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**Thursday
2 March 2017**

**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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<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 Buscombe	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Dunlop	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Whip
Lord Henley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
Baroness Mobarik	Whip
Lord Nash	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
Lord O'Shaughnessy	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
Lord Price	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
Lord Prior of Brampton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Baroness Shields	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	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

Thursday, 2 March 2017

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

[HLWS515]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity): My Hon. Friend the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (George Eustice) has today made the following statement.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council will take place on March 6 in Brussels. I will represent the United Kingdom.

As the provisional agenda currently stands, the primary focus of the Council will be an exchange of views on a Regulation establishing a multi-annual plan for small pelagic species in the Adriatic Sea.

There will also be an exchange of views on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy post-2020.

There are currently five items scheduled under 'Any other business':

Our Ocean Conference – An Ocean for Life (Malta, 5–6 October 2017) (tabled by the Commission).

G20 Agriculture Ministers' Conference (Berlin, 22 January 2017) (tabled by the German delegation).

European Solidarity Corps (tabled by the Commission).

Dual Quality Foodstuffs (tabled by the Slovakian delegation).

Update on the Animal Welfare Platform (tabled by the Commission).

Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. The outcome of these negotiations will determine the future shape of a new UK-EU partnership.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

[HLWS514]

Lord Henley: My honourable Friend The Minister of State for Employment (Damian Hinds MP) has made the following Written Statement.

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will take place on 3rd March in Brussels. I will be representing the UK.

The Council will be invited to an orientation debate on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation 883 on the coordination of social security systems and Regulation 987 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation 883. The Council will also be invited to a policy debate on the European Semester and the implementation of country-specific recommendations.

The Council will be invited to adopt draft Council Conclusions on the 2017 Annual Growth Survey and Joint Employment report, and to adopt the draft Joint Employment reports. As part of this, the Commission will also present the 2017 Country Reports, published 22 February. The Council will be invited to adopt the draft Council Conclusions on enhancing the skills of women and men in the EU Labour Market.

There will be a joint presentation by the Commission and the Presidency on the Tripartite Social Summit.

Under any other business, there will be information from the Commission about the communication on modernisation of the EU Occupational Safety and Health legislation and policy, and information in follow-up to their recent communication on Investing in Europe's Youth. There will be information from the Presidency on the state of play of the legislative proposal on Posting of Workers. The Chairs of the Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC) will provide information on their respective work programmes for 2017. There will be information from the European Institute for Gender Equality on the key findings of their study titled "Economic benefits of gender equality in the EU". The Portuguese delegation will provide information on the upcoming UNECE International Conference "A sustainable society for all ages: Realising the potential of living longer" (Lisbon, 21-22 September 2017).

Foreign Affairs Council

[HLWS518]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: My right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Sir Alan Duncan), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friends the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for Defence will attend the Foreign Affairs Council (Foreign and Defence Ministers) on 6 March. The Foreign Affairs Council will be chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. The meeting will be held in Brussels.

Foreign Affairs Council

The morning will start with a joint session for Foreign and Defence Ministers on defence. The foreign policy agenda will feature Western Balkans, migration, Egypt and the Middle East Peace Process.

Defence

Ahead of the joint session, Defence Ministers will discuss the strategic outlook for the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). EU Foreign and Defence Ministers will then review the implementation of the December European Council package on defence. The discussion and Conclusions will cover: improving the functioning of non-executive military (training) missions through the establishment of a Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC); Permanent Structured

Cooperation (PESCO) for better joint capability development; and the proposed Co-ordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD).

Western Balkans

Ahead of discussion on the Western Balkans at the March European Council, HRVP Mogherini will brief Ministers on her forthcoming regional tour and update the Council on the EU-facilitated Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue. In her 17 January speech, the Prime Minister identified the Western Balkans as a region in which the UK has played and will continue to play an active role in promoting European security.

