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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Monday, 7 November 2016

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod

[HLWS240]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to approve the extension of the appointment of Lieutenant General David Leakey CMG CBE as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod until 31 January 2018.

Information Commissioner's Office: Triennial Review

[HLWS239]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Karen Bradley) has made the following Statement:

Following a statement by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Human Rights (Dominic Raab) on 16th July 2015, I wish to inform the House that the Triennial Review of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) that was announced in Parliament on Tuesday 25 November 2014, has been published today and a copy has been placed in the libraries of both Houses.

The Government welcomes the Review's positive assessment of the ICO's contribution to the protection of personal data and the increased transparency in public life over the last 30 years. The Review rightly notes the considerable strides the ICO has made in improving its performance in a number of areas against a challenging economic backdrop.

The Review also recognises that the environment in which the ICO operates has changed considerably over the last decade due the proliferation of digital information and rapid changes in technology. In turn, the ICO's powers and functions have grown to meet this challenge. In response, the Review concludes that the functions of the ICO are still required but recommends that the organisation should be restructured as a multi-member Commission to encourage a greater breadth of decision-making and accountability.

The Government has considered the Review's recommendations very carefully. It agrees that the expansion in role highlighted by the Review does necessitate a step change in governance and leadership at the ICO and that is why we welcomed the separate decision by the previous Information Commissioner, Christopher Graham, to widen the existing leadership cadre to allow for greater collective decision-making on regulatory matters.

However, the Government has decided that reconstituting the ICO as a multi-member Commission is not the right change to make to its governance arrangements. The new Information Commissioner,

Elizabeth Denham, took up post in July 2016. Her first priority is to ensure that the organisation is properly equipped to take forward the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will come into force in the UK in May 2018; and to provide clarity and certainty to businesses and organisations as they make preparations to implement the Regulation. Alongside this is a need to prepare the organisation for any changes to data protection regulatory landscape after the UK exits the European Union.

Strong and stable leadership is crucial during a period of rapid organisational change and the Government believes that a single Information Commissioner working through an enhanced senior leadership team is the best model for achieving this. We therefore do not intend on making any statutory changes to the governance model of the ICO.

More broadly, the Review recommended that the ICO improves its digital and technological capability to meet the economic and societal challenges posed by the rapidly growing digital economy. A number of improvements have been made over the last year, expanding the number of technology experts at the ICO and improving the visibility of technology in the ICO's communications. This additional expertise has significantly strengthened the ICO's investigation and enforcement capability in relation to cyber and other data protection breaches. The Information Commissioner is committed to publishing a refreshed technology strategy in 2017, including further investment in expertise available to the ICO and drawing on external knowledge through better research and collaboration with experts from academia and industry.

Rail Franchising

[HLWS238]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Maynard) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

Today, I am announcing the competition for a new combined rail franchise – the West Coast Partnership (WCP).

This new proposition is seeking to attract a world class partner to develop and enhance the existing InterCity West Coast (ICWC) operation and help shape the development of HS2 and operate its first services in 2026.

We are embarking on a new chapter in the modernisation of our railways. A strong private sector partner is vital now to work with Government and as an advocate for passengers on the West Coast, to ensure excellent passenger services in the run up to HS2 introduction, and a smooth transition to the next generation of rail franchising as HS2 becomes the new backbone of Britain's railways.

I want to be very clear that this is a new type of Franchise requiring a new kind of approach to bidding.

A unique feature of this competition is that the winning bidding group will need transformational expertise across all rail operational and customer service disciplines.

The new operator will need to build on the existing ICWC long-distance, inter-city, cross-border services between England, Scotland and Wales by delivering a service which truly puts passengers at the heart of the railway.

The new operator will have to demonstrate how they will drive up punctuality and reliability – working to deliver a right time journey experience for passengers and examine closely the potential for better connections between the towns and cities they serve to enable economic growth.

The new operator will also need to bring about a transformation in passenger satisfaction around fares and ticketing, delivering the passengers expectation to have all of the information they need to choose the best ticket for their journeys.

This exciting competition is aimed at attracting a world class partner to enhance and develop the ICWC services and take forward the delivery of the train services on HS2.

There are a number of key interfaces between the delivery of HS2 and the ICWC rail franchise and I believe there are significant benefits in bringing the two projects closer together to ensure the best outcomes for passengers both before and after the start of the HS2 services.

Benefits of the partnership proposition include:

- ICWC passengers benefitting from new technology before the introduction of High Speed services
- An experienced operator coming on board at an early stage to shape service design based on knowledge of the markets and passenger needs
- A strong partner acting collaboratively with HS2 Ltd to design, launch and operate the passenger services on HS2 and manage the timetable recast of the West Coast Main Line.

The successful bidder will need to work in partnership with the DfT, HS2 Ltd, local transport authorities, Transport Scotland and the Welsh Government.

Today's announcement to market of this new proposition is the first step in a process. The Expression of Interest (EOI) for the WCP is due to be published in

December 2016, followed by the Invitation to Tender in October / November 2017 with the new franchise scheduled to commence 1 April 2019.

The delivery of the WCP will require a new short term contract of approximately 12 months for the continued operation of services.

Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 Update

[HLWS237]

Earl Howe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I am providing an update on progress on the Type 26 Global Combat Ship programme.

The 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) set out the Government's commitment to build eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Type 26 Global Combat Ships.

We have been working with industry to agree the optimum schedule for the Type 26 and OPV build programmes to reflect the outcome of last year's Strategic Defence and Security Review. I can confirm we now plan to cut steel in summer 2017 to build the first batch of the eight planned Type 26 ships, subject to detailed contract negotiations.

In parallel to these negotiations we will continue to further mature the detailed ship design, and continue to mobilise the wider supply chain, a critical enabler for the start of manufacture. BAE Systems has recently awarded the latest tranche of sub-contracts for parts of the ship's infrastructure, and today I am announcing a £100 million contract with MBDA to provide the Sea Ceptor self-defence missile system. This contract with MBDA will support design work to allow equipment to be manufactured to equip the entire Type 26 fleet.

This takes our total financial investment in the Type 26 programme to date to £1.9 billion, demonstrating the Government's continuing commitment to shipbuilding in the UK. This is an important step securing hundreds of highly skilled shipbuilding jobs on the Clyde until 2035 and hundreds more in the supply chain across Britain. It also marks the continuing progress in delivering the Type 26 programme that will meet the modern needs of the Royal Navy.

Written Answers

Monday, 7 November 2016

Adult Education

Asked by **Baroness Wolf of Dulwich**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Nash on 19 September (HL1536), when they expect to place the full answer in the Library of House. [HL2610]

Lord Nash: In my original response, I identified 63,500 learners that had achieved an 'other Full Level 3' in the 2014 to 2015 funding year, and indicated that a fuller answer would be placed in the House of Lords library in due course. I am now able to provide a further breakdown of these other Full Level 3 achievements.

Qualifications have been categorised as:

- occupational or technical awards where they are qualifications confirmed as technical qualifications for the 16 to 19 performance table or the qualifications focus is on occupational competence.
- applied academic awards where they are qualifications confirmed as applied qualifications for the 16 to 19 performance table or they are other qualifications that can support progression to further learning.

Please note that, following the Skills Funding Letter (December 2015), the Level 3 entitlement offer for 19 to 23 year olds has become more focused on A Level, AS Level, Access to HE Diploma and technical and applied qualifications in the performance tables.

Qualification type	2014/15 achievements
Applied academic awards	32,400
Occupational or technical award	31,100
Total	63,500

Agriculture: Industrial Health and Safety

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of health and safety in the agricultural sector. [HL2600]

Lord Freud: The number of fatal injuries in the agriculture sector fluctuates each year, and as such it is not possible to draw conclusions from figures for individual years. The annual number of deaths averaged over a five year rolling period is broadly static and remains a cause for concern for the Health and Safety Executive, the Farm Safety Partnerships (FSP) in England, Scotland and Wales, the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) and the industry itself.

