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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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<b>Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office and Department for Transport
<b>Baroness Anelay of St Johns</b>	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<b>Baroness Altmann</b>	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Lord Ashton of Hyde</b>	Whip
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<b>Lord Faulks</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Justice
<b>Lord Freud</b>	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Lord Gardiner of Kimble</b>	Deputy Chief Whip and Spokesman for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Lord Keen of Elie</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland
<b>Lord Nash</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
<b>Baroness Neville-Rolfe</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department for Culture, Media and Sport
<b>Lord O'Neill of Gatley</b>	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
<b>Lord Price</b>	Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<b>Lord Prior of Brampton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
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# Written Statements

Monday, 4 July 2016

## Children's Social Care

[HLWS58]

**Lord Nash:** My Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Children and Families (Edward Timpson) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

Today the Government is publishing *'Putting Children First: delivering our vision for excellent children's social care'*, a policy paper which sets out our programme of reform to children's social care for the next four years.

Children's social care services have an essential and life changing role to play in transforming the life chances of our most vulnerable children and families, stepping in to provide support so that children can stay with their birth family wherever possible. Where this can't happen, difficult decisions often have to be made to put in place alternative arrangements that are in the best interests of the child, ensuring they have safe, stable and nurturing relationships, whether through adoption, foster care, residential care or family and friends' care.

In January, we set out our ambitious vision and our reform programme for children's social care, structured around three key areas:

- People and leadership, bringing the best people into the profession, equipping them with the right knowledge and skills for the incredibly challenging but hugely rewarding work we expect them to do, and developing leaders equipped to nurture practice excellence.
- Practice and systems, creating the right environment for excellent practice and innovation to flourish and creating a learning culture, drawing on both best practice and the lessons when things go wrong.
- Governance and accountability, making sure that what we are doing is working, using data to show the strengths and weaknesses in the system, and developing

innovative new organisational models with the potential to radically improve services.

*'Putting Children First'* sets out – against each of these three pillars – how we will create the conditions to enable Government, local authorities and their local partners, social workers and other professionals such as foster carers to provide consistently excellent children's social care, where the best interests and voice of the child are at the heart of decision-making, and to enable excellence to flourish and spread.

By 2020 we want all vulnerable children, no matter where they live, to receive the same high quality of care and support. The best outcome for every child will be central to every decision that is made.

Also published today is an independent report on children's residential care by Sir Martin Narey, former Chief Executive of Barnardo's and independent social care adviser to the Department for Education.

Sir Martin is clear that, despite challenges, the quality of care provided in homes is generally high and that there is an important ongoing role for residential care as an option for looked after children. We support Sir Martin's positive vision for the future role of residential care, and are very grateful for his report. The Government accepts his analysis and findings and welcomes the recommendations he makes. We will be responding more fully to his recommendations in the Autumn. However, some immediate actions are clear and we will take them forward now, including:

- Introducing a specific funding stream as part of the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme to test innovative ideas for using residential care in a more dynamic and creative way to support those children who can benefit; and
- Developing a Staying Close programme for those leaving residential care, an alternative to the Staying Put arrangements which already exist for children in foster care. We will use the Innovation Programme to pilot possible models of Staying Close.

Copies of *'Putting Children First'* and Sir Martin's report will be placed in both House libraries.

## Written Answers

*Monday, 4 July 2016*

### **BBC: Royal Charters**

*Asked by **Baroness Byford***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the next BBC Charter will include a requirement for public service notices to be broadcast over (1) BBC radio, and (2) BBC television. [[HL775](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** There are provisions in the current BBC Framework Agreement for the broadcast of an announcement in an emergency. There are no plans to change this. The new BBC Framework Agreement will be published in due course.

### **Bovine Tuberculosis: Exmoor National Park**

*Asked by **Lord Patten***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 25 May (HL39), what discussions they have had with the National Trust about badger culls; what was the outcome of those discussions; and whether they will publish the results of those discussions. [[HL762](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Defra officials have regular conversations with the National Trust about the Government's 25-year strategy to eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) in England. The National Trust has published its view on badgers and TB on its website.

### **Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination**

*Asked by **Lord Trefgarne***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to secure adequate supplies of anti-TB vaccine for use on badgers, in view of the present shortage. [[HL769](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The ongoing shortage of Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine, and the need to prioritise available stocks for humans, is impacting on supply for badger vaccination projects. Following advice from Public Health England (PHE) in December 2015, Defra took the decision to suspend attempts to source BCG vaccine for the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme and other private badger vaccination deployment projects in England until this situation is resolved.

We are seeking regular updates from PHE about the vaccine shortage so that once the situation is resolved we can be in a position to re-start ordering of vaccine at the earliest opportunity.