Migration

There may be a discussion on migration following the Valletta Senior Official Meeting on 8-9 February which reviewed progress against the Valletta Action Plan. The UK used its Chairmanship of the Khartoum Process in 2016 to encourage implementation of the Valletta Action Plan to tackle unmanaged migration flows from the Horn of Africa. The UK provided a total of £4 billion in aid for Africa in 2015-16, with an increasing focus on jobs and livelihoods.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Shoukry will attend the lunch discussion where Ministers will discuss Egypt's relationship with the EU and role in the region. Discussions are expected to cover Egypt's political and human rights situation, including the growing restrictions on civil society. Ministers are also likely to discuss how the EU can best help strengthen Egypt's internal security, cooperate on bringing stability to Libya, and work together on combating illegal migration in the region.

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers will discuss developments on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) and are likely to discuss obstacles to peace, including incitement, terrorism, demolitions and recent settlement announcements.

General Affairs Council

[HLWS516]

Lord Bridges of Headley: My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Exiting the European Union (David Jones) has made the following written statement:

The General Affairs Council (GAC) on 7 March 2017 is expected to focus on: Resolutions, decisions and opinions adopted by the European Parliament; Preparation of the March European Council from 9 to 10 March 2017; European Semester and; Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making.

Resolutions, decisions and opinions adopted by the European Parliament

The Presidency will outline the resolutions, decisions and opinions adopted by the European Parliament (EP) at its plenary sessions of 13 to 16 February 2017.

Preparation of the March European Council from 9 to 10 March 2017

The Presidency will present its draft conclusions on the agenda for the March European Council. The agenda will include: jobs, growth and competitiveness; external security and defence; migration; and external relations, focusing on the Western Balkans. There will also be two procedural items on the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the election of the President of the European Council.

European Semester

The presentation on the European Semester is expected to cover: the priorities for the 2017 Semester; the implementation of reforms undertaken by Member States in response to their Country-Specific Recommendations; and the endorsement of recommendations on the economic policy of the euro area.

Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making

Information is expected on the 'Joint Declaration on inter-institutional priorities' signed by the Presidents of the European Council, European Commission and European Parliament in December 2016. The Presidency will also present an overview on legislative programming and the latest on Commission proposals regarding Delegated and Implementing Acts.

Modern Languages/Biblical Hebrew

[HLWS517]

Lord Nash: My right honourable friend the Minister of State for School Standards (Nick Gibb) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The government is tomorrow publishing subject content for AS and A levels in a range of languages with smaller cohorts. This fulfils the commitment made in 2015 to work with the exam boards to ensure the continuation of these qualifications.

The reformed GCSE content for modern foreign languages, published in 2014, is suitable for all the modern languages which have been redeveloped as part of the GCSE review process. These are: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, modern Greek, modern Hebrew, Polish, Panjabi, Russian, Spanish and Urdu. The exam boards have either already developed specifications for these GCSEs, or are currently doing so.

At A level, we have worked with the exam boards to develop specific content for modern languages with smaller cohorts. These languages are named in the content as follows: Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, modern Greek, modern Hebrew, Japanese, Panjabi, Persian, Portuguese, Polish, Turkish and Urdu.

The content for modern languages with smaller cohorts is largely identical to the reformed A level (and AS) content which applies to French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Italian and Russian. This was developed by the independent A Level Content Advisory Board (ALCAB), appointed by the Russell Group to meet the expectations of higher education, and was published in 2015.

This content for modern languages with smaller cohorts addresses the risks associated with examinations for smaller numbers of candidates, including the challenges of recruiting specialist examiners. The requirement to demonstrate speaking skills is not included in the content, which is consistent with current AS and A level qualifications in the relevant languages – with the single exception of Urdu (in which speaking skills are currently examined). We have, however, included a clarification that specifications should encourage the development of speaking skills, although those skills will not be formally examined. To secure a level of rigour which is comparable for all modern languages, the government is introducing a new requirement for modern languages with smaller cohorts. The proposed content requires students to apply language skills (reading, writing and listening) in combination, by responding to spoken and written sources addressing common subject matter.