The Health and Safety Executive publishes figures on health and safety in the agriculture sector in the attached document "Statistics on fatal injuries in the workplace in

Great Britain 2016". Further information can also be found in the published report "Health and safety in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain, 2015/16", which is also attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Statistics on fatal injuries in agriculture etc [HL2600 - Statistics on fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2015-16.pdf]

Statistics on fatal injuries in the workplace GB [HL2600 - Statistics on fatal injuries in the workplace in Great Britain 2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-24/HL2600>

Apprentices

Asked by **Lord Aberdare**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the total number of apprenticeship starts in the latest year for which figures are available were in (1) jobs for new employees, and (2) apprenticeships for existing employees with their current employer. [HL2756]

Lord Nash: The 'Apprenticeship Evaluation Learner Survey 2015' report published in October 2016 provides the following key findings on routes into apprenticeships:

New employees

Nearly half (48%) of Level 2 and 3 apprentices were recruited with the intention of doing an apprenticeship.

Compared to Level 2 and 3 apprentices, higher apprentices were less likely to have been specifically recruited to an apprenticeship (32%).

In the 2014 survey a third of apprentices stated they had been recruited specifically as apprentices.

Existing employees

Two-thirds (67%) of higher apprentices were existing employees, down from 80% reported in 2014, but much higher than Level 2 and 3 apprentices (51%).

The vast majority (88%) of Level 5 apprentices were existing employees, compared to a third (34%) of Level 4 apprentices.

Source: *Apprenticeships Evaluation 2015 - Learners A report by IFF Research, with the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick*, October 2016

The attached document shows information on the recruitment into apprenticeships (Levels 2 and 3), taken from the source above.

Note: The Apprenticeship Evaluation Learner Survey 2015 consisted of quantitative interviews with 5,000 Level 2 and 3 apprentices, as well as 800 higher apprentices, to explore their views of their apprenticeship. This research covered both current

apprentices at the time of survey, and recent completers (those that had completed their apprenticeship 12-20 months prior to being interviewed).

The department can only use survey information rather than administrative data to answer this question.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

[Recruitment into apprenticeships \(Levels 2 and 3\) \(HL2756 attachment.doc\)](#)

Apprentices: Finance

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for the devolved administrations arising from the new apprenticeship funding model. [HL2716]

Lord Nash: The devolved administrations will receive a fair share of the money raised by the levy and it will then be for them to decide how to use it in their own administrations. We are also working with the devolved administrations to ensure that funding for apprenticeships works for employers and learners wherever they are in the UK. The funding policy we announced on 25 October will allow employers in England to use their levy funds to train apprentices from elsewhere in the UK, provided they are working in England. We are aiming to agree reciprocal arrangements with devolved administrations.

Astute Class Submarines

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether orders have been placed for boats 6 and 7 of the Astute-class submarines, and, if so, when are the expected launch dates. [HL2668]

Earl Howe: The construction of Astute class submarines boats six and seven is currently underway at the shipyard of the contractor, BAE Systems, at Barrow-in-Furness.

Subject to negotiations with the contractor, they are expected to be handed over to the Royal Navy in 2023 and 2024 respectively. The dates for other significant events are yet to be fully determined.

Asylum: Children

Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding has been allocated to local authorities to support unaccompanied children being resettled in the UK beyond 31 March 2017. [I] [HL2537]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In July 2016, we increased the national rate of funding to local authorities taking responsibility for unaccompanied asylum seeking children, from £34,675 to £41,610 a year for those aged under 16 and from £25,915 to £33,215 a year for those

aged 16 or 17. We will keep these arrangements under review.

Asylum: Sudan

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy to repatriate non-Arab Darfuri asylum seekers from the UK to Khartoum; and what account is taken when making such decisions, of the needs of those who believe that their human rights, especially the right to freedom of religion or belief, will be violated. [HL2617]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: All protection claims, including claims based on the right to freedom of religion or belief, are carefully considered on their individual facts and merits, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights. They are assessed against available country of origin information, which is obtained from a range of reliable sources, including reputable media outlets; local, national and international organisations, including human rights organisations; and information from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Where people establish a genuine need for protection, we will grant it. If they are found not to need our protection, we expect them to leave the country voluntarily. Where they do not, we will seek to enforce their departure. Enforced removals are carried out in the most sensitive way possible, treating those being removed with respect and courtesy.

British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people there are residing in the EU, outside the UK, Gibraltar and the Republic of Ireland, who hold UK citizenship. [HL2660]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK Government does not collect information on British nationals resident overseas. The UN migration report from 2015 estimates that there are around 962,500 UK-born residents living in the EU, outside of the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Gibraltar is not referred to in the report.

Cats: Animal Breeding

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to prohibit the sale of kittens under eight-weeks old. [HL2591]

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to regulate the breeding of cats for sale in cases where a single cat produces several litters. [HL2592]

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to restrict the commercial sale of cats to licensed establishments to ensure the welfare of cats for sale. [HL2593]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The current law requires that all licensed sellers of pet animals, whether they are running a traditional high street pet shop or selling online from their home, do not sell pets at too young an age, which for mammals is defined as before they are weaned or should have been weaned. As part of the licensing review, we are looking to clarify this requirement in the regulations and make it a requirement that both puppies and kittens should not be sold if they are under 8 weeks' of age.

While we accept that dog breeding needs to be closely regulated, we do not consider that cat breeding requires licensing. If anyone has any concerns about the welfare of animals at a cat breeding establishment they can report the matter to their local authority or the RSPCA. Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal or to fail to provide for its welfare of which the maximum penalty is an unlimited fine and/or six months' imprisonment.

We are currently reviewing the laws on the animal activities licensing schemes, including those that control the commercial sale of pet animals, including cats. Earlier this year, we consulted on a number of proposals including one to apply specific welfare conditions to pet vendors. This will mean that such activities will have to be licensed and meet specific welfare standards in order to obtain a licence but there are no proposals to restrict those licensed vendors from selling cats to other licensed establishments.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers they intend should be available to the proposed new Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to draw to the attention of the judiciary any concerns about the conduct of the courts in any review it conducts. [HL2714]

Lord Nash: It will be the role of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel to carry out and publish reviews into serious child safeguarding cases which raise issues which are complex or of national importance. It is for the Panel itself to determine whether, and if so how, it should draw to the attention of relevant parties any specific recommendations which arise from reviews.

Children: Exercise

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to encourage children to take up physical

activity, in particular activity additional to school sport. [HL2207]

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of fitness testing of children in school. [HL2210]

Lord Nash: We want all pupils to be healthy and more physically active, with the Government's recent Childhood Obesity Plan setting out an ambition that young people should be active for at least 60 minutes every day, as recommended by the Chief Medical Officer.

Since 2013, the Government has provided over £450million of ring-fenced funding to primary schools to make additional and sustainable improvements to PE and Sport. We know this funding is making a difference, with 87% of primary schools reporting that the quality of PE teaching has increased since the introduction of the premium. The majority of schools have also introduced new sports in both curricular PE (74%) and extra-curricular sport (77%) since the premium was introduced. But we know there is more to do, which is why revenue from the soft drinks industry levy will be used to double the primary PE and sport premium to £320million a year from September 2017.

Through the Sport Strategy, we have also extended the remit of Sport England, to cover children aged 5 and above, outside of school. Sport England's new strategy 'Towards an Active Nation' sets out a new £40million investment into projects that offer opportunities for families with children to get active and play sport together outside of school.

