



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 20 July 2016 and the information is correct at the time of publication (06:31 P.M., 20 July 2016). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

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

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

ANSWERS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ Arts: Royalties

Nigel Adams:

[\[42572\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the recommendations of the Creative Industries Council in its report entitled *Create Together*, published in July 2016, on clarifying the role of safe harbours and rights holders' remuneration.

Joseph Johnson:

The *Create Together* strategy produced by the industry members of the Creative Industries Council is a strategy for building on the economic success of the UK's creative sector. It is one which the Government supports. Government is currently reviewing specific recommendations within the strategy, including on safe harbour. We are strongly committed to working constructively with industry on these issues.

The Government agrees that it should not be possible to benefit from encouraging the posting of copyright infringing content through safe harbours, and that the rules governing who is responsible for such content should be clear. In developing the UK's copyright framework going forward, we will consider whether the current situation is providing the right mix of incentives and protections.

■ Research: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[42371\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to safeguard levels of research funding in universities as a result of the outcome of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government recognises the importance of our research base, which is why we have protected the science resource budget in real terms from its 2015/16 level of £4.7 billion for the rest of the parliament.

The future of UK access to European research and innovation funding will be a matter for the new Prime Minister and government to decide. The Government is determined to ensure that the UK continues to play a leading role in European and international research and innovation.

■ Science: EU Grants and Loans

Calum Kerr:

[\[42298\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he plans to take to protect UK science from the effect of uncertainty about access to European Research Council grants.

Joseph Johnson:

The UK's decision to leave the EU has no immediate effect on the right of researchers to apply or to participate in Horizon 2020 as the UK is still an EU member state. UK participants can continue to apply to the programme in the usual way. The Commission has made a public statement on its website to this effect. The future of UK access to European research and innovation funding will be determined as part of wider discussions with the EU.

■ Universities

Daniel Zeichner: [\[42184\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the effect of the vote to leave the EU on academic collaboration.

Daniel Zeichner: [\[42196\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the immediate effect of the vote to leave the EU on UK research (a) in general and (b) funding.

Daniel Zeichner: [\[42202\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what representations the Minister of State for Universities and Science has made to his European counterparts since the EU referendum on access to EU research grants for UK researchers.

Joseph Johnson:

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear, while the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU funding and collaboration arrangements continue unchanged, including those that apply to students, researchers, and businesses. I am in close contact with Commissioner Moedas on the topic of Horizon 2020 funding, and I met with the Italian Minister for Education, Universities and Research on 11 July.

The UK is world-class in research and innovation and we play a leading role in major European and international collaboration, including ESA and CERN.

CABINET OFFICE

■ Cabinet Office: Temporary Employment

Tom Watson: [\[42774\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many staff employed on temporary contracts by his Department are currently carrying out work in areas where there is a longer-term requirement for staff to be employed in such areas.

Ben Gummer:

The Cabinet Office has a flexible operating model, employing a mix of staff on permanent contracts, loans in from other government departments, fixed-term appointments, and contractors supplied via third party agencies. All areas of work that

have long term requirements use a mix of staff to meet their objectives, including those on temporary fixed-term contracts. As at May 2016, there were 588 staff on fixed term contracts in the Cabinet Office.

■ **Civil Service Agencies: Merseyside**

Frank Field: [\[42880\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what central government agencies are based in Merseyside.

Ben Gummer:

Based on data published in Public Bodies Directory in December 2015, agencies with a principal office in Merseyside are:

- a) Executive Agency: Crown Commercial Service, in Liverpool.
- b) Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs): Charity Commission for England and Wales, Health and Safety Executive, both in Bootle; Disclosure and Barring Service and National Museums Liverpool, in Liverpool.

In addition, the Government Property Unit's Electronic Property Information Mapping Service, published on data.gov.uk, shows the following public bodies have a presence in the North West of England as of June 2016:

Arts Council England
Big Lottery Fund
British Council
Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency
Education Funding Agency
Environment Agency
Equality and Human Rights Commission
Forestry Commission
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service
High Speed 2
Historic England
HM Land Registry
HM Revenue and Customs
Homes and Communities Agency
Imperial War Museum
Information Commissioners Office
Insolvency Service
Maritime and Coastguard Agency

National Heritage Memorial Fund
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
National Offender Management Service
Natural England
Natural Environment Research Council
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Office for National Statistics
Ordnance Survey
Public Health England
Science and Technology Facilities Council
Science Museum Group
The Met Office
Valuation Office Agency

■ **Department for Exiting the European Union: Staff**

Andy Slaughter: [\[42931\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many officials of which pay grade will work in the Department headed by the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union; and where that Department will be based.

Mr David Davis:

The recently announced Department for exiting the European Union will be led at Permanent Secretary level by Oliver Robbins. The new Department will sit at the heart of government and be staffed by the best and brightest from across the civil service and will draw on external expertise if required. The unit will bring together officials and policy expertise from across the Cabinet Office, Treasury, Foreign Office, Business Department and the wider civil service.

The department's Ministers are based in 9 Downing Street.

■ **Elections: Law**

Tom Watson: [\[42853\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what representations he has received from (a) professional bodies and (b) other organisations on the streamlining of electoral law.

Chris Skidmore:

Cabinet Office Ministers have had discussions with key electoral bodies and organisations on a range of electoral issues, including the review of UK electoral law currently being undertaken by the Law Commissions.

Tom Watson: [\[42864\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the Government's policy is on the finding of the Law Commission in its interim report on electoral law, published in February 2016, that electoral law should be governed by a rational and holistic framework governing all existing elections.

Chris Skidmore:

The Government is currently considering the recent interim report on electoral law from the Law Commissions. This is a comprehensive and wide ranging report which makes a number of recommendations. The Government is actively discussing the details of the report with the Law Commissions and other bodies.

Tom Watson: [\[42938\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to implement the recommendations in chapter two of the Law Commission's report on electoral law, published in February 2016.

Chris Skidmore:

The Government is currently considering the recent interim report on electoral law from the Law Commissions, including the reforms set out in chapter two. This is a comprehensive and wide ranging report which makes a number of recommendations. The Government is actively discussing the details of the report with the Law Commissions and other bodies.

Tom Watson: [\[42939\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if his Department will consult with the devolved administrations to make electoral law less complex.

Chris Skidmore:

Cabinet Office has regular discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Government on a range of electoral issues. No aspects of electoral law are devolved in Northern Ireland and responsibility for electoral policy remains with the Northern Ireland Office.

■ **Eric Pickles**

Jonathan Ashworth: [\[43068\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar has retained his role as the Government's Anti-Corruption Champion.

Ben Gummer:

The Prime Minister will consider all such appointments, including that of the anti-corruption champion, in due course.

TREASURY**■ Credit Cards: Debts**

Jim Shannon:

[\[42604\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will hold discussions with credit card companies on steps to support people who have large credit card debts related to shopping.

Simon Kirby:

The Government has fundamentally reformed regulation of the consumer credit market, which includes the credit card sector. Consumer credit regulation transferred from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) on 1 April 2014.

The FCA is currently undertaking a thorough review of the credit card market through its 'credit card market study'. The market study is investigating three areas, one of which is the extent of unaffordable credit card debt. On 3 November 2015 the FCA published its interim report which found that the market was working reasonably well for most customers. However, the FCA expressed concern about the scale of potentially problematic debt in this sector, and the incentives for firms to manage this.

The interim report also included the FCA's early thinking on potential remedies which include measures to give consumers more control over their credit limits, measures to encourage customers to pay off debt quicker when they can afford to, and proposals that firms do more to identify earlier those consumers who may be struggling to repay and take action to help them manage their repayments. The FCA is currently asking for feedback on the findings and potential remedies.

The Government is looking forward to the final report in Q3 2016, and would encourage interested parties to give their views to the FCA to assist it in addressing the issues it has identified.

■ Double Taxation: Treaties

Steve McCabe:

[\[42886\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 6 July 2016 to Question 41340, whether his Department publishes details of the negotiations on double taxation agreements between the UK and other countries.

Steve McCabe:

[\[42890\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the objectives are of the negotiations on double taxation agreements with the UAE; and (a) what progress has been made and (b) what outcomes have been reached in those negotiations.

Steve McCabe:

[\[42891\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the objectives are of the negotiations on double taxation agreements with (a) Guernsey, (b) Isle of Man and (c) Jersey; and what (i) progress has been made and (ii) outcomes have been reached in those negotiations.

Steve McCabe:

[\[42925\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the objectives are of the negotiations on double taxation agreements with (a) Lesotho and (b) Malawi; and what (i) progress has been made and (ii) outcomes have been reached in those negotiations.

Jane Ellison:

By governing the taxation of cross-border income flows in a predictable manner and eliminating double taxation and excessive taxation, tax treaties promote international trade and investment, leading to sustainable tax revenues, which are vital in financing development. In addition they serve an Exchequer protection role by including provisions to combat tax avoidance and evasion- partly by measures providing for the exchange of information between revenue authorities. A tax treaty can only be concluded if its terms are acceptable to both countries.

Details of the countries with which the UK is negotiating are published by HM Revenue and Customs, but the texts of agreements are not published until they are signed.

Negotiations with Lesotho have been concluded and the treaty awaits signature and that with Malawi has been substantially agreed. Protocols with Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man to correct a defect relating to income from property and a full treaty with the UAE have been concluded and the necessary Orders in Council were made on 13 July. Negotiations for full revision of the treaties with Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man are underway.

■ Money Laundering: Fines

Frank Field:

[\[42881\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the total value is of fines levied by HM Revenue and Customs and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on how many people for which categories of money laundering offence in each of the last four financial years; how many individuals appealed against such fines; and how many such appeals were successful.

Jane Ellison:

As one of the 27 UK anti-money laundering supervisors, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has powers to impose civil penalties on businesses that are supervised by HMRC if they do not comply with their obligations under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not an anti-money laundering supervisor.

Criminal fines for money laundering offences under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 and Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 can only be imposed by UK courts.

The total number and value of civil penalties charged by HMRC in relation to breaches of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 in the last four years is shown in the table below. The figures for 2012-13 and 2013-14 were not recorded in a way that separately identified registration and compliance penalties. The figures for 2015-16 are not currently available.