The A level (and AS) content for modern languages with smaller cohorts will apply to courses beginning in September 2018. The current specifications for these languages will remain available for courses beginning in September 2017.

The government is also publishing tomorrow revisions to the ancient languages subject content, at both GCSE and AS/A level. This was first published in 2014, to apply to all ancient languages. For Biblical Hebrew, however, it has become evident that certain aspects of that content could not apply directly, or would be inappropriate at this level of study. To clarify how particular requirements will apply to Biblical Hebrew, and whether any requirements will not apply, we have worked with independent subject experts and others with a close interest in the subject. The revised content maintains the overall level of demand of the content while ensuring clarity as to how certain requirements should be met in Biblical Hebrew specifications.

National Employment Savings Trust

[HLWS513]

Lord Henley: My honourable Friend The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions (Richard Harrington MP) has made the following Written Statement

From 1 April 2017, changes to the National Employment Savings Trust Order 2010 and to the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) Rules will allow individual and bulk transfers into and out of the scheme in prescribed circumstances. These changes will help people who wish to consolidate their savings with NEST or with other pension providers, which is critical to reducing costs in pension schemes and avoiding large numbers of small scattered pots, often forgotten about by savers and hard to trace.

I can now confirm the charge structure that will relate to such transfers. Under the determination made by the previous government, the trustee of NEST (the Trustee) makes an annual charge on funds under management.

This has been set by the Trustee at 0.3%. In addition, to help cover the set up costs, the Trustee makes a charge on contributions into the scheme from both employers and employees. This has been set by the Trustee at 1.8%.

Introducing a new type of charge for transfers in would add complexity for members and be inconsistent with the Government's policy on charges. Therefore the existing contribution charge and annual management charge will apply to funds transferred into NEST. The Trustee will set the level of these charges as they apply to transferred funds.

Levying a 1.8 per cent contribution charge in these circumstances would be punitive for members and would discourage pot consolidation. Charges on transfers in are the exception in modern pension schemes and our policy is to discourage such charges. Therefore, I expect the contribution charge that will apply to transfers to be less than 1.8 per cent and place no lower bounds on its level, which is to be set by the Trustee with due regard to the impact on members and scheme finances. The Trustee will also be able to set a minimum transfer value.

In the case of bulk transfers, the Trustee will also have the option of recovering the costs of administering the transfer from the employer.

Government aims to achieve a balance between delivering good value to NEST's members, managing impacts on the wider pensions industry and ensuring affordability for the taxpayer. I have been assured by the Trustee that, in setting the level of the charges to apply to transfers, it will take into account its target market and public service obligations and am putting in place arrangements to enable me to keep this under review.

Policing

[HLWS519]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My right hon Friend the Minister of State for Fire and Policing (Brandon Lewis) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I want to update the House on work by the police to improve transparency on how they use force and on their use of conductive energy devices, commonly known as TASER.

In October 2014, the former Home Secretary commissioned the then national policing lead for conflict management, Chief Constable David Shaw, to carry out an in depth review of the data that should be recorded and published every time significant force is used by the police. This formed part of a range of work focused on improving the way the police interact with people, in particular vulnerable people, those with mental health issues, and Black and Minority Ethnic groups. A key driver has been to ensure transparency and accountability on the police use of sensitive powers.

I am pleased to update the House on the significant progress made, supported by a diverse range of partners including Amnesty International and BMH UK. Chief

Constable David Shaw's review made a number of recommendations, which set out that the police should publish a range of key information in respect of every serious use of force, including the ethnicity, age, location and outcome. The information should report on the situations when physical restraint is used, as well as the type of equipment, such as handcuffs, batons, sprays and conductive energy devices.