### **Deutsche Börse**

*Asked by **Lord Myners***

To ask Her Majesty's Government which will be the lead regulator responsible after the acquisition of the London Stock Exchange by Deutsche Börse. [[HL756](#)]

*Asked by **Lord Myners***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 6 June (HL348 and HL349), whether the Bank of England will have regulatory responsibility for the subsidiary clearing house of Deutsche Börse incorporated in Germany; and, if it will not, which regulator would have responsibility in the event of a dispute between the clearing house based in the UK and the one based in Germany. [[HL757](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** As announced by the companies in February 2016, the existing regulatory framework of all regulated entities within the combined group would remain unchanged. This is subject to the regulatory review which will take place once the regulators are notified by the companies.

European Regulation No 648/2012 (EMIR) requires coordination amongst regulators for supervisory and authorisation matters with regards to CCPs.

### **Domestic Appliances: Fires**

*Asked by **Baroness Byford***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review the safety standards for refrigeration units and tumble dryers in the light of the number of fires caused by such machines in individual homes. [[HL779](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The safety of tumble dryers and refrigeration units is regulated by the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994, which require these products to be safe and manufactured in accordance with good engineering practice. Standards, although voluntary, support the legislation by providing a benchmark as to what is considered to constitute safe in practice. The review of British Standards is a matter for the British Standards Institution (BSI) which undertakes regular reviews to ensure the standards address any safety concerns raised and follow best practice, and BIS officials participate in these activities.

I am aware that the BSI has submitted proposals to the International Electro-technical Committee (IEC) to revise the refrigeration standard to address the recent fire concerns.

The standard for tumble dryers is frequently revised, the last revision being in 2015, to ensure the relevant hazards are addressed.

### Euston Station

*Asked by Lord Truscott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost of redeveloping Euston as part of the HS2 programme. [[HL770](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Several assessments of the costs for redeveloping Euston were undertaken as part of the option appraisal work in developing the current proposals for the HS2 Euston Station.

### High Speed 2 Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Truscott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the Cabinet Secretary to conclude the HS2 cost review; and whether they will place a copy of his conclusions in the Library of the House. [[HL771](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As is normal for large projects, the Cabinet Office's Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) is conducting assurance of the HS2 programme as it proceeds into its delivery phase. It is standard practice for this to include a small cross Government team, and not unusual for the Cabinet Secretary to take an interest on projects of this scale.

Headlines from the IPA's work on Phase 2 of High Speed 2 has now been reported in a NAO report on the HS2 project, published on 28 June. The work informs future cost estimates for HS2, as these are developed.

*Asked by Lord Truscott*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recent publication HS2 and the railway network: the case for a review by Tony May and Jonathan Tyler, in particular the portions regarding costs and emissions arising from the development of Euston station. [[HL772](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** HS2 has undertaken a general review of the report. This includes points on emissions where HS2 consider reducing the speed of the railway makes minimal impact to the construction carbon footprint, and on costs where comparison with other schemes is not being made on a like for like basis.

For example the French track has no new stations, it does not go through a dense built-up urban area, it does not have the tunnels that we are building on HS2 to protect the environment, and property prices are very low in comparison to the UK. The net result is that it is cheaper, but we will use joint ventures including continental firms with experience of building high speed rail and this will drive down our costs.

The review did not specifically cover costs or emissions arising from the development of Euston Station. However, HS2 Ltd is committed to minimising the carbon footprint of HS2 as far as practicable and to delivering low carbon long distance journeys supported by low carbon energy. We will do this by, where

practicable, avoiding carbon in the design, reducing carbon from construction and operations, using and/or generating low carbon energy and sequestering carbon.

### House of Lords: Prayer

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask the Chairman of Committees whether he has considered recommending to the relevant Committee of the House of Lords that at times of great national tragedies the House could hear inclusive prayers that reflect the national mood of grief and caring. [[HL767](#)]

**Lord Laming:** The Noble Lord may wish to take informal soundings about this possibility and to consider writing to the Convenor of the Lords Spiritual and Procedure Committee with a proposal.

### Nurses: Training

*Asked by Lord Harrison*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Department of Health's consultation on changes in how healthcare education for nurses is funded, what are the next steps in the legislative process. [[HL909](#)]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The Government expects to lay Regulations later this year implementing changes to student support arrangements for nurses starting their courses in 2017/18.

### Postgraduate Education: Soil

*Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many masters degree courses on soil science are currently offered by UK universities. [[HL753](#)]

*Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many postgraduates enrolled at UK universities and colleges are specialising in soil science. [[HL754](#)]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** Information on enrolments at UK Higher Education Institutions are collected and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The latest data for the 2014/15 academic year suggests there were about 40 full-person equivalent postgraduate students enrolled in soil science across three UK universities and colleges; these are the University of Aberdeen, University of Nottingham and the University of Reading. Of these, about 15 full-person equivalents were masters students studying at the University of Aberdeen.

