouchers for child trust funds between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011.

Dr Matthew Offord: [63197]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many child trust funds exist.

Dr Matthew Offord: [63198]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the total cost has been of the child trust fund initiative.

Jane Ellison:

Details of the value of Child Trust Fund vouchers issued to children born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011 can be found at Table 2 of HM Revenue and Customs' *Child Trust Fund Statistical Report*:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/255886/statistical-report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255886/statistical-report.pdf)

A breakdown of the annual cost of Child Trust Fund government payments is provided at Table 6 of the same document.

The Statistical Report shows that there were approximately 6.1m Child Trust Fund accounts at 5 April 2012.

#### ■ Community Development: Tax Allowances

Rebecca Long Bailey: [63134]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many (a) people and (b) businesses received community investment tax relief in (i) 2013-14 and (ii) 2014-15.

Jane Ellison:

HM Revenue and Customs does not have information available on the number of people and businesses claiming Community Investment Tax Relief in 2013-14 and 2014-15. The cost of the scheme is estimated to be negligible in both of these years.

#### ■ Corporation Tax

Rebecca Long Bailey: [63130]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many businesses received the life companies reduced rate of corporation tax on policy holders' fraction of profit in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15.

Jane Ellison:

The information requested is not held.

#### ■ Double Taxation

Rebecca Long Bailey: [63131]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many (a) people and (b) businesses received foreign tax credits and reliefs under the double taxation agreement for income and corporation tax in (i) 2013-14 and (ii) 2014-15.

Jane Ellison:

It is not possible to determine from tax return data whether claims for foreign tax credits and reliefs come under double taxation agreements, as opposed to unilateral relief claims.

#### Corporation Tax

The numbers of incorporated businesses claiming Double Taxation Relief for corporation tax are as follows (rounded to the nearest 100):

2013-14: 7,500

2014-15: 7,700

#### Income Tax

The numbers of individuals/unincorporated businesses within the income tax self-assessment system, who benefited from reliefs claimed under Double Taxation Agreements between the UK and other countries and reliefs claimed because of other provisions of the relevant Double Taxation Agreements are as follows (rounded to the nearest 1,000):

2013-14: 419,000

2014-15: 429,000

### ■ Energy: Private Rented Housing

Rebecca Long Bailey:

[\[63120\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many (a) people and (b) businesses received the Landlord's Energy Saving Allowance in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15.

Jane Ellison:

#### Corporation Tax

For incorporated businesses, Landlord's Energy Saving Allowance is considered to be an allowable business expenditure and claimed as part of trading profit or loss calculations. Since corporation tax returns do not contain a breakdown of allowable business expenses, it is not possible to identify Landlord's Energy Saving Allowance claimed by incorporated property businesses from their tax returns.

#### Income tax

The numbers of individuals/unincorporated businesses within the income tax self-assessment system who benefited from the Landlord's Energy Saving Allowance are as follows (rounded to the nearest 100).

2013-14	2014-15
6,100	5,800

■ Enterprise Management Incentives: Tax Allowances

Rebecca Long Bailey: [63132]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many (a) people and (b) businesses received national insurance contributions relief for Enterprise Management Incentives in (i) 2013-14 and (ii) 2014-15.

Jane Ellison:

The number of people that benefitted from National Insurance contributions relief through Enterprise Management Incentives in 2013-14 was approximately 5,000.

The number of businesses that benefitted from National Insurance contributions relief through Enterprise Management Incentives in 2013-14 was approximately 1,120.

The latest statistics on Enterprise Management Incentives can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/enterprise-management-incentives-share-option-schemes>.

Data for 2014-15 is not currently available.

■ Fossil Fuels: Subsidies

Caroline Lucas: [63284]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the G20 Leaders' Communique made at the Hangzhou Summit in September 2016, whether the Government will participate in the fossil fuel subsidy peer review process.

Caroline Lucas: [63285]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the Declaration on global economic and political challenges made by the G7 leaders at the Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016, what progress the Government has made on its commitment to ending inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by 2025.

Jane Ellison:

The Government supports the G20's initiative to reform inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and has offered to be a peer reviewer. However we do not believe the UK is a suitable candidate for peer review under this process as we have no fossil fuel subsidies according to the definition adopted by the UK and other EU members of the G20.

■ Fossil Fuels: Tax Allowances

Caroline Lucas: [63180]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the financial value to fossil fuel producers of tax allowances taken up in financial year 2015-16.

Jane Ellison:

Estimates of the cost of tax reliefs claimed against Petroleum Revenue Tax and Offshore (North Sea) Corporation Tax, arising from the production and extraction of North Sea oil and gas from the UK and UK Continental Shelf, are presented in HM

Revenue and Customs' tax relief publication, in the following two tables (latest versions December 2016):

Main reliefs:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/579720/Dec\\_16\\_Main\\_Reliefs\\_Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/579720/Dec_16_Main_Reliefs_Final.pdf)

Minor reliefs:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/579993/Dec\\_16\\_Minor\\_Reliefs\\_Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/579993/Dec_16_Minor_Reliefs_Final.pdf)

Caroline Lucas: [63181]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the value is of the subsidies provided for the (a) production and (b) consumption of fossil fuels in the current financial year.

Jane Ellison:

The Government does not provide subsidies to fossil fuel production or consumption.

The UK's oil and gas ring-fence regime means that profits from oil and gas production are taxed at a higher rate of 40%, compared to 20% for other sectors. The regime for oil and gas does include allowances, such as the Investment Allowance, which are designed to ensure otherwise economic developments are not uncommercial. This allows oil and gas companies to claim tax relief when making large, upfront investments in new infrastructure. Even where income is covered by an allowance, those companies continue to pay tax on their profits at a minimum rate of 30%.

#### ■ Income Tax: Overseas Workers

Rebecca Long Bailey: [63122]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many people received income tax exemption of foreign service allowance paid to Crown servants abroad in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15.

Jane Ellison:

The information is not held. HM Revenue and Customs bases its published relief values on expenditure amounts supplied by other Departments but does not collect information on the number of people receiving the allowances.

#### ■ Land Use: Tax Allowances

Rebecca Long Bailey: [63123]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many businesses received Land Remediation Relief in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15.

Jane Ellison:

The number of businesses receiving tax relief through Land Remediation Relief was 1080 in 2013-14 and 1130 in 2014-15.



■ National Insurance Contributions: Children in Care

Michael Gove:

[\[63172\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of abolishing employer National Insurance contributions for care leavers in 2016-17.

Jane Ellison:

No estimate has been made of the cost of abolishing employer National Insurance contributions for care leavers. An estimate could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

■ Offshore Industry: Decommissioning

Caroline Lucas:

[\[63179\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the cost of decommissioning North Sea oil infrastructure; for what proportion of those costs the taxpayer will be liable; and what steps he plans to take to reduce those costs.

Jane Ellison:

The Government believes in making the most of the UK's oil and gas resources. The oil and gas industry has contributed around £330bn to the Exchequer to date, supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and supplies a large proportion of the UK's primary energy needs.

Decommissioning is an inherent cost of doing business in the UK Continental Shelf, as companies are required by law to decommission oil and gas infrastructure after production ceases. Estimates of the total cost of decommissioning vary, due to the complexity of work and long timeframes involved. HM Revenue and Customs' Annual Report and Accounts 2014-15 estimates that, out of a total of £41bn decommissioning costs between 2015 and 2041, the Exchequer's share is £16bn. This is due to repayments through decommissioning tax relief, which are only made if tax has been paid in the first place.

The Government is committed to ensuring decommissioning programmes represent value for money, as this delivers benefits both to industry and the Exchequer. The Maximising Economic Recovery UK Strategy places an obligation on oil and gas licensees to decommission assets in the most cost-effective way, ensuring all viable options for the continued use of that infrastructure have been considered. The Government has given the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) a new remit to work with industry on cost reduction and delivery capability for decommissioning. The OGA also has a duty to advise the Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on the cost effectiveness of decommissioning programmes.

■ Offshore Industry: Tax Yields

Caroline Lucas:

[\[63182\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate his Department has made of annual future tax revenues from the North Sea oil and gas industry up to 2030.

Jane Ellison:

The forecasted Exchequer revenues up to 2021-22 (Offshore Corporation Tax and Petroleum Revenue Tax) arising from the production and extraction of North Sea oil and gas from the UK and UK Continental Shelf are presented in Table 4.6 of the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR's) *Economic and Fiscal Outlook: November 2016*: <http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.org.uk/Nov2016EFO.pdf>

The OBR will be publishing updated forecasts on 8 March 2017.

Longer term estimates of revenues from the production and extraction of North Sea oil and gas were published as a supplementary table of the OBR's *Fiscal Sustainability Report: June 2015*:

[http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/docs/dlm\\_uploads/FSR\\_2015\\_Supplementary\\_Tables.xlsx](http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/docs/dlm_uploads/FSR_2015_Supplementary_Tables.xlsx)

It should be noted that the longer-term estimates are based on the March 2015 forecast and determinants.

#### ■ Premium Bonds: Tax Allowances

Rebecca Long Bailey: [\[63124\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many people received income tax exemption of premium bond prizes in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15.

Jane Ellison:

HM Revenue and Customs publishes the estimated cost of the income tax exemption of Premium Bond prizes here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/main-tax-expenditures-and-structural-reliefs>.

In 2013-14 and 2014-15 the cost of this exemption was estimated to be £130 million in each year.

For this relief, estimates of the number of individuals benefitting are not held. The estimated costs are based on aggregate figures or assumptions.

#### ■ Treasury: Security

Jon Trickett: [\[63277\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

Simon Kirby:

HM Treasury is located in the Government Offices Great George Street (GOGGS) building with five other Government departments. While each department has its own pass, all the passes give access to all departmental areas within the building. The number of security passes issued is subject to frequent change due to staff turnover. The numbers mentioned below are correct for 13 February 2017.

(a) The number of security passes for the GOGGS building that are issued to people not directly employed by HM Treasury is 5971;

(b) The number of security passes for the GOGGS building that are issued to people who are not civil servants who work in the GOGGS complex is 343.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### ■ Affordable Housing

John Healey:

[62983]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 25 January 2017 to Question 60366, if he will publish his Department's unpublished impact assessment on the changes to the affordable housing programme announced in the Autumn Statement 2016.

Gavin Barwell:

I refer the Rt Hon Member to my reply to Question 60366.

The fiscal impact of the changes on public finances was included as part of the OBR's policy costings for Autumn Statement 2016, which can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/571402/Policy\\_Costings\\_AS\\_2016\\_web\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/571402/Policy_Costings_AS_2016_web_final.pdf)

### ■ Antisemitism

Tom Brake:

[63230]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps (a) he and (b) the Government has taken to make public its policy against Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism since May 2015.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The Government has a clear policy of tackling anti-Semitism and condemns any organisation or individual that attempts to deny the Holocaust. In December 2016, the Prime Minister announced that the UK is the first European Union country formally to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism. We believe that the definition, although legally non-binding, is an important tool for criminal justice agencies, and other public bodies to understand how anti-Semitism manifests itself in the 21st century. In addition we recently published a progress report on our efforts to tackle anti-Semitism which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-semitism-update>

### ■ Department for Communities and Local Government: Security

Jon Trickett:

[63258]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Energy: Conservation

John Healey: [\[63492\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will place in the Library the terms of reference for the review of the cost-effectiveness of current energy performance standards mentioned in Fixing our broken housing market, Cm 9352, Paragraph 150.

Gavin Barwell:

The Department has commenced cost analysis to underpin the review looking at the cost effectiveness of current energy performance standards for new homes. We will set out more information about our approach in due course.

■ Rents: Arrears

John Healey: [\[63188\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment he has made of the (a) level and (b) extent of arrears of tenants in the (i) social and (ii) private rented sector.

Gavin Barwell:

The statistics published at this link contain the information that you have requested:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/local-authority-housing-statistics-data-returns-for-2015-to-2016>

■ Shared Housing: Regulation

Kwasi Kwarteng: [\[62999\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether the Government plans to introduce regulatory proposals for bodies which manage shared accommodation in which vulnerable people are housed.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The Government understands the importance of protecting the most vulnerable in our society.

Housing is regulated differently dependent on the form of support provided. Social housing provided by Housing Associations is regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency, registered Care Homes are inspected by the Care Quality Commission.

Houses of Multiple Occupancy in the private rental sector are, where appropriate, licensed by the local authority, and we are proposing changes to widen mandatory licensing of large Houses of Multiple Occupancies.

As part of our consultation on the future funding of supported housing, the Government is considering how further to improve oversight and assurance for vulnerable adults living in supported housing. As part of the Care and Quality Commission's next phase of regulation consultation, the Care and Quality Commission is looking to make changes to its regulation of providers to use a more targeted, responsive and collaborative approach to meet the emerging new care models.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### ■ 5G

Richard Arkless:

[\[63472\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to support the rollout of 5G.

Matt Hancock:

The Government is committed to ensuring that the UK seizes the opportunity to be a world leader in 5G. At the 2016 Autumn Statement, the Government announced £1bn of new funding to boost the UK's digital infrastructure, including significant funding for a new programme of fibre and 5G trials. We will be publishing further details on this programme at Budget, alongside a new 5G strategy.

### ■ Alcoholic Drinks: Advertising

Fiona Bruce:

[\[63376\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what plans she has to review the effect of alcohol advertising on 10 to 15-year-olds following the recent report from Public Health England on alcohol control policies.

Fiona Bruce:

[\[63377\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the findings of the Public Health England report entitled The Public Health Burden of Alcohol and the Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness of Alcohol Control Policies on the violation of self-regulation alcohol marketing codes in the UK; and what steps she plans to take in relation to vulnerable populations as a result.

Matt Hancock:

Government is committed to working with industry to address concerns over irresponsible alcohol promotions, advertising and marketing, particularly to ensure vulnerable people are protected. Current industry codes are exceptionally robust, recognising the social imperative of ensuring alcohol advertising is responsible. The Advertising Standards Authority reviews its codes regularly to ensure they remain effective.

## ■ Arts

Nigel Adams: [\[63239\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to ensure that the diverse needs of the creative industries will be supported after the UK leaves the EU.

Matt Hancock:

The Creative Industries are one of the UK's greatest success stories, contributing over £87 billion to the economy (5.7% GVA) and over £19 billion in exports.

We are working closely for example through the Creative Industries Council (CIC), who represent the whole of the creative industries, to understand both the possible opportunities and impacts presented by the UK's decision leaving the EU.

We have also hosted a series of roundtables with businesses and industry representatives from across the creative industries to discuss these matters. We are committed to helping our world-leading creative industries thrive in a post-brexit Britain. We have also announced a sector review of the creative industries as part of the recently published Industrial Strategy Green Paper to help underpin their future prosperity.

## ■ Copyright

Nigel Adams: [\[63240\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what her policy is on whether the UK will be able to protect the territoriality of copyright after the UK leaves the EU.

Matt Hancock:

The Government agrees that copyright owners should remain able to tailor content to different markets and to license on a territorial basis. While we remain in the EU we will continue to take an active part in negotiations regarding the digital single market ensuring British views are heard.

After the UK leaves the EU it will continue to be a member of the Berne Convention and other copyright treaties which recognise the territoriality of copyright.

## ■ Data Protection: EU Law

Tom Watson: [\[63299\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many officials in her Department are working on preparations to implement the General Data Protection Regulation.

Matt Hancock:

The Department for Culture Media and Sport leads on data protection policy, which includes implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). There are around 21 officials in the Department contributing to implementation of the GDPR, with many departments across Government also supporting the work.

■ Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Pay

Jon Trickett:

[63067]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in her Department in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

Matt Hancock:

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not hold the information in the format as requested.

The total 2015-16 pay costs and average number of permanent persons employed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport can be found on the Annual report and accounts, page 98, at the following link

[Department for Culture, Media and Sport Annual Report & Accounts 2015-16](#)

Pay bill figures for men and women in each department can vary significantly based on representation at different grades and how many staff in the department are in full or part time work. A more meaningful way of considering existing pay disparities amongst men and women would be to look at each department's gender pay gap. The Civil Service has been publishing mean and median gender pay gaps for each department since 2008 as part of the annual release of Civil Service Statistics by the Office for National Statistics. The latest gender pay gap data (published in October earlier this year) can be found on the Office for National Statistics website.

■ Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Security

Jon Trickett:

[63259]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many security passes into her Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in her Department.

Matt Hancock:

I refer the hon member to my answer to PQ 62532.

■ Digital Technology: Data Protection

Tom Watson:

[63265]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions she has had with representatives from the digital industries on data protection regulations since the UK's decision to leave the EU.

Matt Hancock:

We have had widespread and ongoing discussions with the digital industry on Data Protection.

## ■ Digital Technology: UK Trade with EU

Nigel Adams: [\[63325\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what representations she has received on the implications for the UK continuing to access the Digital Single Market of the UK leaving the EU.

Matt Hancock:

We have had widespread and ongoing discussions with the digital industry on Data Protection.

## ■ Football: Disability

John Mann: [\[63108\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to help improve disability access at Football League grounds.

Tracey Crouch:

The English Football League (EFL) have set out a clear accessibility work plan which seeks to ensure a better matchday experience for disabled spectators. The EFL have committed to a programme of continual improvement in facilities, in conjunction with their clubs and Level Playing Field. The plan touches on all aspects of the matchday experience and is being implemented over the current season.

Ensuring sport is inclusive and accessible for spectators remains a priority, and I want to continue to see concerted action taken by clubs to fulfil their legal obligations towards disabled supporters. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is the regulatory body responsible for enforcing the Equality Act 2010. The EHRC has powers to ensure service providers, including sports stadia, fulfil their legal obligations under the Act.

John Mann: [\[63109\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions her Department has had with the Premier League to ensure that football clubs not meeting disability access criteria make the necessary improvements.

Tracey Crouch:

I meet representatives from the Premier League on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues including progress on the pledge made by Premier League clubs to make their grounds more accessible to disabled spectators.

I have recently received the Premier League's interim report on the progress made by Premier League clubs to meet their pledge on a number of commitments to make the clubs' stadia with accessibility standards by August 2017.

Ensuring sport is inclusive and accessible for spectators remains a priority, and I want to continue to see concerted action taken by clubs to fulfil their legal obligations towards disabled supporters. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is the regulatory body responsible for enforcing the Equality Act 2010. The EHRC has



powers to ensure service providers, including sports stadia, fulfil their legal obligations under the Act.

■ Mass Media: Education

Tom Watson: [\[63296\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how much her Department has spent on promoting media literacy in each year since 2008.

Tom Watson: [\[63297\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many officials in her Department work on promoting media literacy.

Tom Watson: [\[63298\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to promote media literacy.

Matt Hancock:

Ofcom is responsible for promoting Media Literacy, including through annual research on the media lives and attitudes of adults and children, and works closely with other agencies who use the findings to develop specific actions and initiatives to promote Media Literacy. We regularly engage with Ofcom in the discharging of their duties.

■ Mobile Phones: Morley and Outwood

Andrea Jenkyns: [\[63471\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to increase the reliability and affordability of mobile coverage in Morley and Outwood.

Matt Hancock:

Improving mobile connectivity across the UK is a priority for the Government. The legally binding licence obligations arising from the December 2014 agreement require each Mobile Network Operator to provide voice/SMS text coverage to at least 90% of the UK's landmass by end-2017. This locked in investment of £5 billion and is delivering improved coverage across the UK. Ofcom's 2016 Connected Nations Report shows that 99% of UK premises now have indoor voice coverage and 96% have indoor 4G data coverage. Our recent reforms to mobile planning laws and proposed reforms of the Electronic Communications Code, will support further investment and improvements in connectivity across the UK and reduce not spots.

A competitive market in the UK has also benefitted consumers with the UK having one of the lowest prices in Europe for mobile connectivity.

## ■ Social Networking: Regulation

Jim Shannon: [\[63421\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether her Department has undertaken an assessment of the potential merits of introducing proposals for the regulation of online dating sites.

Tracey Crouch:

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has not undertaken an assessment of the potential merits of introducing proposals for the regulation of online dating sites.

## ■ Sportsgrounds: Disability

John Mann: [\[63107\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions her Department has had with sports governing bodies on improving disability access at sports stadia.

Tracey Crouch:

Our Sports Strategy sends a clear message to all sports that sports stadia should provide an inclusive environment that welcomes all spectators. While the spotlight on accessibility is rightly on football, we want all sports to ensure they fulfil their legal obligations towards disabled fans. We will be looking to other sports to follow football's example, to ensure disabled spectators receive the legal requirements that they are entitled to.