In relation to fitness testing, it is up to schools to determine how best they deliver a diverse and challenging PE curriculum. We are considering how we can track levels of physical activity in schools to help support children to have healthy and active lives and will be providing schools with further guidance and best practice examples to help deliver this.

Children and Young People: Health Education

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the educational resources available to (1) teachers, and (2) parents, to encourage healthier living among children and young people. [HL2208]

Lord Nash: This Government wants all children to lead healthy and active lives and schools have a key role to play in teaching children about healthy lifestyles. Schools have the flexibility to choose which educational resources they use to support their teaching and there are opportunities across the curriculum for pupils to be taught the knowledge and skills they need to support healthy living.

The national curriculum is compulsory in state maintained schools and sets the expectation that across a variety of subjects, pupils are taught about the importance of leading a healthy active lifestyle. Physical education (PE) is compulsory at all four key stages in the national curriculum and should provide opportunities for pupils to become physically confident in a way that supports their health and fitness. Across science and design and technology, pupils are taught about the importance of healthy eating and nutrition.

Change4Life is the Government's flagship social marketing programme aimed at inspiring everyone to eat well, move more and live longer. In 2015 more than 385,000 families signed up to the "10 Minute Shake up" campaign, which are designed as fun activities for children to squeeze short 10-minute bursts of activity into their day. In January 2016, Change4Life launched the Food Detective campaign. Developed by educational experts, these curriculum-linked resources encouraged pupils to become Food Detectives and to learn more about sugar and 5 a day to support a healthy and balanced diet.

Clean Air Zones: North of England

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to introduce clean air zones in cities in the north of England which have been identified by Defra as having high pollution levels such as Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle and Sheffield. [HL2673]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Local authorities can already introduce Clean Air Zones should they choose to do so using powers available to them under the Transport Act 2000. The air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide we published in December last year sets out a range of actions being taken by local authorities to reduce pollution. Under the plan we are requiring five cities with the most persistent pollution problems, including Leeds, to introduce Clean Air Zones. The plan is also clear that other local authorities will need to monitor progress and ensure the measures they are taking under local air quality management arrangements are delivering results as soon as possible. We are currently consulting on a framework for Clean Air Zones which will assist local authorities in taking a consistent approach to their adoption.

We are also continuing to encourage local authorities, including those in the north of England, to improve air quality. The air quality grant fund announced on 6 October will further support local authorities in England to develop and implement measures to improve local air quality, potentially including exploring the need for Clean Air Zones. For example, Transport for Greater Manchester is currently undertaking a feasibility study into a Clean Air Zone following a successful bid into the previous round of air quality grant funding.

Commonwealth: Overseas Aid

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much bilateral aid the UK has provided to individual Commonwealth countries in each of the last two years. [HL2619]

Lord Bates: In 2014 the UK spent £1,998 million of bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Commonwealth countries and £2,101 million in 2013.

The attached table provides a breakdown by individual Commonwealth country in 2013 and 2014.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PQ HL2619 Attachment [PQ HL2619 attachment -UK's Bilateral ODA by commonwealth country.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-25/HL2619>

Defence: Procurement

Asked by Lord Hutton of Furness

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether measures are in place to protect Ministry of Defence procurement budgets from the fall in the value of sterling against the US dollar and the Euro; and if so, what those measures are. [HL2782]

Earl Howe: I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Procurement (Harriett Baldwin), in the House of Commons on 17 October 2016 to Question 48369.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Ministry of Defence Procurement [Hansard Extract 17 October 2016, 48369.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2782>

Department for International Trade: Recruitment

Asked by Baroness Suttie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new members of staff appointed to work in the Department for International Trade have been recruited from outside the civil service; and what proportion of those staff are consultants on fixed-term contracts. [HL2528]

Lord Price: Following her appointment on 13 July 2016 the Prime Minister established the Department for International Trade (DIT). The DIT aggregates UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), UK Export and Finance (UKEF) and Trade Policy Units from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Until such time as a transfer of functions order establishes my Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade as a corporation sole, DIT remains a unified Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) department for accounting purposes. The transfer of functions order (No 2016/ 992) laid on 19 October 2016 will come into effect on 9 November 2016.

As DIT is currently being formed, details of the staff that the Department employs is being finalised, whilst employee transfers and recruitment are taking place.

Doctors: Migrant Workers

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 26 July (HL1281), of the 1,095 doctors from the EEA who have been unable to demonstrate to the GMC that they have sufficient language skills to practise safely in the UK, how many are currently performing medical work in the UK for which a licence to practice is not required; and what medical work those doctors are performing. [HL2548]

Lord Prior of Brampton: A doctor cannot undertake any meaningful form of mainstream medical work in the United Kingdom if they do not have a licence to practise. It is possible for an unlicensed doctor to work in a healthcare role that the law has not reserved either to licensed doctors or to another regulated profession (for example, as a note taker or in some types of teaching or research). The General Medical Council does not hold any employment information about doctors who are not licensed to practise in the UK.

Ellie Butler

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the case of Ellie Butler, what guidance they are providing to local authorities about the discharge of their statutory duties on children's safeguarding when a court directs a local authority to cease discharging those responsibilities. [HL2655]

Lord Nash: Where local authorities have concerns about the impact of judicial decisions on the discharge of their statutory duties, it is open to them to seek their own legal advice and act in the way they consider appropriate. The Government keeps its statutory guidance to local authorities under regular review.

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government what findings and observations they received from the serious case review about the conduct of the court in placing Ellie Butler with her father; and what action they have taken in response to those findings. [HL2713]

Lord Nash: The serious case review provides a detailed chronology and an independent analysis of the circumstances of this tragic case. Since publication, officials from the Department for Education and the Ministry of Justice have met Sutton local authority to discuss issues arising from the case.

Employment Tribunals Service

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 24 October (HL 2341), how many penalty notices have been issued to employers for failure to comply with orders of employment tribunals to pay compensation to applicants since the power to do so was introduced in April 2016; and how many have been enforced. [HL2546]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Since April 2016, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has issued 37 penalty notices to employers for failure to comply with orders of employment tribunals to pay compensation to applicants.

Should the penalty notices not be paid, the department will take further enforcement action as necessary and to the full extent of the law to pursue payment.

Europol

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to seek to remain a member of Europol following the UK's departure from the EU. [HL2389]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Prime Minister has made clear that law enforcement cooperation with our European partners will continue after the UK leaves the EU we will do what is necessary to keep our people safe.

We value the role of Europol in helping law enforcement agencies coordinate investigations in cross border organised crime. We are exploring options for our relationship with Europol once the UK has left the EU but it is too early to speculate at this stage what future arrangements may look like.

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will clarify the situation on whether the UK needs to opt into the new Europol Regulation, which will apply from 1 May 2017, to be able to continue its full participation in Europol. [HL2749]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is actively considering whether to opt-in to the new Europol Regulation. We will inform Parliament of our decision in due course in the usual way.

Fisheries

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to ensure that, following the UK's departure from the EU, fishing in British waters will be brought under the control of the UK. [HL2586]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The UK Government is committed to withdrawing from the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and putting a new fisheries regime in place. No decisions have yet been taken, although the Government remains committed to sustainable fisheries and the Discard Ban (Landing Obligation), as set out in its manifesto commitments.

The UK is bound by international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which gives coastal states rights and responsibilities over their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the resources within it.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Staff

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to increase the number of Russian specialists working in (1) Whitehall, and (2) UK embassies in eastern European countries between now and the exit of the UK from the EU. [HL2707]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Over recent years the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has sought to align its expertise with the complexity of issues relating to Russia. Since 2010 the department has increased the number of Russian-language positions in our Russia posts and elsewhere in the Former Soviet Union by 30 per cent, and have increased the minimum duration for Russian-language training from 11 to 14 months. We also have in place dedicated resources across Government and our overseas network focussed on defence, energy, and national security issues relating to Russia.