HMRC civil penalties for breaches of the Money Laundering Regulations

YEAR	TOTAL £	TOTAL NO.	COMPLIANCE (£)*	COMPLIANCE (NO.)*	REGISTRATION (£)	REGISTRATION (NO.)*
2012-13	160,967	268	-	-	-	-
2013-14	438,712	318	-	-	-	-
2014-15	768,205	677	388,224	42	379,981	635
2015-16	Data not available.					

* Before 2014-15, the number of registration and compliance penalties were not recorded separately.

HMRC does not collate the total numbers of appeals lodged and upheld in relation to HMRC civil penalties charged under the Money Laundering Regulations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Attendance Allowance

Neil Coyle:

[42490]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether any councils have asked for attendance allowance funding to be distributed to recipients via the provision of social care services.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The Government announced in December that it would consider giving more responsibility to councils in England to support older people with care needs – including people who, under the current system, would be supported through Attendance Allowance.

We intend to continue to discuss openly with interested parties what the options are, and give all stakeholders a voice in determining whether and how to proceed with any reform. The Government is currently consulting on the implementation of commitments on 100% business rates retention for councils in England. The consultation seeks views on options for devolving new responsibilities to local government as part of those reforms, and this is one of the options about which we are consulting. The consultation document is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/self-sufficient-local-government-100-business-rates-retention>

■ English Language: Education

John Glen:

[42529]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many women have received tuition under the English language tuition scheme since January 2016.

John Glen: [42530]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much of the English language tuition fund his Department has spent since January 2016.

John Glen: [42570]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the introduction of the English language tuition scheme in supporting Muslim women to learn English.

Mr Marcus Jones:

As the first step in rolling out the new £20 million programme we have committed just over £3 million to enable six providers who delivered the Department's previous community-based English language programme to provide new tuition to over 10,000 people by March next year.

We will shortly be issuing a new Prospectus, inviting applications to run the bulk of the new programme from 2017. The nature and targeting of that provision will be informed by Louise Casey's Review of Integration and Opportunity.

We will monitor the new Programme to assess its effectiveness in meeting its objectives.

■ Household Surveys

Jim Fitzpatrick: [42493]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether his Department plans to reintroduce data on electrical safety in the home into the English Housing Survey; whether that survey will provide a breakdown of accidental deaths in the home by cause and tenure; what plans he has for the future of that survey; and if he will make a statement.

Gavin Barwell:

The Department collects information on the presence of electrical safety features such as PVC wiring and modern earthing via the English Housing Survey. The latest data (2013) are published online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-datasets/dwelling-condition-and-safety> (refer to tables DA5201 to DA5203). 2014 data will be published shortly.

The Department does not collect information on accidental deaths in the home. However, information on fatalities in the home due to electric shock and due to fires caused by electrical faults, misuse and installation faults can be found in the most recent memorandum to the DCLG Select Committee on Part P Building Regulations, see: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/communities-and-local-government/150303-Memorandum-to-CLG-Sel-Com-on-Part-P.pdf>

■ Local Housing Allowance: Supported Housing

Helen Hayes: [\[42539\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when he will publish the results of the review of the local housing allowance rate for supported housing.

Gavin Barwell:

The Government is committed to protecting the most vulnerable.

That is why we are continuing to work with the sector and other partners to develop a sustainable and workable future for supported housing and will announce next steps in due course.

In the meantime we have put in place a one year exemption for supported housing from the Local Housing Allowance cap.

■ Private Rented Housing: Single People

Thangam Debbonaire: [\[42532\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to improve access to the private rented sector for single people who are homeless.

Gavin Barwell:

One person without a home is one too many and we are committed to do all we can to prevent homelessness.

Increasing access to the private rented sector is one of the many ways we are trying to achieve this. We have already made a significant investment of nearly £14 million for Crisis to develop a programme to help single homeless people access private rented sector accommodation. This has helped over 10,000 people, with over 90% maintaining tenancies for at least 6 months.

In Budget 2016, we also announced a £10 million fund to support and scale-up initiatives to prevent and reduce rough sleeping and a £10 million Social Impact Bond to support the most entrenched rough sleepers off the streets.

In addition, we are working to increase supply, and therefore affordability, in the private rented sector by accelerating the development of a new market for private renters, including our £1 billion build to rent fund and the £3.5 billion private rented sector debt guarantee scheme.

■ Refugees: Finance

Andrew Stephenson: [\[42471\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what representations he has received on making refugees a statutory-funded service; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Domestic Abuse is a devastating crime and we are determined to ensure that everyone receives the support they need when they need it. This Government recognises the

important role played by refuges in keeping victims of domestic abuse safe and we have made a clear commitment to secure a future for refuges.

Many refuges already receive public funding via housing benefit, local authorities and health services. In the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy published on 8 March, we set out our ambition to improve services for women suffering from domestic abuse, committing to a new Statement of Expectations to set out for the first time what we expect from local areas. To support this, we are launching a new two year fund for refuges and other forms of accommodation based support and to help local areas take the steps they need to meet the expectations set out in the Statement.

■ Special Educational Needs: Tribunals

Jess Phillips: [\[42465\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what (a) legal and (b) other costs were incurred by local authorities in relation to special educational needs and disability tribunals in each of the last five years.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Information on the costs incurred by local authorities in relation to special educational needs and disability tribunals is not collected by the Department.

■ Wheels to Work Schemes

Chris Law: [\[42940\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether Local Enterprise Partnerships and Enterprise Zones will be able to use funding from the Local Growth Fund to (a) develop and (b) support Wheels to Work schemes.

Andrew Percy:

Through the Local Growth Fund, Local Enterprise Partnerships have been making capital investments in a range of priority growth areas, such as transport, housing and skills. It is for Local Enterprise Partnerships to determine those priorities, in conversation with other local partners.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

■ Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press Inquiry

Helen Goodman: [\[42541\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, when the Leveson 2 inquiry will take place.

Matt Hancock:

Criminal proceedings connected to the subject matter of the Leveson Inquiry, including the appeals process, have not yet completed. We have always been clear that these cases must conclude before we consider Part 2 of the Inquiry.

■ Music and Sports: Security

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[42498]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what recent representations he has received from music and sport event organisers on security at large events; and if he will make a statement.

Tracey Crouch:

I refer the Hon Member to the answer to PQ 42478.

■ Tennis: Public Participation

Gavin Newlands:

[42922]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what plans she has to use the recent success of Andy Murray and other British tennis players to increase levels of participation in tennis.

Tracey Crouch:

Andy Murray's recent success at Wimbledon, and the British Tennis team's David Cup win, are fantastic achievements and real boosts to tennis in the UK.

The Government is committed to getting more people from every background involved in sport and physical activity, including tennis. This is set out in government's strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation which outlines clear support for initiatives that enable more people to play, watch and volunteer in sport.

Sport England's new strategy, Towards an Active Nation, published in May 2016, builds on the government's strategy and sets out how Sport England will be investing in grassroots sport to support participation.

Between 2013 and 2017 Sport England is already investing £17.4 million in the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to get more people playing tennis and will continue to support work across the country to ensure that everyone who wants to get involved with tennis is able to do so.

Responsibility for grassroots sport is devolved in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and it is for the relevant Sports Councils to consider how best to increase participation in tennis and sport more widely in those countries.

EDUCATION

■ Academies

Stephen Timms: [42515]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, which multi academy trusts have taken on new academies in the 2016-17 financial year to date.

Edward Timpson:

A list of academies that have opened this financial year together with their trust information is attached and available through the department's Edubase site at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/edubase/home.xhtml>

Regional Schools Commissioners take very seriously all decisions to allow a trust to take on additional schools.

Stephen Timms: [42574]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to her oral evidence to the Education Committee on 27 April 2016, q180-181, HC402, whether it is her Department's policy to prevent multi-academy trusts from expanding until they have a track record of improving their existing schools.

Edward Timpson:

We want schools to operate in strong, resilient structures which raise standards, and this means we expect that most schools will form or join Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs).

MATs are the best long-term formal arrangements for stronger schools to support the improvement of weaker schools.

When schools are converting to academy status as part of a MAT or joining an existing MAT, it is the Regional Schools Commissioner's (RSC) role to decide, on behalf of the Secretary of State, whether to approve or decline the application. The RSC, supported by their headteacher board, will want to be assured that the governance and leadership of the MAT is clear and robust; and that the MAT has the capacity to drive improvement across all schools within it. This information can be found in the RSC decision-making framework on GOV.UK at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/517565/RSC-Decision-Making-Framework.pdf

The Department is looking to develop new mechanisms to support MATs to grow sustainably. As set out in the White Paper *Educational Excellence Everywhere*, this will include the publication of 'design principles' to provide more information about what we know about successful MATs and to explain the basis on which RSCs will expect to approve MATs and single-academy trusts.

Stephen Timms: [42729]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she would expect a Regional School Commissioner, having arranged, following a formal notice, for an Academy to move from one multi-academy trust to another, to carry out an investigation of the stewardship of the original Trust; and if she will make a statement.

Edward Timpson:

Regional Schools Commissioners (RSCs) act in the name of the Secretary of State. Where a RSC takes the decision to transfer an academy from one trust to another, there will have been several discussions with both trusts involved. If such a move is due to concerns over performance, the RSC will hold the outgoing trust to account, ensuring that any remaining academies are receiving the best support and the trust is regularly monitored.

This information is publicly available and can be found in the RSC decision-making framework on GOV.UK at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/517565/RSC-Decision-Making-Framework.pdf

Stephen Timms: [42730]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, under what circumstances a formal notice can be issued to a multi-academy trust, rather than to an individual Academy.

Edward Timpson:

Where there is a concern about an academy that is part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), any formal notice will be sent to the MAT as the accountable body.

This information is publicly available and can be found in the Schools Causing Concern guidance available on GOV.UK at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/510080/schools-causing-concern-guidance.pdf

■ Academies: Sponsorship

Heidi Alexander: [42278]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, (a) on how many occasions and (b) in relation to which schools since 2010 an Academy Order has been rescinded due to the inability of the Regional Schools Commissioner to secure a sponsor.

Heidi Alexander: [42279]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average period of time was between an Academy Order being issued and a sponsor being named for schools in each year since 2010.