Ensuring sport is inclusive and accessible for spectators remains a priority, and I want to continue to see concerted action taken by clubs to fulfil their legal obligations towards disabled supporters. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is the regulatory body responsible for enforcing the Equality Act 2010. The EHRC has powers to ensure service providers, including sports stadia, fulfil their legal obligations under the Act.

**DEFENCE**

## ■ Armed Forces: Alcoholism

Dr Andrew Murrison: [\[63542\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the debate on the Armed Forces Covenant of 2 February 2017, HC column 1270, when he expects the alcohol working group to publish its findings.

Mark Lancaster:

The MOD Alcohol Working Group was formed in 2014 and has implemented a number of initiatives targeting alcohol use including; improving the guidance to individuals and Commanding Officers; partnering external agencies such as Public

Health England and Drinkaware in their national awareness campaigns and developing a new alcohol strategy.

The aim of the evidence-based strategy, which will be finalised in the spring this year is to deliver a strategic approach in changing attitudes towards alcohol consumption which involves a four-stage approach of prevention, intervention, protection and education.

Last year, a screening programme was introduced at annual dental inspections which will enable better data-gathering to facilitate better-targeted awareness campaigns.

The Army is leading on the development of a Unit Alcohol Advisors' course which aims to train individuals to be a focal point in each unit for all matters relating to alcohol; promoting a sensible attitude to drinking; raising awareness of health factors related to alcohol misuse; and championing the change of attitude required to change culture. Each service has a training and education programme and is engaged in a rolling programme of health promotion, warning of the consequences of hazardous drinking and encouraging healthy lifestyle choices.

■ **Armed Forces: Firearms**

Daniel Kawczynski:

[\[63503\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the SA80 L85 A2's lifecycle.

Harriett Baldwin:

The SA80 L85 A2 is a reliable, battle proven weapon suitable for worldwide operations.

■ **Armoured Fighting Vehicles**

Daniel Kawczynski:

[\[63493\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what progress has been made in contracting for the new mechanised infantry vehicles as outlined in the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015, Column 9161.

Harriett Baldwin:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 February 2017 to Question 63162 to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

**Attachments:**

1. 63162 - WQnA extract on Armoured Fighting Vehicles  
[20170209\_WQnA\_63162\_Extract\_on\_Armoured\_Fighting\_Vehicles.docx]

■ **Bomb Disposal: Northern Ireland**

Lady Hermon:

[\[63458\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps his Department is taking to recognise the bravery and sacrifice of members of Army bomb disposal units who were killed or maimed during the Troubles in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement.

Mark Lancaster:

We recognise the debt and gratitude owed to all the Service personnel, and their families, who serve or have served in the Armed Forces. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) community has long performed a particularly challenging and courageous role, including in Northern Ireland during the period 1969-2007.

Honours and decorations have rightly been bestowed on the EOD community in recognition of their selfless courage and commitment in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. In June 2016 the EOD Memorial at the National Arboretum was dedicated to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

■ Ministry of Defence: Chief Scientific Advisers

Stephen Metcalfe: [R] [\[63484\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what plans he has to fill the vacancy of Chief Scientific Adviser to his Department; and what the timetable is for advertising and filling that vacancy.

Mark Lancaster:

The Ministry of Defence's Chief Scientific Adviser post was advertised in 2016. After an extensive recruitment and selection process, a preferred candidate was identified. The appointment will be announced shortly.

■ Ministry of Defence: Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[63068\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in his Department in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

Mark Lancaster:

The total pay bill for male and female civilian employees on the main payroll in the Ministry of Defence in Financial Year 2015-16, and the per capita spend from that pay bill for men and women is shown below:

	TOTAL PAY BILL (£ MILLION)	COST PER CAPITA (£K)
Male	1,331	39.8
Female	626	31.3

Pay bill figures for men and women in each Department can vary significantly based on representation at different grades and how many staff in the Department are in full or part time work. A more meaningful way of considering existing pay disparities amongst men and women would be to look at each Department's gender pay gap. The Civil Service has been publishing mean and median gender pay gaps for each department since 2008 as part of the annual release of *Civil Service Statistics* by the

Office for National Statistics. The latest gender pay gap data (published in October 2016) can be found on the Office for National Statistics website at:

[www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016](http://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016)

■ Ukraine: Military Exercises

Emily Thornberry:

[63388]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent assessment he has made of the progress of the UK military training programme in Ukraine; what assessment he has made of the effect of recent fatalities on the operational effectiveness of the Ukrainian armed forces; and what steps he is taking within the training programme to reduce the risk of further Ukrainian military casualties.

Mark Lancaster:

Through Operation ORBITAL, the UK continues to deliver valuable defensive, non-escalatory training to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF). The Secretary of State for Defence recently visited Ukraine and was able to hear first-hand how UK training is building resilience within the UAF and helping to save lives. The recent extension of Operation ORBITAL for a further year is a sign of continued UK support to Ukraine and its Armed Forces. We will continue to keep our support under regular review to maximise the effectiveness of the training that it delivers. Additionally, the UK has gifted first aid kits, warm weather clothing and body armour to the UAF, all of which aim to reduce the risk of Ukrainian military casualties and help to save lives.

I also offer my sincere condolences for the continued loss of life suffered by the UAF while defending their country.

■ Unmanned Air Vehicles

Lucy Powell:

[63288]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2017 to Question 62363, whether the current draft of Joint Doctrine Publication 0-30.2, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, discusses the legal framework for the employment of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (a) within and (b) outside areas of armed conflict.

Harriett Baldwin:

The current draft of Joint Doctrine Publication 0-30.2 Unmanned Aircraft Systems discusses the legal framework for the employment of remotely piloted air systems both within and outside areas of "armed conflict".

■ Veterans: Northern Ireland

Dr Andrew Murrison:

[63543]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the debate on the Armed Forces Covenant of 2 February 2017, HC column 1270, whether Operation Banner

veterans in receipt of invitations to provide witness accounts will be refunded the cost of legal advice.

Mark Lancaster:

The Ministry of Defence provides free legal advice for Northern Ireland veterans facing allegations relating to their own conduct while on duty. The question of a refund should not therefore arise.

■ Yemen: Military Intervention

Keith Vaz: [\[63104\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many UK service personnel have been embedded with or seconded to coalition forces participating in Operation Restoring Hope in Yemen; and what roles those personnel are performing.

Sir Michael Fallon:

The UK does not have any embedded or seconded Service personnel taking part in coalition operations in Yemen.

Keith Vaz: [\[63105\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many UK service personnel are embedded with or seconded to the national armed forces of other countries in the coalition participating in Operation Restoring Hope in Yemen.

Sir Michael Fallon:

Around 80 UK Service personnel are either embedded with or seconded to the national Armed Forces of the 10 countries involved in Operation RESTORING HOPE. No UK Service personnel are taking part in coalition operations in Yemen.

## EDUCATION

■ Academic Freedom

Michael Gove: [\[63173\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what representation she has received on the effect of university and college diversity officers on academic freedom.

Joseph Johnson:

The Department has not received any representations on the effect of university and college diversity officers on academic freedom.

■ Apprentices: Females

Sarah Champion: [\[63338\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 22 November 2016 to Question 54215, on apprentices: females, how much funding her Department has (a) allocated and (b) spent on encouraging women to take up apprenticeships in construction, IT and engineering.

Sarah Champion:

[\[63339\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 22 November 2016 to Question 54215, on apprentices: females, what assessment she has made of the effect of the Get In Go Far campaign on the number of women taking up apprenticeships in construction, IT and engineering.

Robert Halfon:

The Department for Education's Get In Go Far marketing campaign has a broad remit to encourage the demand for apprenticeships among young people, and the supply of apprenticeship places among employers. There is no specific budget allocation to promote apprenticeships to females in any sector, but the campaign's creative currently includes strong female role models in engineering and IT.

The effect of the campaign is measured by awareness and consideration of apprenticeships among young people, and engagement with the campaign through visits to the Get In Go Far microsite. Since launch in May 2016, tracking research shows that the level of awareness of apprenticeships among both genders has remained constant at 73 per cent, and the campaign has generated more than 1.7 million visits to the microsite.

In the 2015/16 Academic Year almost 53% of apprenticeship starts were by women.

#### ■ Citizenship: Education

Anna Turley:

[\[62230\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure effective teaching of citizenship education in schools in England; and if she will make a statement.

Anna Turley:

[\[62346\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to review the national curriculum's citizenship programme of study as proposed in the Government's White Paper Education Excellence Everywhere, published in March 2016.

Nick Gibb:

The Government is committed to ensuring that high quality citizenship education helps to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society.

Citizenship education is therefore part of the National Curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4. The revised programmes of study were introduced in September 2014 and seek to direct teaching towards the core knowledge of citizenship, and to give schools more scope to decide how to teach citizenship.

The Secretary of State is considering the proposal in the White Paper regarding citizenship.

Teachers are encouraged to develop their practice with the support of specialist organisations and expert professionals such as subject associations.

Ofsted, in its inspections of schools, considers the breadth and balance of the curriculum, including provision for pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare, as well as their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This includes how pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain. Ofsted have strengthened their inspection frameworks so that inspectors assess how well all schools protect pupils from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, and promote fundamental British values.

We are also supporting schools to meet their obligations to protect pupils from radicalisation and promote fundamental British values, and to help them build pupils' resilience to extremism through knowledge so that they can question information, weigh arguments, and make reasoned judgments.

We are currently working with the Association of Citizenship Teaching on producing guidance and resources packs to help teachers lead knowledge based debates on topics relating to extremism, fundamental British values and contemporary political and social issues.

#### ■ Citizenship: Teachers

Anna Turley:

[\[62229\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many places were available for trainee teachers who wish to specialise in citizenship education on teacher training courses in each of the last 10 years.

Nick Gibb:

The number of places initially allocated for citizenship each year since the academic year 2013/14 is shown in the table below:

ACADEMIC YEAR (OF TRAINING)	INITIAL ALLOCATION OF CITIZENSHIP PLACES
2013/14	147
2014/15	149
2015/16	175

Source: Published ITT Allocations Official Statistics.[1]

Data for earlier years are not directly comparable with those shown in the table as they include allocations for Personal, Social and Health Education and Social Studies within the total for Citizenship.

[1] This includes postgraduate and undergraduate allocated places.



■ Department for Education: Security

Jon Trickett:

[\[63261\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many security passes into her Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in her Department.

Caroline Dinenage:

The information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Education: Staff

Stephen Timms:

[\[61900\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 25 January 2017 to Question 60976, if her Department will gather data on the number of (a) school teachers and (b) education sector workers who have been on leave of absence from work due to mental illness in each year since 2010.

Nick Gibb:

Responsibility for the mental health and wellbeing of all staff in schools is primarily a matter for local employers. Accordingly, all school governing bodies and local authorities need to ensure that they have in place appropriate mechanisms to identify and address the causes of mental health absence and are providing the right support to individuals to guard against the loss of staff working days where this is possible. It is important that head teachers and governing bodies look closely at tackling an issue that will inevitably have an impact on children's education.

The Government believes that the annual School Workforce Census captures sufficient information regarding the sickness absences of teachers. We trust head teachers, governors, and academy trusts to look after the welfare of their staff and ensure they have the support they need.

■ Foster Care: Nottinghamshire

Gloria De Piero:

[\[63049\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children aged under 16 have been placed in long-term foster care placements in (a) Ashfield constituency and (b) Nottinghamshire in each year since 2010; and how many children have been on the waiting list for such a placement in each of those years.

Edward Timpson:

There were 310 children looked after at 31 March 2016 aged under 16 in a long-term foster placement in Nottinghamshire. This information is not available at constituency level and was collected for the first time in 2016.

The number of children who are waiting for a long-term foster placement is not collected by the department.

## ■ Free Schools

Michael Gove: [62708]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with which university vice-chancellors she has discussed opening new free schools; and what progress has been made on opening such schools.

Joseph Johnson:

My Rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State has held meetings with vice chancellors and representative bodies, including Universities UK, as part of her engagement with the higher education sector on how it can step-up its involvement with schools, including through the establishment of Free Schools. The Government is currently considering responses to the *Schools That Work For Everyone* consultation and will respond in due course.

## ■ GCSE

Mr Jim Cunningham: [63212]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to reduce the attainment gaps of five A\* to C GCSE grades between secondary schools in the North and the South; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

We are committed to ensuring that all children receive a high quality education, regardless of where they attend school. We are, therefore, spending £70 million over this Parliament to reduce the attainment gap, in line with the recommendations in Sir Nick Weller's report.

## ■ Local Government Finance: West Sussex

Tim Loughton: [62442]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of where in her Department's table of 151 local authority funding positions West Sussex will rank in each of the next three years.

Nick Gibb:

Dedicated Schools Grant allocations for 2017-18 have been confirmed and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2017-to-2018>.

How much funding local authorities will receive in 2018-19 and 2019-20 is subject to the national funding formula, which is currently in its second stage of consultation.

As a result of our proposals, in the first year, West Sussex would see an overall increase in schools funding of 1.9% and funding for high needs pupils would be protected at current funding levels. Illustrative allocations for the second year of the national funding formula have not been calculated, but by the time of full implementation of the formula, West Sussex schools would see gains of 3.5% overall.

■ Pre-school Education

Lucy Powell:

[63306]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many Ofsted early years inspectors are employed (a) nationally and (b) in each region.

Caroline Dinenage:

Ofsted has stated that, at present, it directly employs 106 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Early Years Inspectors, which is a head count of 108. This is broken down regionally by FTE as follows:

REGION	NUMBER OF INSPECTORS (FTE)
East Midlands	9.2
East of England	11.6
London	19.8
North East, Yorkshire and Humber	14.7
North West	11.9
South East	17.8
South West	11.0
West Midlands	10.0

Until 31 March 2017, early years inspection will also be delivered through contracts with two external inspection service providers, Prospects and Tribal. From 3 April 2017 all early years inspection will be delivered by Ofsted. Ofsted anticipates that it will transfer in a total of 167 people to directly employed inspection roles from these providers. This will be supplemented by an additional 277 contracted inspectors.

This new workforce will be managed centrally for a period of two years and during this time Ofsted plans to transition the central workforce to Ofsted's regional structure.

■ Pre-school Education: Teachers

Diana Johnson:

[63445]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to increase the number of applications for early years teacher training programmes.

Caroline Dinenage:

The Department will be publishing a workforce strategy in due course, which will seek to remove the barriers to attracting, retaining and developing staff.

The strategy will include a focus on what government can do to help grow the graduate workforce.

## ■ Primary Education: Literacy

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[62475\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the trends of the difference in attainment of phonics standards between boys and girls aged seven in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[62477\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the trends of expected literacy levels for seven year olds in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

Good literacy is the foundation for all achievement in education and critical for everyday life. We have strengthened the curriculum to focus on developing pupils' reading and writing skills and placed a renewed focus on the requirement for pupils to be taught to read using systematic phonics.

Since the introduction of the phonics check in 2012, 147,000 more six-year-olds are on track to becoming fluent readers. Almost 9 in 10 pupils (89%) who met the expected standard of phonics decoding in year 1 went on to reach the expected standard in reading at the end of Key Stage 1.

A higher proportion of girls than boys meet the phonics standard at aged 7 – there is a gap of 4 percentage points in 2015 and 2016. The gap in 2013 and 2014 was 5 percentage points.

Table 1 below shows the percentage of boys and girls aged 7 in state funded schools meeting the required standard in phonics decoding in each of the last four years. There was no test for 7 year olds in 2012.

**Table 1**

**YEAR 2 PHONICS SCREENING**

CHECK RESULTS	BOYS	GIRLS
2012	N/A	N/A
2013	83%	88%
2014	86%	91%
2015	88%	92%
2016	89%	93%

The 2016 Key Stage 1 assessments were the first to reflect the new, more challenging National Curriculum. As a result, figures for 2016 are not comparable to those for earlier years.

The 2016 Key Stage 1 reading and writing teacher assessments show that nearly 3 in 4 pupils (74%) achieved the new expected standard in reading and nearly 2 in 3 pupils (65%) achieved the new expected standard in writing.

Table 2 below shows the percentage of pupils who achieved Level 2 or above under the previous assessment system in reading and writing in each of the last four years.

**Table 2**

KEY STAGE 1	READING LEVEL 2 OR ABOVE	WRITING LEVEL 2 OR ABOVE
2012	87%	83%
2013	89%	85%
2014	90%	86%
2015	90%	88%

The Department is not responsible for education standards in Wales as this is a devolved matter.

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[62476\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the total spend on literacy programmes for children under seven in in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

Good standards in reading and writing are the foundation for all achievement in education. Evidence shows that systematic synthetic phonics is the most effective approach to early reading, and that is why we have placed it at the heart of the primary English curriculum.

We have invested over £50m over the last five years in programmes aimed at improving reading, writing and language skills. This includes:

- a one off grant of £5 million to Teaching Schools to partner with local nurseries to increase the quality of early years education in their area;
- £13.1 million to Book Trust for book gifting programmes to improve literacy and promote the love of reading;
- £941,775 for the National Literacy Trust's Helping Early Language and Literacy Outcomes programme.
- £23.7 million in match funding to over 14,000 primary schools between September 2011 and October 2013, enabling them to buy systematic synthetic phonics products and training;
- £80,000 to fund eight phonics partnerships to improve the quality of phonics teaching; and

- £30,069 to fund ten phonics roadshows to demonstrate most effective ways to teach phonics.

The proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard in the phonics screening check at the end of year 1 has risen from 58% in 2012 to 81% in 2016.

The Department is not responsible for education standards in Wales as this is a devolved matter.

■ Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Catherine West: [63467]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average funding was for a secondary school pupil in (a) England, (b) Surrey, (c) Oxfordshire, (d) London and (e) Haringey in each of the last five years.

Catherine West: [63490]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average funding was for a primary school pupil in (a) England, (b) Surrey, (c) Oxfordshire, (d) London and (e) Haringey in each of the last five years.

Nick Gibb:

Funding from the Department is primarily allocated at a local authority level. Since the introduction of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) in 2006-07, figures are no longer available split by phase of education.

The average schools block unit of funding for England and London, in addition to those for Surrey, Oxfordshire, Haringey and all other local authorities for the last five years can be found at the links below:

**2013-14:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-2013-to-2014>

**2014-15:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-2014-to-2015>

**2015-16:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2015-to-2016>

**2016-17:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2016-to-2017>

**2017-18:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2017-to-2018>

## PUPIL PREMIUM

PER PUPIL (£)	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Free School Meal Pupil Primary	£953	£1323	£1320	£1320	£1320
Free School Meal Pupil Secondary	£900	£935	£935	£935	£935
Service Children	£300	£300	£300	£300	£300
Looked After Children	£900	£1900*	£1900*	£1900*	£1900*

Since 2011-12 schools have received the Pupil Premium which targets funding at pupils from the most deprived backgrounds to help them achieve their full potential. In 2011-12, the Pupil Premium was allocated for each pupil known to be eligible for Free School Meals, looked after children and children of parents in the armed services. In 2012-13 coverage was expanded to include pupils known to have been eligible for Free School Meals at any point in the last six years. The per pupil amounts for each type of pupil for the last five years are shown in following table in cash terms:

\*Also includes children adopted from care

Details of provider level allocations for all schools and academies for the last four years can also be found at the links below. These cover the DSG schools block allocations made by local authorities.

**2013-14:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-block-funding-allocations-2013-to-2014>

**2014-15:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-block-funding-allocations-2014-to-2015>

**2015-16:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-block-funding-allocations-2015-to-2016>

**2016-17:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-block-funding-allocations-2016-to-2017>

## ■ Schools: Data Protection

John Mann: [62669]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department takes to ensure that commercial organisations which sell access to school websites and teachers' emails do so securely and responsibly.

Nick Gibb:

The Department for Education provides advice to help schools understand their obligations and duties in relation to the Data Protection Act 1998 (the DPA).

This advice is underpinned by a supplier self-certification scheme which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cloud-software-services-and-the-data-protection-act>

## ■ Schools: Haringey

Catherine West: [63434]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she has visited any schools in Haringey since her appointment to her post.

Caroline Dinenage:

My Rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State has not visited a school in Haringey in the course of her official duties, since her appointment as Education Secretary.

## ■ Schools: Mental Health Services

Norman Lamb: [63002]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Written Statement of 9 January 2017, on mental health, HCWS397, what the proposed timescale is for the programme of randomised control trials focusing on preventative mental health support in schools.