Soil science has a Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) code of F770. This is a detailed level code and some universities may occasionally allocate students to more general codes.



## Railway Track: South West

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 2 June (HL136), and to the letter from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon to Lord Patten dated 6 June placed in the Libraries of both Houses, whether they consider the single track railway between Salisbury and Yeovil to be "not unmodern". [HL760]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport does not use the term "not unmodern" to classify or assess railway routes.

The rail line between Gillingham (Dorset) and Pinhoe was re-signalled in 2012 and Stagecoach South Western Trains introduced additional services to the West of England in December 2015.

## Recall of Unsafe Products Review

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 8 April (HL7348), when they will announce the membership of the steering group promised in their response, published on 18 February, to the independent review of UK consumer product recall by Lynn Faulds Wood, following the invitation to potential candidates of 6 April; and when they intend to report on the progress being made on implementing the report. [HL751]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** A statement on the membership of the steering group has been issued and is attached. It can also be seen on the Gov.uk website.

The first meeting of the steering group took place on 4 May and the group will report on its progress in due course.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Membership of Recall Review Steering Group [HL751 -  
Membership of Recall Review Steering Group.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-20/HL751>

## Rights of Way

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 26 May (HL137), whether they will place a record of their consultations with the Stakeholder Working Group and local authorities in the Library of the House; and if so, by what date. [HL761]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Explanatory Memorandum to the regulations amending the Local Authorities (Recovery of Costs for Public Path Orders) Regulations 1993 will record the outcome of both the

public consultation in 2012 and the Government's further discussions with the Stakeholder Working Group and local authorities.

Extracts of the minutes from the relevant meetings of the Stakeholder Working Group will be placed in the Library of the House when the amendments to the Local Authorities (Recovery of Costs for Public Path Orders) Regulations 1993 are laid before the House for approval.

## Soil: Research

*Asked by Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how soils research sponsored by the Research Councils is translated into practical measures that can be readily adopted at farm level. [HL755]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The findings from soils research are translated into practical measures that can be applied at farm level in a number of ways. This includes testing of measures as part of the research, reviews of the evidence base feeding into the development of farmer guidance or direct knowledge transfer as part of the research project.

No formal assessment has been made of how soils research sponsored by the Research Councils is translated into practice. However, the part-Defra funded Soil Evidence Review, published in 2015 as part of the Natural Environment Research Council's Soil Security Programme, emphasised the importance of engagement between researchers and farmers as being a priority to ensure understanding of agricultural issues (e.g. practical and economic challenges) and to aid the effective implementation of new knowledge and technologies.

## Students: Loans

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Evans of Bowes Park on 9 May (HL7498), whether the recent inquiry and report by the Quality Assurance Agency on West London Vocational Training has led them to reconsider or amend current measures relating to alternative providers; and if not, why not. [HL773]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The Government has revoked West London Vocational Training College's designation for student support funding for Higher Education (HE) courses in England with effect from 3 June. Affected students will be supported so they can continue their studies with as limited disruption as possible. The cross-agency action in this case demonstrates the Government's continuing strong focus on improving quality and value for money across the Alternative Provider (AP) sector.

Since the 2012-13 academic year the Government has progressively strengthened systems to oversee the specific course designation of APs to secure improved quality and standards, including the introduction of a more rigorous,

risk-based approach to quality assurance and annual provider re-designation.

Further reforms announced in the May 2016 HE White Paper will create a level playing field for all HE providers, supporting greater diversity, innovation and choice for students, whilst preserving quality and value for money.

### **Turkey: LGBT People**

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Turkey about the banning of the Istanbul LGBT Pride march. [[HL763](#)]

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the rainbow flag will be flown over the British Embassy in Turkey over the weekend commencing 24 June. [[HL764](#)]

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Turkey about the reported use of tear gas and rubber bullets at a LGBT pride march in Istanbul. [[HL766](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not discussed these specific cases with the Government of Turkey. We regularly underline the importance of all fundamental freedoms as part of our broader dialogue with the Turkish government, including the freedom of assembly and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex persons. We did not fly the rainbow flag over our Embassy in Ankara over the weekend commencing 24 June. British Missions overseas fly the Diplomatic, Union or Consular flag throughout the year, the flags of the constituent countries of the UK on their respective national days and in certain countries the European flag. Missions do not fly any other flags.

### **Universities: Research**

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to cover any shortfall in university research funding as a result of the UK leaving the EU if a satisfactory negotiated alternative cannot be achieved. [[HL847](#)]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The future of UK access to European research and innovation funding will be a matter for the new Prime Minister and government to discuss. The government is determined to ensure that the UK continues to play a leading role in European and international research and innovation.

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