Heidi Alexander: [42280]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidelines her Department has issued on the time to be taken by a Regional Schools Commissioner to name a sponsor for a school that has been issued with an Academy Order.

Edward Timpson:

Since the Education and Adoption Act came into force in April 2016, the Secretary of State has been under a duty to make an Academy Order in respect of any maintained school that has been judged by Ofsted to be inadequate. Regional Schools Commissioners, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, ensure that the maintained

school becomes a sponsored academy as swiftly as possible, after considering the circumstances in the school, and then identifying the most suitable sponsor.

No Academy Orders have been revoked to date.

143 Academy Orders have been made since the new duty came into force. It is too soon to give an annual average of how long it has taken to match a school to a sponsor under these new arrangements.

■ Academies: Standards

Stephen Timms: [42514]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the levels of performance of (a) good, (b) satisfactory and (c) inadequate schools after becoming academies as a result of the introduction of new criteria for academisation in 2010.

Edward Timpson:

We are committed to the vision of a dynamic high-performing school system where every school is an academy.

The department routinely monitors the performance of all academies and intervenes swiftly if there are signs of underperformance.

The department published analysis in 2014 which showed that schools rated good or satisfactory were more likely to improve their rating after converting to academy status, this can be found on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/performance-of-converter-academies-in-2012-to-2013>

Ofsted data from December 2015 have shown that 88% of previously inadequate schools improved their rating when inspected for the first time as a sponsored academy.

Stephen Timms: [42731]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what criteria a Regional School Commissioner will apply to determine whether a multi-academy trust has a strong track record of school improvement and should be permitted to expand.

Edward Timpson:

When schools are converting to academy status as part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) or joining an existing MAT, it is the Regional Schools Commissioner's (RSC) role to decide, on behalf of the Secretary of State, whether to approve or decline the application. The RSC, supported by their headteacher board, will want to be assured that the MAT has the capacity to drive improvement across all schools within it. This information can be found in the RSC decision-making framework on GOV.UK at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/517565/RSC-Decision-Making-Framework.pdf

As set out in the White Paper *Educational Excellence Everywhere*, we will publish 'design principles', which will explain the basis on which RSCs will expect to approve MATs and single-academy trusts. Alongside this, the Department is exploring the development of a

MAT 'health check review'. The intention of this is to support the sustainable growth of MATs by providing an opportunity for them to undergo an assessment of their capacity to grow. The development of this proposal is at an early stage. Current thinking is, however, that it will assess their readiness for growth across key themes including track record for school improvement.

■ **Baverstock Academy**

Richard Burden: [\[42272\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent discussions she has had with (a) LEAP Academy Trust, (b) teaching trade unions, (c) staff and (d) students and parents on the future viability of Baverstock Academy; and what steps she is taking to ensure that that school remains open.

Edward Timpson:

[Holding answer 13 July 2016]: Leap Academy Trust has formally requested that the Secretary of State agree to terminate their funding agreement. No decision has yet been made. The Secretary of State will need to be confident that a robust plan is in place to ensure pupils' education continues without disruption. In the meantime, our priority is to stabilise the academy in terms of school improvement and outcomes for pupils and the future of the staff.

■ **Department for Education: Radicalism**

Jess Phillips: [\[42501\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many people are working in her Department's Counter-Extremism Steering Group.

Edward Timpson:

There are currently 36 members of staff working in the Department's Due Diligence and Counter Extremism Division.

■ **Home Education**

Mark Pawsey: [\[42482\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children in each local authority area (a) are being home-schooled and (b) were being home-schooled in each of the last five years for which data is available.

Edward Timpson:

This data is not collected centrally. Although some local authorities operate voluntary registration schemes, there is no legal obligation for the registration of home educated children.

■ Overseas Students: EEA Nationals

Mr Jim Cunningham: [42373]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to safeguard the status of non-UK EEA students in the UK as a result of the outcome of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

Joseph Johnson:

Existing rules on EU and other EEA students remain in force. This means that existing EU and other EEA nationals and their family members eligible to receive student support (including loans) will continue to receive that support until they finish their courses. This applies to those who are either currently studying or who will begin courses in academic year 2016/17.

Further information is provided in a statement made by the Student Loans Company:

<http://www.slc.co.uk/media/latest-news/eu-nationals-and-student-finance-in-england.aspx>

■ Regional School Commissioners

Stephen Timms: [42437]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the (a) minutes and (b) agendas of the Regional School Commissioners Strategy Forum are published; and if she will make a statement.

Stephen Timms: [42438]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, on what dates the Regional School Commissioners Strategy Forum has met.

Edward Timpson:

The minutes and agendas of the Regional School Commissioners (RSC) Strategy Forum are for internal use and are not published.

The RSCs meet monthly for the RSC Strategy Forum. The dates on which these meetings have taken place are as follows:

RSC STRATEGY FORUM DATES

16/09/2014

14/10/2014

11/11/2014

16/12/2014

06/01/2015

10/02/2015

10/03/2015

02/04/2015

21/04/2015

14/05/2015

23/06/2015

14/07/2015

18/08/2015

09/09/2015

06/10/2015

11/11/2015

09/12/2015

13/01/2016

10/02/2016

09/03/2016

06/04/2016

04/05/2016

08/06/2016

06/07/2016

■ Sex and Relationship Education

Catherine West:

[42308]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many (a) primary and (b) secondary academies and free schools teach sex and relationships education.

Edward Timpson:

The Department does not hold this information.

Sex and relationship education (SRE) is compulsory in maintained secondary schools. Academies and free schools do not have to teach SRE but many choose to do so as part of their duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. When academies do teach SRE they are required through their funding agreement to have regard to the Secretary of State's Sex and Relationship Education Guidance[1].

[1] <http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00214676/sex-and-relationships-education-guidance>

■ Two Trees School Denton**Andrew Gwynne:** [42557]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 26 May 2016 to Question 37468, if she will inform the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish when any application is received from Tameside Council for the disposal of the Two Trees High School site in Denton; if she will discuss any such applications with that Member; and if she will report her decision on any such application to that Member.

Edward Timpson:

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council has not yet presented an application seeking consent to dispose of the site. The Secretary of State is content to discuss an application should one be received. She does, however, rely on her officials to process such applications, and would also consider any recommendation from the School Playing Fields Advisory Panel when making her final decision. She has, therefore, asked her officials responsible for processing such applications to make initial contact with the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish to discuss any such application on her behalf.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**■ Ash Dieback Disease****Mr Jim Cunningham:** [42704]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2016 to Question 42035, how many projects her Department jointly funded to look into the ecological value of ash dieback; and if she will make a statement.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Defra funded a number of research projects in response to ash dieback, including two research projects to assess the ecological impacts of the disease on woodlands and other species. These have now been published and are available on the Defra science website:

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=18994&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=ash%20dieback&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=19187>

■ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: UK Withdrawal from EU**Andy Slaughter:** [42953]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what contingency plans her Department made in advance of the EU referendum for the eventuality of a vote to leave the EU.

George Eustice:

The Government took a position on EU membership during the referendum and the civil service worked in support of that at the time. However, now that a decision has been taken to leave the EU, Defra is working with other government departments on preparations for exiting the EU. In the meantime, all existing arrangements remain in place until negotiations are concluded and we leave the EU.

■ Environment Agency: Pay**Tim Farron:**[\[42904\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency received a bonus payment in 2015-16.

George Eustice:

The Chief Executive of the Environment Agency did not receive a bonus payment for the 2015/16 performance year.

■ Nature Conservation**Andy Slaughter:**[\[42929\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to protect (a) bees, (b) moths and (c) other animals from (i) habitat loss and (ii) toxic neonicotinoid pesticides.

George Eustice:

Our National Pollinator Strategy highlights the vital contribution we can all make to support pollinators by ensuring they have suitable food and habitats.

The Strategy includes actions to improve the status of our insect pollinators, of which there are 1500 species in the UK. Many of the actions aim to reverse the loss of flower-rich habitat, one of the biggest sources of pollinator decline in England. Habitat creation actions in the Strategy also benefit other animals, including birds and bats.

All pesticides, including neonicotinoids, are strictly regulated and are only authorised if scientific assessment finds that their use is not expected to have harmful effects on human health or to have unacceptable effects on the environment.

■ Shellfish**Jim Shannon:**[\[42602\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of a programme to introduce more oysters in the waters around the UK.

George Eustice:

Fisheries management is a devolved issue in the UK. The Government currently has no plans to make an assessment of the potential merits of a programme to introduce more oysters to the waters around England.

Oyster restoration schemes currently underway in the UK include the Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative, the Essex Native Oyster Regeneration Initiative, and an initiative in the Solent led by the Blue Marine Foundation.

In 2005, Defra and Seafish commissioned Cefas to produce a feasibility study of native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) stock regeneration in the UK. The full report is available on the Seafish website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

■ Bangladesh: Terrorism

Mrs Anne Main: [\[42491\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the (a) economic effect and (b) effect on the garment industry in Bangladesh of recent violence in that country.

Alok Sharma:

Bangladesh's export market, in particular the ready-made garments sector plays a pivotal role in Bangladesh's economy. A loss of investor confidence, due to recent violence and attacks against foreign nationals, could adversely harm Bangladesh's economy and as a consequence its impressive progress towards middle-income status. Extremist related violence is an international problem that requires all countries to work closely together to prevent atrocities and tackle the root causes. Along with the international community we are committed to supporting Bangladesh in this global challenge. As the largest grant aid donor to Bangladesh we continue to address some of the root causes such as poverty and economic marginalisation.

■ Commonwealth: Trade Agreements

Andrew Stephenson: [\[42470\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with other Commonwealth countries on sharing trade negotiating capabilities and resources.

Alok Sharma:

We have been consulting, and will continue to consult, a broad range of stakeholders, including governments and businesses, on the implications of the referendum result for trade. We have been encouraged by the interest coming from a range of non-EU countries, including some of our closest allies. Across government, we are preparing options for our future trade policy for the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) to consider. We are also rapidly building civil service capacity and capability on trade.