Norman Lamb: [63003]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Written Statement of 9 January 2017, on mental health, HCWS397, whether the programme of randomised control trials of preventative mental health support in schools will be tested in (a) primary schools, (b) secondary schools and (c) colleges and further education establishments.

Norman Lamb: [63007]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Written Statement of 9 January 2017, on mental illness, HCWS397, what preventative initiatives will be included in the programme of randomised control trials focusing on mental health in schools; and whether that programme will include school-based counselling in (a) primary schools, (b) secondary schools and (c) colleges and further education establishments.



Edward Timpson:

Good mental health and wellbeing is a key priority for the Department. We have high aspirations for all children and young people and want them to be able to fulfil their potential. Counselling can play an important role in this, which is why we worked with experts to produce a blueprint for effective school-based counselling. We published an updated version of this advice last year.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/497825/Counselling\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/497825/Counselling_in_schools.pdf)

The Prime Minister announced last month that the Department would launch a programme of randomised control trials of preventative programmes across three different approaches to mental health promotion and prevention.

We are currently working to procure contractors and plan to issue a prior information notice this month, followed by a call for expressions of interest in March, with the aim of having a final contract in place during May. The timetable for delivery will depend on each individual intervention trialled.

We envisage the contract will cover a suite of programmes and approaches to be tested in both primary and secondary schools. We acknowledge that colleges and further education establishments play an important role in supporting young people with mental health issues. However, given the wish to focus on early prevention activity and the nature of the approaches we have been considering that to date we are currently not planning on trialling the interventions for older young people. However, our procurement approach for this programme will allow further trials to be added if needed. We will be giving further consideration to how to improve preventative activity as we develop the new green paper on children and young people's mental health.

There is already a large scale randomised control trial of school-based counselling underway: The ETHOS study, which is funded by the Economic & Social Research Council and led by the University of Roehampton. Department for Education officials are represented on the steering group to ensure it informs policy.

■ Schools: North Tyneside

Mr Alan Campbell:

[63118]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to increase funding for schools with a high concentration of students with special educational needs in North Tyneside.

Edward Timpson:

Schools are currently funded through the formula set by their local authority, which often uses factors such as low prior attainment and free school meals to give an estimate of the number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) a school is likely to have. Where the cost of additional support for a child with SEN in the mainstream schools exceeds £6,000, the local authority also provides top-up funding to the school from its high needs budget. Local authorities can also give additional

funding from their high needs budgets to schools that have a high concentration of pupils with SEN.

We are currently consulting on proposals for new national funding formulae for both schools and high needs, which will be introduced in 2018-19. These proposals will not change the flexibility that local authorities have to move funding from their high needs budgets to schools.

As a result of our proposals, North Tyneside Council's funding for high needs pupils would increase by 1.8% and schools in the area would see, on average, a 0.6% increase in their funding

#### ■ Schools: Staff

Lilian Greenwood: [\[61628\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 20 January 2017 to Question 60334, and with reference to the Answer of 10 June 2015 to Question 856, whether the figures supplied in those answers for the average salaries of teaching assistants in November 2013 and November 2015 were calculated on the same basis.

Nick Gibb:

The following table shows the time series of average salaries for full-time teaching assistants in all state funded schools in England. Figures for 2010 are not available.

	ALL FULL-TIME TEACHING ASSISTANTS
2011	£18,800
2012	£18,800
2013	£19,000
2014	£19,000
2015	£19,200

Source: School Workforce Census

Salaries are rounded to the nearest £100.

These figures are consistent with those published in PQ60334 published in Hansard, which is available at the following web link:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-17/60334>

The figures published in the answer of 10 June 2015 to Question 856 included both full and part-time teaching assistants. The preference is to show salaries for full-time teaching assistants because the salary data for part-time teaching assistants is not always provided on a comparable basis.

■ Schools: Standards

Ian Mearns: [\[61723\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions she has had with providers on her Department's review of baseline assessment.

Ian Mearns: [\[61724\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent meetings officials of her Department have had with providers of reception baseline assessment models.

Ian Mearns: [\[61725\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when she plans formally to consult on plans to reform (a) primary assessment and (b) baseline assessment.

Nick Gibb:

The Secretary of State set out, in her statement to Parliament about primary assessment of 19 October 2016, our intention to launch a public consultation on the future of primary assessment in England. That statement made it clear that the consultation exercise, which will commence in the near future, will consider the best starting point to measure the progress that children make in primary school.

Separate to future policy considerations, the Department is in contract with those providers it approved to offer an optional reception baseline assessment to schools in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years. As contract managers, Departmental officials are in regular contact with these providers regarding the operation of these optional baseline assessments. In such meetings, the Department does not discuss future policy, or the design of any new baseline assessment.

Robert Coe, Director of the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring, Durham University (one of the current reception baseline providers) does advise the Department on general assessment policy issues as an expert in the field. He was a member of the Commission on Assessment Without Levels set up by the Department in 2015, at which point he made a formal declaration of interests. Mr Coe attended a meeting, among other experts, on 10 May 2016, with myself and Departmental officials, to discuss primary assessment. This included discussion of how best to measure progress in primary schools. In meeting educational experts, and in all its work, the Department is mindful of the need to manage appropriately any potential conflict of interest.

■ Schools: Tynemouth

Mr Alan Campbell: [\[63117\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of the school funding formula on the funding of schools in Tynemouth constituency in real terms in each of the next three years.

Nick Gibb:

The current funding system does not support our aspiration that all children reach their full potential and succeed in adult life. Similar local areas and similar schools receive very different levels of funding, with little or no justification. Having consulted on the principles and building blocks earlier in 2016, we are now seeking views on the detail of the formula and the arrangements we propose for the transition towards the formula.

The illustrative effect of the proposed schools national funding formula (NFF) for schools in the Tynemouth constituency, in year 1 of the operation of the formula, and overall, is provided in the table below.

These figures are illustrative only and not actual allocations. The formula is subject to consultation, and the illustrative figures use pupil and school data from 2016-17 to show what would have happened to each school's funding if the formula had been implemented in full in 2016-17. A school's actual funding allocations for future years will reflect the latest data about a school and its pupils.

		ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IF FORMULA IMPLEMENTED IN FULL IN 2016-17, WITHOUT TRANSITIONAL PROTECTIONS			ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IN THE FIRST YEAR OF TRANSITION	
School Name	Phase	Funding the school received in 2016-17 or 2016/17	Illustrative total NFF funding	Percentage change compared to baseline	Illustrative NFF year 1 funding	Percentage change compared to baseline
Cullercoats Primary School	Primary	£1,408,000	£1,440,000	2.3%	£1,440,000	2.3%
King Edward Primary School	Primary	£1,386,000	£1,457,000	5.1%	£1,424,000	2.8%
Spring Gardens Primary School	Primary	£1,558,000	£1,687,000	8.3%	£1,601,000	2.8%
Riverside Primary	Primary	£817,000	£796,000	-2.5%	£806,000	-1.3%

		ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IF FORMULA IMPLEMENTED IN FULL IN 2016-17, WITHOUT TRANSITIONAL PROTECTIONS			ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IN THE FIRST YEAR OF TRANSITION	
		BASELINE FUNDING				
School						
Monkhouse Primary School	Primary	£775,000	£786,000	1.4%	£786,000	1.4%
Whitehouse Primary School	Primary	£741,000	£752,000	1.4%	£752,000	1.4%
Preston Grange Primary School	Primary	£776,000	£784,000	1.0%	£784,000	1.0%
Shiremoor Primary School	Primary	£1,292,000	£1,395,000	8.0%	£1,326,000	2.7%
Backworth Park Primary School	Primary	£543,000	£554,000	1.9%	£554,000	1.9%
Rockcliffe First School	Primary	£820,000	£827,000	0.8%	£827,000	0.8%
Appletree Gardens First School	Primary	£1,010,000	£1,051,000	4.1%	£1,036,000	2.7%
Southridge First School	Primary	£1,009,000	£1,014,000	0.5%	£1,014,000	0.5%
South Wellfield First School	Primary	£1,037,000	£1,080,000	4.2%	£1,064,000	2.6%
Marine Park First School	Primary	£1,684,000	£1,728,000	2.6%	£1,727,000	2.5%
Coquet Park	Primary	£672,000	£667,000	-0.7%	£667,000	-0.7%

		ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IF FORMULA IMPLEMENTED IN FULL IN 2016-17, WITHOUT TRANSITIONAL PROTECTIONS			ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IN THE FIRST YEAR OF TRANSITION	
		BASELINE FUNDING				
First School						
Langley First Primary School		£1,033,000	£1,042,000	0.9%	£1,042,000	0.9%
Whitley Lodge First School	Primary	£822,000	£816,000	-0.7%	£816,000	-0.7%
Collingwood Primary School	Primary	£1,372,000	£1,478,000	7.7%	£1,409,000	2.7%
New York Primary School	Primary	£990,000	£1,057,000	6.8%	£1,016,000	2.6%
Christ Church CofE Primary School	Primary	£777,000	£802,000	3.2%	£797,000	2.6%
St Cuthberts Roman Catholic Primary School Aided	Primary	£804,000	£830,000	3.2%	£825,000	2.6%
St Josephs Roman Catholic Primary School Aided	Primary	£1,218,000	£1,323,000	8.6%	£1,251,000	2.7%
St Marys Roman Catholic Primary	Primary	£736,000	£717,000	-2.6%	£727,000	-1.3%

		ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IF FORMULA IMPLEMENTED IN FULL IN 2016-17, WITHOUT TRANSITIONAL PROTECTIONS			ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IN THE FIRST YEAR OF TRANSITION		
		BASELINE FUNDING					
School Aided							
Star of the Sea RC VA Primary	Primary	£1,352,000	£1,391,000	2.9%	£1,389,000	2.8%	
Kings Priory School	All-through	£4,516,000	£4,383,000	-2.9%	£4,449,000	-1.5%	
Marden High School - A Specialist Maths, Science and Media Arts College	Secondary	£3,657,000	£3,551,000	-2.9%	£3,604,000	-1.4%	
Norham High School	Secondary	£2,350,000	£2,284,000	-2.8%	£2,317,000	-1.4%	
Marden Bridge Middle School	Secondary Middle	£1,886,000	£1,854,000	-1.7%	£1,859,000	-1.4%	
Valley Gardens Middle School	Secondary Middle	£2,693,000	£2,618,000	-2.8%	£2,655,000	-1.4%	
Monkseaton Middle School	Secondary Middle	£1,512,000	£1,512,000	0.0%	£1,512,000	0.0%	
Whitley Bay High School	Secondary	£5,420,000	£5,262,000	-2.9%	£5,341,000	-1.5%	
Monkseaton High School	Secondary	£1,845,000	£1,795,000	-2.7%	£1,820,000	-1.4%	

		ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IF FORMULA IMPLEMENTED IN FULL IN 2016-17, WITHOUT TRANSITIONAL PROTECTIONS			ILLUSTRATIVE NFF FUNDING IN THE FIRST YEAR OF TRANSITION	
		BASELINE FUNDING				
John Spence Secondary Community High School		£4,337,000	£4,211,000	-2.9%	£4,274,000	-1.5%
St Thomas More Roman Catholic Academy	Secondary	£6,515,000	£6,323,000	-2.9%	£6,419,000	-1.5%
Wellfield Middle School	Secondary Middle	£1,269,000	£1,240,000	-2.3%	£1,252,000	-1.4%

#### ■ Special Educational Needs

Debbie Abrahams: [\[63538\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many special needs assessments were undertaken in each school in England in each year since 2010-11.

Edward Timpson:

The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

#### ■ Teachers: Recruitment

Angela Rayner: [\[62489\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she plans to expand the International Teacher Recruitment Strategy; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

The Department for Education is supporting a pilot project to recruit qualified mathematics and physics teachers from overseas. We will review the pilot project to inform plans for the future.

We recently signed an agreement with the Spanish Ministry of Education to join their Visiting Teachers programme. It provides opportunities for schools to recruit qualified teachers from Spain. Visiting teachers will be available from September 2017 for a year, with options to extend the programme where appropriate.



■ Universities: Hereford

Bill Wiggin:

[\[63544\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans she has for the funding of a university in Hereford.

Joseph Johnson:

The planned New Model in Technology and Engineering University (NMiTE) for Hereford is currently under consideration.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Air Pollution: Death

Tom Brake:

[\[63494\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to reduce the number of premature deaths attributed to particulate air pollution; and what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department's policies of Public Health England's report, Estimating local mortality burdens associated with particulate air pollution.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Government have committed more than £2 billion since 2011 to reduce transport emissions and the Autumn Statement provided a further £290 million to support greener transport.

We are developing the Air Pollution Action Plan. This is to tackle the five main pollutants: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, non-methane volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter. The UK has agreed legally binding national ceilings for emissions of these pollutants by 2020 and 2030.

■ Birds: Conservation

Jim Shannon:

[\[63227\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to protect breeding habitats for woodcock.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Habitat improvement is a devolved matter. In England, measures are being taken to improve habitats through agri-environment schemes such as Countryside Stewardship, which provides incentives to manage woodland sympathetically for wildlife, which in turn will benefit woodcock.

Woodcock also benefit from England's extensive network of protected sites for wildlife such as sites of special scientific interest.

## ■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Security

Jon Trickett: [\[63262\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many security passes into her Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in her Department.

George Eustice:

My Department does not have a business or security need to separate the information between these defined categories therefore we do not record them in this way. Strict processes are followed before a pass is authorised and ultimately revoked.

Passes are issued to contractors, secondees, public sector workers (e.g. from Non Departmental Public Bodies) or Crown Servants such as Police or Military forces as well as to Civil Servants where it is necessary and appropriate to do so. This enables teams to work flexibly and effectively to best support the business need. Use of all security passes are underpinned by strong physical security focus, access control procedures and technologies, clear processes and assurance mechanisms that enable an integrated workforce to operate in a secure manner.

## ■ Inland Waterways: East of England

David Mackintosh: [\[63480\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of the condition of the navigable waterways managed by the Environment Agency in the Anglian region.

David Mackintosh: [\[63481\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much the Environment Agency spent on the navigable waterways in the Anglian region in each of the last five years.

David Mackintosh: [\[63482\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much the Environment Agency plans to spend on the navigable waterways in the Anglian Region in each of the next three years.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Environment Agency reports the condition of the essential navigation assets such as locks, landing stages and canoe portages on a quarterly basis. Assets are considered to be at a required condition if they do not have any defects that significantly reduce the performance of the asset, or adversely increase the safety risk to the public or Environment Agency staff.

The Environment Agency regularly inspects all navigation assets. If there is a safety risk to members of the public then repairs will be undertaken to remove the risk or the asset will be closed.

The information in the table below relates only to expenditure associated with navigation assets within Anglian Region. The Environment Agency also invests money on other assets and in-river works that provide benefit to navigation, for example in-river weed cutting for Flood and Coastal Risk Management purposes, and investment to weirs and sluices that maintain a water level for navigation.

ANGLIAN WATERWAYS						2016-2017
EXPENDITURE	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	FORECAST
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,839,710</b>	<b>£5,299,677</b>	<b>£5,704,044</b>	<b>£4,125,984</b>	<b>£4,142,018</b>	<b>£4,919,461</b>

Over the next three years the Environment Agency will continue to invest the income it receives from registration charges collected from the users on the Anglian waterways. From March 2017 this is expected to be £2,265m per annum. The Environment Agency also secures funding from within the organisation which is negotiated on an annual basis.

As part of the 2015 Spending Review the Environment Agency's capital settlement from Defra was £3m pa over the next three years to be spent across all our waterways. Funding will be allocated to assets which will benefit the most from investment. Anglian waterways will receive a proportion of this funding.

#### ■ Overseas Trade: Agriculture and Environment

Caroline Lucas:

[\[63334\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what research her Department has commissioned on likely trends in the agricultural and environmental sectors' international trade once the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

We have not commissioned research on trends in international trade for agriculture and the environment. However, there are a number of international organisations which look at prospects for trade in agricultural goods, and we make use of this evidence in our own work. The OECD-FAO Medium-Term Outlook gives an authoritative overview of plausible future developments in international agricultural markets and conveys the importance of future demand from emerging economies.

#### ■ Shellfish: Non-native Species

Jim Shannon:

[\[63228\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to tackle the spread of the invasive species of demon shrimp, *dikerogammarus haemobaphes*.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Defra's "Check, Clean, Dry" campaign promotes good biosecurity to help slow the spread of invasive non-native species and, in particular, prevent their introduction to uninfected waterbodies. It is widely promoted to, by and amongst water users including water companies, anglers and recreational boaters. Government agencies routinely follow its good practice. Our focus has been on limiting the spread, when *Dikerogammarus haemobaphes* was identified in Great Britain it was already widespread within the canal and river network; as such eradication is not considered feasible.

The Environment Agency has recently adopted a regulatory position that will reduce this risk and incentivise the water industry to develop methods for water transferred in this way to prevent the spread of these species. This is one of a number of invasive non-native species that can be spread through untreated water transferred from one region to another by water companies.

## EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION

### ■ British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries

Catherine West:

[\[63342\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will consult British expat communities living in other EU countries on the planned negotiation on the UK leaving the EU.

Mr David Jones:

As part of our preparations for a smooth and orderly withdrawal we have engaged a range of stakeholders, including expatriate groups, to ensure we understand the priorities of UK nationals living in EU countries.

We will continue to work closely with a range of organisations and individuals to achieve this.

### ■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Costs and Staff

Tom Brake:

[\[63234\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, pursuant to the Answer of 26 January 2017 to Question 61140, what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on consultancy costs in each financial year up to 2017-18.

Mr David Jones:

The Department will continue to grow and use external consultancy support and recruitment as appropriate to ensure it has the right expertise to deliver its objectives. The additional funding announced in the Autumn Statement ensures that the Department will remain properly resourced.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Pay

Jon Trickett:

[63071]

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in his Department in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

Mr David Jones:

Pay bill figures for men and women in each department can vary significantly based on representation at different grades and how many staff in the department are in full or part time work. A more meaningful way of considering existing pay disparities amongst men and women would be to look at each department's gender pay gap. The Civil Service has been publishing mean and median gender pay gaps for each department since 2008 as part of the annual release of Civil Service Statistics by the Office for National Statistics. The latest gender pay gap data (published in October last year) can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics/2016>

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Security

Jon Trickett:

[63263]

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

Mr David Jones:

Passes are issued to contractors, secondees, public sector workers (e.g. Non Departmental Public Bodies) and Crown Servants (e.g. Police and Military Forces), as well as to Civil Servants where it is necessary and appropriate to do so. This enables teams to work flexibly and effectively to best support the departments need. The number of these passes fluctuates depending on business requirements.

Use of all security passes are underpinned by strong physical security policies, access control procedures and technologies which provide a clear process and assurance mechanism that enables the department to work with an integrated workforce in a secure manner.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Staff

Catherine West:

[63343]

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what proportion of his Department's employees are from black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

Mr David Jones:

The Department for Exiting the European Union now has over 300 staff, and is growing fast. As the Department is currently recruiting a large number of staff we do not currently hold a full data set, but diversity data will be published in due course in line with Civil Service reporting requirements.

■ Low Incomes: Brexit

Dr Eilidh Whiteford: [\[63487\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what assessment he has made of the effect of the UK leaving the EU on low-income families.

Mr David Jones:

This Government is determined to get the best deal for the whole of the UK and are clear that the benefits of that deal should apply to all UK citizens. At every step of this negotiation we will seek to ensure the best possible outcome for the British people, including low income families.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

■ Andargachew Tsege

Catherine West: [\[63341\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many times (a) he and (b) the Minister for the Middle East and Africa have met representatives of Reprieve to discuss the case of Andargachew Tsege.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

FCO ministers and officials frequently meet representatives of Reprieve to discuss cases of British Nationals imprisoned abroad and wider lobbying around the death penalty. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) and I have not met with Reprieve specifically to discuss the case of Andargachew Tsege.

The Government takes the detention and welfare of Mr Andargachew Tsege very seriously. The Secretary of State for International Development, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel), raised this case with the Ethiopian Prime Minister on 30 January, during her visit to Addis Ababa.

■ Burma: Rohingya

Catherine West: [\[63178\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the Government's policy is on the establishment of a UN inquiry into alleged human rights violations committed against the Rohingya by the Burmese Army and security forces.