Gaza: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps to increase psycho-social support for children and young people traumatised by war in Gaza; and if so, what steps they are taking. [HL2638]

Lord Bates: The UK is a long-term supporter of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), providing over £60 million in 2015/16 in Gaza, the West Bank and the region. In Gaza, UNRWA's Community Mental Health Program provides psychosocial support to Palestinian refugees experiencing psychological trauma, including children and young people, to better cope with the extreme challenges they face on a daily basis. UNRWA has also placed psychosocial counsellors in

several schools to support children dealing with a range of psychosocial problems. UNRWA has trained at least 7,800 teachers in Gaza to provide psychosocial support to their students.

Gaza: Family Planning

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision is being made in aid programmes to Gaza for the provision of family planning supplies; and what is their availability there. [HL2566]

Lord Bates: The UK is a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), providing over £60 million in 2015/16 in Gaza, the West Bank and the region. In Gaza, UNRWA delivers a full family planning programme, with a range of family planning supplies. UNRWA maintains stocks of family planning supplies in all UNRWA health centres, and all registered refugee women in Gaza have access to these health services. Family planning services, including counselling and the provision of modern contraceptives, are available at all times to women accessing UNRWA health centres.

Gaza: Health Services

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to make representations to the governments of Israel and Egypt asking them to increase the granting of exit permits from Gaza for individuals seeking medical care. [HL2639]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: While we have no plans to raise this specific issue with the governments of Israel and Egypt, we continue to press both governments to take measures that will help relieve the humanitarian suffering of those in Gaza.

We have regularly raised our concerns over Gaza with the Israeli authorities, emphasising the importance of improving daily life for ordinary Gazans, for example facilitating travel in and out of Gaza.

We are concerned about the closure of the Rafah crossing and its impact, particularly on urgent medical and other priority cases in Gaza. The crossing has been mostly closed since October 2014, though we understand the crossing was opened temporarily over the weekend of 22/23 October. We continue to encourage the Egyptian authorities to show maximum flexibility in opening the crossing and ease restrictions as soon as practically possible, to improve the difficult circumstances in which many Palestinians live.

Groceries Code Adjudicator

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to extend the remit of the Groceries Code Adjudicator. [HL2806]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Before we consider an extension of the Groceries Code Adjudicator's (GCA) remit, we need to be absolutely clear on where any problems exist in the supply chain – and that an extended remit is the right response to those problems. Therefore, it is important that we hear views from all parties in the UK's grocery supply chain.

In order to gather these views we recently launched a Call for Evidence seeking views on the remit of the GCA.

The Call for Evidence launched on the 17 October and closes on the 10 January.

Heathrow Airport

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the decision to extend capacity at Heathrow Airport, they are considering a review of internal air routes in the UK. [[HL2699](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government will take all necessary steps to ensure that Heathrow's operator will meet the pledges it made to add more domestic air routes across the UK by 2030, strengthening links to existing regions as well as developing connections to new ones.

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government which elements of the future surface transport needs required for the proposed third runway at Heathrow would be state funded or guaranteed. [[HL2759](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Heathrow Airport Limited, will meet the cost of the surface access improvements necessary to allow expansion of the airport, including re-alignment of the M25, the A4 and A3044, as well as airport and terminal access roads.

Where projects have wider beneficiaries, such as Western Rail Access and Southern Rail Access, the Government will expect Heathrow to fund an appropriate proportion of the costs based on the direct benefits for the airport.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the extra road traffic and motor vehicle pollution likely to be generated near the expanded Heathrow airport, and whether they intend to widen the M25 in order to accommodate the extra traffic near Heathrow. [[HL2892](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Airports Commission published, alongside its final report in July 2015, analysis of the traffic and environmental impacts from each of the three short-listed proposals for airport expansion in the South East.

In addition, alongside the preference for a new northwest runway at Heathrow Airport announced on 25 October 2016, the Department for Transport published

two reports – *Air quality re-analysis: impact of new pollution climate mapping projections and national air quality plan* and *Further review and sensitivities report: airport capacity in the south-east* which provide further analysis in relation to the assessment of air quality impacts and economic impacts of the proposals.

Both documents contain some assessment of future road traffic and its impact. The analysis was published on the Department's website and copies of the reports are available from the libraries of both Houses.

The Heathrow northwest runway scheme will be expected to implement an extensive package of air quality mitigation measures. The precise details of the package will be determined through the planning process, according to the framework set out in a draft Airports National Policy Statement (NPS), which will be subject to public consultation.

Additionally, the airport promoter has committed to specific targets for increasing levels of public transport use by airport passengers and employees and has pledged to there being no increase in road traffic due to airport expansion.

As part of the Department for Transport's road investment planning process the future investment needs for the M25 between junctions 10 to 16 are being considered as part of the M25 South West Quadrant Strategic Study, which will take into account the Government's preference for airport expansion at Heathrow Airport.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 11 July 2016 (HL1098), which members of the expert panel convened by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) shared private and confidential correspondence with members of the HFEA Executive that had not been submitted to the Authority as part of any formal calls for evidence; and when the expert panel reviewed such information. [[HL2544](#)]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Public Health, Jane Ellison, on 1 June (HC38011 and HC38012), what assessment they have made of the adverse impact on the reputations of (1) the correspondents, and (2) members of the expert panel, of public disclosure of the correspondence; and what are their reasons for not publishing the personal email exchange. [[HL2611](#)]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 11 July 2016 (HL1098), whether the correspondence between

Professor Grifo and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) expert panel was selectively released to anyone not directly connected with the HFEA; whether other information received by the HFEA has been selectively released to such persons but not otherwise made publicly available; and if so, what assessment they have made of the extent to which conflicts of interest might arise from the selective release of such material. [HL2742]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has advised that it has nothing further to add, in respect of the correspondence between Professor Grifo and the expert panel, to that already set out in previous answers.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether levels of trust and confidence of black and minority ethnic communities in the Independent Police Complaints Commission have increased or decreased over the past year; and what evidence they have to support their findings. [HL2584]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has a strategic objective to improve the confidence of those groups who have least confidence in the police complaints system.

Key measures for monitoring this are included in their public confidence survey next due to be undertaken in 2017. The most recent survey, undertaken in 2014, shows confidence in the impartiality of the IPCC amongst ethnic minority groups has improved. It is available on the IPCC website at: <http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/page/public-confidence>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Public Confidence Survey
[IPCC_Public_confidence_survey_2014.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-24/HL2584>

Inland Waterways

Asked by Lord Fearn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many canals were fully self-operating during (1) 2014, (2) 2015, and (3) 2016 to date. [HL2579]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government does not hold this information. However, the Inland Waterways Association has compiled a directory of navigable waterways in Great Britain which can be accessed on its website.

Iraq: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contribution they are planning to make for shelter and emergency assistance for people in need as the offensive in Mosul develops, in particular for the elderly, the disabled and pregnant women. [HL2636]

Lord Bates: The UK is concerned for all of those affected, including the most vulnerable, by Iraqi-led military operations to retake Mosul from Daesh. The UK has been an early and significant donor to the UN's Mosul Flash Appeal, and is encouraging others to follow our lead. In 2016, the UK has announced £90 million of humanitarian assistance for Iraq, with a substantial element supporting partners preparing and responding to Mosul.

This assistance includes support for 66,000 people with shelter and support kits, including vital equipment, such as blankets, plastic sheets, buckets and other containers for water, cooking items and soap. It will also support 42,000 people with primary healthcare, covering areas of general clinical and trauma care, child health, management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health, and mental as well as environmental health care. The medical teams will consist of 12 General Practitioners, four obstetrics and gynaecology/paediatrician specialists, 20 nurses/midwife/pharmacist assistants, six community health workers and six clerical staff.