■ South Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Andrew Smith:

[[42473](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect of the security situation in Juba, South Sudan, on UN operations in that region.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The recent deterioration in the security situation in South Sudan has made UN operations – including protecting civilians and facilitating the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance – more difficult. In the UN Security Council on 13 July, we urged the Council and regional countries to unite in demanding the South Sudanese authorities allow UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan to have freedom of movement and all the equipment it needs in country.

Mr Andrew Smith:

[[42474](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to safeguard the wellbeing of UK citizens engaged in UN operations in Juba, South Sudan.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK is a strong supporter of the UN in South Sudan and we are working in the UN Security Council to ensure their peacekeeping mission UNMISS has the equipment and access it needs for its staff to be able to do their jobs safely and effectively. The FCO provided a flight, in the absence of commercial options, for British Nationals, including those working in the UN, who wanted to leave South Sudan on 14 July 2016.

■ South Sudan: Security

Stephen Gethins:

[[42499](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect of recent violence in Juba on the security situation in South Sudan; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We are deeply concerned by the deterioration in the security situation in South Sudan. We condemn the fighting in Juba between government and opposition forces. These actions are entirely unacceptable. It is now vitally important that President Kiir and First Vice President Machar ensure their troops respect the recent ceasefire statements and avoid any further acts of violence. The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) made statements on 9, 11 and 14 July calling for an immediate end to all violence and protection for all South Sudanese civilians.

■ Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mr Mark Williams: [\[42950\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations at the meeting of the UN Security Council on 26 July 2016 for the establishment of an independent human rights monitoring mechanism in occupied Western Sahara and the refugee camps in that country.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The purpose of the UN Security Council meeting on 26 July is to assess whether MINURSO has returned to full functionality in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2285 of 29 April 2016, rather than to seek to alter the mandate of MINURSO. The UK does not therefore plan to raise human rights monitoring at this meeting, given that the current MINURSO mandate does not include a human rights element.

■ Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mr Mark Williams: [\[42949\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department has taken to further progress on bringing about a referendum in Western Sahara since the renewal of the MINURSO mandate in April 2016.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

It is for parties to the dispute to agree a resolution of the final status of Western Sahara. The UK encourages both sides to cooperate with the United Nations process to reach a mutually acceptable solution that provides for the self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

HEALTH**■ Antibiotics**

Kevin Hollinrake: [\[42714\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of (a) the effect of the National Tariff on the choice of antibiotic therapy available in hospitals and (b) the implications of the cost of such therapy for that availability.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 Act transferred responsibility for developing payment systems for health care services from the Department to NHS England and NHS Improvement (formerly Monitor). The costs of drugs that are used in the course of a patient's stay in hospital are reimbursed via the Healthcare Resource Group tariff that the provider receives for that spell.

We are advised by NHS England that they are not aware of issues with the national tariff having an impact on the choice of antibiotic therapy available in hospitals.

The decision on whether to prescribe an antibiotic is entirely a matter for the clinician, based on his or her clinical judgement.

■ Autism

Jess Phillips: [\[42817\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when work on indicators recording a diagnosis of autism within the Health and Social Care Information Centre mental health services data set will be completed.

David Mowat:

As recommended by the independent Mental Health Taskforce, the Department is undertaking a five year plan for the development of mental health data to be published by the end of the year. The plan will set out future requirements and timings for developing data to inform pathways of care, which will include requirements for autism in the Health and Social Care Information Centre Mental Health Services Data Set. It is too early to say what form the work on indicators for autism diagnosis will take and how long this will take to complete.

■ Back Pain: Diagnosis

Jim Shannon: [\[42615\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people in each age group were diagnosed with back pain in each of the last five years.

David Mowat:

The data requested is not collected.

■ Cancer: Drugs

Jim Shannon: [\[42620\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions he has had with pharmaceutical companies on steps to reduce the cost of cancer drugs for the NHS.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department has frequent discussions with representatives of the United Kingdom pharmaceutical industry as well as with individual pharmaceutical companies on a range of topics. We want to see the latest and most advanced drugs made available to National Health Service patients in a way that ensures value for money.

■ Cancer: Medical Treatments

Jim Shannon: [\[42614\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions he has had with NHS England on support for research into immuno-oncology treatments for head and neck cancer.

David Mowat:

The Department has had no specific discussions with NHS England on this topic.

Jo Churchill:

[\[43252\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of cancer patients in (a) England and (b) Bury St Edmunds constituency received their first cancer treatment within 62 days of an urgent GP referral in (i) 2014-15 and (ii) 2015-16.

David Mowat:

The Handbook to the NHS Constitution contains a pledge that 85% of patients have a maximum two month (62-day) wait from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first treatment for all cancers.

The information requested is in the table below:

Percentage of patients in England and Bury St Edmunds constituency ¹ that waited 62 days from a general practitioner urgent referral to a first treatment for cancer, 2014-15 and 2015-16

	ENGLAND	NHS IPSWICH AND EAST SUFFOLK CCG	NHS WEST SUFFOLK CCG
2014-15	83.4%	85.8%	84.9%
2015-16	82.4%	85.2%	83.3%

Source: Cancer waiting times, NHS England

Notes:

¹ Bury St Edmunds constituency has two clinical commissioning groups (CCG):

NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG

NHS West Suffolk CCG

■ Chronic Illnesses: Medical Treatments

Jim Shannon:

[\[42617\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will take steps to improve the training available to medical practitioners on the treatment of people with chronic diseases.

Mr Philip Dunne:

It is the responsibility of the professional regulators, such as the General Medical Council (GMC), to set the standards and outcomes for education and training and approve training curricula to ensure newly qualified healthcare professionals are equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to provide high quality patient care. This includes training in the treatment of people with chronic diseases.

Higher Education Institutions are responsible for ensuring the programmes they provide allow healthcare students to meet the outcomes set out by the regulators upon graduation.

The Royal Colleges, for example the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Surgeons, also have responsibility for developing curricula for doctors and nurses, in particular postgraduate curricula.

In England, Health Education England works with bodies that set curricula such as the GMC and the Royal Colleges to seek to ensure training meets the needs of patients, including those with chronic diseases.

■ Clinical Priorities Advisory Group

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[42846\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when NHS England will publish the minutes of the June 2016 meeting of the Clinical Priorities Advisory Group.

David Mowat:

The key information that the Clinical Priorities Advisory Group (CPAG) used as the basis of its recommendation on each clinical policy was published when the 22 clinical policies went out to public consultation in various waves between 28 January and 1 June 2016.

The methodology used by CPAG to group the policies into 5 levels has also been published on 2 June 2016, as have the final recommendations on 11 July.

■ Dental Health: Cumbria

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[42934\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many children in Cumbria presented at accident and emergency with dental problems in (a) 2014-15 and (b) 2015-16.

David Mowat:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 June 2016 to Question [39011](#).

■ Doctors: North West

Julie Cooper: [\[42819\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many doctors from EU countries work in hospitals in (a) Lancashire and (b) the North West.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information is shown in the following table.

NHS Medical and Dental staff and those staff with an European Union nationality working in National Health Service trusts and clinical commissioning groups in the North West Health Education England (HEE) area and the Lancashire NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB) area as at 31 March 2016, full time equivalent.

	NORTH WEST HEE REGION	LANCASHIRE NHSCB AREA
All staff	14,529	2,162
<i>of which</i>		
EU nationals (non-United Kingdom)	1,182	152

Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre, NHS Hospital and Community Health Service workforce statistics.

■ Eyesight: Medical Treatments

Jim Shannon: [\[43183\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans his Department has to make electrical stimulation treatment for sight loss available through the NHS.

David Mowat:

Clinical commissioning groups are responsible for commissioning health care services to meet the needs of their local populations.

There is no National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance on the use of electrical stimulation for the treatment for sight loss. Where NICE guidance does not exist on a particular treatment, it is for local National Health Service commissioners to make funding decisions based on an assessment of the available evidence and on the basis of an individual patient's clinical circumstances.

NHS commissioners are required to have in place clear and transparent arrangements for local decision-making on the funding of treatments and for considering exceptional funding requests.

■ Fertility: Medical Treatments

Steve McCabe: [\[42888\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 27 June 2016 to Question 40847, what criteria NHS England uses to determine whether a clinical commissioning group is failing or has failed to discharge any of its functions.

David Mowat:

For 2015/16, NHS England has assessed clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) against whether they are well led organisations, and considered their financial performance, their delivery of commitments and improved health outcomes for their populations, the quality of their short and long term planning and performance against delegated functions. NHS England introduced special measures for CCGs in 2015/16 where there are serious concerns, and is supported by legislation in exercising formal powers of direction if it is satisfied that a CCG is failing, or is at risk of failing to discharge its functions. A CCG will be rated as "inadequate" overall if more than one of the above criteria is rated "inadequate", or if it is already under legal directions. Inadequate CCGs

will be given directions if they have not already been issued. From 2016/17, CCGs will be assessed against the CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework, published on the NHS England website, which will use the criteria of better health, better care, sustainability and leadership alongside independent assessments of six clinical priority areas: mental health, dementia, learning disability, diabetes, cancer and maternity.

■ General Practitioners

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[43134\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many GP consultations there were in each clinical commissioning group area in each year since 2012-13.

David Mowat:

Figures for the number of general practice consultations in each clinical commissioning group in each year since 2012-13 are not held centrally.

■ Headaches

Jim Shannon: [\[43177\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people in each of the last five years were diagnosed with cluster headaches.

David Mowat:

This information is not collected.

■ Health Services: Investment

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[42841\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to NHS England's announcement of provisional investment decisions for specialised services made on 11 July 2016, whether the Clinical Priorities Advisory Group of NHS England considered any adjustments to the baseline recommendations it made on the relative prioritisation of investment in new treatments and services for 2016-17.

David Mowat:

Before making its final recommendations the Clinical Priorities Advisory Group (CPAG) undertakes a final check to consider whether any adjustments should be made to its initial recommendations. It may give a treatment a higher priority, if it decides the treatment significantly:

- benefits the wider health and care system;
- helps put the treatment of mental health on a par with physical health;
- will stimulate innovation and the development of new approaches to health care; or
- reduces health inequalities.

This is in line with the agreed decision making process for new treatments in specialised services.

During this year's decision making for potential investments in 2016/17, each of these factors were carefully considered, but did not result in any changes to the prioritisation recommendations made by CPAG.