Alok Sharma:

We have called repeatedly for an independent investigation into allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine. The UN High Commissioner for Human rights has already issued a substantive report on the widespread and alarming level human rights violations carried out by the military Rakhine State since 9 October. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Burma also referred to them in her press briefing following her visit in January. Her full report is due out in March ahead of the Human Rights Council, at which we will advocate for a full renewal of her mandate. In the light of the two reports we will also consider, with our EU and international partners, what scope there is for further enhancing scrutiny of the military's actions in Rakhine.

We support the Rakhine Advisory Commission led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, which is due to report in the summer. This has the support of the Burmese Government and the international community, and therefore represents the most realistic way forward.

In the meantime, we strongly urge the Burmese military to show restraint and to permit humanitarian access to the affected areas.

■ Colombia: Peace

Catherine West:

[\[63432\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the progress of the Colombian peace process.

Sir Alan Duncan:

Significant progress has been made in implementing the peace deal since Congress approved the revised agreement in November. An Amnesty Law was passed on 28 December - an important step in the demobilisation of FARC members.

More than 5,000 FARC members have moved to the Transition Zones in the last week, and have begun to disarm, monitored by the UN special Political Mission. The Colombian Ambassador reassured me on 7 February that this process is on track. However, significant logistical challenges remain and so we welcome news that the UN Mission is assisting the Colombian Government to speed up construction of accommodation and access to water. We also welcome President Santos's creation of a new 'inner cabinet' to improve coordination across government to support delivery of the peace agreement.

The UK continues to support implementation of the peace agreement through our diplomatic, financial and technical assistance to peace-building, including advice from our experience in Northern Ireland. However, we are concerned by ongoing intimidation of human rights defenders (HRDs) by illegal armed groups and support the Government of Colombia's efforts to investigate attacks and bring those responsible to justice. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and raise our concerns regarding individual cases with the Colombian Government and seek an update on plans to improve security in the affected areas.

## ■ Colombia: Visits Abroad

Catherine West: [\[63433\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether (a) he or (b) the Minister of State for Europe and the Americas plans to visit Colombia in the near future.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Foreign Secretary and I have met President Santos and a number of his Ministers in recent months. I hope to visit in due course.

## ■ Conflict, Stability and Security Fund: Religion

Dame Caroline Spelman: [\[63036\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what progress his Department is making on supporting religious leaders to promote community cohesion and reconciliation through its Conflict, Security and Stability Fund; in which countries religious leaders are being supported by that fund; and which religious communities those leaders represent.

Alok Sharma:

Through the Conflict Stability and Security Fund, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) delivers projects to help prevent violent extremism, promote human rights, and support community peace-building in Africa, the Middle East, South and Central Asia and Eastern Europe. This includes working with religious leaders as well as other stakeholders. Separately, through the FCO's Magna Carta Fund, we fund various projects to support community cohesion and freedom of religion or belief across the world. Examples include: supporting human rights defenders in South Asia, promoting legal and social protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief in secondary school curricula in the Middle East and North Africa, and support for de-radicalisation and the re-integration of young people in Nigeria who have been exposed to violent extremist groups. In October 2016, the FCO hosted a groundbreaking conference to consider how protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief can help to combat violent extremism by building more inclusive societies. A range of faith leaders were invited to attend this event.

## ■ Crimea

Emily Thornberry: [\[63486\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for a negotiated settlement between Ukraine and Russia on the status of Crimea.

Boris Johnson:

The UK strongly condemns the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia. This action by Russia was a flagrant breach of international law and a serious challenge to the international rules-based order. The UK remains a strong and principled supporter of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.



■ Faye Sharary

Catherine West:

[\[63435\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what contact he has had with Faye Sharary or his family since his detainment in Israel in September 2016.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Both the British Embassy in Tel Aviv and British Consulate General in Jerusalem continue to provide consular assistance to Mr Sharary. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London has also been in regular contact with Mr Sharary's family since we were first made aware of his detention. We continue to closely monitor Mr Sharary's case and remain in contact with the local authorities.

Catherine West:

[\[63436\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the case of Faye Sharary.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), has not discussed this particular case with the Israeli Foreign Minister. However, our Ambassador in Israel has raised Mr Sharary's case with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials in country are in contact with the local authorities and continue to monitor the case closely.

■ Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Security

Jon Trickett:

[\[63264\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

Alok Sharma:

The number of Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) passes which are issued fluctuates over time. As a matter of policy, the FCO does not publicise numbers of passes issued.

■ Guyana: Public Appointments

Catherine West:

[\[63283\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has received representations from (a) parliamentarians and (b) the public on the appointment of a new chair of the Guyanese Election Commission.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received representations from both parliamentarians and the public on this matter. I refer the member for Hornsey and Wood Green to the answer given by The Minister of State for Foreign and

Commonwealth Affairs, my noble Friend, the Rt Hon. the Baroness Anelay of St Johns to question HL 5087 on 6 February.

■ Hong Kong: Politics and Government

Fiona Bruce: [\[63367\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to fulfil the Government's obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration to monitor and speak out for basic freedoms and the rule of law in Hong Kong.

Alok Sharma:

I refer my Hon. Friend to my answer of 1 February 2017 (PQ 61986).

The six-monthly reports submitted to the House by the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) reflect the Government's continuing interest in developments in Hong Kong and our commitment to the faithful implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary discussed the importance of maintaining confidence in 'One Country, Two Systems' with Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi at the UK–China Strategic Dialogue in London on 20 December, which I also attended. I also discussed Hong Kong issues with the Chinese Ambassador on 9 February.

Fiona Bruce: [\[63368\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the Hong Kong Government regarding (a) legal challenges against democratically elected legislators Nathan Law, Edward Yiu, Lau Siu-lai and Leung Kwok-hung and (b) rulings regarding Yau Wai-Chung and Sixtus Heung; and if he will make a statement.

Alok Sharma:

On 7 November 2016, after the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) issued an interpretation of the Basic Law before the conclusion of related judicial proceedings in Hong Kong, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office released a statement. We expressed concern at recent developments in the Legislative Council. While we recognised the NPCSC's authority to interpret the Basic Law, we were concerned by its decision to issue an opinion at that time. We urged the Chinese and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Governments, and all elected politicians, to refrain from any actions that fuelled concerns or undermined confidence in the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle.

The Hong Kong Courts subsequently reached a decision on the cases of Yau Wai-ching and Sixtus Leung on the basis of Hong Kong's legal framework. We respect this decision.

The other ongoing legal cases referred to are a matter for the Hong Kong Courts.

Fiona Bruce:

[63369]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what his assessment is of the current state of basic freedoms, the rule of law and democracy in Hong Kong; and if he will make a statement.

Alok Sharma:

We assess that the 'One Country, Two Systems' framework established by the Sino-British Joint Declaration continues to function well in the vast majority of areas. Basic freedoms and the rule of law are key elements of this framework. We have highlighted in six-monthly reports from the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) to the House those areas where challenges have arisen or on which we have had concerns. The Government raises such concerns with the Chinese and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Governments. On political reform, the UK continues to encourage all parties to play their part in rebuilding constructive dialogue to pave the way for the resumption of the political reform process at the earliest opportunity.

#### ■ Hong Kong: Treaties

Fiona Bruce:

[63370]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will review the effectiveness of the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

Alok Sharma:

The Government continues to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, including through six-monthly reports to Parliament by the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson). These six-monthly reports reflect the Government's continuing interest in developments in Hong Kong and our ongoing commitment to the faithful implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

#### ■ Iran: Capital Punishment

Mrs Theresa Villiers:

[63100]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations to the Iranian Government condemning the use of the death penalty in that country.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We regularly raise human rights with the Iranians at all levels and we continue to take action with the international community to press Iran to improve its poor record on all human rights issues. The British Government is firmly opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances and in every country, including Iran. We have made clear to Iran our opposition to the use of the death penalty. I raised the death penalty during my visit to Tehran on 18 January 2017.

## ■ Iran: Nuclear Power

Michael Gove: [\[63170\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the level of Iranian compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was implemented on 16 January 2016: Iran placed two-thirds of its centrifuges in storage and dispensed with 98% of its stockpile of low-enriched uranium. For 10 years it will take Iran at least 12 months to produce enough fissile material for a weapon.

Iran's recent ballistic missile test (29 January) was not a breach of the JCPoA, but is inconsistent with UNSCR 2231.

The Government remains concerned about Iran's ballistic missile programme and we continue to urge Iran to abide by UN Security Council Resolution 2231; we are committed to ensuring that UN and EU sanctions which impose restrictions upon this programme continue to be robustly enforced.

The Government remains concerned about Iran's destabilising activity in the region; we continue to encourage Iran to work constructively with its neighbours to resolve conflicts and promote stability.

## ■ Islamic State: Military Intervention

Jim Shannon: [\[63217\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent progress has been made on steps to retake Mosul from Daesh.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi announced on 23 January that East Mosul had been cleared of Daesh. Preparations are now underway for the next phase, clearing Daesh from West Mosul. We welcome progress made by Iraqi forces in Eastern Mosul which marks another step towards defeating Daesh. Clearing Daesh from Mosul, after two years of brutal rule, is the greatest challenge that Iraq's Security Forces have faced to date. We have always been clear that this is a fight that will take time and patience.

## ■ Israel: Embassies

Michael Gove: [\[63171\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what his policy is on the basing of the British Embassy in Tel Aviv; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK position on Jerusalem has not changed; the British Embassy is based in Tel Aviv and we have no plans to move it.

■ Kenya: Farms and Housing

Jim Shannon:

[\[63419\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the Government of Kenya on the incidence of home and farm seizures in that country.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in Kenya are monitoring the situation closely, and are in regular contact with British nationals affected. Our High Commissioner continues to raise the issue at the highest levels of Kenyan Government, including with the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs, the Inspector General of Police, and most recently the Laikipia County Governor. He visited Laikipia in December, when he met with British nationals to discuss their concerns.

The FCO continue to place the safety and security of British nationals at the heart of our activity. We are also working closely with other Embassies to provide a coordinated response for our respective nationals in the area, and stand ready to offer further consular assistance if required.

■ Libya: Armed Conflict

Andrew Rosindell:

[\[63329\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make it his policy to make regular oral or written statements to the House on the situation in Libya.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

I will update the House when any significant changes in Libya occur.

■ Libya: Russia

Tom Brake:

[\[63224\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports he has received on whether President Putin has endorsed support for Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar to be the future leader of the Libyan state.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK welcomes all diplomatic efforts, in support of reconciliation in Libya within the framework of the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) and the relevant UNSCRs. An inclusive political deal negotiated within the framework of the LPA is the best way of stabilising Libya but it is ultimately for Libyans to decide what is acceptable for them. We recognise that Khalifa Haftar has a role to play in the political process, but there can be no military solution. The LPA is clear on the need for civilian oversight of military structures.

## ■ Montserrat: Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion

Catherine West: [\[63461\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has discussed tax (a) avoidance and (b) evasion with his counterpart in Montserrat since the last Joint Ministerial Council.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Minister for the Overseas Territories (OTs), the Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns who holds responsibility for these issues, discussed the importance of implementing the bilateral arrangements concluded in April 2016 with OTs with financial centres to OT leaders at the Joint Ministerial Council on European Negotiations held in London on 7 February.

## ■ Nepal: Christianity

Danny Kinahan: [\[63478\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the treatment of Christians in Nepal.

Alok Sharma:

The right to freedom of religion is enshrined in the Nepali Constitution of September 2015, but we have concerns regarding the interpretation of the proposed legislation on religious conversion. There have been some isolated reports of attacks on Christians and some cases where Christians have been arrested by the authorities; we continue to monitor the situation. There is no specific category for registration of religious organisations in Nepal, which therefore have to register as Non-Governmental Organisations.

Danny Kinahan: [\[63479\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to the Nepal Government on permitting Christian non-governmental organisations to register and carry out humanitarian work unhindered in that country.

Alok Sharma:

I have not personally made representations to the Nepal Government on permitting Christian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to register and carry out humanitarian work, but our Embassy in Kathmandu has raised the issue of NGO operating space regularly with the Government of Nepal and will continue to do so. The former Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Sir Hugo Swire), also raised the issue of operating problems encountered by NGOs with former Foreign Minister Thapa in July 2016.

■ Philippines: Homicide

Catherine West:

[\[63323\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Filipino counterpart on extra-judicial killings in that country.

Alok Sharma:

We are concerned by the rising death toll associated with the "war on illegal drugs" in the Philippines. We raised this issue at the last session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in October. Most recently, I discussed our concerns with a range of interlocutors, including senior Government Ministers, during my visit to the Philippines in December. During that visit, I stressed the importance of finding alternative methods for reducing the harm caused by illegal drugs, such as through rehabilitation programmes. I offered UK support to achieve this goal. We will continue to urge the Philippine Government to take up this offer and we will continue to monitor events closely.

Our view on the importance of the rule of law and due legal process is clear, consistent and well known in the Philippines. Our Embassy in Manila works closely with our EU partners and the UN in the Philippines on these issues, including through frequent contact with human rights groups.

■ Turks and Caicos Islands: Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion

Catherine West:

[\[63462\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has discussed tax (a) avoidance and (b) evasion with his counterpart in the Turks and Caicos Islands since the last Joint Ministerial Council.

Catherine West:

[\[63463\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether (a) he and (b) the Minister for the Overseas Territories discussed the creation of public registers of beneficial ownership which name the owners of offshore companies with the Deputy Premier of Bermuda in the last six months.

Catherine West:

[\[63464\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has discussed tax (a) avoidance and (b) evasion with his counterpart in the British Virgin Islands since the last Joint Ministerial Council.

Catherine West:

[\[63465\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has discussed tax (a) avoidance and (b) evasion with his counterpart in Bermuda since the last Joint Ministerial Council.

Catherine West: [\[63466\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has discussed tax (a) avoidance and (b) evasion with his counterpart in Anguilla since the last Joint Ministerial Council.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Minister for the Overseas Territories (OTs), the Rt Hon. Baroness Anelay of St Johns who holds responsibility for these issues discussed the importance of implementing the bilateral arrangements concluded in April 2016 with OTs with financial centres to OT leaders at the Joint Ministerial Council on European Negotiations held in London on 7 February.

■ Ukraine: Armed Conflict

Stephen Gethins: [\[63398\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the conflict in Ukraine.

Stephen Gethins: [\[63399\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the conflict in Ukraine.

Stephen Gethins: [\[63400\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Russian counterparts on the conflict in Ukraine.

Stephen Gethins: [\[63401\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Ukrainian counterparts on the conflict in that country.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend, the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) regularly discusses the situation in Ukraine with his international counterparts in Ukraine, Russia, the USA, EU and elsewhere. Recent conversations have included a telephone conversation with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin on 31 January, in which they discussed the escalation of violence in Avdiivka and the steps being taken by Ukraine to manage the humanitarian situation; a discussion at the EU Foreign Affairs Council on 6 February; and engagement with his Russian opposite number. Ukraine and Russia were also topics of conversation during the Prime Minister's meeting with President Trump in Washington in January this year.

Emily Thornberry: [\[63427\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions his Department has had with officials from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine on the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the Line of Contact; and what steps his Department is taking to deter violations of that requirement.



Boris Johnson:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in regular contact with officials from the Organisation of Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) and its Special Monitoring Mission, with discussions addressing a range of issues, including the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the Line of Contact. We and other EU member states regularly call attention to ceasefire violations and the requirements to withdraw heavy weapons. We continue to support the French – and German – led diplomatic efforts, in conjunction with the OSCE, towards securing the implementation by all parties of the Minsk agreement. But the immediate priority must be a full, comprehensive and sustained ceasefire.

■ Ukraine: Armed Forces

Emily Thornberry: [\[63384\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the capacity of the Ukrainian Government to finance ongoing military operations in the east of that country; what reports he has received of shortfalls in salary payments to members of the Ukrainian armed forces; and what discussions he has had with his Ukrainian counterpart on those issues.

Boris Johnson:

The financing of the Ukrainian Armed Forces is a matter for the Ukrainian Government, though I would note that the Ukrainian Government has allocated the equivalent of 5% of its GDP for defence and security purposes in the 2017 budget and that Ukrainian armed forces received a significant increase to their pay package and terms of service which took effect in December last year. This is not an issue on which I have corresponded with Foreign Minister Klimkin; neither have concerns been raised by contacts of our Embassy in Kyiv about shortfalls in salary payments. The UK is providing practical support to the training of Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel in defensive, non-escalatory skills, such as first aid.

■ Ukraine: Corruption

Emily Thornberry: [\[63391\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to support efforts by the Government of Ukraine to tackle official corruption; and what assessment he has made of the progress of such efforts.

Boris Johnson:

We have provided strong political and practical support to efforts by the Ukrainian Government to tackle corruption. UK support has included financial and capacity-building for new institutions such as the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, and technical expertise for the launch of the Asset Declaration System for public officials. We welcome the commitments made by the Ukrainian government to tackle corruption at the London Anti-Corruption Summit in 2016.

## ■ Ukraine: EU External Relations

Emily Thornberry: [\[63385\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the EU's Association Agreement with Ukraine on the prospects for economic growth in that country.

Boris Johnson:

The UK continues to support the full application of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, which creates the conditions for closer relations between the EU and Ukraine and enables Ukraine to benefit from trade access to the EU, technical assistance and regular political dialogues.

We continue to give our unreserved support to the full provisional application of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) which began on 1 January 2016. This includes work to support Ukraine against the punitive trade restrictions that Russia has disappointingly imposed in reaction to the DCFTA.

Emily Thornberry: [\[63386\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Dutch counterpart on implementation of the EU's Association Agreement with Ukraine; and what assessment he has made of the prospects for ratification of that agreement by the Netherlands.

Boris Johnson:

The Dutch referendum result is a matter for the Dutch government and parliament. At the end of last year, the December European Council agreed a solution proposed by the Dutch Prime Minister to pave the way for ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in the Netherlands. This seeks to respect the April 2016 Dutch referendum result in a way which is acceptable to the Dutch parliament and the 27 other EU Member States who have already ratified the Agreement, and which will allow ratification of the Agreement to proceed.

## ■ Ukraine: Human Rights

Emily Thornberry: [\[63389\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports he has received on alleged human rights abuses committed by (a) armed militias and (b) Ukrainian Government troops in eastern Ukraine.

Boris Johnson:

Allegations of arbitrary detentions, torture and enforced disappearance have been made against all sides in the conflict in eastern Ukraine. We have called publicly for all sides to ensure that any such violations and abuses cease. We welcome the actions taken so far by the Ukrainian government in bringing to justice perpetrators of conflict-related human rights abuses, but there is still much more to do. We remain very concerned about the lack of accountability and access for human rights bodies to separatist-controlled territories.

■ Ukraine: Politics and Government

Emily Thornberry: [\[63390\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to the Government of Ukraine on the passage of political and constitutional reforms stipulated by the Minsk agreements.

Boris Johnson:

The UK Government engages closely and regularly with the Government of Ukraine. I visited Kyiv in September 2016 and have held a number of bilateral meetings and phonecalls since, most recently speaking to Foreign Minister Klimkin on 31 January. The Ukrainian Government has the UK's full support in its efforts to deliver the comprehensive programme of reforms needed to transform Ukraine into a stable, prosperous, modern state. These include its commitments under the Minsk agreements. The immediate priority is for putting in place an effective ceasefire, which will in turn create much more favourable conditions for implementation of the other aspects of the Minsk agreements.

Emily Thornberry: [\[63392\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in (a) France, (b) Germany, (c) Ukraine and (d) Russia on progress made in meetings under the Normandy Format; when he expects the roadmap, announced by the group in October 2016, to be published; and what steps he is taking to help facilitate this process.

Boris Johnson:

We continue to fully support the French and German-led diplomatic efforts towards securing the implementation by all parties of the Minsk Agreements. We are in regular contact at all levels to discuss progress. This was most recently discussed at the EU Foreign Affairs Council in February.

The roadmap is still under discussion in the Normandy Format meetings. The UK stands ready to support implementation of the Minsk agreements in any way it can.

Emily Thornberry: [\[63393\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the progress of the Governments of (a) Ukraine and (b) Russia in implementing their respective obligations under the Minsk agreements; and when he expects those agreements to be implemented in full.

Boris Johnson:

Delivery of the Minsk agreements remains the key process for securing long-term peace and a restoration of Ukrainian sovereignty in eastern Ukraine. The UK continues to support French – and German – led diplomatic efforts towards supporting the implementation by all parties of their commitments under the Minsk agreements. The immediate priority is for putting in place an effective ceasefire, which will in turn create much more favourable conditions for the implementation of the remainder of the Minsk agreement.