The recommendations made by Chief Constable Shaw were agreed by the former Home Secretary, and work has since been undertaken to ensure all police forces are ready for a new data collection system beginning on 1 April 2017. All forces will publish the data recorded locally on a quarterly basis, with a sub set of the key information collected provided to the Home Office as part of the Annual Data Requirement for 2017/18.

This data collection will be a significant factor in improving public trust and confidence in the police use of force. Improved transparency will contribute to delivering a real commitment on behalf of the police to respond to the genuine concerns raised by the public.

For the first time, this data will allow meaningful comparison across the range of techniques and tactics used by the police, and this should in time directly influence and strengthen police training, and operational decisions around the most appropriate tactics and equipment available where needed. It will allow scrutiny of why force is being used, which will provide invaluable insight, particularly in respect of minority and vulnerable groups, and in locations of concern, such as hospitals, mental health institutions and custody cells.

The wide range of data collected will also include information on injuries suffered, by the subject and also by the officers concerned. Our police forces deal with volatile and potentially dangerous situations every day, and this data will allow us to better understand the need for appropriate, justifiable use of force, as well as providing evidence of the tactics and techniques that may be more or less likely to result in injury in different circumstances.

This work is a real step forward. I am particularly pleased with the progress made to ensure the police and the public have the information needed to rightly

scrutinise how the use of force is deployed and I am proud that this level of reporting is unmatched anywhere in the world.

This is particularly fitting today as I would also like to inform the House of the Home Secretary's decision to authorise a new conductive energy device (CED), Taser International's TASER X2, for use by police forces in England and Wales. This decision is in response to the formal request from the national policing lead, DAC Neil Basu on behalf of the police in England and Wales following the end of production of the existing authorised device, the TASER X26, and an open and transparent procurement exercise to identify a replacement.

This Government is committed to giving the police the tools they need to do their job effectively, and where modern specialist equipment like CEDs are used, to ensure our officers have access to the best and most appropriate technology. The decision to authorise the TASER X2 follows stringent consideration of strategic, ethical, operational and societal issues, including an assessment of environmental factors. As part of this process, a full technical evaluation of the TASER X2 has been carried out. The results of this evaluation, as well as user handling trials, and training and guidance materials, were submitted for independent medical assessment by the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Medical Implications of Less-Lethal Weapons (SACMILL). The Committee has provided a medical statement on the TASER X2 and which confirms that when used by trained operators in accordance with UK policy and guidance, the medical implications of the TASER X2 are in line with those expected of a less lethal weapon of this type.

The decision to authorise the TASER X2 for use by the police also marks the award of a commercial contract with Taser International's UK distributor, Axon Public Safety Limited. A new national framework agreement will shortly be in place, subject to a 10 day standstill period.

A copy of the Use of Force Data Review can be found in the House Library, and I will ensure that SACMILL's medical statement is placed there and on gov.uk.

Written Answers

Thursday, 2 March 2017

Channel Four Television: Public Appointments

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration was given to the equality and diversity composition of the Channel 4 Board when the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport endorsed the appointment of four men to the Board and rejected the one female candidate who had also been recommended for appointment. [HL5545]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Non-executive members of the Channel 4 Corporation board are appointed by Ofcom with the approval of the Secretary of State. Ofcom advertised for four vacancies for candidates with specific sector skills and experience. The Secretary of State approved the four candidates on the basis that they met the skills and experience set out in the advertised job descriptions.

Developing Countries: Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the link between the protection of religious minority groups and alleviating global poverty. [HL5497]

Lord Bates: A commitment to human rights underpins the four strategic objectives of the Government's UK Aid Strategy, which include tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable. Freedom of belief is one of a range of human rights that DFID considers through its Partnership Principles Assessments when providing financial support to governments.

EU Law

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish the White Paper on the Great Repeal Bill. [HL5512]

Lord Bridges of Headley: I refer the noble Lord to the answer given on 20 February 2017 to Question HL5308.