■ Heart Diseases: Butter

Jim Shannon: [43179]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of whether eating butter puts people at greater risk of heart disease.

Nicola Blackwood:

Butter is high in saturated fat. Evidence shows that average population intakes of saturated fat exceed United Kingdom government advice which is to limit saturated fat intake to no more than 11% of total food energy to protect against heart disease.

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition is currently reviewing the evidence on saturated fat and health; it aims to publish a draft report at the end of 2017.

■ Hospitals: Nutrition

Richard Fuller: [42695]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the ability of hospitals to meet the nutritional and hydration needs of patients admitted to hospital; and what plans he has to review the (a) effectiveness of hospitals in meeting such needs and (b) adequacy of the Care Quality Commission inspection regime in this respect.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Department has worked with NHS England to ensure that food standards are written into the NHS Standard Contract 2016/17. Irrespective of the food service type, all National Health Service providers are obliged, under the terms of their legally-binding contracts with commissioners, to adhere to the recommendations of the Hospital Food Standards Panel in August 2014. These are published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-food-standards-for-nhs-hospitals>.

The Department introduced Patient-Led Assessments of the Care Environment (PLACE) in April 2013 to assess the quality of the patient environment, including hospital food. The food and hydration section provides a detailed assessment of the quality of the food and food services being provided. PLACE assesses compliance with four food standards relevant to patient nutrition and hydration as recommended by the Hospital Food Standards Panel.

The existing registration system, established under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, requires all providers of health and adult social care regulated activities to meet essential levels of safety and quality, and nutrition and hydration is a part of this.

Led by the Chief Inspector of Hospitals, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is responsible for developing and consulting on its methodology for inspecting compliance with this fundamental standard and has complete independence in the decisions it

makes about how to do this. The CQC's inspections make use of a highly skilled inspection resource that includes specialist inspectors, clinical and other experts and people with experience of care. These inspections have increased the confidence that the public has in the CQC's judgements. The CQC may prosecute providers who breach this standard without first issuing a warning notice.

■ Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[42703]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 11 July 2016 to Question 42042, what information his Department holds on the length of NHS waiting lists in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Consultant-led referral to treatment waiting list data is published each month on NHS England's website.

The information is available at the link below:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/06/RTT-Overview-Timeseries-May16-XLS-81K-42006.xls>

■ Incontinence

Richard Fuller:

[42697]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to improve education and training for care staff on continence and toilet support.

Richard Fuller:

[42698]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to improve education and skills training for health care professionals on continence and toilet support.

David Mowat:

NHS England's Excellence in Continence Care guidance, published in November 2015, provides a framework that enables commissioners to work in collaboration with providers and others to make a step change to address shortfalls so that safe, dignified, efficient and effective continence care is consistently provided. This guidance is aimed at commissioners, providers, health and social care staff and also provides information for the public. The guidance was produced in partnership with patient and public advocates, clinicians and partners from the third sector. A copy of the guidance can be found at the following link:

www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/11/EICC-guidance-final-document.pdf

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has produced a range of guidance for clinicians to support them in the diagnosis, treatment care and support of people with continence problems e.g. *Urinary incontinence in women* (September 2013), *Faecal incontinence in adults* (June 2007), *Urinary incontinence in neurological*

disease: assessment and management (August 2012) and *Lower urinary tract symptoms in men: management* (May 2010).

■ Lung Diseases: Diagnosis

Jim Shannon: [\[42621\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people in each age group were diagnosed with lung disease in each of the last five years.

David Mowat:

The information is not held in the format requested.

■ Lung Diseases: Drugs

Jim Shannon: [\[42611\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will assess the potential merits of making the drug AK-219 available on the NHS to treat persistent coughs.

Nicola Blackwood:

AK-219 is still undergoing clinical trials for the treatment of chronic coughs and it would be premature to comment on its future availability on the National Health Service.

■ Malnutrition

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[42932\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people were admitted to hospital with malnutrition in (a) England, (b) Cumbria and (c) Copeland constituency in (i) 2014-15 and (ii) 2015-16.

Nicola Blackwood:

There were 746 finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of malnutrition in England in 2014-15. There are no reports from Cumbria in this year and figures at constituency level are not collected centrally. Validated figures are not available for 2015-16.

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year or month in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the period.

■ Maternity Services: Sustainable Development

Antoinette Sandbach: [\[42571\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, by what date (a) clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are required to submit and (b) NHS England is required to approve sustainability and transformation plans for maternity services; and when he expects the NHS to publish its annual rating on the provision of CCGs maternity services.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) are being developed by health and social care organisations located across local areas referred to as 'footprints'. Whilst clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are key stakeholders in the footprints, STPs represent the combined view of the organisations in the area also including National Health Service providers and local government.

The March STP guidance to footprints stressed the importance of responding to 10 key priority areas which included maternity. On the 30 June there was a checkpoint for STPs. Footprints are at different starting points, and so the degree of detail that has been provided in the 30 June STP checkpoint varies. At present, managerial conversations regarding the submission are being held between the national bodies and representatives from each footprint. Footprints will be expected to submit a final plan in October. Final STPs and operational plans will be expected to set out how Mandate priorities will be delivered, including improvement to maternity services, before being agreed.

The CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework will rate CCGs on the provision of maternity services annually. The first results of the first assessment will be published soon.

■ Medical Records: Databases**Andrew Gwynne:**[\[42558\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many patients whose records are contained in Clinical Practice Research Datalink datasets have a GP note of malnutrition contained in such records; what proportion of the population have GP records contained in Clinical Practice Research Datalink datasets; and if he will make a statement.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) hosts the world's largest validated computerised database of anonymised longitudinal medical records from primary care. We have searched the CPRD database for patients with a record indicative of Malnutrition. There are 582 patients with a record of Malnutrition currently registered with practices which are actively contributing data to the CPRD database.

The CPRD database of patients whose details are available for query by the disease code for malnutrition represents 4.30% of the United Kingdom population.

■ Medical Treatments**Mr Virendra Sharma:**[\[42867\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to NHS England's announcement of provisional investment decisions for specialised services, made on 11 July 2016, what provision there is for patients in urgent need to access the provisionally recommended treatments.

David Mowat:

For the 18 treatments provisionally recommended for routine commissioning subject to the outcome of a judicial review, clinicians can apply to NHS England on behalf of patients for consideration of individual funding where there is clinically exceptional or clinically critically urgent need, in line with existing procedures. Guidance on individual funding requests can be found here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/cp-03.pdf>

■ **Midwives: North West**

Julie Cooper: [\[42821\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many midwives from EU countries work in hospitals in (a) Lancashire and (b) the North West.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information is shown in the following table.

Qualified Midwifery staff in National Health Service trusts and clinical commissioning groups by Lancashire NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB) area and North West Health Education England (HEE) region as at 31 March 2016.

	FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT	
	North West HEE Region	Lancashire NHSCB area
Qualified Midwifery Staff	2,947	446
<i>of which:</i>		
European Union nationals (non-United Kingdom)	40	5

Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre, Provisional NHS Hospital and Community Health Service monthly workforce statistics.

■ **Multiple Births**

Sir Gerald Howarth: [\[42826\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans NHS Improvement has to identify the cost of delivering good care in a multiple pregnancy; and whether that body intends to update the maternity tariff to reflect that cost.

Mr Philip Dunne:

In the maternity pathway payment system, a multiple pregnancy would automatically lead to a higher tariff at all points of the pathway.

NHS Improvement are currently working with the sector with a view to developing the policies to be included in the statutory consultation for the 2017/18 national tariff,

including the maternity pathway system. NHS Improvement plans to publish the statutory consultation in the autumn.

Sir Gerald Howarth:

[\[42827\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether there are plans for NICE guidance on multiple pregnancies to be updated and extended to include provisions on the level of care to be provided during labour and birth.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has advised that it is currently reviewing its clinical guideline on multiple pregnancy: antenatal care for twin and triplet pregnancies (CG129) to check whether an update is warranted. As part of this review, NICE will consider whether any extension of the existing scope is required. NICE expects the review decision to be published later this year.

■ NHS: Drugs

Steve McCabe:

[\[42887\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 4 July 2016 to Question 41350, when the monitoring measures will come into effect; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such measures on the (a) availability and (b) cost of medicines.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department is in the process of setting up the systems to be able to routinely and systematically monitor significant price increases of generic medicines from September.

The monitoring will not impact directly on the availability or cost of medicines.

Significant price increases will be considered by the Department and will be referred to the Competition and Markets Authority where appropriate which has proven an effective policy where unwarranted price rises are taking place.

■ NHS: Negligence

Jim Shannon:

[\[42616\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many compensation claims have been made against NHS hospitals related to treatment received by patients.

David Mowat:

The Department does not hold the information to answer this question. This data has been provided by the National Health Service Litigation Authority.

In 2014/15 (the most recent year for which information has been published) 11,497 new clinical negligence claims were received by the NHS Litigation Authority which indemnifies all English National Health Service trusts, clinical commissioning groups and some independent sector providers. This number therefore includes claims related to organisations other than NHS hospitals. Claims can arise some years after an incident so this number represents the number of claims notified to Members in 2014/15 regardless of when the incident occurred. Not all these claims will result in financial compensation being awarded to the claimant.

This information is available on the NHS Litigation Authority's website in Fact sheets:
www.nhsla.com/CurrentActivity/Pages/Home.aspx

■ **North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust: Temporary Employment**

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[42933\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much North Cumbria University Hospital Trust spent on agency medical staff in (a) 2014-15 and (b) 2015-16.

Mr Philip Dunne:

In 2014-15, North Cumbria University Hospital NHS Trust spent £19.125 million on employees under temporary and agency contracts.

The Department does not collect data on which specific area of employment the expenditure was incurred under. Therefore, in addition to payments made for medical staff, the figure of £19.125 million includes employees contracted for provision of other administration and support services.

Figures for 2015-16 will not be available until the Department of Health Annual Report and Accounts have been published.

■ **Nurses: North West**

Julie Cooper: [\[42820\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many nurses from EU countries work in hospitals in (a) Lancashire and (b) the North West.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information is shown in the following table.