Since the summer of 2014, the UK has committed £169.5 million of humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

Iraq: Islamic State

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to protect civilians in Mosul; how many additional refugees from Mosul they anticipate will need to be cared for; and what planning is being done to stabilise Mosul and support civilians following the current offensive. [HL2543]

Lord Bates: According to the UN, up to 1.5 million people could be impacted by military operations to retake Mosul from Daesh, with up to 1 million people who may try to leave the city; of these, 700,000 might need shelter. The UK is supporting the Iraqi-led humanitarian response to ensure that civilians affected by Mosul military operations are provided with life-saving assistance, including protection support.

The UK has been an early and significant donor to the UN's Mosul Flash Appeal, and we have encouraged others to follow our lead. This year, the UK has announced £90 million of humanitarian assistance for Iraq, with a significant element supporting partners preparing and responding to Mosul. This takes the UK's total support to £169.5 million since summer 2014. In partnership with the UN, donors and others, we will

continue to monitor the situation closely. The UK continues to advocate strongly that civilians are protected and that International Humanitarian Law is upheld.

We are supporting the Government of Iraq in its efforts to stabilise areas which have been liberated from Daesh by providing the governance, services and security necessary to enable the safe return of Iraqis to these areas. As part of the Global Coalition, the UK is assisting Iraqi-led efforts to stabilise Mosul, with delivery through the UN. We have committed £15 million to the UN's stabilisation programming, through the UN Development Programme and UN Mine Action Service.

Ivory: China

Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with representatives from the People's Republic of China regarding the closing of domestic ivory markets. [HL2629]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The UK has engaged in a number of discussions with representatives from the People's Republic of China about trade in ivory and the need to tackle illegal wildlife trade. The UK-China Joint Statement from President Xi Jinping's State Visit to the UK in October 2015 "recognised the importance and urgency of combating the illegal wildlife trade."

On 21 September Defra Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities, Dr Thérèse Coffey, met a delegation from the People's Republic of China including Dr Liu Dongsheng, Vice Minister of the State Forestry Administration. Discussions included the ivory trade and Dr Coffey welcomed China's announcement to close its domestic market in ivory.

Kashmir

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Prime Minister intends to raise the issue of Kashmir with the government of India during her forthcoming visit to India. [HL2720]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) will discuss a variety of topics with Prime Minister Modi on her first overseas bilateral visit. The UK has a very close relationship with India through which we discuss a wide range of issues.

Kids Company

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to receive a report of the Official Receiver's winding up of Kids Company. [HL2813]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Official Receiver sent a report regarding the winding up of Keeping Kids Company to creditors, including Cabinet Office and HMRC, on 1 October 2015. The Official Receiver's enquiries into the affairs of Keeping Kids Company are continuing, and it would not be appropriate for me to comment on an ongoing investigation.

Mental Hospitals

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportions of black and minority ethnic (BME) (1) staff, and (2) patients, there are in mental health hospital psychiatric settings; and what assessment they have made of the extent to which BME patients in such settings are afforded access to equal and fair treatment. [HL2583]

Lord Prior of Brampton: This information is not held centrally.

NHS England is working with the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health and a range of multi-agency experts, to improve acute mental health care through an evidence-based treatment pathway with accompanying commissioning support tools for, planned for completion within 2016-17. Partners are committed to ensuring the work effectively addresses inequalities for people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, and a BME reference group comprising individuals with lived experience of using services has been established to provide advice and steer throughout the pathway development process. Following publication of the pathway, implementation will be monitored with particular consideration given to its impact on reducing health inequalities.

NHS England has undertaken an independent patient and service level audit of low and medium secure care services in England (2015 data). An analysis of the data shows that Black and Black British men are uniquely over-represented four-fold (six-fold in London) in secure care mental health services, and experience longer stays in restrictive settings.

NHS England is embarking on a new Secure Care Pathways transformation programme. The aim will be to prevent avoidable admissions to restrictive care by providing support earlier, closer to home, and to support people in their longer term recovery when they are ready to leave secure services. This programme is prioritising the experiences and needs of Black men with mental illness and risk and safety issues in the community. NHS England will undertake targeted engagement with Black men in secure mental health settings, and will co-design with experts by experience, carers, clinicians and providers a community-based Forensic Outreach and Liaison Service, which is particularly accessible and effective for this currently underserved group.

NHS trusts produced and published their first Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES) baseline data

on 1 July 2015 and the first WRES report *NHS Workforce Race Equality Standard – 2015 Data Analysis Report for NHS Trusts*, which provides analysis and an overview of data returns by individual trusts, was published in June 2016. A copy of this is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

WRES Data Analysis Report [WRES-Data-Analysis-Report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-24/HL2583>

Mersey Forest

Asked by Lord Fearn

To ask Her Majesty's Government by how much the Mersey Forest was extended during (1) 2014, (2) 2015 and (3) 2016 to date; and where new woodland was created as part of that forest. [HL2577]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Following a refresh of the Mersey Forest Plan in 2014, a boundary change increased the area of the Mersey Forest by 167 km² from 1,203 km² to 1,370 km², an increase of 13.9%.

The Mersey Forest is supported by Cheshire West and Chester Council, Halton Borough Council, Knowsley Council, Liverpool City Council, Sefton Council, St Helens Council and Warrington Borough Council.

It has reported woodland creation within its boundaries as 17.10ha in the 2013-14 planting season and 25.86ha in the 2014-15 planting season. No figure has been published for the 2015-16 planting season.

The Forest's web site can be viewed here: www.merseyforest.org.uk/.

Middle East: Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what response they are planning to make to the statement by the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs on 19 October on the Palestinian Occupied Territories and Iraq; and whether they intend to specify the headings to which they are responding. [HL2635]

Lord Bates: The UK shares the concerns raised by the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs to the Security Council on 19 October. As mentioned in the UK statement to the Security Council on 19 October, the government agree that efforts now need to focus on completing house rebuilding, reviving the productive sectors, stimulating exports, and creating jobs across the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The UK also continues to press for a sustainable political solution which will address Israel's legitimate security concerns whilst opening up movement and access. The UK government are equally concerned at the spike in demolitions in the West Bank, and urge Israel to halt the systematic policy of demolition of Palestinian structures. The UK is a long-

term supporter of Palestinian development through a range of programmes including private sector development, the delivery of basic services and support for over 5 million Palestinian refugees in the region.

On Mosul, the UK shares the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs' concerns for the protection of civilians, and has echoed his calls for all parties to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law. The UK has been an early and significant donor to the UN's Mosul Flash Appeal, and we are working to ensure others follow our lead. In 2016, the UK has announced £90 million of humanitarian assistance for Iraq, with a substantial element supporting partners preparing and responding to Mosul. This takes the UK's total humanitarian commitment in Iraq since the summer of 2014 to £169.5 million.

National Flood Resilience Review

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the National Flood Resilience Review continues to meet following the publication of its report, and what is its current membership. [HL2672]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The National Flood Resilience Review Group, led by the then Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP was constituted to oversee the development of the National Flood Resilience Review (NFRR). The review was published on 8 September 2016 and is now being implemented. The governance to oversee implementation is under consideration.

Occupied Territories: Land

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made, or intend to make, to the government of Israel about reports of 1,500 dunams of Palestinian land being illegally cultivated by Israelis from the moshav of Mateh Yehuda near Latrun and the settlement of Mevo Horon. [HL2805]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not made any representations to the Israeli authorities over this specific issue. The UK Government continues to argue for a just outcome for all the people affected by illegal settlement construction and the confiscation of land due to the Separation Barrier.