Emily Thornberry:

[\[63442\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the capacity of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine to fulfil its responsibilities under the Minsk agreements; and what steps he is taking to support that work.

Boris Johnson:

The UK is a long standing supporter of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and its Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine. We are one of the largest contributors to the Mission's budget, we have provided specialist training and support, and the size of the UK contingent in the Mission is second only to the US. We continue to support the French – and German – led diplomatic efforts, in conjunction with the OSCE, towards securing the implementation by all parties of the Minsk agreement, including provision of full and unhindered access in the conflict zone for the SMM.

■ USA: Foreign Relations

Catherine West:

[\[63282\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 1 February 2017 to Question 61335, when he plans to meet the US Secretary of State; and whether he plans to discuss international climate change cooperation at their first meeting.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt. Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip had an introductory call with the US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on 3 February. They reaffirmed our shared goals and agreed to work together on solutions to global issues. They expect to meet at the G20 Foreign Ministers meeting in Bonn on 16-17 February.

■ West Bank: Israeli Settlements

Catherine West:

[\[63431\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he plans to meet his Israeli counterpart to discuss the retrospective legalisation of settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), met the Prime Minister of Israel on Monday 6 February. They discussed the Middle East Peace Process and the UK's firm commitment to a two state solution. On the 7 February I issued a statement condemning the passing of the Land Regularisation Bill and expressing concern that the bill paves the way for significant growth in settlements deep in the West Bank, threatening the viability of the two-state solution.

**HEALTH**

## ■ Action on Smoking and Health: Complaints

Mr Philip Hollobone:

[\[63359\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Shipley of 25 January 2017 to Question 43975, on Action on Smoking and Health: complaints, what information his Department holds on whether it has received any complaints about that organisation since June 2016.

Mr Philip Hollobone:

[\[63360\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 6 February 2017 to Question 62473, on Action on Smoking and Health, for what reason his Department does not hold records of complaints concerning that organisation.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department does not hold a record of any complaints about Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). As ASH is a charity any complaints should be raised with the Charity Commission.

## ■ Brentuximab Vedotin

Henry Smith:

[\[63498\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to ensure relapsed and refractory Hodgkin lymphoma patients continue to have access to brentuximab vedotin.

Nicola Blackwood:

Through its technology appraisal programme, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides independent, evidence-based guidance for the National Health Service on whether drugs and treatments represent a clinically and cost effective use of NHS resources. NICE is appraising Brentuximab for this indication and recently consulted stakeholders on its draft recommendations. Brentuximab is currently available to NHS patients with relapsed and refractory Hodgkin lymphoma through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

## ■ Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Derek Thomas:

[\[63113\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when the updated NICE guidelines on the diagnosis and management of peripheral arterial disease will be published.

Nicola Blackwood:

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of peripheral arterial disease in August 2012. NICE has recently reviewed the guideline and decided that a partial update is necessary to update the section on diagnosis. No timescale is yet available for the planned update.

## ■ China and Pakistan: Organs

Jim Shannon: [\[63418\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what representations he has made to the Governments of (a) Pakistan and (b) China on the trafficking of human organs from those countries; and if he will make a statement.

Nicola Blackwood:

There has been no representation made to the Government of Pakistan. This issue was last raised at the United Kingdom/China human rights dialogue on 27 October 2016. The Government supports the establishment of lawful and ethical organ donation and transplantation programmes to address the world-wide shortage of organs for transplant and a range of action to discourage organ trafficking, transplant tourism and commercialism. The UK formally signed the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs on 25 March 2015 and has laws and protocols in place to ensure well-regulated practice to prevent organ trafficking in the UK.

The Government supports the Declaration of Istanbul, which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities. We have also participated in the development of the World Health Organization Guiding Principles to ensure that human material removed from deceased and living donors for the purpose of transplantation only takes place according to agreed ethical principles.

Patients receiving transplants outside the UK will be subject to the relevant regulatory regime in place and should be aware of the risks, including possible prosecution for non-compliance with relevant local and international provisions, poor donor care, poorer graft survival, infection and in extreme cases, death.

## ■ Clinical Trials: Children

Fiona Bruce: [\[63364\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what his policy is on clinical trials involving children in the UK beginning before such trials are proven to be safe.

Nicola Blackwood:

Conducting clinical trials of medicines requires prior authorisation by the competent authority (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA)) and a positive opinion from an ethics committee.

Research Ethics Committees (REC) safeguard the rights, safety, dignity and well-being of research participants. They review applications for research and give an opinion about the proposed participant involvement and whether the research is ethical.

In the case of clinical trials of investigational medicinal products involving children, the United Kingdom Ethics Committee Authority, in accordance with the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004, requires that, where the REC does not

have a member with professional expertise in paediatric care, it should “obtain advice on the clinical, ethical and psychosocial problems in the field of paediatric care which may arise in relation to that trial”.

Prior to authorisation by the MHRA, the applicant will have to show that the medicinal product has been manufactured to an acceptable quality and has been adequately tested to demonstrate how it works and what effect and benefit it is likely to have in the intended patient population. The results of tests undertaken in the laboratory, and animals as appropriate, will be provided to support the proposal that the drug can be tested in humans.

While historically medicines were often only developed for adults and not adequately researched in children, since the Paediatric Regulation (EC) No 1901/2006 on Medicinal Products came to force in 2007, it has been a regulatory requirement that paediatric research is an integral part of medicine development. Clinical trials of medicines for children conform to the same rigorous standards as that for adults and are only initiated after sufficient evidence is available to ensure the anticipated safety profile of any drug is acceptable. The MHRA endorses the aims of the Paediatric Regulation, and strongly supports activities to increase the availability of safe and effective medications for children through robust scientific and ethical studies.

#### ■ Dental Services: Registration

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[63437\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the average time is for which applicants to the National Dental Performers' List wait for their application to be processed in (a) NPL1, (b) NPL2 and (c) NPL3 categories.

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[63438\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many dentists in (a) NPL1, (b) NPL2 and (c) NPL3 categories are waiting for applications to the National Dental Performers List to be processed.

David Mowat:

NHS England holds the contract with Capita for the administration of primary care support services, including the National Performers Lists, which includes the Dental Performers List.

NHS England informs us that it currently does not hold information centrally on the average processing time for applicants to the National Dental Performers' List for NPL1, NPL2 and NPL3 categories. However, there is an expectation that applications should take 12 weeks to process.

According to NHS England there are currently 867 new NPL1 applications to the Dental Performers List from Dental Foundation trainees being processed. They expect these to be completed as a priority. Applications, to change the status of the performer or the area in which they practice which are NPL2 and NPL3 applications,



are made regularly. The number of these is not currently available from Capita or held centrally by NHS England.

■ Department of Health: Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[63072\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in his Department in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

David Mowat:

The following table shows the total pay bill for male and female employees in the Department for the financial year 2015/16:

	MALE	FEMALE
31 March 2016 Total pay bill	£51,083,305	£62,161,687
31 March 2016 Headcount (Full Time Equivalent)	818	1,099
Spend per capita	£62,464	£56,581

Pay bill figures for men and women in each Department can vary significantly based on representation at different grades and how many staff in the Department are in full or part time work. A more meaningful way of considering existing pay disparities amongst men and women would be to look at each Department's gender pay gap. The Civil Service has been publishing mean and median gender pay gaps for each Department since 2008 as part of the annual release of *Civil Service Statistics* by the Office for National Statistics. The latest gender pay gap data, published in October earlier this year, can be found on the Office for National Statistics website.

■ Department of Health: Security

Jon Trickett: [\[63266\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

David Mowat:

Department buildings are occupied by various organisations including staff from the Department's agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies who hold passes for access to the buildings.



■ Health Services: Directors

Dr Sarah Wollaston:

[\[63175\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, by what metrics the effectiveness of Regulation 5: Fit and proper persons: directors is measured; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Regulation 5 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014, The Fit and Proper Persons Requirement (FPPR) for Directors came into effect for National Health Service bodies on 27 November 2014 and was extended to cover all providers regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 1 April 2015.

The regulations include a requirement that they must be reviewed every five years, beginning five years after 1 April 2015. As yet the Department has not undertaken a review of regulation 5. Any such review would be completed with input from the CQC.

The CQC has advised that it is the provider's responsibility to ensure that all directors appointed are fit and proper for their role. The CQC's responsibility is to check whether providers have the right systems and processes in place to assure themselves of fitness.

The CQC has not yet conducted a thorough assessment of the regulations' effectiveness. However, in the first years of implementation, the CQC has received feedback on how the regulation is applied, often driven by an assumption that it is CQC's role to assess fitness directly rather than to assess providers' systems and processes.

In response to this feedback, the CQC has considered whether its current approach is in line with what can be reasonably expected of the CQC within the current regulations. The CQC has therefore begun a programme of work to improve its internal systems and processes for handling referrals under FPPR. There are three areas of CQC's guidance and processes that it is strengthening:

- Passing on all details of FPPR concerns raised with the CQC to providers

Presently the CQC does not pass on all concerns raised with it to providers to ask for an explanation. Instead the CQC assesses whether there are concerns that a reasonable employer should be expected to investigate and if the CQC does not think there is a substantive concern it does not pass the material on. When the CQC does share concerns, it initially summarises the information and will later send on the full material if requested.

CQC's intention is to change both of these steps so providers are notified of all concerns and receive all of the information immediately. The CQC will set out more clearly the type of investigation it expects providers to undertake, following notification.

- Interpretation of "serious mismanagement"

CQC believes there would be benefit in developing a clearer understanding of what type of behaviour constitutes 'serious management'. The CQC has prepared some draft guidance that characterises serious mismanagement and will shortly be publishing this for consultation. The CQC will develop the finalised draft into internal and external guidance as to how it interprets and applies this element of the regulation.

- The way CQC manages and records information regarding FPPR

It is recognised internally that CQC needs to improve the data available to itself about CQC's application of FPPR. The CQC is developing an approach to better enable it to track the volume of FPPR concerns shared with CQC by sector and the actions that result from these.

The CQC aims that, by undertaking the programme of improvements described above, CQC will be better placed to monitor the effectiveness of Regulation 5: Fit and Proper Persons in future.

Dr Sarah Wollaston:

[\[63183\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, in how many instances the Care Quality Commission has asked service providers to instigate fit and proper persons requirement (FPPR) investigations for each year since the FPPR came into force; and how many of those FPPR investigations resulted in a director being discharged from duty.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England.

The CQC has provided the following information:

The following actions have been taken in relation to Regulation 5 Fit and Proper Persons Requirement:

- CQC management reviews enable the CQC to reach a decision about the next course of action to take in response to a trigger for review, for example when we identify concerns around non-compliance with the regulations during an inspection, at the point of registration, or when we receive a safeguarding alert or concern. As at 8 February 2017 there have been 38 Adult Social Care (ASC), 14 Hospital, 5 Primary Medical Services and 37 Registration management reviews held regarding regulation 5.

There have been 28 enforcement actions under this regulation:

- 21 have been triggered by an enquiry, 16 of which were during the registration process.

- Seven were triggered by an inspection, four at ASC locations and three at Hospital locations.

- In seven cases registration was refused. In five cases registration was cancelled and in a further eight cases the providers were registered with agreed actions. The

remainder included recommended fixed penalty notices, urgent and non-urgent imposition of conditions and warning notices.

■ Health Services: Hearing Impairment

Alex Salmond: [\[63506\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many (a) staff in social care settings and (b) people providing care in people's own home have received bespoke British sign language and deaf awareness training in the last five years.

Alex Salmond: [\[63507\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many deaf people who have requested a British sign language interpreter at medical appointments have had their request fulfilled in the last five years.

Alex Salmond: [\[63508\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many appointments have had to be postponed due to a British sign language interpreter (a) not being booked and (b) being unavailable in the last five years.

Alex Salmond: [\[63509\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether the NHS has a standard procedure for booking British sign language interpreters; whether that guidance is publicised to NHS staff; and whether such staff can use it confidentially.

David Mowat:

Information is not collected centrally on the number of fulfilled requests by patients for a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter; the number of appointments postponed where a BSL interpreter was not provided, or on the number of staff providing social care who have received bespoke BSL and deaf awareness training.

The Accessible Information Standard, which was formerly known as SCCI1605 Accessible Information, was published by NHS England in July 2015. It sets out a series of requirements that organisations that provide National Health Service care or publicly funded social care in England must follow. These include arranging for support to be provided by communication professionals, including BSL interpreters, where this is needed to support effective communication. The Standard also provides direction around appropriate qualification and professional registration status of communication professionals, including BSL interpreters, as well as providing other guidance in this regard. However, the Standard does not direct how such support should be arranged or funded, as this is a matter for local decision.

Compliance with the Standard is a legal duty and all organisations that provide NHS care, including general practice, or adult social care were required to implement the Standard in full by 31 July 2016, and then ensure ongoing compliance thereafter.

### ■ Heart Diseases: Surgery

Jim Shannon: [\[63220\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps the NHS is taking to prevent technological faults in equipment used in heart operations from causing harm or fatality.

Nicola Blackwood:

Medical devices cannot be placed on the market in the United Kingdom without being CE marked by the manufacturer in accordance with the safety, quality and performance requirements of the relevant EC Directives (Medical Device Directive, Active Implantable Medical Device Directive or In Vitro Diagnostic Directive). Medical devices used for heart operations, such as pacemakers, aortic valves, transcatheter aortic valve implantation and stents fall into the highest risk category and as such have to meet the most stringent regulatory requirements set out in the Directives. Conformity against these requirements has to be assessed and certified by a third party independent certification organisation known as a notified body, which is designated by EC member states regulatory authorities as competent to carry out this function.

### ■ Hypertension and Sepsis: Medical Treatments

Jim Shannon: [\[63221\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the timetable is for availability on the NHS of a calcium channel blocker to tackle high blood pressure and sepsis.

Nicola Blackwood:

Calcium channel blockers are a licensed treatment for high blood pressure (hypertension). The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guideline on 'Hypertension in adults: diagnosis and management', published in 2011, recommends calcium channel blockers for use in the treatment of hypertension.

NICE published a guideline on 'Sepsis: recognition, diagnosis and early management' in July 2016 which covers the recognition, diagnosis and early management of sepsis for all populations. The guideline did not include any recommendation to use calcium channel blockers in this condition. In the absence of NICE guidance on the use of a treatment, healthcare professionals will assess scientific research as it emerges but will only change treatment practice when this is supported by evidence.

### ■ Ketamine

Jim Shannon: [\[63422\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether an assessment has been made of the potential merits of making ketamine available on the NHS to help tackle alcohol dependency.

Nicola Blackwood:

There are no current plans to offer Ketamine as a treatment for alcohol dependency on the National Health Service.

■ Mental Health Services: Northamptonshire

David Mackintosh:

[\[63396\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much funding was provided to mental health services in Northamptonshire in 2015-16; and how much is projected to be spent in 2016-17.

Nicola Blackwood:

The following table shows the funding for mental health services in Northamptonshire in 2015 to 2016, and the projected spend for 2016 to 2017. The figures do not include any mental health spend on specialised commissioning.

	2015/16	2016/17
	Actual spend £000s	Actual spend £000s
NHS Corby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	10,032	10,961
NHS Nene CCG	102,899	108,337

The numbers do not include specialised services.

■ Palbociclib

Tom Brake:

[\[63499\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will take steps to ensure that palbociclib is made available to all eligible breast cancer patients.

Nicola Blackwood:

Through its technology appraisal programme, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides independent, evidence-based guidance for the National Health Service on whether drugs and treatments represent a clinically and cost effective use of NHS resources. NICE is currently appraising Palbociclib in combination with an aromatase inhibitor for treating hormone receptor-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative, locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer in adults. NICE published its draft guidance on 3 February and stakeholders have until 24 February to comment on its draft recommendations. NICE expects to publish its final guidance in June 2017.

## ■ Palliative Care: Hearing Impairment

Alex Salmond: [\[63504\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many deaf people have received end of life care in the last five years.

David Mowat:

The information requested is not collected or held centrally in the format requested.

However NHS Digital has provided the attached data on discharged patients receiving palliative care with a primary or secondary diagnosis of hearing loss.

**Attachments:**

1. PQ63504 attached document [PQ63504 attached table.xlsx]

Alex Salmond: [\[63505\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many NHS staff involved in end of life care have received bespoke British sign language and deaf awareness training for their work in the last five years.

David Mowat:

This information is not collected or held centrally.

## ■ Paula Vasco-Knight

Dr Sarah Wollaston: [\[63192\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, for what reasons the Care Quality Commission closed its fit and proper persons requirement process on Paula Vasco-Knight, then Chief Executive of South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has advised that in October 2015 the CQC received information of concern regarding the appointment of Paula Vasco-Knight as Acting Chief Executive at St George's University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. These concerns related to Paula Vasco-Knight's conduct whilst she was Chief Executive at South Devon Foundation Trust. The CQC followed this up directly with the trust to review whether they had followed appropriate recruitment processes and carried out robust checks to determine Paula Vasco-Knight's fitness prior to her employment.

Based on the extensive evidence supplied by the trust and information provided separately from the Nursing and Midwifery Council the CQC concluded that the trust had not breached the fit and proper persons regulation at that time in relation to that appointment. The CQC informed the trust of this decision in February 2016 but reserved the right to reopen the case in light of any further information received. At the time of this decision, neither CQC nor the trust was aware of the fraud charges.

In April 2016 CQC received new information that led it to re-open the case. In early May 2016 both CQC and St George's became aware for the first time of the criminal investigation and fraud charges being brought against Paula Vasco-Knight. The CQC

were subsequently asked by NHS Protect to put the case on hold pending their criminal investigation. St George's University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust suspended Paula Vasco-Knight at this time. These are matters of public record.

## HOME OFFICE

### ■ Asylum

Kate Osamor:

[\[63501\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum decisions were made in cases of applicants who were detained at the point of decision in each quarter since 1 January 2014.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

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

### ■ Coastal Areas: Police

James Cartlidge:

[\[63500\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to improve coastal and marine policing in the East of England.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

This government recognises the importance of protecting our shores, which consist of over 11,000 miles of mainland coastline. Border Force is focused on coordinating resources and the timely sharing of intelligence to deliver the right level of security. This work means that the UK has a layered approach to coastal defence, which includes on-shore resources and intelligence and surveillance capabilities. It also includes an integrated command structure, working with other government departments and near-Europe partners.

Additionally Border Force and operational partners are currently conducting intelligence-led activity on a number of fronts. Building an effective intelligence picture and understanding is essential to combat both opportunistic individuals and Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) who would seek to circumvent UK border controls. Border Force has established a Maritime Information Bureau, attached to the National Maritime Information Centre to coordinate all maritime intelligence flows respectively and to inform multi-agency operational responses aimed at securing the UK border. This is supported by public facing intelligence work under the banner of Project Kraken. Kraken has helped raise awareness in local communities to the threats within maritime draw stakeholders together via an engagement strategy, and develop a more effective methodology for intelligence sharing; ensuring assets and resource can be deployed to deliver greatest effect.

Finally, Border Force has purchased new capability, in the form of coastal patrol vessels (CPV). These new boats complement the work being done by Border Force's



cutter fleet and are being introduced in a phased approach over two years. The first was deployed in October last year and there will be more in service by the end of April 2017. They are smaller than the cutters and far more nimble and responsive. The CPVs' unique capabilities, speed and size, will allow them to provide an enhanced level of responsiveness in cross-Channel, Channel Islands and Estuarine areas; releasing the cutters to complete longer-range operations around the coast. The purchase of this additional capability forms part of Border Force's long term strategic planning which will enable it to support operations in the maritime sector. They will help Border Force to respond to a range of criminal activity both now and in the future.

■ Crime: Convictions

Lyn Brown: [63351]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of (a) fraudulent banking transactions and (b) crimes in other categories result in a conviction.

Brandon Lewis:

The Home Office do not hold the information requested. Data on the number of defendants cautioned, proceeded against at magistrates' court, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for fraud and other offences are published by the Ministry of Justice. These data are available on the Gov.uk website in the "Outcome by offence" tables found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2015>

■ Cybercrime

Lyn Brown: [63350]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of online fraud and other forms of cybercrime was reported to the police in each of the last three years.

Brandon Lewis:

The Home Office does not hold the information requested. The Home Office collects data from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) on the number of recorded fraud offences in England and Wales, including offences recorded under the Computer Misuse Act.

These data, which are published by the ONS, are available on their website at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice#datasets> (see 'Crime in England and Wales: Appendix tables' – Table A4). The Home Office does not hold information on the number of recorded fraud offences that were committed online.