Qualified Nursing and Health Visiting Staff in National Health Service trusts and clinical commissioning groups by Lancashire NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB) area and North West Health Education England (HEE) region as at 31 March 2016.

		FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
	North West HEE Region	Lancashire NHSCB area
Qualified Nurses and Health Visiting Staff	45,937	7,957
<i>of which:</i>		
European Union nationals (non-United Kingdom)	1,639	282

Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre, Provisional NHS Hospital and Community Health Service monthly workforce statistics.

■ Nursing and Midwifery Council

Richard Fuller: [42693]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions he has had with the Nursing and Midwifery Council about the adequacy of their disciplinary and enforcement powers; and what plans he has to reform their fitness to practice arrangements.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the independent body responsible for the regulation of nurses and midwives in the United Kingdom. It is responsible for the way it discharges its statutory duties including in relation to fitness to practise investigations.

The Department has been working with the NMC on a number of proposed legislative changes which will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its fitness to practise processes and officials have regular discussions with the NMC regarding its powers. The Department has recently consulted on these proposed changes and is currently considering the responses received.

The Government is committed to ensuring that professional regulation continues to provide effective protection for patients.

■ Obesity

Jim Shannon: [42610]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent discussions he has had with the Food and Drink Federation on tackling obesity.

Nicola Blackwood:

Details of all Ministerial meetings with external stakeholders are published quarterly in arrears on the GOV.UK website. The latest publication which covers meetings between January and March 2016 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-external-meetings-2016>

■ Organs: Transplant Surgery

Jim Shannon: [42618]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of the use of pig organ transplants for humans.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department has no plans to make such an assessment.

■ Patients: Transport

Paula Sherriff: [43126]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what financial checks clinical commissioning groups are required to make on companies which tender contracts for patient transport services in the NHS.

David Mowat:

It is for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to satisfy themselves of the financial viability of any provider of patient transport, or of any other service, to which it intends to award a contract.

It is for CCGs to determine how best to meet their statutory functions and duties and their standing financial instructions.

■ Prescriptions: Fees and Charges**Steve McCabe:**[\[42930\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 14 June 2016 to Question 40107, if he will make an assessment of whether changes in the financial situation since 2010 would enable changes to be made to the implementation of exemptions from prescription fees for people with long-term medical conditions; and if he will make it his policy to implement prescription fee exemptions for all those with long-term medical conditions.

David Mowat:

We have no plans to make changes to prescription charging policy.

■ Primary Health Care**Mr Virendra Sharma:**[\[43082\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the Answer of 23 November 2015 to Question 16254, if he will estimate the number of GP appointments for minor ailments which could have been treated at home or with advice from a pharmacist in (a) England, (b) each former strategic health authority area and (c) each clinical commissioning group in each year since 2006.

David Mowat:

NHS England's Urgent and Emergency Care Review Phase 1 report (November 2013) estimated that 20% of general practitioner consultations relate to minor ailments which could largely be dealt with by self-care and support from community pharmacies.

The *General Practice Forward View*, published on 21 April 2016, states that current investment of £31 million to pilot 470 clinical pharmacists in over 700 practices is to be supplemented by new central investment of £112 million to extend the programme by a pharmacist per 30,000 population for all practices not in the initial pilot – leading to a further 1,500 pharmacists in general practice by 2020.

Figures for each former strategic health authority and each clinical commissioning group in each year since 2006 are not held centrally.

■ Prostate Gland**Jim Shannon:**[\[42612\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of people being diagnosed with enlarged prostates.

David Mowat:

In the majority of men, the prostate grows larger with age, and patients usually present to a general practitioner with symptoms of an enlarged prostate after the age of 50. Symptoms can include: weak urine flow; needing to urinate more often, especially at night; a feeling that your bladder has not emptied properly; and, difficulty starting to urinate. Some men find their symptoms are manageable and cause few problems, other find their symptoms worsening, which can impact on wellbeing and quality of life.

For patients who need treatment, there are a number of approaches available including lifestyle and dietary adjustments, medicines and surgery.

■ Testicular Cancer**Judith Cummins:**[\[43028\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make an assessment of the potential contribution to raising community awareness of the dangers of testicular cancer of the work of the Oddballs testicular cancer charity and similar organisations.

David Mowat:

Public Health England's 'Be Clear on Cancer' campaigns do not currently include testicular cancer, so no assessment has been made of the potential impact of a campaign on the issue.

The decision on which cancers should be the focus of 'Be Clear on Cancer' campaigns is informed by a steering group, whose members include primary and secondary care clinicians, and key voluntary sector organisations. A number of factors are taken into account when deciding which campaigns to develop and run, with one of the main criteria being the scope to save lives through earlier diagnosis and whether the cancer has a clear early sign or symptom that the general public can act upon should it arise.

■ Written Questions: Government Responses**Andrew Gwynne:**[\[42560\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the Answer of 24 March 2016 to Question 30023, on malnutrition, if he will provide the information requested in the same format as that provided to the hon. Member for Eddisbury in the Answer of 18 December 2007 to Question 174970; and if he will make a statement.

Nicola Blackwood:

The information requested is not available in a published form, but has been extracted from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data and is presented in Table 1.

	PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS						SECONDARY DIAGNOSIS					
	Malnutrition		Nutritional Anaemia		Other Nutritional Deficiency		Malnutrition		Nutritional Anaemia		Other Nutritional Deficiency	
Year	Admiss ions	Discha rges	Admiss ions	Discha rges	Admiss ions	Discha rges	Admiss ions	Discha rges	Admiss ions	Discha rges	Admiss ions	Discha rges
2010 /11	543	585	69,152	70,674	3,267	3,438	4,167	5,027	124,662	134,808	31,235	33,688
2011 /12	662	706	72,931	74,537	3,281	3,479	4,772	5,761	125,253	135,522	39,184	42,387
2012 /13	682	732	76,541	78,133	3,850	4,046	4,893	6,034	130,546	141,620	52,969	57,794
2013 /14	625	686	84,269	85,871	4,161	4,394	6,078	7,455	142,463	154,591	61,394	67,010
2014 /15	746	812	92,978	94,821	4,078	4,318	6,649	8,110	155,495	169,198	74,870	82,030

Table 1 (unpublished HES data)

Note:

Finished admission and discharge episodes are counted against the year or month in which the episode finishes. They do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one admission/discharge within the period.

Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage, improvements in coverage of independent sector activity and changes in National Health Service practice. For example, apparent increases in activity may be due to improved recording of diagnosis or procedure information. Note HES include activity ending in the year in question and run from April to March, e.g. 2012/13 includes activity ending between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013.

HOME OFFICE

■ Asylum: Children

Dr Philippa Whitford:

[\[41094\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied child refugees have been reunited with relatives in the UK in the last year.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Data on cases progressed under the Dublin III Regulation is recorded on the main immigration database. However, this data is not held in a way that allows it to be reported on automatically and is therefore not currently available.

■ Asylum: Families**Stuart C. McDonald:**[\[42941\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 June 2016 to Question 38033, what assessment she has made of the increase in the number of family reunion applications that were refused in each of those years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Each case is considered on its individual merits based on the evidence submitted by the applicant and their sponsor. We do not collate data on the individual reasons for refusals in every case.

The increase in absolute numbers of refusals of family reunion cases in 2014 and 2015 reflects in part the higher number of cases decided in those years.

■ Asylum: Scotland**Chris Stephens:**[\[42791\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department plans to take to ensure (a) that contractors who provide asylum seekers services comply with the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 and (b) that such housing is with a registered social landlord.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

[Holding answer 19 July 2016]: Asylum seekers are provided with accommodation, transportation and subsistence support whilst their application for asylum is being considered.

In Scotland COMPASS accommodation providers are contractually required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation to comply with the standards outlined in the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 (regardless of whether the provider is registered as a social landlord) and the Decent Homes Standard.

Providers are monitored closely to ensure accommodation meets these standards and the contracts include measures to ensure any issues are quickly addressed. These performance standards are defined in the contract and are managed using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) including those which measure whether an individual property is compliant with contractual obligations following an inspection. This requirement/criteria will continue to apply to future contracts.

■ Bombings: Birmingham**Mr Roger Godsiff:**[\[42825\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the families of the victims of the Birmingham pub bombings will be eligible for funding to cover the costs of their legal

representation; and if Ministers or officials from her Department will meet those families to discuss that matter.

Mr Ben Wallace:

[Holding answer 19 July 2016]: The Home Secretary has received letters from the families of the victims of the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings and lawyers representing them, requesting a special scheme be set up for funding of the families' legal representation at the newly opened Coroner's inquest into the bombings, and a meeting to discuss this. The Government is carefully considering these requests, and will respond in due course.

■ British Nationality: Assessments

Drew Hendry:

[\[42902\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the maximum distance is that an applicant for citizenship is expected to travel to attend for the (a) life in the UK and (b) English language test.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

There is no maximum distance. Coverage is national and linked to demand.

■ Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Catherine West:

[\[42878\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

Sarah Newton:

The previous Government signed the Istanbul Convention to show the strong commitment it placed on tackling violence against women and girls and this Government remains committed to ratifying it.

The UK already complies with the vast majority of the Convention's articles but further amendments to domestic law, to take extra-territorial jurisdiction over a range of offences (as required by Article 44), are necessary before the Convention can be ratified. We are currently considering the approach to implementing the extra-territorial jurisdiction requirements in England and Wales and will seek to legislate when the approach is agreed and Parliamentary time allows.

■ EU Nationals: British Nationality

Tom Watson:

[\[42630\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of EU nationals who will be eligible to apply for UK citizenship.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Government has not made an estimate of the number of EU nationals who will be eligible to apply for UK citizenship.

■ Immigration Controls

Gareth Thomas:

[39753]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people entering or leaving the UK by air had pre-boarding electronic checks in each of the last seven years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The total volumes of passengers and crew crossing the UK border via scheduled commercial air routes, along with the figures for the volumes that underwent electronic checks, are listed in the table below.

The following table shows assessed number of passengers and crew travelling to and from the United Kingdom on commercial international aviation routes (excluding the Common Travel Area) and the percentage of those undergoing electronic checks, over the last five years. Full detail is not available for 2009/ 2010 given the events surrounding the termination of the Raytheon-led Trusted Borders contract.