Overseas Students: EU Nationals

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of EU domiciled students who entered the UK to study in 2015; and how that number is estimated. [HL2607]

*Asked by **Baroness Wolf of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of EU domiciled students who left the UK during 2015; and how that number is estimated. [HL2608]

*Asked by **Baroness Wolf of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what numbers of EU domiciled students were used in calculating net migration statistics in (1) 2014, and (2) 2015; and what was the source of those numbers. [HL2609]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. What happens in terms of the migration system that will be established as we leave the EU is a matter that will be very closely scrutinised and looked at in great detail by the government and within the government.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA Response to HL2607, HL2608, HL2609 [Baroness Wolf (HL2607 HL2608 HL2609) Rayhan.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-25/HL2607>

Palace of Westminster: Asbestos

*Asked by **Lord Wigley***

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what assessment has been made of the extent and location of asbestos in the Palace of Westminster. [HL2656]

Lord Laming: The Senior Deputy Speaker has asked me, as Chairman of the Services Committee, to respond on his behalf.

It is difficult to estimate the precise amount of asbestos that is present in the Palace of Westminster because asbestos materials of various types have been widely used, over the years, often concealed in ducts and voids, and buried in the fabric of the building. Before the dangers of asbestos were known it was used extensively in building works due to its strength and resistance to heat and fire. Extensive surveying has been undertaken to inform Parliament's management of asbestos and robust controls are in place which cover checking for the presence of asbestos and the safe execution of works. Asbestos-containing materials have been identified by completion of an Estate wide asbestos management survey and subsequent analyses where applicable.

Parliament's Asbestos Management Plan complies with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and follows Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance. Risks associated with asbestos-containing materials are managed in line with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The plan is reviewed annually and has been independently audited.

All estates staff undergo Asbestos Awareness training and those responsible for instructing and arranging works

on the Estate's fabric have Asbestos Management training which provides information and advice about the dangers of asbestos, including asbestos-related diseases. Contractors and their staff are also required to undertake this training, or to provide evidence that they have done equivalent training.

Peers: Attendance

*Asked by **Lord Fearn***

To ask the Leader of the House how many of the current members of the House of Lords have attended the House on an average of two days per week during full sitting weeks during the last year for which figures are available. [HL2578]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: We do not keep figures in a way that makes it possible to compare attendance in a weekly pattern without incurring disproportionate cost. A usual sitting week is 4 days long. So a member who attends 50% of sittings would attend an average of about two days per week spread over a year. In the year ended 21 October 2016 there were 535 current members who attended more than 50% of sittings and 275 who attended 50% or fewer sittings. These percentages do not take account of members on leave of absence, suspended from participating in the House or disqualified from sitting in the House.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

*Asked by **Lord Northbourne***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to encourage and support maintained secondary schools in England and Wales to do more to prepare their pupils for the responsibilities of parenthood. [HL2308]

Lord Nash: We are clear that as part of schools' duty to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, all young people should be provided with a curriculum that prepares them for success in adult life.

Schools are best placed to make decisions about the education of their pupils. Teachers are able to cover parenting skills in personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education lessons. The non-statutory programme of study for PSHE includes the roles and responsibilities of parents, parenting skills, the value of family relationships, and the impact of separation, divorce and bereavement on families.

The Department does not hold information on secondary schools in Wales. This is the responsibility of the Welsh Government.

Physical Education

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to improve and roll out (1) training of specialist

physical educational teachers, and (2) physical literacy in primary schools. [[HL2209](#)]

Lord Nash: We are determined to ensure all children receive high quality physical education (PE) in order to keep fit, active and healthy, whilst also developing a lifelong participation in physical activity and sport.

PE is a compulsory subject at all four key stages in the national curriculum. The programme of study sets the expectation that schools should provide opportunities for pupils to become physically confident in a way that supports their health and fitness. Through the primary PE and sport premium, primary schools have already received over £450million of ring-fenced funding to provide additional and sustainable improvements to their PE and sport provision. In an independent evaluation, 84% of schools reported an increase in pupil engagement in PE during curricular time and in the levels of participation in extra-curricular activities.

Since the introduction of the primary PE and sport premium there has been an increase in the number of schools with a specialist PE teacher from 30% before the premium to 46% in 2014/15. Eighty-one per cent of schools also reported that the funding was used to up-skill and train existing staff in 2014/15. From September 2017, the funding will be doubled to £320million per year and schools will continue to have the freedom to spend the funding based on the needs of their pupils.

The Government does not prescribe specific subject content for initial teacher training (ITT). All ITT courses must be designed so that teacher trainees can demonstrate by the end of their training that they meet all of the Teachers' Standards at the appropriate level. This includes demonstrating good subject and curriculum knowledge by having a secure knowledge of the relevant subject(s) and curriculum areas.

To improve the quality and consistency of initial teacher training, in July 2016, the Government published a new framework of core content for ITT. The new framework emphasises the need for all ITT providers to audit trainees' subject knowledge early in their training and make provision to ensure that trainees have sufficient subject knowledge to satisfy the standard by the end of their training.

In the new Sport Strategy, the government has committed to support children and young people to develop the confidence and skills to take part and to be positive about sport and activity. As part of this work, we will be exploring how to increase physical literacy standards in primary schools.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are satisfied that the current numerical strength of the Police Service of Northern Ireland is adequate to meet current demands. [[HL2700](#)]

Lord Dunlop: Staffing levels in the Police Service of Northern Ireland are a matter for the Chief Constable and PSNI's budget is provided by the Department of Justice. However, we will always give our fullest possible backing to the men and women of the PSNI who do such a superb job. That is partly why this Government has provided specific Additional Security Funding totalling £230million in the last parliament and committed a further £160m in the current parliament.

Public Appointments

Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure political impartiality in the public appointments process. [[HL2779](#)]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: All public appointments are made on merit and follow a recruitment process regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The Commissioner collects and publishes data on an annual basis relating to public appointments within his regulatory remit including political activity.

Public Sector Debt

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the UK's national debt. [[HL2680](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: The government has already reduced the annual deficit by almost two-thirds from 10.1% of GDP in 2009-10 to 4% of GDP in 2015-16. However, at 84% of GDP last year, Public Sector Net Debt remains too high. The government will set out its plan to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability at Autumn Statement on 23rd November.

Pupils: Nationality

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 12 October (HL Deb, col 1889-90), whether any of the information supplied in response to the 20 information requests made by the Home Office of the National Pupil Database since April 2012 related to the information now being sought from schools as part of the school census on pupils' nationality; and whether such information will be supplied in response to future requests for information. [[HL2513](#)]

Lord Nash: Data on nationality and country of birth have not and will not be shared with the Home Office or anyone else. It is solely for DfE research.

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 12 October (HL Deb, col 1889-90), whether schools are required,

as part of the school census, to provide information on pupils' nationality, and whether schools will suffer any adverse consequences if they fail to do so. [HL2514]

Lord Nash: The Department for Education publishes guidance for schools on administering the school census. As stated in the guidance (section 5.3.5) the requested information on nationality is as declared by the parent or guardian. The parent or guardian may decline to provide this information to the school without consequences. In such a case, the school would record this as 'refused' to meet its statutory duty to make a return.

The guidance is available on the Government's website, www.gov.uk, by searching for 'School census 2016 to 2017: guide for schools and LAs'.

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 12 October (HL Deb, col 1889–90), what steps they have taken to inform parents that the provision of information about their child's nationality for inclusion in the school census is optional and that they can decline to provide that information without any adverse consequences. [HL2515]

Lord Nash: The Department for Education publishes guidance for schools on administering the school census. It is up to schools to then work with parents and guardians to collect this data. As stated in the guidance (section 5.3.5) the requested information on nationality is as declared by the parent or guardian. The parent or guardian may decline to provide this information to the school without consequences. In such a case, the school would record this as 'refused' to meet its statutory duty to make a return.