The Government will bring forward a White Paper on the Great Repeal Bill in advance of introduction of the Great Repeal Bill in the next session. It will set out our approach to giving effect to withdrawal on the domestic statute book.

Gambling: Children

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 12 January (HL Deb, col 2064), how many times the Gambling Commission has taken action for failure to prevent underage gambling in each year since 2010; and what were the penalties issued in each case. [HL5580]

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 12 January (HL Deb, col 2064), what is the conviction rate of people who have been reported for failure to prevent underage gambling. [HL5581]

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 12 January (HL Deb, col 2067), how many times the Gambling Commission took action against those failing to prevent underage gambling in each year since 2010; and what penalties were issued in each case. [HL5633]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The protection of children from being harmed or exploited by gambling is one of the three licensing objectives that underpin the regulation of gambling in Great Britain. The Commission use a range of tools to prevent children from accessing gambling, one of which is to issue penalties.

The Gambling Commission licence and regulate gambling operators but individual gambling premises (across the land based sectors) are regulated by licensing authorities (local authorities). Any individual action in relation to land based gambling premises regarding underage gambling would therefore be taken by licensing authorities; as such, the Government does not hold the number of people convicted of failing to prevent underage gambling.

In terms of online, from November 2014 the Commission's regulatory framework was extended to include, for the first time, remote gambling operators that are based outside of Britain but are selling to customers here. In February 2017 the Gambling Commission prosecuted two men who were offering online unlicensed gambling to children. Fines and costs totalled £265,000.

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 12 January (HL Deb, col 2064), what measures are available to the Gambling Commission to take action against overseas providers which fail to prevent underage gambling. [HL5582]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: All operators that offer bets to people in Great Britain must obtain a licence from the Gambling Commission. Where an operator breaches the conditions of its licence the Gambling Commission has a range of powers at its disposal, including financial penalties, imposition of licence conditions or revoking the licence.

Where websites are identified that are offering facilities for gambling to customers in Britain without the appropriate licence the Commission will take action to ensure compliance with the licensing regime.

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 12 January (HL Deb, col 2067), what measures are available to the Gambling Commission to take action against overseas providers who fail to prevent underage gambling. [HL5634]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: All operators that offer bets to people in Great Britain must obtain a licence from the Gambling Commission. Where an operator breaches the conditions of its licence the Gambling Commission has a range of powers at its disposal, including financial penalties, imposition of licence conditions or revoking the licence.

Where websites are identified that are offering facilities for gambling to customers in Britain without the appropriate licence the Commission will take action to ensure compliance with the licensing regime.

Government Art Collection

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have decided to exhibit items from the Government Art Collection in a new London venue rather than outside the capital; and what the cost of the exhibition, including the new venue, will be. [HL5444]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: We are looking at options for increasing public access to the Government Art Collection (GAC) in London or around the country. Around two-thirds of the collection's holdings of over 14,000 works of art are already on display in more than 370 UK government buildings at home and abroad. An exhibition from the Collection will be held in Hull during its tenure as the UK City of Culture in the autumn and works from the Collection are on loan to public exhibitions.

ICT: Extracurricular Activities

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools in England and Wales offer coding as an extracurricular activity. [HL5579]

Lord Nash: The Department does not hold or collect data on how many schools in England and Wales offer coding as an extracurricular activity.

The Government has supported extracurricular coding initiatives, such as Code Club, which benefitted from funding through the Cabinet Office's Centre for Social Innovation Action Fund. Additionally, coding has been part of the English National Curriculum at all four Key Stages since 2014. The computing curriculum includes the basics of programming, and encourages pupils to design computer programs. All maintained schools must follow the computing curriculum and academies and free schools may use it as a benchmark.