YEAR	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS AND CREW ON INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL AVIATION ROUTES (EXCLUDING COMMON TRAVEL AREA) TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE UK (MILLIONS) *	PERCENTAGE OF PASSENGERS CHECKED ELECTRONICALLY ON INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL AVIATION ROUTES (EXCLUDING COMMON TRAVEL AREA)
2011	190.4	67%
2012	186.2	69%
2013	182.3	81%
2014	179.7	96%
2015	211	100%

■ Investigatory Powers Bill: Consultants

Valerie Vaz:

[42644]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what arrangements were made for the declaration of (a) financial and (b) other interests by technical advisers to the independent review of the Investigatory Powers Bill before their appointment.

Mr Ben Wallace:

The Government has published the Terms of Reference for the Independent Review of Bulk Powers, which set out the composition of the review team. It was for David Anderson, as the independent reviewer to select the team best equipped to carry out the review and to critically appraise the need for bulk capabilities. David Anderson also

published a summary for each member of the team setting out their experience and the diverse qualities which they will bring to the review.

■ Music and Sports: Security

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[42478\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent representations she has received from music and sport event organisers on security at large events; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Ben Wallace:

The Home Office regularly receives correspondence from organisations about major events taking place in the UK including music festivals, sports and other events. The policing of major music festivals, sports events and other large temporary events are dealt with through operational policing efforts. Advice on security, including counter-terrorism, is undertaken by specially trained police Security Coordinators (SecCos), who provide protective security advice and plans to police command teams prior to an event.

Where appropriate SecCOs draw on the advice of police specialist Counter Terrorism Security Advisers (CTSAs), who assess sites and provide recommendations on appropriate and proportionate mitigating security measures to address the terrorism threat.

■ National Security

Catherine West: [\[42879\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the consequences are for the security situation in the UK of the attack in Nice on 14 July 2016; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Ben Wallace:

I refer the honourable member to the Home Secretary's statement which she delivered to Parliament on 18 July. The statement can be found here:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-07-18/debates/16071818000002/TerroristAttackNice>

■ Overseas Students: Scotland

Natalie McGarry: [\[42316\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to reintroduce the post-study work visa in Scotland.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Her Majesty's Government announced the closure of the Tier 1 (Post Study Work) category in March 2011 and implemented its closure in April 2012, as part of a package of reforms to immigration requirements for overseas students.

We closed the Tier 1 (Post Study Work) category because too many individuals in the route were unemployed or in low-skilled work. Furthermore, too many were using the

student route merely as a means to work in the UK, without any intention of study, which does not help hard-working people or our educational institutions. We have replaced it with a more selective system.

We continue to have an excellent post-study offer for graduates that helps us retain the brightest and best overseas students to undertake skilled work in the UK after their studies. In 2015, more than 6,000 international students switched from Tier 4 to Tier 2 from within the UK. This is up from around 5,500 grants in 2014, and around 4,000 grants in 2013. Unlike former post-study work schemes, these students will all be moving into skilled employment with employers who have appropriate sponsorship duties placed upon them.

■ Refugees: Greece

Thangam Debbonaire:

[[42559](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what level of support her Department has given to the Greek authorities to assist with processing refugees and identifying those who may qualify for relocation to the UK under the Dublin III arrangements for family reunion.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Government continues to work with key EU Member States to ensure the Dublin Regulation family reunification process works effectively.

The UK continues to offer support to Greece both bilaterally and through the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). In addition to our regular short-term deployments to support Dublin family transfers to the UK, the UK has offered 75 expert personnel to help with the processing and administration of migrants in reception centres, act as interpreters, provide medical support and bolster our existing team assisting the Commission to ensure effective and efficient co-ordination.

We are working with partners to ensure that those who qualify for family reunification under the Dublin III arrangements are processed efficiently. Furthermore, we continue to work with partners and the Greek authorities to identify and transfer vulnerable unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK where it is in their best interests, as set out in the Immigration Act 2016. This is not a simple task. We are working through the complex legal and safeguarding systems of other countries in order to ensure that any actions we take are always in the child's best interest. We have recently seconded an expert to Greece, who is embedded within the relevant department to coordinate efforts on this initiative.

■ Refugees: Loans

Thangam Debbonaire:

[[42587](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 June 2016 to Question 39223, what criteria officials of her Department have to follow to fulfil the aim of processing refugee integration loan applications as quickly as possible.

Thangam Debbonaire:

[\[42664\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will set a target time for processing an application for a refugee integration loan that is less than the 28-day asylum support period that is terminated after refugee status has been granted.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The rules setting out eligibility for integration loans are set out in the Integration loans for Refugees and Other Regulations 2007. All the factors set out in these Regulations are considered for each application received for an integration loan.

We do not intend to set a target time for processing loans less than the 28 day support period given to those granted refugee status. However processes are reviewed on a regular basis and the department aims to respond to all applications as quickly as possible.

■ Refugees: Social Security Benefits

Thangam Debbonaire:

[\[42796\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy, where a newly recognised refugee has made an application for welfare benefits during the statutory 28 day move-on period, to continue paying asylum support allowance to that refugee until their first welfare benefit has been paid, including in circumstances where that payment is a short-term benefit advance.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

[Holding answer 19 July 2016]: We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that new recognised refugees apply promptly for any welfare benefit for which they may be eligible and receive the first payment of any benefit for which they qualify before their Home Office support ends. We will evaluate the impact of this work later this year and bring forward a change to the current 28-day move-on period if the evaluation shows that to be necessary.

■ Slavery: Victims

Sarah Champion:

[\[42651\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to raise awareness among public authorities of their statutory duty to notify her where they have reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Sarah Champion:

[\[42652\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many notifications her Department has received under section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 relating to slavery or human trafficking of (a) children and (b) adults.

Sarah Newton:

We published guidance on the Modern Slavery Act on GOV.UK and a circular was sent to all bodies who are subject to the duty. We will publish data on notifications received and carry out further awareness-raising activity later this year.

■ Vetting

Catherine West:

[\[42334\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time is for a Disclosure and Barring Service local intelligence check to be completed by the Metropolitan Police Service.

Catherine West:

[\[42335\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time is for a Disclosure and Barring Service local intelligence check to be completed by the police.

Sarah Newton:

From June 2015 to May 2016, the average time taken to complete Disclosure checks by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) was 94 days and for the police as a whole, 22 days.

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is working closely with the small number of forces, including the MPS, whose performance does not meet turnaround time targets. The performance of police disclosure units is an operational issue for individual police forces and the MPS has established a Gold Group to oversee the recovery plan which they have in place to reduce the time taken. I have made clear to the MPS that its current delays must be addressed as a matter of priority and I continue to maintain close oversight of the progress being made.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

■ British Overseas Territories: Economic Situation

Andrew Rosindell:

[\[43294\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what plans her Department has to promote the economic diversification of the Overseas Territories.

Rory Stewart:

Over the next two years, DFID plans to invest up to £67.7 million to support economic development in the ODA eligible Overseas Territories. This investment will help to diversify the economies of those Territories and make them less vulnerable to external shocks.

■ Burma: Humanitarian Aid

Mr Gavin Shuker: [\[42849\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the Myanmar government removes remaining aid restrictions and facilities access for humanitarian aid throughout that country.

Rory Stewart:

Humanitarian assistance continues to reach the large majority of those in need in Burma. The government of Burma played a constructive role in providing and facilitating humanitarian assistance to areas affected by flooding in 2015. In conflict areas there remain significant restrictions to humanitarian access, that in some cases limit the quality and reach of humanitarian assistance.

DFID officials, together with other donors and United Nations agencies, have discussed aid policy and coordination with the new government of Burma, including administrative and security regulations that can limit access for assistance, including in Rakhine State in June 2016. DFID officials raise local issues limiting humanitarian access during field visits, including during visits to Kachin State in June 2015 and Rakhine State in May 2016. DFID closely monitors humanitarian access limitations and works together with other donor governments and the United Nations to seek to alleviate these. Through these channels and directly we will be encouraging the new government of Burma to act to address policies and practices that limit humanitarian access.

■ Development Aid

Imran Hussain: [\[42935\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, when her Department plans to publish the outcomes of the Multilateral and Bilateral Aid Reviews.

Rory Stewart:

The Secretary of State is currently considering the outcomes of the Department for International Development's Multilateral and Bilateral Aid Reviews, and will aim to publish them shortly.

■ GAVI Alliance: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[43145\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether administrative support has been provided by her Department to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[43146\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what estimate she has made of the financial contributions to be made by her Department to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in each of the next five years.

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[43147\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what estimate she has made of the financial contributions made by her Department to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in each of the last five years.

James Wharton:

The UK is the largest donor to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Between 2011 and 2015, the UK contributed £1.32 billion to Gavi. No additional administrative support was provided during this time.

The UK investment over the five year period between 2011 and 2015 immunised over 60 million children against vaccine preventable diseases which is estimated to have saved over 1 million lives.

Between 2016 and 2020, the UK is investing £1.44 billion in Gavi. This investment will deliver the Government's manifesto commitment to immunise 76 million children against vaccine preventable diseases and save 1.4 million lives.

■ Syria: Education

Gareth Johnson:

[\[42749\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what estimate her Department has made of the number of refugee children currently receiving an education in Syria; and what assessment she has made of the quality of that education provision.

Rory Stewart:

The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) estimates that a total of 5.4 million Syrian children and youth (aged 5-17 years) inside Syria are in need of educational assistance. The UK works closely with UNICEF and other partners to protect access to education across the whole of Syria, improve safety in and around schools, and maintain the quality of teaching and learning as far as is possible in an active war-zone. However, it is not possible systematically to measure the quality of learning and teaching inside Syria in the way that the UK does in more stable countries. UK education assistance has supported around half a million children inside Syria.

UK funding supports the provision of vital learning materials, remedial and alternative education for children who have lost months or years of schooling, and access to the official exams that enable children to secure higher education and jobs. UK support is also helping teachers to stay in the teacher workforce.

Gareth Johnson:

[\[42750\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many educational schemes and programmes her Department has funded (a) in Syria and (b) for Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries in each of the last two years.

Rory Stewart:

A table setting out education programmes financed by DFID in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon in 2014-15 and 2015-16 is attached.