The ONS also now publishes experimental data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales on fraud and cyber crime incidents experienced by individuals. As part of this suite of statistics, they publish data on the proportion of incidents of fraud and computer misuse reported to the police or Action Fraud. These data can be found on



the ONS website (same link as above) in the 'Crime in England and Wales: Experimental tables' – see Table E7.

■ Drugs: Misuse

Andrew Stephenson:

[63185]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of deaths from illegal drug use.

Sarah Newton:

Evidence based, high-quality treatment is the most effective way of tackling illicit and other harmful drug use. It enables people to recover from dependence, improves their physical and mental health and reduces the harm caused to themselves and people around them, including reducing crime.

We have provided local authorities, through the Public Health Grant, with millions of pounds to ensure that they are able to commission effective and efficient drug treatment services and are currently updating clinical guidance so that clinicians will have the latest evidence based guidance on how to help people with drug problems.

But we are clear that this has to be part of a balanced approach to drugs, so as well as helping people overcome their drug problems, we are also working to prevent and reduce drug use in our communities, while ensuring that our drugs laws are enforced.

■ Entry Clearances

Julian Sturdy:

[63483]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of non-settlement visa applications was processed within 15 working days in the last 12 months.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Home Office regularly publishes quarterly statistics on the processing of non-settlement visa applications within 15 working days (the latest of which were published on 1 December 2016).

Reports covering the last 12 months can be found here:[https://www.gov.uk/search?q=international+operations+transparency+data&show\\_organisations\\_filter=true](https://www.gov.uk/search?q=international+operations+transparency+data&show_organisations_filter=true)

■ Exclusion Orders

Julian Sturdy:

[63395]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been barred from entering the UK for having engaged in unacceptable behaviour in each of the last five years.

Mr Ben Wallace:

The number of Unacceptable Behaviour exclusions is published in the Contest counter-terrorism strategy annual report.

The figures for 2013, 2014 and 2015 are as follows:

2013 – 14

2014 – 15

2015 – 16

■ Hate Crime: Convictions

Lyn Brown: [\[63348\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of (a) online and (b) non-cyber harassment and hate crimes resulted in a conviction in the last year for which figures are available.

Sarah Newton:

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for data on convictions. The Ministry of Justice has informed us that the information requested is not centrally held.

■ Home Office: Security

Jon Trickett: [\[63267\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many security passes into her Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in her Department.

Sarah Newton:

I am sorry but this information is not available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Immigration: Afghanistan

James Gray: [\[63533\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum or visa applications from Afghan interpreters formerly employed by the armed forces were refused in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

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

■ Knives: Amnesties

Stephen McPartland: [\[63546\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will introduce a knife amnesty in England and Wales.

Sarah Newton:

Tackling knife crime is a priority for the Government. Knife amnesties are an operational matter for individual police forces, and we have been encouraging police

forces to undertake national coordinated weeks of action to tackle knife crime under Operation Sceptre.

Action under Operation Sceptre includes police forces targeting habitual knife carriers, undertaking weapon sweeps of local areas, test purchases of knives from retailers, and highlighting the location of surrender bins where knives can be handed in locally. Twenty one forces took part in the most recent week of national action in October 2016.

#### ■ Licensing Laws

Fiona Bruce:

[\[63375\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of local authorities' capacity to implement early morning restriction orders on the sale of alcohol.

Sarah Newton:

In 2014 the Home Office sought feedback from local authorities which had consulted on implementing an Early Morning Alcohol Restriction Order (EMRO), and from others which had not actively considered an EMRO. The Home Office has not recently assessed local authorities' capacity to implement EMROs.

#### ■ Overseas Students: Scotland

Stuart C. McDonald:

[\[63160\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many certificates of sponsorship were issued to Scottish employers for students switching from Tier 4 to Tier 2 visas in each year from 2011 to 2015.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

I am sorry but this information is not available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

#### ■ Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[63335\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress has been made on implementing the processes required to enforce the Proceeds of Crime Act systems.

Sarah Newton:

The Government set out the steps it will take to improve the use of confiscation orders in Treasury Minutes (CM 9351) in November 2016. These steps include the publication of an Action Plan on Asset Recovery this year.

In addition, the Criminal Finances Bill, which will provide law enforcement agencies with new and strengthened powers to investigate and recover criminal assets, is currently before the House.

## ■ Refugees: Children

Tom Brake: [\[63231\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to continue the implementation of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 for the rest of the current Parliament.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Under the Immigration Act we made a commitment to transfer a specified number of unaccompanied refugee children to the UK, following consultation with local authorities on capacity.

On 8 February, the Government announced that we will transfer the specified number of 350 children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act. This includes the more than 200 children already transferred from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance.

We will announce in due course the basis on which further children will be transferred from Europe to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act to the specified number.

Louise Haigh: [\[63510\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children have come to the UK under the Dubs amendment.

Louise Haigh: [\[63531\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which (a) individuals and (b) teams in her Department are responsible for bringing unaccompanied children into the UK under the Dubs amendment.

Louise Haigh: [\[63532\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment the Government has made of its effectiveness in implementing the Dubs amendment.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK from Europe. This included more than 750 from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance. Over 200 of those children met the published criteria for section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

The Government takes its obligations under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 extremely seriously and we have teams across Government, including policy, operational and legal teams, involved with the efforts to implement section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. We are also working closely with our European partners, whose agreement we need in order to implement the legislation.

The Government has committed to transferring more eligible children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 up to the specified number of 350, in the

coming months. The basis on which further children will be transferred to the UK from Europe under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 will be published in due course.

■ Slavery: Convictions

Diana Johnson: [\[63394\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 October 2015 to Question 48815, how many convictions for slavery and human trafficking there have been under each of the new offences following the passage of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 since the criminal justice provisions in that Act commenced on 31 July 2015.

Sarah Newton:

Data on convictions on a principle offence basis are currently only available for 2015. There were no convictions relating to modern slavery or trafficking offences between 1 August and 31 December 2015. Data on convictions for 2016 are not currently available.

■ Travel Restrictions: USA

Sarah Olney: [\[62340\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the US Administration on its travel ban for refugees and nationals of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Home Secretary spoke to General Kelly, Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security, on 30 January to discuss a range of issues of mutual importance, including President Trump's Executive Order on entry to the United States.

The Home Secretary made clear the difficulties related to the Executive Order and gained Secretary Kelly's confirmation that individuals travelling on British passports, including those who hold dual nationality, should be exempt from this Order.

■ Visas: Appeals

Julian Sturdy: [\[63537\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of administrative review appeals for a UK visa was processed within 28 working days in the last 12 months.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The number of Administrative Reviews for a UK visa processed within 28 days global is not included in published statistics.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION**

## ■ House of Commons Commission: Security

Jon Trickett:

[62537]

To ask the right hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington, representing the House of Commons Commission, which persons not employed by the House of Commons Commission hold security passes entitling them to enter the House of Commons Commission's premises.

Tom Brake:

Persons not employed by the House of Commons Commission who hold security passes entitling them to enter the House of Commons estate are:

- Members of the House of Commons and their spouses/partners
- Members of the House of Lords and their spouses/partners
- Staff of Members of both Houses, political party staff sponsored by Members and staff of party research units
- Staff of the House of Lords
- Contractors
- Members of the Metropolitan Police contracted by Parliament
- Government officials
- Specialist staff of parliamentary bodies
- Specialist Advisers
- Roll A Agents & specified legal advisers used by the House
- Media
- Union representatives for House staff
- Former Members of both Houses
- Retired senior parliamentary officials
- Residents of the Parliamentary Estate

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

## ■ Central African Republic: Humanitarian Aid

Fiona Bruce:

[63371]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent steps her Department has taken in response to the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic; and if she will make a statement.

James Wharton:

DFID remains concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) with an estimated 50% of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. DFID has a three-year package of humanitarian support to CAR and refugees in Cameroon, enabling the UN and NGOs to provide healthcare, protection, food aid and support for livelihoods. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

■ Department for International Development: Pay

Jon Trickett:

[\[63074\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in her Department in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

James Wharton:

DFID's total staff costs for male and female employees in 2015/16 (including allowances/overtime/Employer Pension & NI Contributions) were

MALE

FEMALE

£69,860,590

£75,791,655

Pay bill figures for men and women in each department can vary significantly based on representation at different grades and how many staff work full or part time.

■ Department for International Development: Security

Jon Trickett:

[\[63269\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many security passes into her Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in her Department.

James Wharton:

DFID security passes, subject to security checks, may be issued to individuals to support a business requirement to enter a DFID building. DFID's electronic system records a security pass is valid but does not record information on employment status.

■ Developing Countries: Children

Steve McCabe:

[\[63340\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 31 January 2017 to Question 61410, on developing countries: children, how her Department measures the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance which is not included in her Department's annual targets.

James Wharton:

DFID programmes are assessed by annual reviews during the course of the intervention and again by project completion reports when they conclude to test their effectiveness.

In 2016 the UK's Multilateral Development Review systematically assessed the performance and effectiveness of 38 multilateral institutions, including humanitarian partners who respond to crises involving vulnerable people including children.

Agencies were scored against results, value for money, risk and assurance, transparency, accountability, alongside their relevance in meeting today's most urgent challenges. This is a more rigorous measurement of humanitarian impact than analysis based on annual targets. In response, 30% of our core funding to UN humanitarian organisations will be dependent on improved results and effectiveness.

■ Developing Countries: Nutrition

Brendan O'Hara:

[\[63106\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she has taken to improve nutrition outcomes for women and girls through her Department's water and sanitation programmes.

James Wharton:

DFID is strengthening the nutrition outcomes of its water, sanitation and hygiene programmes by ensuring programmes target the specific needs of women and young children and by focusing on activities such as food preparation and storage, safe feeding for young children and handwashing with soap. These approaches will help to avert stunting, wasting and other forms of malnutrition.

■ Ukraine: Humanitarian Aid

Emily Thornberry:

[\[63387\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent representations she has made to the Governments of (a) Ukraine and (b) Russia on humanitarian access to eastern Ukraine; what assessment she has made of the effect of recent fighting on civilian infrastructure in that region; and what steps she is taking to assist civilians affected by the ongoing conflict in that region.

James Wharton:

The UK has consistently called on all sides to grant humanitarian agencies full and unhindered access to vulnerable people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Fighting around Avdiivka has resulted in a worrying deterioration in the humanitarian situation. Severe damage to civilian infrastructure and utilities means vulnerable people are forced to face sub-zero temperatures without reliable access to water, electricity or heating. On 31 January, the Foreign Secretary called for a full and sustained ceasefire, in line with the provisions of the Minsk agreements, to facilitate crucial repairs, restore vital utilities, and assist the vulnerable.



UK Aid is helping to save lives and support civilians affected by the ongoing conflict.

■ UN Commission on the Status of Women

Sarah Champion: [\[63439\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 28 November 2016 to Question 53867, who will represent the Government at the 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2017.

James Wharton:

Government representation at the 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2017 is in the process of being finalised.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

■ Department for International Trade: Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[63075\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in his Department in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

Mark Garnier:

The Department for International Trade was not yet formed in the 2015-16 financial year and therefore this data is not available.

The Civil Service has been publishing mean and median gender pay gaps for each department since 2008 as part of the annual release of *Civil Service Statistics* by the Office for National Statistics. The latest gender pay gap data (published in October earlier this year) can be found on the Office for National Statistics website. The Department for International Trade will contribute to the next release.

■ Fossil Fuels: Export Credit Guarantees

Caroline Lucas: [\[63111\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what export credits the Government granted to fossil fuel projects in 2015-16.

Mark Garnier:

UK Export Finance publishes details of the guarantees, insurance policies and loans it has issued on an annual basis. This includes a sector classification for the export supported. The list of UK Export Finance business supported in 2015-16 is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-export-finance-business-supported-2015>

**JUSTICE**

## ■ Birmingham Prison

Richard Burgon: [\[60049\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many Tornado team members were deployed to HM Prison Birmingham on 16 December 2016; and from which prisons they were so deployed.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Tornado teams consist of prison officers who are trained in an advanced level of control and restraint techniques, in addition to their core duties. NOMS has over 2000 such trained staff across the country. Tornado trained staff were deployed to HMP Birmingham to provide mutual aid in resolving the Concerted Indiscipline that took place on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 as detailed below in Table 1. A Tornado Unit consists of 14 staff - 12 trained staff plus 2 Commanders, meaning that 280 staff were deployed to HMP Birmingham to assist with resolution of this incident.

**TABLE 1****Tornado Team Deployments to HMP Birmingham by Establishment**

<b>Sending Establishment</b>	<b>Number of Units Requested</b>
The Mount	0.5
Littlehey	0.5
Aylesbury	0.5
Huntercombe	0.5
Whitemoor	0.5
Ranby	0.5
Forest Bank	0.5
Lindholme	0.5
Rye Hill	0.5
Oakwood	0.5
Long Lartin	0.5
Featherstone	0.5
Hewell	0.5

**TABLE 1**

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Brinsford	0.5
Gartree	0.5
Stafford	0.5
Dovegate	0.5
Glen Parva	0.5
Onley	0.5
Swinfen Hall	0.5
Stoke Heath	0.5
Nottingham	0.5
Stocken	0.5
Leicester	0.5
Manchester	0.5
Whatton	0.5
Risley	0.5
Doncaster	0.5
Woodhill	0.5
Bullington	0.5
Lowdham Grange	0.5
Peterborough	0.5
Leeds	0.5
Wealstun	0.5
Styal	0.5
Buckley Hall	0.5
Preston	0.5
Garth	0.5
Wymott	0.5

TABLE 1

South West Region

0.5

20

Richard Burgon:

[\[60050\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many West Midlands police officers were deployed under authority of the incident Gold Commander (a) inside and (b) outside the perimeter of HM Prison Birmingham during the disturbance of 16 December 2016.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

This information is not held centrally.

I would like to give thanks to West Midlands Police, who supported the Prison Service throughout the day, and to the ambulance crews and the fire service who also provided assistance.

Richard Burgon:

[\[60051\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, at what time (a) G4S transferred control of HM Prison Birmingham to HM Prison Service and (b) authority over that prison was restored to G4S during the disturbance of 16 December 2016 at HM Prison Birmingham.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

At 11:20 a.m., Gold Command was opened.

At 2:30 p.m. sole responsibility for Gold Functions transferred to the Prison Service.

Order was restored shortly after 10pm, at which point control was handed back to G4S.

Throughout the day, regular cross-government calls took place to make necessary preparations and to ensure the Prison Service had all the support it needed.

## ■ Children: Custody

Mrs Madeleine Moon:

[\[63110\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent discussions she has had with the Family Justice Board on handling vexatious repeated requests relating to access to children; and if she will make a statement.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The family court already has powers to deal with vexatious applications in respect of children. It is unacceptable that some people use the court process to continue harassment of their ex-partners.

When disposing of proceedings under the Children Act 1989 about a child's upbringing, and whether or not the court makes any order about the child, the court may make an order under section 91(14) of that Act. This order will name a person

who is considered by the court to be vexatious and will restrict their ability to make further specified applications in respect of the child concerned without first obtaining the court's permission. The court may decide to make such an order either of its own motion or in response to a request by a party to the proceedings.

The Family Justice Board has not discussed this specific issue.

■ Crime: Victims

Jess Phillips: [\[63050\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many cases of breaches or failings of the Victims' Code have been received by her Department since 1 January 2017 by (a) text, (b) tweet, (c) e-mail and (d) letter.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

We have made positive steps to improve the experience of victims, to reduce unnecessary stress and lessen the emotional turmoil of attending court. But we have been clear that more must be done. We will set out our strategy for victims within 12 months, and will bring forward any appropriate primary legislation.

We are considering how compliance with the Victims' Code might be improved and monitored. We are also exploring how those delivering services can be better held to account, and are developing plans to engage victims and victims' groups for their views.

The Ministry of Justice has no facility to receive text messages. A record of tweets sent to Ministers can be viewed on their public profile. Since the beginning of the year, there has been one letter from an MP whose constituents had concerns about the Code and wanted to share their experiences. We have also received, by email, a report from Voice4Victims.

Jess Phillips: [\[63051\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what training is available for (a) police, (b) probation staff and (c) Crown Prosecution Service staff on the nature of and compliance with the Victims' Code.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

It is important that we make sure criminal justice agency staff are appropriately trained to deliver victims their rights.

The College of Policing sets and maintains national learning standards to support and drive national consistency in honouring the commitments of the Police service to the Victims' Code. However Forces are autonomous as to 'how' training is delivered and undertaken locally. The College recently re-launched the Victims' Code electronic package, available to all Police Officers and staff.

Probation Service Officer and Probation Officer training includes e-learning about how victim issues and information should be addressed in parole reports and liaison between Victim Liaison Officers and Offender Managers in recall cases. Skills development training for Victim Liaison Officers was delivered between September

2014 and March 2016, focused on work with victims within the parameters of the Victim Contact Scheme.

All CPS staff who attend court have been given a day's worth of face to face training on the new Speaking to Witnesses at Court Guidance and how to interact with victims and witnesses at court without undermining the fairness of the trial. This is supported by a comprehensive package of e-learning, which barristers who appear for the CPS in court are expected to complete. In addition, all staff in CPS Victim Liaison Units are trained regarding timely and good quality communications to victims.

We are considering how compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (Victims' Code) might be improved and monitored. Plans to engage with and obtain the views of victims and victims' groups and criminal justice agencies are being developed

#### ■ Criminal Records: Employment

Andrew Selous:

[60212]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what progress the Government has made on its ban the box initiative; which businesses have signed up to that initiative; how many employees of her Department have unspent convictions; what progress has been made on that initiative across the wider public sector; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Government is committed to improving diversity of opportunity and creating an inclusive working environment that attracts the best talent and makes the most of potential skills and productivity of ex-offenders in the community.

The Civil Service has committed to banning the box, following the former Prime Minister's commitment in February 2016. Business in the Community's Ban the Box campaign was formally launched across the Civil Service on the 17th October 2016.

A number of departments are already operating their recruitment process in line with the Ban the Box principles. This approach is now being formalised across the Civil Service and departments are working to implement this initiative quickly and effectively to ensure their roles attract the widest possible range of applicants. The Cabinet Office is responsible for the Ban the Box policy in the Civil Service.

The Ministry of Justice is supportive of the initiative and will explore options for promoting Ban the Box across both the Public and Private sector to increase opportunities available to offenders.

Information about the number of business signed up to the initiative is not held by the MoJ. The Business in the Community campaign maintain the list and it can be accessed here: <http://www.bitc.org.uk/programmes/ban-box/who-has-banned-box-0>

The information requested relating to how many MoJ employees have unspent convictions could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Domestic Violence: Criminal Injuries Compensation

Fiona Mactaggart:

[\[63347\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many victims of domestic violence received awards from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in 2016; what the average length of time was between application and receipt of such an award; and what the average value of such awards was.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The information requested can be found in the table below.

<b>VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE</b>	<b>2016</b>
Number of victims who received an award	234
Average time taken between application and receipt of award	612 days
Average amount of award	£7,497.74

From 1 February 2015 it became mandatory to indicate the nature of the assault when applying for compensation. Previously, victims of domestic violence and others did not have to declare this information. The data provided therefore may not include all victims of domestic violence who received a payment of compensation from the CICA in 2016. This may also include those who suffered family violence.

To ensure the application of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is as robust as possible there are safeguards built in. If any applicant disagrees with a decision they can apply for a review. If they remain unhappy they can appeal to an independent tribunal. The table above includes cases in which the award was paid after review and appeal.

The minimum award a victim of domestic abuse can receive under the Scheme is £1,000. However, additional or higher injury awards may be made for disabling mental injuries, depending on the length of time that the applicant's symptoms persist. In some complex cases, where medical treatment is ongoing or the level of recovery is unknown, it may be in the best interests of an applicant not to settle their claim until the long term implications of an injury can be properly assessed.

During 2016 CICA revised its operating model and undertook a major recruitment exercise to help improve the efficiency of the service it provides to applicants. This included increasing its staff compliment by around 15 per cent since 31 March 2016, refining the online application process and developing its online customer portal.

■ Electronic Tagging

Mr Mark Hendrick:

[\[59530\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 February 2016, HCWS549, what progress her Department has made on

procuring new electronic monitoring based on satellite tracking technology; and what the costs of that procurement process have been to date.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The procurement for the supplier of the new Electronic Monitoring Tags is ongoing and we expect to confirm the outcome in due course.