Legal Profession: Conduct

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to consult on the creation of a fully independent body able to investigate and to rule on the ethics, conduct and behaviour of lawyers, with the ability to bring criminal prosecutions against solicitors and barristers for breaches of the law. [HL5590]

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to set up a public inquiry to investigate the ethics of lawyers. [HL5591]

Lord Keen of Elie: The UK's world leading legal services industry is based on the talent and professionalism of those who work within it.

The legal profession in England and Wales is independent from government, as are the bodies that regulate it. The Law Society is the body with statutory authority to regulate solicitors. It is required to ensure the independence of its regulatory function, which is delivered through the Solicitors' Regulation Authority.

It would be for the police to investigate any allegations of criminal conduct. If the police consider, after investigation, that there is a case to answer they will place the matter before the Crown Prosecution Service for action.

Where an issue of public concern needs investigating, the Minister may cause an inquiry to be held under the Inquiries Act 2005. There are no current plans to set up an inquiry into the ethics of lawyers.

Offenders: Females

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations they have conducted in the preparation of their strategy for improving the safety and reform of female offenders in custody and in the community; and when that strategy will be published. [HL5423]

Lord Keen of Elie: We are engaging with a wide range of interested parties as we develop our strategy to

improve outcomes for female offenders in the community and custody, including through the Department's Advisory Board for Female Offenders, which brings together key stakeholders, criminal justice partners and senior officials from other Government Departments to provide expert advice and challenge on policy and practice that has an impact on female offenders. We will set out our strategy in due course.

Part-time Education

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to implement Chapter 1 of Part 4 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 in order to ensure that institutions which provide part-time education for one or more persons of compulsory school age are subject to the same inspection and regulatory regime as independent schools. [HL5528]

Lord Nash: We have no immediate plans to implement the provisions in Chapter 1 of Part 4 of the Education and Skills Act which enable the registration and regulation of institutions providing part-time education because we do not intend to bring such settings into the same regulatory system as used for independent schools. However, the Government remains committed to regulating out-of-school education settings. Between November 2015 and January 2016 we conducted a call for evidence to gather information on the number of settings, hours of operation, number of children who attend and the frequency of attendance along with any safeguarding procedures and concerns in these settings. We will respond to the call for evidence and set out next steps in due course.

Politics: Education

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendations in the WebRoots Democracy report, *Democracy 2.0: Hitting refresh on the Digital Democracy Commission*; and what assessment they have made of its call to make political education compulsory in schools. [HL5460]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government notes the recommendations in The Institute for Digital Democracy's report '*Democracy 2.0: Hitting refresh on the Digital Democracy Commission*' and thanks them for their work in this very important area. The subject of citizenship has been part of the national curriculum for secondary maintained schools since 2002. One of the aims of citizenship education is to ensure that young people acquire a sound knowledge and understanding of how the United Kingdom is governed, its political system and how citizens participate actively in its democratic systems of government. New statutory programmes giving schools greater freedom over how to teach their Citizenship curriculum, including the aspects of political literacy, have already been established, taking effect in September 2014. In addition, The Government also has a

range of free learning resources, such as Rock Enroll, that aim to engage young people in the democratic system and can be used in an educational setting.

Public Appointments: Equality

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they have to determine progress on the implementation of policies and practices to achieve diversity of representation on the boards of organisations supported by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, with particular reference to black and minority ethnic women and disabled people's membership. [HL5547]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The government is committed to ensuring diversity within public appointments. The Cabinet Office aspiration is for 50% of new appointments made by each Government Department to go to female candidates, and 10% to candidates from a BAME background. This target is also contained within the DCMS Departmental Plan, and, in the first three quarters of 2016/17, 56% of new DCMS appointments went to women and 16% to BAME candidates.

Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff are employed in overseas countries who are dedicated to advancing freedom of religion or belief. [HL5463]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Ambassadors and High Commissioners, supported by their diplomatic staff, are expected to promote, protect and integrate human rights, including freedom of religion or belief throughout their work.