DFID also supports education for Syrian refugees in Turkey through our contributions to the EU's Facility for Refugees in Turkey, not through bilateral programming.

Attachments:

1. PQ 42750 [PQ 42750.docx]

■ **Yemen: Humanitarian Aid**

Craig Whittaker: [\[43117\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment she has made of the need for humanitarian aid and assistance in Yemen.

Rory Stewart:

The United Nations' 2016 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), published in January 2016, reports that 21.2 million people in Yemen require some kind of humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs or protect their fundamental rights, particularly for food, water and sanitation, healthcare, and support to internally displaced people. The YHRP is currently 26% funded with donations of £351 million. The UK has so far committed to spending £72 million in Yemen over 2016-17. We continue to call on other donors to provide funding for the crisis.

■ **Yemen: Overseas Aid**

Steve McCabe: [\[42936\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 15 June 2016 to Question 39874, whether the donations listed were specifically for children affected by the conflict in Yemen

Rory Stewart:

Our humanitarian aid is provided on the basis of humanitarian need. The funding commitments listed in the Answer of 15 June 2016 to Question 39874 support men, women and children affected by the conflict; it is not possible to say exactly how much has been used specifically to support children. Since the UN reports that the conflict in Yemen has spread to 20 out of 22 governorates, it is likely that most children in Yemen have been directly or indirectly affected by the conflict.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

■ **Trade Agreements**

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[42100\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, if he will estimate the total (a) legal and (b) other costs to the public purse of conducting trade negotiations after the UK has provided notice under Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty of its intention to leave the EU.

Greg Hands:

Until we leave, the UK will remain a full member of the EU, with all of the rights and obligations. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has established the Department for

International Trade to promote British trade across the world and ensure the UK takes advantage of the huge opportunities open to us. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has also established a Department for Exiting the European Union for overseeing negotiations to leave the EU and establishing the future relationship between the UK and EU.

JUSTICE

■ Road Traffic Offences

Susan Elan Jones: [\[42553\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the proposed purpose is of the review into sentencing of motoring offences and penalties.

Susan Elan Jones: [\[42554\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the sentencing review of motoring offences and penalties.

Susan Elan Jones: [\[42555\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when the results of the sentencing review of motoring offences and penalties will be published.

Susan Elan Jones: [\[42556\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if a public consultation on motoring offences and penalties will be conducted as part of the Government's announced sentencing review.

Dr Phillip Lee:

Both the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Transport are aware of concerns about a number of issues relating to serious driving offences and the maximum penalties those offences carry. The Government are committed to making sure that the courts have sufficient powers to deal with driving offences appropriately and proportionately within the context of our wider sentencing framework. It is our intention to commence a consultation before the end of the year which will look at driving offences and penalties.

The new Justice Secretary will meet the new Transport Secretary to discuss further in due course.

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ Economic Growth: Northern Ireland

Neil Carmichael: [\[905919\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what steps he is taking to stimulate economic growth in Northern Ireland.

Kris Hopkins:

The Government's long-term economic plan is working for Northern Ireland. Last year legislation was passed to allow the devolution of corporation tax rate-setting powers which has the potential to boost investment and could bring benefits for an estimated 34,000 companies of all sizes in Northern Ireland.

SCOTLAND■ **EU Grants and Loans: Scotland**

Deidre Brock: [\[43165\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, whether projects in Scotland presently receiving EU structural funds will receive equivalent funding from the Government after the UK leaves the EU.

David Mundell:

While the United Kingdom remains a member of the European Union, we expect to retain the full benefits of membership, including the receipt of EU structural funds. Preparations for a negotiation to leave the EU should involve all the devolved administrations to make sure the interests of all parts of the UK are taken into account.

TRANSPORT■ **Railway Stations: Greater London**

Jim Shannon: [\[42603\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to improve the safety of passengers at train stations in London.

Paul Maynard:

We are working with train operators inside and outside of London, including through franchising arrangements, so that they maintain or increase the number of the stations which have been awarded 'Secure Station' status. The Secure Stations scheme is managed by the Department for Transport (DfT) and British Transport Police (BTP), and sets station design and management standards. It is aimed at:

- preventing and reducing crime and disorder, providing a safer environment for passengers and staff;
- increasing passenger numbers;
- reducing costs of repair following vandalism, graffiti, etc., and of lost staff time due to distress or injury.

DfT is also currently working with the BTP to review and refresh the Secure Stations scheme to ensure that it continues to drive up standards, covers wider aspects of station security and that it reflects recent changes to the operating structure of the rail industry.

■ Speed Limits: Cameras

Sir Greg Knight:

[\[42547\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, for what reason his Department deploys speed cameras that photograph vehicles from the front in addition to speed cameras that photograph vehicles from the rear; and for what reasons his Department does not have a single policy on the deployment of such cameras.

Andrew Jones:

It is for local authorities and police to decide how they wish to operate speed cameras. The Department issued guidance in 2007 entitled "Use of speed and red-light cameras for traffic enforcement: guidance on deployment, visibility and signing". I wrote to all local authorities in England and Wales on 20 October 2015 to remind them of the guidance which is available on gov.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Future Jobs Fund

Paul Blomfield:

[\[42837\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make it his policy to reinstate the Future Jobs Fund.

Damian Hinds:

We have no plans to reinstate the Future Jobs Fund.

■ Jobcentre Plus: Training

Thangam Debbonaire:

[\[42663\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what training Job Centre Plus staff are required to undertake on the support that is available to people who have been granted refugee status.

Damian Hinds:

Jobcentre Plus staff are trained to consider a person's circumstances and to tailor support according to individual need. All staff complete customer awareness training that covers a wide range of customer circumstances that includes asylum seekers and refugees.

Jobcentre Plus staff supplement national instructions with information on services and support available in their local area. This is accessed via the District Provision Tool which contains a wealth of information on the support available for vulnerable claimants including refugees. Staff are encouraged to access this regularly.

■ Social Rented Housing: Homelessness

Mr David Lammy: [42951]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of extending the Shared Accommodation Rate to social rented housing on levels of homelessness among people under 35.

Mr David Lammy: [42952]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of extending the Shared Accommodation Rate to social rented housing on the ability of single people under the age 35 to access general needs social rented housing.

Caroline Nokes:

Full impact and equality impact assessments will be undertaken in due course. This measure is not being introduced until April 2018 and only then where new tenancies have been taken out or existing tenancies renewed from 1 April 2016

Discretionary Housing Payments will be available to help single people under 35 (claiming either housing benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit) if they need help transitioning to the Shared Accommodation Rate in April 2018.

■ Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Natalie McGarry: [42459]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make an assessment of the effect of (a) benefit sanctions and (b) work capability assessments on people living with disabilities in (i) Glasgow and (ii) other parts of Scotland.

Damian Hinds:

I refer the Hon. Member to the answer to question 905768 which was provided by Justin Tomlinson MP, the Minister for Disabled People at that time, which can be found at:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-07-11/debates/1607114000024/WelfareReformEffectsOnPeopleWithDisabilitiesInScotland#contribution-1607114000168>

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Welfare Reform

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Damian Green): [\[HCWS96\]](#)

Universal Credit is the biggest transformation of the welfare state since its inception; it has formed and will continue to form a key part of this Government's action to reduce reliance on benefits and increase incentives to work. It is a reform which is fundamentally about helping people to build better futures for themselves and their families.

Universal Credit has been successfully rolled out across the country to new single jobseekers and is now available in all jobcentres. Over a quarter of a million people are now receiving Universal Credit, with around 12,500 new claims every week.

It is essential that the Universal Credit rollout for all claimant types is delivered in an orderly and successful manner; that claimants receive the support they need in a timely fashion; and that welfare reforms are delivered safely as the roll out continues. The previous Government altered the Universal Credit rollout schedule to make sure that the delivery continues to be safe and controlled. I believe this was the right decision: this new Government is committed to administer the Universal Credit Programme in a careful, reliable and transparent fashion.

First, it is important to deliver the policy to limit the child element of tax credits and Universal Credit to two children to its planned April 2017 timetable. Therefore, we will direct new claims from families with more than two children to Tax Credits until November 2018. Thereafter, new claims from families with more than two children will be taken through Universal Credit. Families already on Universal Credit who have a third child after April 2017 will remain on Universal Credit and receive two child elements.

Second, the policy to remove the higher rate of child element for the first child in Universal Credit will only apply where the first child is born after 6 April 2017, aligning the treatment of families within Universal Credit to that in Tax Credits.

Third, the incorporation of Housing Benefit for pensioners into Pension Credit will not begin until the completion of the Universal Credit timetable, in order to give greater certainty to Local Authorities. In addition, the regulations on treatment of surplus earnings and self-employed losses will now be implemented from April 2018.

The Government is making provision for the additional work to deliver these reforms and the other changes announced in Summer Budget 2015 by reshaping the next phase of Universal Credit rollout. The Department will continue its successful rollout of five jobcentres a month to June 2017, expanding to 30 in July 2017. Following a break over the summer the Department will scale up to 55 jobcentres per month between October and December 2017. From February 2018 this will increase to 65 per month, finishing with the final 57 jobcentres in September 2018.

The Government has also taken account of the comments by the NAO and PAC that the existing rollout plan contains no contingency, and the risks to delivery that brings. For the first time since Universal Credit was announced in 2010, we will put specific contingency into the plan from September 2018 until June 2019. The managed migration of existing benefit claims will start in July 2019 and complete in March 2022.

Finally, in line with the Department's commitment to its delivery partners to give at least six months' notice of Universal Credit implementation plans in their areas, I can today announce the sites for the remainder of 2016/17. Following a planned break in January 2017, Universal Credit will be rolled out to Corby, Southampton, Newcastle East, Warrington and Poplar in February 2017. Following this, in March 2017, Universal Credit will be rolled out to Hinckley, Dalkeith, Newcastle West, Penicuik and City Tower.

In addition the Scottish sites rolling out in November 2016 are changing from Fort William, Invergordon, Portree, Wick and Dingwall to Port Glasgow, Greenock and Kirkintilloch.

I believe this plan is the best way to ensure secure delivery of the Government's welfare reform priorities, increasing employment outcomes and supporting claimants at an affordable cost for the taxpayer.