However, the Department is aware that a number of schools have not implemented the collection in accordance with the guidance. We will, therefore, work with the sector to consider how it can better support schools in collecting school census data for future rounds.

To address any uncertainties, I have placed an information note in the House Libraries. This note has also been published on the Department's public website.

The guidance is available on the Government's website, www.gov.uk, by searching for 'School census 2016 to 2017: guide for schools and LAs'.

Pupils: Personal Records

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information schools are required by law to collect regarding their pupils. [HL2421]

Lord Nash: Schools collect a range of information on pupils for their own purposes. Full details of all the data collected by law is accessible via the links in the attached list.

Some of this information is required to be submitted to the Department via various collections which are undertaken throughout the school year. The main types of information collected by the Department are:

- pupil identifiers (name, date of birth, etc)
- pupil characteristics (gender, ethnicity, language, etc.)
- pupil attendance and exclusions
- pupil special educational needs
- pupil attainment and teacher assessments

The school census has collected such data at pupil level from the introduction of the Pupil Level Annual School Census in 2002.

Pupils: Sexuality

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 12 October (HL Deb, col 1889), who has responsibility for (1) securing the answers to, and (2) restricting access to the information deriving from, Brighton and Hove Council's questionnaires to (a) young teenagers, and (b) the parents of 4 to 6 year-old children, about those children's self-perception of their sexual orientation. [HL2493]

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 12 October (HL Deb, col 1889), what correspondence there has been between the Department for Education and Brighton and Hove Council pertaining to questionnaires seeking information about children's self-perception of their sexual orientation; and whether they will place a copy of that correspondence in the Library of the House. [HL2494]

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the need for, and benefit to be derived from, the questionnaire issued by Brighton and Hove Council requesting information about children's self-perception of their sexual orientation. [HL2522]

Lord Nash: These questions refer to an answer given by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 12 October 2016, and also link to previous questions asked by Lord Macginnis, and answered by Baroness Williams of Trafford in April 2016.

As Baroness Williams set out in her previous reply, the Department for Education provides guidance on the Equality Act 2010 to schools which contains advice on the Public Sector Equality Duty and on the protected characteristic of gender reassignment.

The Department is not responsible for the decision by Brighton and Hove Council to include gender identity

information on the pupil registration form it issued in April 2016. The Council has the independence to make this decision. The Department has had no involvement and has not made any assessment of the questionnaire.

The Department does not hold details of any additional information collected by local authorities outside of those required by the Department for our centrally specified, mandatory data collections. Brighton and Hove Council is responsible for securing answers and restricting access to information generated by any questionnaire it issues.

The Department has not inquired into the gender identity of children in Brighton and Hove and has no correspondence on the matter.

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have given to local authorities, in particular Brighton and Hove Council, concerning requests for information about children's self-perception of their sexual orientation. [[HL2523](#)]

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to restrict the ability of local authorities to request information about children's self-perception of their sexual orientation. [[HL2524](#)]

Lord Nash: The Department for Education do not require schools or local authorities to collect any information on the sexual orientation of children. Any information collected locally by schools and / or local authorities on sexual orientation for their own purposes is a matter for them to manage locally.

The Department for Education has provided schools with guidance on complying with the Equality Act.

The Public Sector Equality Duty, at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, is a duty on public bodies (and others carrying out public functions) to consider, in their day to day work, the needs of people who share particular protected characteristics. This includes schools and children's services.

Under the Duty, public bodies must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conducted that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity, and;
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Equality Duty covers the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act, which includes age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Guidance on complying with the Act and the Equality Duty can be found on GOV.UK (under Equality Act 2010 guidance). Earlier guidance formed under the Coalition Government has been archived on the National Archives website (under the 'Equality Bill' guidance). The Equality

and Human Rights Commission has also issued guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Local authorities will also have to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 on the data they collect. The Information Commissioner's Office state that data should only be collected if organisations have legitimate grounds for collecting and using the personal data; that they do not use the data in ways that have unjustified adverse effects on the individuals concerned; that they be transparent about how they intend to use the data, and give individuals appropriate privacy notices when collecting their personal data.

Railways

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the death of a man hit by a train at Horley Station on 22 October, what steps they are taking to ensure that passengers delayed by such incidents are provided with (1) information as the nature of the incident, (2) regular updates as to what is being done about the incident, and (3) expectations regarding resumption of services. [[HL2556](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: This is an operational matter for Network Rail and Train Operating Companies, who are responsible for ensuring effective messaging to passengers about disruption to services and the impact on their journeys, and for working with the emergency services as necessary to ensure services can resume at the earliest opportunity. The industry appreciates that where there has been an incident such as a fatality, messaging needs to be handled sensitively to avoid causing undue distress to passengers.

Railways: Compensation

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the amount of compensation due to passengers for delays and cancellations which was unclaimed from each train operating company during the last year for which figures are available. [[HL2793](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Department for Transport has not made an estimate of unclaimed compensation. The Office of Rail and Road considered this issue in its response to the Which? super-complaint on passenger compensation and has committed to working with the industry to agree a set of indicators that will show how the take-up of compensation is changing over time.

We are also working with the industry as it develops improvements to make the compensation process as easy for passengers as possible, including further automation. A number of train companies have already introduced fully automated compensation and other are planning to do so.

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have made to, or discussed with, train operating companies to simplify procedures for passengers to claim compensation for delays and cancellations. [HL2794]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Rail Delivery Group (RDG) is leading the industry's response to the Office of Rail and Road's recommendations following the Which? super-complaint, and we are discussing this with them as they lead efforts to raise standards.

Actions already taken by the RDG include:

- the launch of a coordinated rail industry communications campaign to raise customer awareness of their right to and how to claim compensation; and
- an update to the National Rail Enquiries website to direct customers from the front page to full details about compensation and links to claim forms and specific information for every train company

The Department for Transport requires bidders for new franchises to put forward proposals to make the compensation process swift and simple.

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect each train operating company to implement passenger compensation for delays of 15 minutes or more. [HL2795]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 13 October 2016 the Secretary of State for Transport announced an improved compensation scheme for passengers if their train is more than 15 minutes late. We will implement the policy in the Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) franchise, which includes Southern, within months. Following its introduction on GTR services, 'Delay Repay 15' will then be rolled out across the network starting with the new South Western, West Midlands and South Eastern franchises. All franchise competitions let by the Department for Transport (DfT) will include requirements to introduce this policy and the DfT is exploring opportunities to roll this out for all DfT franchises during this Parliament.

Refugees: Calais

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to collect and analyse the lists compiled by British non-governmental organisations in Calais of children and adults who qualify for entry to the UK, and obtain the concurrence of the French authorities to their moving here. [HL2580]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our priority is to ensure the safety of children during the camp clearance and to ensure unaccompanied children eligible to come to the UK are transferred as quickly as possible. Working closely with the French authorities through an agreed and

proper process, and in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and charities, Home Office officials have interviewed 800 children in the camp who claim to have close family in the UK. Since 10 October, we have transferred almost 200 unaccompanied children to the UK and we expect to transfer many more over the coming days and weeks. We will continue to work with British NGOs as part of this process.

Schools: Admissions

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the current arrangements for a pupil moving from an academy school to a non-academy school, and whether the academy school is obliged to notify the local authority and the receiving school. [HL2233]

Lord Nash: Parents can apply for a place at any school, at any time.

Since 2012, local authorities have no longer been required to coordinate admissions outside the normal admissions round and parents can apply directly to the admissions authority of their preferred school.