Social Enterprises

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they (1) currently support, and (2) plan to support, the social enterprise and social investment sectors across the UK. [HL5480]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Government continues to deliver a number of initiatives to support social enterprises. Specifically we have strengthened the social investment market by building the infrastructure, for example by setting up Big Society Capital, the world's first wholesale social investment institution, which has already made over £587m worth of investments. We have also set up Access, a £60m foundation for social investment, which supports social enterprises to take on investment.

In addition, the Government has increased opportunities for social enterprises to win public sector contracts by developing 32 operational Social Impact Bonds, which

are a type of outcomes based contracts to deliver public services.

We have also encouraged individuals to invest in social enterprises through the world's first Social Investment Tax Relief that allows people to offset 30% of the cost of their investment from their income tax liability. UK charities and social enterprises have raised £3.4m in two years thanks to the relief. Access to procurement opportunities for social enterprises has been facilitated through the Social Value Act, which encourages commissioners to consider the social value of their suppliers.

The Government continues to support the growth of public service mutuals to promote greater employee input within organisations. 115 public service mutuals have been created since 2010.

The recent Industrial Strategy Green Paper reaffirmed the government's commitment to social enterprise, and the government is currently consulting on this.

Sports: Finance

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the remarks by the Sports Minister to Sports Management in January that the Sporting Future strategy "effectively starts properly from April", whether they will provide additional funding for sports under the strategy; and if so, whether that additional funding will be sufficient to enable local authorities to reverse planned cuts to funding for sporting provision. [HL5574]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The remark made by the Sports Minister in Sports Management magazine is reference to the fact that the funding set out in Sporting Future and Sport England's strategy, Towards an Active Nation, comes in as of April 2017, when the new financial year begins. This is when a number of the new investment programmes set out in Towards an Active Nation will begin.

Local authorities are the biggest investors in sport and physical activity. Good local authorities will recognise the value of investing in sport and physical activity for the long term benefits this brings to their residents' physical and mental wellbeing.

Sport England works with local authorities in England to provide advice and expertise on how sports facilities in their communities can be managed in a strategic, cost-effective and sustainable way.

Teaching Methods

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the pedagogical rationale and practices of the Ralston-Semler Foundation Lumiar schools, with specific reference to their mosaic curricula. [HL5475]

Lord Nash: The Department has not made any direct assessment of the Ralston-Semler Foundation Lumiar schools.

The mosaic curricula the Lumiar schools have developed is a personalised project based curriculum that focuses on developing skills and competencies.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has undertaken research on individualised instruction but has not evaluated the mosaic curricula or these schools. The EEF rate individualised instruction as low impact based on a moderate strength of evidence: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/resources/teaching-learning-toolkit/individualised-instruction/>

The Sutton Trust and Durham University have also published an overview of effective pedagogy which notes that discovery learning is not supported by research evidence. This can be found in the attached document.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

what_makes_great_teaching [What-makes-great-teaching-FINAL-4.11.14.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-20/HL5475>

Yemen: Famine

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take in response to the UN warning of risk of famine in Yemen; and whether they intend to take action to promote access to food for those affected by the famine. [HL5451]

Lord Bates: In 2016/17 UK Aid has so far supported 462,000 people with food or food vouchers, and 889,000 women and children with nutrition interventions. In 2015/16, the UK helped over one million people in Yemen with emergency humanitarian assistance, including over 730,000 benefitting from food. The Secretary of State for International Development has issued a call to action to the international community to step up their response in Yemen, as one of four potential famines in 2017.

Young Offenders: Travellers

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Keen of Elie on 13 February (HL5073), whether governors will be encouraged to work with specialist Gypsy, Traveller and Roma education providers. [HL5426]

Lord Keen of Elie: As part of our youth justice reforms, we will ensure governors have increased flexibility to work with providers to decide how education is best delivered. It will be for them to decide how best to meet the different needs of all young people in their establishments.

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