Since April 2016, the cost of procurement activity for the supplier of the new electronic monitoring tags has been £450,000.

#### ■ Huntercombe Prison

Keith Vaz: [\[61949\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much of the budget of HM Prison Huntercombe is spent on (a) prisoner education and (b) prisoners' access to leisure activities.

Keith Vaz: [\[61950\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the budget is of HM Prison Huntercombe for 2017-18; and how that budget is broken down.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The budget of HM Prison Huntercombe for 2017-18 has not yet been set. Discussions on the prison's Performance Agreement 2017-18 which will include its budget are due to conclude by 31 March 2017.

The budget of HM Prison Huntercombe does not presently include provision for prisoner education as this is made through the central Offender Learning & Skills Service. In future that funding will be devolved to the prison under the changes proposed in the White Paper *Prison Safety & Reform*. In its present 2016-17 budget the prison has provision of 0.15% of the total budget for prisoner recreation.

#### ■ Immigration: Appeals

Keith Vaz: [\[62151\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when she last observed proceedings at a First-tier Immigration Tribunal.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The Secretary of State for Justice has visited HM Courts & Tribunal Service operational venues in Central London, Norwich, Maidstone and Bristol. She plans to continue her programme of visits over the coming months.

#### ■ Law Reporting: Contracts

Mr David Hanson: [\[63495\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps she is taking to ensure that (a) transcription of UK court and tribunal hearings will not be undertaken offshore, (b) UK transcription jobs and skills will be safeguarded and (c) safeguards are put in place to



eliminate risk to national security following contracts being awarded as a result of the Framework and Contracts for the Provision of Transcription Services for Court Reporting and Transcription Services OJEU Prior Information Notice tender.

Sir Oliver Heald:

Any proposal to send offshore transcription services under the Framework Agreement for the provision of Court Reporting and Transcription Services must comply with government guidance on the management of any additional security risks associated with the storage, processing or transmission of information offshore and takes account of current European Union requirements to confirm the adequacy of legislated protection of personal information in the country where storage or data processing occurs.

No element of the services supplied under the Framework Agreement can be sent offshore without the express written permission of the relevant Senior Information Responsible Officer (SIRO). Any request to send offshore parts of the service would be subject to a stringent consideration of the implications in terms of national security, data security and any broader risks and benefits.

■ Law Reporting: Welsh Language

Mr David Hanson:

[\[63473\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if she will ensure the local provision of Welsh language transcription services in Wales once contracts have been awarded under the Framework and Contracts for the Provision of Transcription Services for Court Reporting and Transcription Services OJEU Prior Information Notice (ref: 2016/S 155-281276) tender.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The detailed service specifications developed by Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) for the future provision of court transcription services include a requirement to comply with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Welsh Language Scheme.

As part of the tender evaluation process all bidders were required to demonstrate their understanding of the Welsh Language Act and their approach to incorporating the Welsh language requirements into their service model whilst maintaining specified quality and timeliness standards.

Whilst it is for individual suppliers to determine their approach to delivering Welsh language services, all service providers will therefore be required to maintain the ability to deliver legal verbatim transcripts of hearings conducted in the Welsh language, at no additional cost to users, and have access to Welsh speaking staff with the appropriate security clearances as required.

■ Legal Aid Scheme: Wales

Liz Saville Roberts:

[\[60518\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what discussions she has had with the Welsh Government on the provision of housing legal aid advice in Wales.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The Government has ensured that legal aid for housing advice remains available for all cases in Wales which are in scope and where both the means and merits criteria are met. The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) takes active steps to ensure adequate provision of housing advice around Wales, reviewing capacity and accessibility quarterly. At present all procurement areas within Wales have provision, but if issues are identified the LAA moves quickly to safeguard provision in specific localities, running tenders as appropriate to maintain continuity of service.

■ Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012

Christina Rees:

[\[60702\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, on what dates the Government plans to (a) start and (b) end the review of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.

Sir Oliver Heald:

We will begin reviewing the changes made by LASPO by submitting a post-legislative memorandum of LASPO as a whole to the Justice Select Committee in the coming months. This will provide an initial assessment of the extent to which LASPO met its objectives. We will then begin work on a more substantive review of the reforms of Part 1 and Part 2 LASPO. We are committed to completing this review by April 2018.

■ Legal Profession

Stephen Timms:

[\[59098\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate her Department has made of the financial contribution to the UK economy of law firms based elsewhere in the EU and operating in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Sir Oliver Heald:

English law has had a huge impact, spreading the rule of law around the world. It is the law of choice in over a quarter of jurisdictions. We will be championing our £25 billion legal services industry as a key part of post-Brexit global Britain.

We are not aware of any reports that include aggregate data on the contribution that international, including EU, firms make to the UK economy. It may also be the case that firms do not separate out their UK income from their wider income, especially where they operate in a number of jurisdictions, or where work is spread across jurisdictions or provided across borders.

English common law is the preferred choice for international commercial contracts, and English law governs about 40 per cent of all global corporate arbitrations.

■ Maidstone Prison

Keith Vaz: [\[61924\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much of the budget for HM Prison Maidstone is spent on (a) prisoner education and (b) prisoners' access to leisure activities.

Keith Vaz: [\[61928\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the budget is of HMP Maidstone for 2017-18; and how that budget is broken down.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The budget of HM Prison Maidstone for 2017-18 has not yet been set. Discussions on the prison's Performance Agreement 2017-18 which will include its budget are due to conclude by 31 March 2017

The budget of HM Prison Maidstone does not presently include provision for prisoner education as this is made through the central Offender Learning & Skills Service. In future that funding will be devolved to the prison under the changes proposed in the White Paper Prison Safety & Reform. In its present 2016-17 budget the prison has provision of 0.32% of the total budget for prisoner recreation.

■ Members: Correspondence

Mr Peter Lilley: [\[63402\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hitchin and Harpenden of 2 December 2016 on behalf of his constituent, William Dickinson of Cross Farm, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, on the issue of rural crime.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The response to the Rt Hon. Member's letter of 2 December 2016 was issued on 14 February 2017.

■ Ministry of Justice: Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[63076\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in her Department in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

To provide the total pay bill by gender and the per capita spend for each man and woman for the 2015-16 financial year would incur disproportionate costs.

Pay bill figures for men and women in each department can vary significantly based on representation at different grades and how many staff in the department are in full or part time work. A more meaningful way of considering existing pay disparities amongst men and women would be to look at each department's gender pay gap. The Civil Service has been publishing mean and median gender pay gaps for each

department since 2008 as part of the annual release of Civil Service Statistics by the Office for National Statistics. The latest gender pay gap data (published in October earlier this year) can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/datasets/civilservicestatistics>

■ Ministry of Justice: Security

Jon Trickett: [63271]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many security passes into her Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in her Department.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Offences against Children

Anna Turley: [63468]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if she will commence section 67 of the Serious Crime Act 2015.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The Government is committed to commencing section 67 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 and will do so as soon as possible.

■ Personal Injury: Compensation

Tom Elliott: [63485]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps she has taken to ensure that cost savings to consumers resulting from reforms to personal injury statutes are passed on to consumers by the insurance industry.

Sir Oliver Heald:

Leading insurers have already publicly committed to pass on savings to consumers through lower premiums.

Motor insurance is intensely competitive on price and insurance companies will have little choice but to pass on savings, or risk being priced out of the market.

The government will, however, monitor the industry's reaction to the reforms and will consider further action if required.

■ Prison Officers: Health Hazards

Mr Gary Streeter: [63242]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps she is taking to protect prison officers from the harmful effects of psychoactive substances used by prisoners.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

We take a zero tolerance approach to drugs in prisons. Psychoactive substances present a variety of risks to our establishments, not just to the individuals taking them but also to other prisoners and staff.

We are committed to improving safety across the prison estate and are already taking action on the supply and use of dangerous psychoactive substances by prisoners. We have developed an innovative new drug testing programme, trained over 300 drug detection dogs to specifically detect psychoactive substances and introduced new legislation, which makes it a criminal offence to possess any psychoactive substance in a custodial institution.

All prisons have robust risk assessments and control measures in place, including local first aid and healthcare provisions. If staff suspect they have been exposed to drugs or psychoactive substances, there are a range of support mechanisms available to them. This includes confidential counselling, occupational health services and care-teams in prisons. Following any suspected exposure, staff are also advised to visit the nearest Accident & Emergency Department so that their symptoms can be treated and the appropriate medical advice can be received.

#### ■ Prisoners' Release: Birth Certificates

David Mackintosh:

[\[59224\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of making the presentation of birth certificates compulsory for UK-born residents leaving prison to help ensure that they have adequate ID for accessing benefits and other services.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The MoJ has not made such an assessment. Our work to improve resettlement of prisoners after release is to prioritise finding accommodation and employment and building a life free from crime.

We are carrying out a comprehensive review of the probation service to improve outcomes for offenders and communities. Public protection is our top priority and we will not hesitate to take the necessary action to make sure our vital reforms are being delivered to reduce reoffending, cut crime and prevent future victims.

#### ■ Prisoners' Transfers

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[62920\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that familial relationships are maintained for prisoners that are transferred to prisons more than 100 miles away from their home; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The White Paper on Prison Safety and Reform set out the importance of strengthening family ties, which have a positive impact on a prisoner's safety and wellbeing and maintaining links within the community.

During induction, any support required to maintain or establish family contact is identified. In some establishments family engagement workers support prisoners and their families to help this process. Family days are held at most prisons where the family can spend time together in as normal an environment as possible. The Assisted Prison Visits Scheme is available to support eligible people who are struggling to meet the costs of visiting someone in prison.

The Secretary of State commissioned Lord Farmer to investigate how supporting men in prison in England and Wales to engage with their families can reduce reoffending and assist in addressing intergenerational crime as part of the reform agenda. The report of the Farmer review is due to be published in the Spring of 2017.

■ Prisoners: Education and Training

Luciana Berger: [\[61751\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much was spent on education and training for prisoners in each year since 2010.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The information requested is available on GOV.UK.

■ Prisoners: Suicide

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[61966\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate she has made of the number of self-inflicted deaths in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[61967\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps she is taking to reduce the number of self-inflicted deaths in prisons in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Government publishes statistics on deaths in prison custody, including self-inflicted deaths, quarterly and updated detailed tables annually. They can be viewed on gov.uk.

The Government believes that prisons should be places of safety and reform. The number of self-inflicted deaths is extremely concerning and we are committed to reducing it. Our recent White Paper set out specific steps that we are taking to improve safety. They include investing over £100m to recruit an additional 2,500 staff across the estate by the end of 2018.

We will carefully study the details of all deaths in custody to determine whether there are any patterns, or lessons to be learned, to further our understanding of why these tragic events happen.

We have also put in place a range of measures in place to help support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm or suicide, especially in the first 24 hours where prisoners

are at their most vulnerable. We are also investing more in specialist mental health training for staff. The National Offender Management Service is also undertaking a suicide and self-harm reduction project, led by an experienced prison governor, which is driving work in this area.

■ Prisons: Security

Mr David Burrowes:

[62803]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the oral contribution of 24 January 2017, Official Report, column 144, on prison staff, if she will assess the effect of the reduction in accommodation fabric checks on (a) the incidence of self-harm and (b) maintaining order and security in prisons; and whether the outcomes set out in Prison Service Instruction 28/2011 and Prison Service Instruction 09/2016 have been achieved.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Prisons employ a range of operational security measures aimed at keeping prisons safe and secure. Accommodation Fabric Checks (AFCs) support this by disrupting the ability of prisoners to store prohibited items in their cells either for their own purposes or on behalf of others. Each prison must assess the frequency of AFCs required to meet their own security and safety needs. Any reduction in the frequency of AFCs may be more effectively offset by targeted and intelligence led searches.

There is no direct link between the frequency of AFCs and self-harm. Other than through ensuring the integrity of the cell, an AFC does not allow for any meaningful interaction between officer and prisoner.

MoJ is investing an extra £100m annually to boost the frontline by 2,500 prison officers so that every prisoner will have a dedicated officer to support them. Not only will a greater officer presence provide a deterrence to prisoner behaviour that threatens the safe running of prisons but officers will be better able to pick up on any signs of vulnerability in the prisoners assigned to them.

■ Prisons: Suicide

Luciana Berger:

[61605]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's oral contribution of 24 January 2017, Official Report, column 156, when she plans to publish the findings of her investigation into self-inflicted deaths in prisons.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

We carefully study the details of all deaths in custody to determine whether there are any patterns, or lessons to be learned, to further our understanding of why these tragic events happen.

We have put in place a range of measures to help to support prisoners who are at risk of self-harm or suicide, especially in the first 24 hours when prisoners are at their most vulnerable. We are also investing in mental health awareness training for staff.

## ■ Suicide

Luciana Berger: [\[62840\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman has spent on investigations into self-inflicted deaths in each year since 2010.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The table below shows how much the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman has spent on investigations into self-inflicted deaths from 2010/11 to 2015/16. This covers the salary costs of managers, investigators, and administrative staff including interview transcribers, family liaison officers and fees for call-off investigators. It also includes travel and incidental expenses.

YEAR	TOTAL
2010-11	£1,444,382
2011-12	£1,374,744
2012-13	£1,409,137
2013-14	£1,372,905
2014-15	£1,371,547
2015-16	£1,278,552

The Government believes that prisons should be places of safety and reform. It is concerned by the number of self-inflicted deaths and is committed to reducing it. The recent White Paper set out specific steps that we are taking to improve safety. They include investing over £100m to recruit an additional 2,500 staff across the estate by the end of 2018.

The National Offender Management Service is undertaking a suicide and self-harm reduction project, led by an experienced prison governor, which is driving work in this area. The work includes implementing the recommendations of a review of the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) process, the multi-disciplinary case management process that is the main tool for managing prisoners at risk of suicide and self-harm. This includes the roll out of new training that will help improve staff understanding of suicide and self-harm, including a module designed to raise awareness of mental health issues and to equip staff to respond appropriately to prisoners experiencing mental health problems.

## ■ Suspended Sentences

Philip Davies: [\[60546\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of sentences for each category of offence are suspended sentences.



Mr Sam Gyimah:

The information requested can be found on GOV.UK

■ Written Questions: Government Responses

Luciana Berger:

[\[57530\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when she plans to answer Questions 56044 and 56045, tabled by the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree on 1 December 2016.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Question 56044 was answered on 16 Dec 2016 and 56045 was answered on 23 Dec 2016.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

■ Leader of the House of Commons: Security

Jon Trickett:

[\[63272\]](#)

To ask the Leader of the House, how many security passes into his Office are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Office.

Mr David Lidington:

The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 14 February 2017, to Question UIN [63256](#).

## NORTHERN IRELAND

■ Northern Ireland Office: Pay

Jon Trickett:

[\[63078\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in his Department in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

Kris Hopkins:

The total pay bill for the Northern Ireland Office in 2015-16 was:

2015-16	MALE	FEMALE
<b>Total Pay Bill</b>	£3,117,569	£2,934,933
<b>Per Capita Pay Bill</b>	£52,177	£39,706

## ■ Northern Ireland Office: Security

Jon Trickett: [\[63273\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

Kris Hopkins:

The Northern Ireland Office utilises shared facilities management in 1 Horse Guards Road which includes the control and issuing of security passes. For other locations the civil service status is not recorded when issuing passes. It is therefore not possible to give an accurate answer to the question.

## ■ Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: [\[63459\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what steps he is taking to fund pensions for those victims of terrorism identified by the Northern Ireland Victims' Commissioner as in need of such pensions; and if he will make a statement.

James Brokenshire:

The Stormont House Agreement of December 2014 set out a number of measures for the Northern Ireland Executive to take forward that would support victims and survivors, including a pension.

It is my hope that the Northern Ireland political parties can work together to deliver on the Stormont House Agreement that includes an acceptable way forward on the pension proposal. I will continue to engage with the political leaders in Northern Ireland to try to resolve this issue.

## ■ USA: State Visits

Lady Hermon: [\[63457\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what assessment he has made of the implications for Northern Ireland of a visit by President Trump; and if he will make a statement.

James Brokenshire:

The UK looks forward to welcoming the President to the UK later this year. The dates and arrangements for the state visit will be worked out in due course.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION**

## ■ Public Accounts Commission: Senior Civil Servants

Jon Trickett:

[62871]

To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission, what the (a) ethnicity, (b) gender, (c) disability status, (d) educational background and (e) socio-economic status is of the three most senior officials in the National Audit Office.

Sir Edward Leigh:

The National Audit Office is headed by the Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir Amyas Morse, who is an Officer of the House. He is currently supported by a team of four senior staff, although the current Executive Leadership team is undergoing expansion and a number of changes. All of the current senior team are male, four are white British and one of mixed ethnicity, and one has a declared disability. All of the team are university educated. We do not hold information on socio-economic status.

**SCOTLAND**

## ■ Scotland Office: Pay

Jon Trickett:

[63080]

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in his Department in 2015-16; and what the per capita spend from that pay bill for each man and woman was in that year.

David Mundell:

The total Scotland Office paybill for 2015/16 was £3,799,061 which can be split as follows:

Male pay bill - £1,965,630; and

Female pay bill - £1,833,431.

A per-capita spend breakdown during 2015/16 would only be available at disproportionate cost.

Pay bill figures for men and women in each department can vary significantly based on representation at different grades and how many staff in the department are in full or part time work. A more meaningful way of considering existing pay disparities amongst men and women would be to look at each department's gender pay gap. The Civil Service has been publishing mean and median gender pay gaps for each department since 2008 as part of the annual release of *Civil Service Statistics* by the Office for National Statistics. The latest gender pay gap data (published in October earlier this year) can be found on the Office for National Statistics website.

## ■ Scotland Office: Security

Jon Trickett: [\[63275\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

David Mundell:

Civil servants have to have the ability to work flexibly across Government sites where there is a business need to do so. The issuing of all passes is controlled by the local Departmental Security teams. Passes can also be issued to contractors or secondees based within Government premises on a case by case basis in regards to specific business needs. Numbers of passes issued directly to non-civil servants for access to departmental buildings will fluctuate over the course of a year.

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

## ■ Electoral Commission: Pay

Jon Trickett: [\[63138\]](#)

To ask the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in the Electoral Commission in 2015-16; and what the average per capita spend from that pay bill was for men and women in that year.

Bridget Phillipson:

The Electoral Commission's total pay bill for 2015-16 was £7.8 million.

The Commission does not have the total pay bill analysed by gender for 2015-16 and the number of male and female employees varied throughout the year. However, at 31 March 2016, the Commission employed 64.1 full-time equivalent male staff and 78.6 full-time equivalent female staff. For that month, March 2016, the average per capita spend for women was £38,247 and the average per capital spend for men was £41,225.

## ■ Electoral Commission: Security

Jon Trickett: [\[63280\]](#)

To ask the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many security passes into the Electoral Commission are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in the Electoral Commission.

Bridget Phillipson:

The Electoral Commission leases four access controlled offices – in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast – none of which are located in civil service buildings. All Electoral Commission members of staff – including fixed contract and temporary or agency staff – are issued with security passes for the office that they are based in.

- a) Numbers of passes issued fluctuate over the year. Passes are only issued to staff and contractors who need to be in an office for a sustained period to carry out their work for the Electoral Commission. Guests are collected from a reception desk and escorted out of an Electoral Commission office by a member of staff.
- b) The Electoral Commission is a non-Crown body which means there are no civil servants who work in the Electoral Commission.

## TRANSPORT

### ■ Birmingham Airport

Ms Gisela Stuart: [63140]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to support the growth of Birmingham Airport in his Department's planned aviation strategy.

Mr John Hayes:

I refer the honourable Member to my answer to the Rt Honourable Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Liam Byrne), on 3 February 2017, UIN 61822

( <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/?page=1&max=20&questiontype=AllQuestions&house=commons%2clouds&uin=61822> ).

The new aviation strategy will be for the long term and will cover the whole sector, including airports. We will be carrying out full and constructive engagement with the industry and other partners in the sector around the country.

Ms Gisela Stuart: [63141]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent discussions he has had with Midlands Connect on ensuring its strategy promotes the importance of Birmingham Airport.

Mr John Hayes:

I refer the honourable Member to my answer to the Rt honourable Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Liam Byrne), on 6 February 2017, UIN 62056

( <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/?page=1&max=20&questiontype=AllQuestions&house=commons%2clouds&member=1171&dept=27> ).

### ■ Bus Services

Daniel Zeichner: [63176]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of quality partnership schemes between 2010 and 2016.