Under whatever circumstance, when a child is taken off a school's register, the school must inform the relevant local authority. Where it is apparent that the child is moving schools, it must also inform the local authority of the school the child is moving to.

Similarly, when a school receives an in-year application, it is required to notify the local authority of the outcome of that application, even if the child cannot be admitted.

Sex and Relationship Education

Asked by Lord Northbourne

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proposal to change the status of all secondary schools in England to become academies would mean that those schools which are now maintained schools will no longer have an obligation to deliver sex and relationship education. [HL2419]

Asked by Lord Northbourne

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to introduce legislation to require all schools, including academies, to provide high quality sex and relationship education as part of their syllabus. [HL2420]

Lord Nash: The Government is clear that all schools should make provision for high-quality sex and relationship education, which is a vital part of preparing young people for life in modern Britain.

Academies, like maintained schools, must teach a broad and balanced curriculum and in respect of sex and relationship education, they must - under the terms of their funding agreement - have regard to the Secretary of

State's statutory Sex and Relationship Education guidance published in 2000.

The issue of statutory personal, social, health and economic education and sex and relationship education was raised during the Education Select Committee session in September. The Secretary of State agreed that we need to look again at how schools deliver high-quality personal, social, health and economic education including sex and relationship education. The Government is considering all the options and will come to a view in due course.

Social Security Benefits: Veterans

Asked by Lord Eames

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review financial support for ex-service personnel resident in Northern Ireland who suffer from disabilities as a consequence of injuries incurred during their service. [HL2698]

Earl Howe: War Pension Scheme and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (Guaranteed Income Payment) payments are uprated to protect against rising prices. In line with other public sector schemes, payments through the Armed Forces pensions and compensation schemes have increased with reference to the consumer price index and the Ministry of Defence has no plans to review this policy.

South Africa: International Criminal Court

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of South Africa's decision to withdraw as a party to the Rome Statute. [HL2724]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK regrets the decision by South Africa to initiate proceedings to leave the International Criminal Court (ICC). We recognise there are issues that need to be resolved with the ICC to ensure that it has the widest possible support. ICC working groups are currently considering some of the challenges in The Hague and New York. The Government hopes that South Africa will remain signatories to the Rome Statute and engage positively in further dialogue.

Special Educational Needs

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which schools unlawfully or disproportionately exclude pupils with special educational needs; and what steps they are taking to investigate such cases. [HL2693]

Lord Nash: All exclusions must be lawful, reasonable and fair. We do not have data or evidence of schools

acting unlawfully in relation to exclusions of pupils with special educational needs (SEN).

The Department collects data on the rate of exclusion for pupils with SEN, which is available in the 'Permanent and fixed-period exclusions in England: 2014 to 2015' national statistics release on the gov.uk website. We are aware that pupils with SEN are disproportionately likely to be excluded both for a fixed period and permanently.

All decisions to exclude can be (and in the case of longer or permanent exclusions, must be) reviewed by the schools' governing body to ensure that they are lawful, reasonable and fair. For permanent exclusions, parents can also request a review of the decision by an independent review panel. Where a parent requests an independent review, they also have a right to request the presence of an SEN expert to provide impartial advice to the panel on how SEN could be relevant to the exclusion, whether or not the school recognises that a child has SEN. The Department can also investigate if a parent believes an exclusion is unlawful or unfair; any allegation that a school had issued an exclusion unlawfully would be investigated fully.

In addition to this, Ofsted's assessment of behaviour in schools also includes specific consideration of whether any groups of pupils are being excluded disproportionately.

Terrorism: Internet

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 September (HL1606), where a communications service provider is not based in the UK but has UK citizens or foreign nationals working for it and residing in the UK, what is the justification for not prosecuting executives when their company fails to take action to remove terrorist or extremist content which would be an offence if committed by a UK based company and its officers. [HL2549]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government is actively considering whether to opt-in to the new Europol Regulation. We will inform Parliament of our decision in due course in the usual way.

Universities: Admissions

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many English state school pupils applying to UK universities for undergraduate study in 2015–16 did not have (1) maths GCSE, (2) English GCSE, and (3) either maths or English GCSE, at C grade or above. [HL2276]

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many English state school pupils accepting offers of an undergraduate place made by UK universities in 2015–16 did not have

(1) maths GCSE, (2) English GCSE, and (3) either maths or English GCSE, at C grade or above. [HL2277]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: Information on the GCSE grades of Universities and College Admissions Service (UCAS) applicants and applicants being accepted to UK universities is not held centrally. The information is held internally by UCAS.

Visas: Overseas Students

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the process for determining which international students applying for a visa to study in the UK should undergo an interview to assess that their course of study is genuine before a visa is issued; and what is the breakdown of their countries of origin. [HL2634]

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

It is not possible to release the break down of country of origin of students that are interviewed as this would be prejudicial to the operation of immigration controls.

Visas: Zimbabwe

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy regarding the issuing of temporary UK visas to Zimbabwean democracy and human rights activists in order that they can inform the UK Government and Parliament about the political and economic situation in Zimbabwe. [HL2650]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: All applications for a visa to travel to the UK, regardless of the applicant's nationality, are considered on their merits, in accordance with the Immigration Rules, taking into account the information and supporting documents provided in the application.

Work of the House of Lords

Asked by Lord Palmer

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker how much the report Work of the House of Lords 2015–16 cost to produce and distribute. [HL2880]

Lord McFall of Alcluith: The production and distribution costs of the 2015/16 edition of the Work of the House of Lords as at 3 November were £10,218.34 for a print run of 20,000 copies.

Young People: Education and Training

Asked by Lord Smith of Clifton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of data published by the Department for Education on 13 October showing that the proportion of 16- and 17-year olds in England not participating in education and training, as required by the Education and Skills Act 2008, stood at June 2016 at 9.1 per cent, what is the full breakdown of the activities of this group of 16- and 17-year olds; and what steps they are taking to reduce the proportion of those in the age group who are failing to participate. [HL2563]

Lord Nash: The figures published in June 2016 showed estimates of activities of young people as at the end of 2015. These showed that 9.1% of young people at age 16/17 were not in education or work-based learning (apprenticeships) at the end of 2015. The breakdown of the activities recorded for this group are as follows (with corresponding figures from end 2010 for comparison):

	2010	2015
Employer Funded Training	1.9%	2.5%
Other Education and Training*	0.7%	0.6%
<hr/>		
	2010	2015
Not in any education or training - in employment	2.8%	2.0%
Not in any education, employment or training (NEET)	6.7%	3.9%
All not in education or work based learning	12.0%	9.1%

*Wholly privately funded training not picked in the administrative data collections is included under other education and training (OET) which is estimated using the Labour Force Survey

The government is determined to do more to encourage young people to participate in education and training and that is why we are investing around £7 billion in 2016-17 to fund education and training places for 16 to 19 year-olds.

Under Raising the Participation Age (RPA), all young people are required to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday. The Department for Education works closely with local authorities, which have a duty to track and support young people to participate.

In addition to this duty, pathfinders to test Jobcentre Plus support for young people in schools have started and will be rolled out across England by March 2017. Improvements to careers education and guidance are also underway with £90m to be invested over this Parliament – including £20m to increase the number of mentors to support those young people who most need it. Youth Engagement Fund and Fair Chance Fund projects are

helping to improve the prospects of 9,600 young people, and an additional £105m was announced in the Spending Review to scale up Social Impact Bonds over the Parliament, to help deal with issues including youth unemployment.

These initiatives, alongside broader work including: curriculum; qualifications and technical education reform;

apprenticeships expansion and reform; traineeships; and the 16-19 Bursary Fund, continue to support young people by ensuring that they are able to gain the skills and qualifications they need for their future employment or continuing education and by removing barriers to participation.

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