Andrew Jones:

The post legislative assessment of the Local Transport Act 2008, published in November 2013, includes an assessment of how the Quality Partnership Scheme measures have been operating. It can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/259164/pla-lta2008.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/259164/pla-lta2008.pdf)

A further assessment of the effectiveness of existing legislative tools for improving local bus markets, including Quality Partnership Scheme provisions, was included as part of the Impact Assessment that accompanies the Bus Services Bill. The impact assessment was published in June 2016 and can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/558392/the-bus-services-bill-impact-assessments.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/558392/the-bus-services-bill-impact-assessments.pdf)

■ Department for Transport: Security

Jon Trickett: [\[63276\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

Mr John Hayes:

My Department does not have a business or security need to separate the information between these defined categories therefore we do not record them in this way. However from central records I can confirm that the total number of passes currently issued to non-civil servants by DfTc and our Agencies where there is a business need is 2,410.

The issuing of all passes is controlled by the Departmental and Agency Security teams who robustly manage the life cycle ensuring that strict processes are followed before a pass is authorised and ultimately revoked.

■ Driving under Influence

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[63238\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the reasons why the number of deaths caused by drink-driving has increased each year since 2010.

Andrew Jones:

The estimated number of people killed in accidents where at least one driver was over the alcohol limit has remained at 240 each year since 2010. The exceptions were 2012, for which the estimate is 230, and the provisional results for 2015, for which the estimate is 220. Once uncertainty is taken into account the figure should be regarded as being unchanged since 2010. During that time traffic has increased by 4.5%.

Alex Cunningham:

[\[63326\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the implications of his policies of the Public Health England report, The Public Health Burden of Alcohol and the Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness of Alcohol Control Policies: An evidence review, published in December 2016, which found that designated driver schemes did not change the prevalence of people drink driving or riding with a drink driver.

Andrew Jones:

The findings of the evidence review of designated driver schemes were inconclusive. However, the Department's THINK! road safety campaign works with commercial brands to reward designated drivers with free soft drinks. Feedback to this campaign has been positive so we will continue to use this approach whilst monitoring for any research in to the effectiveness of the designated driver messaging.

#### ■ Driving under Influence: Young People

Alex Cunningham:

[\[63327\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the Public Health England report, The Public Health Burden of Alcohol and the Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness of Alcohol Control Policies: An evidence review, published in December 2016, which found that graduated driving licences for young drivers were effective; and if he will make a statement.

Andrew Jones:

It is important that we strike the right balance between the safety and the freedom of young drivers. Many rely on their cars to get to work and education; so licensing restrictions could affect their ability to access these opportunities.

Instead, we're focussing our efforts on encouraging learner drivers to be better prepared for the wonderful freedoms a driving licence offers, but without compromising on safety, which is at the heart of what we do.

#### ■ Electric Vehicles

Jim Shannon:

[\[63216\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to incentivise the use of electric cars.

Mr John Hayes:

We are investing more than £600m to 2020 in addition to a further £270m announced at the Autumn Statement, funding one the most comprehensive packages of support in the world for ultra-low emission vehicles.

## ■ Heathrow Airport: Apprentices

Jim Shannon: [\[63420\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate his Department has made of the number of new apprenticeships resulting from the expansion of Heathrow airport; and what assessment he has made of the effect of that expansion on the skill bank of workers in local communities.

Mr John Hayes:

Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) has publicly committed to create 10,000 new apprenticeships by 2030 at an expanded airport, thereby doubling the number offered. The draft Airports National Policy Statement laid before Parliament on Thursday 2 February also sets out the Government's expectation that the airport will maximise the employment and skills opportunities for local residents to share the benefits of expansion with neighbouring communities. HAL itself has pledged to reduce youth employment in the five boroughs closest to the airport with expansion at the airport expected to generate tens of thousands of local jobs by 2030.

## ■ High Speed Two Railway Line

Steve Rotheram: [\[63535\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the cost to the public purse has been of consultants working on High Speed 2.

Andrew Jones:

HS2 Ltd element of consultancy expenditure, as defined by the Cabinet Office, is not readily available in the format requested and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

As defined by the Cabinet Office, the Department for Transport (High Speed Rail Group) expenditure on consultancy (i.e. provision of advice) on High Speed 2 for the period April 2011 to March 2016 was £29.7m.

Steve Rotheram: [\[63545\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of High Speed 2.

Andrew Jones:

The Spending Review in late 2015 agreed a funding envelope of £55.7 billion (2015 prices) for the delivery of High Speed 2 (HS2). I am committed to managing the cost of HS2 and ensuring maximum value for the taxpayer, and delivering within the funding available.



■ Motor Vehicles: Tax Rates and Bands

Richard Burden:

[63243]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's news story of 30 January 2017, new vehicle tax rate from 1 April 2017, what steps his Department and Cabinet colleagues are taking to raise awareness of those new vehicle tax rates; and what the cost to the public purse of publicising those new rates will be.

Andrew Jones:

Since the beginning of December 2016, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has launched no cost marketing activities to publicise the vehicle excise duty (VED) rates, which will apply to vehicles first registered from 1 April 2017. The campaign aimed towards the general public is being run across social media and is supported by messages on DVLA literature. The DVLA and HM Treasury are also engaging with vehicle manufacturers to encourage them to raise awareness with their retailers and customers on the impact of the changes.

This initial campaign is being supported by paid for publicity activity to target potential new car buyers in the run up to 1 April 2017. This will include messages on internet search engines and on key motor trade websites. The planned cost is up to £95,000 including VAT; £8,000 was spent on the first phase in January. All communications point to a page on GOV.UK ( [www.gov.uk/newvehicletaxrates](http://www.gov.uk/newvehicletaxrates) ) which gives further detail of the changes.

Any paid for communications activity costing over £100,000 would be subject to central government spend controls.

■ Road Traffic Offences: EU Nationals

Jim Shannon:

[63219]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that drivers from other EU member states who are charged with traffic offences in the UK are dealt with effectively by their national authorities.

Andrew Jones:

The UK Government does not seek to intervene in the manner in which other EU Governments deal with their citizens. Nonetheless, foreign drivers are subject to UK laws and penalties whilst using UK roads and can be fined or prosecuted for violating those laws or served with a Penalty Charge Notice for civil contraventions. Where a foreign-registered vehicle appears to be a persistent offender, local authorities may opt to use their powers to clamp or remove the vehicle to ensure the vehicle operator complies with parking restrictions and pays any penalty charges that are due.

Courts are legally required to notify DVLA of any penalty and it is recorded in its database for use in any future sentencing or licence application. Although penalty points allocated to foreign licence holders driving in this country do not appear on

their national licences, they still count towards a disqualification under the “totting-up” provisions in this country.

■ Roads: Safety

Derek Thomas: [63446]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to improve road safety for children near schools.

Andrew Jones:

My Department issued revised guidance in January 2013 aimed at local authorities who are responsible for setting speed limits on local roads. This guidance advises traffic authorities to keep speed limits under review and consider, over time, introducing 20mph speed limits or zones in urban areas and built-up village streets that are primarily residential, to ensure greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits>

Local authorities can place signs warning road users that there is a school ahead and children are likely to be crossing. We give advice on this in Chapter 9 of the Traffic Signs Manual

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/226765/traffic-signs-manual-chapter-09.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/226765/traffic-signs-manual-chapter-09.pdf).

We also support child road safety through our THINK! educational resources. We are updating our current programme to include a framework for age appropriate Road Safety Education skills and appropriate material for education practitioners.

■ Severn River Crossing: Ownership

Craig Williams: [63469]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when the Severn Bridges will return to public ownership.

Mr John Hayes:

The private concession will end once Severn River Crossing PLC have recovered an agreed amount of revenue from users. This amount is £1,028,910,000 (in July 1989 prices). We expect this revenue to be fully recovered some time between late 2017 and early 2018, depending on traffic flows, and both crossings will return to public ownership after that.

■ Severn River Crossing: Tolls

Craig Williams: [63470]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the proposed timescale is for installing a free-flow toll system on the Severn Bridges.

Mr John Hayes:

The timing of any potential installation of free-flow tolling has yet to be decided. If following the consultation it is decided to further consider the case for free-flow then we will set out the further steps necessary and this may lead to a further consultation on its implementation.

■ Shipping: Exhaust Emissions

Richard Burden:

[\[63286\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2017 to Question 62467, on shipping: pollution control, whether any UK registered vessels were detained for infringement of provisions of Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships in (a) 2015 and (b) 2016.

Mr John Hayes:

The number of UK registered vessels that were detained for infringement of provisions of Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships was (a) one in 2015 and (b) none in 2016.

Richard Burden:

[\[63287\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2017 to Question 62467, on shipping: pollution control, how many vessels on routes in the sulphur emission control areas were inspected for compliance with Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships in (a) 2015 and (b) 2016.

Mr John Hayes:

The number of vessels on routes in the sulphur emission control areas that were inspected at UK ports that fall within these areas, for compliance with Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships was (a) 21 in 2015 and (b) 501 in 2016.

■ Southern: Standards

Caroline Lucas:

[\[63187\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 2 February 2017 to Question 62343, for what reasons the technical advice from Chris Gibb has not been made publicly available.

Paul Maynard:

Chris Gibb's recommendations will be published in due course. The Department is currently considering his recommendations and will publish a response.

**WALES**

## ■ Wales Office: Pay

Jon Trickett: [63136]

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what the total pay bill was for (a) male and (b) female employees in his Department in 2015-16; and what the average per capita spend from that pay bill was for men and women in that year.

Guto Bebb:

The Wales Office is not an employer in its own right and most staff are employed by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

Pay bill figures for men and women in each department can vary significantly based on representation at different grades and how many staff in the department are in full or part time work. A more meaningful way of considering existing pay disparities amongst men and women would be to look at each department's gender pay gap. The Civil Service has been publishing mean and median gender pay gaps for each department since 2008 as part of the annual release of Civil Service Statistics by the Office for National Statistics. The latest gender pay gap data (published in October earlier this year) can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/publicsectorpersonnel/bulletins/civilservicestatistics>

## ■ Wales Office: Security

Jon Trickett: [63278]

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how many security passes into his Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in his Department.

Guto Bebb:

4 passes are issued to civil servants who are not directly employed by the Wales Office and 13 passes are issued to people who work in the Department but are not civil servants.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

### ■ Equal Pay: Public Sector

Sarah Champion: [\[63488\]](#)

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, whether she plans to extend the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations to the public sector.

Caroline Dinenage:

On 18 January we laid regulations which will require specified public sector employers, with at least 250 employees, to report on the gender pay differences of their employees. The provisions in the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017 have largely been replicated in the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017. The legislation can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2017/9780111153277/contents>.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, these regulations will come into force in March 2017 and the specified public bodies will need to publish their first set of gender pay gap data before 30 March 2018. Both sets of regulations will require the same gender pay gap calculations and use the same methodology for calculating the data.

### ■ Equality and Human Rights Commission

Sarah Champion: [\[63440\]](#)

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, pursuant to the Answer of 20 December 2016 to Question 57766, when she plans to confirm the budget for the Equality and Human Rights Commission for (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19 and (c) 2019-20.

Caroline Dinenage:

I hope to be in a position to confirm budgets for these years shortly.

### ■ Government Equalities Office: Security

Jon Trickett: [\[63281\]](#)

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, how many security passes into her Department are issued to people (a) not directly employed by and (b) who are not civil servants who work in her Department.

Caroline Dinenage:

The information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

### ■ Pornography: Internet

Sarah Champion: [\[63444\]](#)

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, pursuant to the Answer of 2 February 2017 to Question 62006, when in 2017 she plans to make an announcement on funding arrangements for the revenge porn helpline.

Caroline Dinenage:

The Government is committed to supporting victims of revenge pornography. The Government Equalities Office has funded the establishment of the service and any funding decisions will be made later in the year.

■ Pupils: Bullying

Helen Hayes:

[63383]

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to ensure that schools are safe spaces for children and young people to learn without the threat of (a) sexual bullying, (b) LGBT bullying and (c) harassment.

Caroline Dinenage:

Protecting women and girls from violence is a key priority for this Government.

Working with partners like the PSHE Association, we are ensuring schools have access to safe, effective and high quality resources for teaching about healthy relationships. In February 2016 we launched “Disrespect Nobody”, the second phase of the teen relationship abuse campaign, encouraging teens to rethink their views on violence, controlling behaviour and consent. This followed on from the acclaimed ‘This is Abuse’ campaign.

Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying is unacceptable and the Government is committed to tackling it.

The Government Equalities Office has launched a £3m programme to invest in charities that are working to prevent and address homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools in England.

■ Racial Violence

Jim Shannon:

[63430]

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what recent discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on the handling of racially motivated attacks.

Caroline Dinenage:

My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Education regularly meets Cabinet colleagues including the Home Secretary, and discusses a wide range of policy and delivery issues.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Children: Maintenance

Stuart Blair Donaldson:

[63344]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the transition of child maintenance arrangements from 2017 on children and their parents.

Caroline Nokes:

My Department considered the effect of case closure on children and their parents through a public consultation: "Supporting separated families; securing children's futures" in July 2012. Our response to the consultation was published in November 2013.

We have monitored the effects of case closure and the new statutory child maintenance scheme and published a research report on case closure in December 2016. We will continue to monitor the effects as the remaining cases are closed.

Stuart Blair Donaldson:

[63345]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many complaints his Department has received from people on the termination of their arrangements with the Child Support Agency.

Caroline Nokes:

We do not routinely record information on the number of complaints received from people on the termination of their arrangements with the Child Support Agency.

Stuart Blair Donaldson:

[63346]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people who have child maintenance arrangements with the Child Support Agency have received letters on the termination of those arrangements with the Child Support Agency.

Caroline Nokes:

Letters are issued when the liability on a case has ended. We have interpreted this question as the number of people who have been sent letters after they have had their liability ended.

The total number of cases where liability has ended stood at 509,200 as of the end of September 2016.

This can be found in Table 4.1 and 4.2 of the Case Closure Experimental Statistical publication which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-support-agency-case-closures-june-2014-to-september-2016>.

■ Incapacity Benefit: Lancashire

Julie Cooper:

[63474]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many appeals against decisions to refuse disability living allowance were (a) lodged, (b) upheld and (c) dismissed in respect of children resident in (i) Blackburn and Darwen, (ii) Burnley, (iii) Hyndburn, (iv) Pendle, (v) Ribble Valley and (vi) Rossendale and Chorley in (A) 2011, (B) 2012, (C) 2013, (D) 2014, (E) 2015 and (F) 2016.

Julie Cooper:

[63475]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many appeals against decisions to refuse incapacity benefit were dismissed in (a) Blackburn and Darwen, (b)

Burnley, (c) Hyndburn, (d) Pendle, (e) Ribble Valley and (f) Rossendale and Chorley in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014, (v) 2015 and (vi) 2016.

Julie Cooper: [\[63476\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many appeals were lodged against decisions to refuse employment and support allowance in (a) Blackburn and Darwen, (b) Burnley, (c) Hyndburn, (d) Pendle, (e) Ribble Valley and (f) Rossendale and Chorley in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014, (v) 2015 and (vi) 2016.

Julie Cooper: [\[63477\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many appeals were lodged against decisions to refuse incapacity benefit in (a) Blackburn and Darwen, (b) Burnley, (c) Hyndburn, (d) Pendle, (e) Ribble Valley and (f) Rossendale and Chorley in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013, (iv) 2014, (v) 2015 and (vi) 2016.

Julie Cooper: [\[63489\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many appeals against decisions to refuse (a) disability living allowance, (b) personal independence payments, (c) employment and support allowance and (d) incapacity benefit were (i) upheld and (ii) dismissed in respect of adults resident in (1) Blackburn and Darwen (2) Burnley, (3) Hyndburn, (4) Pendle, (5) Ribble Valley and (6) Rossendale and Chorley in (A) 2011, (B) 2012, (C) 2013, (D) 2014, (E) 2015 and (F) 2016.

Penny Mordaunt:

The information requested is not available. Neither the Ministry of Justice, who publish the official appeal statistics, nor the Department for Work and Pensions, which collates its own data on appeals, has information about appeals made only against *refusals*. The information that is available is in relation to *all* appeals lodged for any given benefit.

## ■ Occupational Pensions

Graham Evans: [\[63328\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the written statement of 12 December 2016, (HCW 5339), what the planned (a) timetable and (b) content is for the Automatic Enrolment 2017 Review.

Richard Harrington:

On 12 December 2016, I set out the scope of the 2017 review of automatic enrolment. On 8 February 2017 I set out further detail on the review, including its terms of reference and the membership of the external advisory group.

Through the review we will be seeking to build on the success of automatic enrolment to date. So far over 7.1 million individuals have been automatically enrolled into a workplace pension by more than 370,000 employers. The review will look at how we can ensure that automatic enrolment continues to meet the needs of individuals saving for their retirement in the future, and that the technical operation of the policy is working as intended.



It is important that we begin early conversations around the central issues covered by the review of automatic enrolment, and I recognise people are keen to engage on these. That is why on 8 February 2017 I published a set of initial questions on the main themes, including coverage, engagement and future contributions. I have invited views and evidence by 22 March 2017 to help inform our considerations. We will, of course, formally consult on any proposals that require legislative change.

As I set out in my previous statement, my Department's work will be supported by an external advisory group.

The three co-chairs of the group are:

- Jamie Jenkins (Head of Pensions Strategy, Standard Life), who will support the work around the theme of coverage of automatic enrolment;
- Ruston Smith (Trustee Director at Peoples' Pension), who will support the work around strengthening personal engagement with work place pensions, and;
- Chris Curry (Director, Pensions Policy Institute), who will support the work which begins to develop the evidence base on future contributions.

The other members of this group are:

Carl Emmerson, Deputy Director, Institute of Fiscal Studies

Jane Vass, Head of public policy, Age UK

Neil Carberry, Director for people and skills, Confederation of British Industry

Linda Ellett, KPMG, partner – Tax and Pensions Practice

Nigel Stanley, NEST Members' Panel, Chair

Jocelyn Blackwell, Trustee Director NOW: Pensions

Judith Hogarth, Employment and Pensions, EEF

I am delighted to be working with a team representing such a breadth of experience and expertise and look forward to the insight they will bring to help shape the review and any proposals. We will of course reach out to others as part of this review, including intermediary organisations such as employer consultants and payroll firms.

Towards the end of this year I will publish a report to Parliament.

A copy of the terms of reference and the initial questions for the review are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/expert-advisory-group-appointed-to-the-automatic-enrolment-review>.

## ■ Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Alex Salmond:

[63502]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps he has taken in response to the National Audit Office's December report on the UK's benefit sanctions system; and if he will launch an independent review of the sanctions regime.

Damian Hinds:

It is not normal practice to comment on any National Audit Office report where this is followed up by a Public Accounts Committee hearing. We are currently awaiting the Committee's report following the Benefit Sanctions hearing held on 12 December 2016.

Once their report is published, we will wait until HM Treasury formally commissions the Department's official response to any comments and recommendations made by the committee. We anticipate the committee's report to be published at the end of February 2017 and for the Treasury commission to be issued shortly afterwards.

■ Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Dr Eilidh Whiteford:

[63491]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much will accrue to the Exchequer from the decision not to increase benefit payments for four years.

Caroline Nokes:

I refer the Member for Banff and Buchan to the impact assessment of the benefit rate freeze that was published alongside the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 -

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/impact-assessments/IA15-006C.pdf>

## MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

### CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

#### ■ Digital Technology: UK Trade with EU

Nigel Adams:

[\[63325\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what representations she has received on the implications for the UK continuing to access the Digital Single Market of the UK leaving the EU.

**An error has been identified in the written answer given on 13 February 2017. The correct answer should have been:**

Matt Hancock:

~~We have had widespread and ongoing discussions with the digital industry on Data Protection.~~

**The Department has been meeting with a range of stakeholders on this issue. Together with the Department for Exiting the EU we are analysing all the impacts of leaving the EU and continuing to engage on Digital Single Market matters to secure the right deal for Britain.**

### DEFENCE

#### ■ Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Kevan Jones:

[\[63162\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when he plans to announce the final number of vehicles his Department plans to procure as part of the Mechanised Infantry Vehicle programme.

**An error has been identified in the written answer given on 9 February 2017. The correct answer should have been:**

Harriett Baldwin:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 November 2016 to Question 49995. The ~~Mechanical~~**Mechanised** Infantry Vehicle project is in the concept phase and it remains too early to provide a timeline by which a decision on numbers can be provided.

#### **Attachments:**

1. Hansard Extract 1 November 2016.docx