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Thursday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Thursday, 1 December 2016

56th Horserace Betting Levy Scheme

[HLWS299]

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

On 9th November 2016 the Chair of the Horserace Betting Levy Board ('the HBLB') informed me that the HBLB had been unable to approve a recommendation from the Bookmakers' Committee as to the terms of the 56th Levy scheme. Under section 1(2) of the Horserace Betting Levy Act 1969 ('the Act'), it therefore now falls to me to determine those terms. The Act allows me to determine a new scheme for the said period; or direct that the current scheme shall continue to have effect for that period.

In the March 2016 Budget, the Government set out a timetable for replacing the current Horserace Betting Levy by April 2017. It remains the Government's intention to replace the current Levy scheme by this date. However until such time as the legislation has passed, the existing statutory requirements remain. Therefore my Determination for the 56th Levy scheme will only apply should the new Levy not be in place by April.

With this in mind, and having considered the arguments put forward by both betting and racing, I have decided to direct that the current Levy scheme should continue to have effect for 2017/18. In making this Determination I have had regard to the offer made by the Bookmakers' Committee and taken into account the racing members of the Board's reasons for rejecting this offer. Any discussions or negotiations about voluntary Levy contributions in respect of offshore remote betting operators are outside the scope of my statutory role in making this Determination.

Having concluded the Determination I would like express my disappointment that the HBLB and Bookmakers' Committee were not able to agree the Levy scheme and that it has been necessary to refer this matter to Government.

A Level (and AS) Qualifications

[HLWS300]

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

In April this year, the government announced that GCSEs and A levels in a range of languages with smaller cohorts will continue and therefore will be reformed in line with other GCSEs and A levels. This fulfils a commitment made in 2015 to work with the exam boards to ensure the continuation of these qualifications.

The reformed GCSE content for modern foreign languages, published in 2013, is suitable for all the modern languages currently available, and the exam boards are developing specifications for these GCSEs.

At A level, we have worked with the exam boards to develop specific content for modern languages with smaller cohorts. The government is today opening a consultation on this content, which will apply to A levels (and AS) in Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Greek, Modern Hebrew, Japanese, Panjabi, Persian, Portuguese, Polish, Turkish and Urdu.

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

This content for modern languages with smaller cohorts addresses the risks associated with the assessment of smaller numbers of candidates, including the challenges of recruiting specialist examiners. The requirement to demonstrate speaking skills is not included in the proposed content, which is consistent with current AS and A level qualifications in languages with smaller cohorts – with the single exception of Urdu (in which speaking skills are currently required). To secure a suitable level of rigour which is comparable for all modern languages, the government proposes a new requirement for modern languages with smaller cohorts. The proposed content would require students to apply language skills (reading, writing and listening) in combination, by responding to spoken and written sources addressing common subject matter.

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

I can also confirm today that A level history of art and AS and A level statistics will continue to be offered in England following the exam board AQA's decision not to offer these qualifications for new courses starting from September 2017. We believe there is value in having a broad range of high-quality choices available to A level students and our intention has always been that there should continue to be A levels available in these two subjects. I am therefore pleased that the Pearson exam board has confirmed that it intends to develop new AS and A levels in statistics and a new A level in history of art for teaching from September 2017.

Better Combat Compensation

[HLWS297]

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

Today I am publishing a consultation on proposals to provide better compensation for deaths or injuries sustained by servicemen or women in combat. Copies of the consultation are available in the Library of the House and on the www.gov.uk website.

The Government is proud of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme which provides compensation to Service personnel who suffer illness or injury attributable to their service or in the case of those who have died, provides it to their families, whether or not anyone was legally at fault. Separately, the Courts may award damages where the Ministry of Defence has been found to be at fault: however, that often leads to lengthy legal cases alleging battlefield negligence.

The Government has been considering options to provide relief for Service personnel and their families who may otherwise have to pursue lengthy and stressful claims in the courts. In line with our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, we plan to provide better compensation by introducing an enhanced scheme so that members and veterans of the Armed Forces and their families receive compensation for injuries or death in combat equal to that which a court would be likely to award if it found negligence.

As part of this reform, we intend to clarify in primary legislation the long-standing common law principle that the Government is not liable for damages as a result of injuries or deaths sustained in combat. This will address the “judicialisation of war” whereby judges second-guess military decisions using criteria that are appropriate for civilian life, but not for the battlefield.

The Iraq Inquiry report by Sir John Chilcot underscored the often challenging circumstances which can contribute to deaths or injuries sustained on the battlefield. The Government is committed to learning the lessons and is reviewing ways in which we can better plan, equip and operate, so that deaths and injuries can be avoided, where possible, in future.

This package will provide relief for individuals and families who in the future will be awarded better compensation without having to pursue lengthy legal action. It will also ensure that the Armed Forces are able to take the rapid and high risk decisions essential to operational effectiveness without being inhibited by the risk of future legal claims.

Blue Card Directive

[HLWS301]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Robert Goodwill) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am confirming the Government’s decision that the UK will not opt into the European Commission’s recent proposal for a revised Blue Card Directive, published on 7 June 2016.

The proposal seeks to increase the EU’s attractiveness to highly skilled workers from outside the EU. It runs

counter to the UK’s view that decisions on who comes to the country are best framed at national level in accordance with national assessments of economic need. It would also undermine our ability to reduce net migration.

Early Years Education

[HLWS304]

Lord Nash: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Education (Justine Greening) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Government has today published its response to the recent consultation on changes to the funding of the free early years entitlements for three- and four-year-olds. The Government response can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-funding-changes-to-funding-for-3-and-4-year-olds>

This includes the introduction of an early years national funding formula. This will provide a fairer funding system for nurseries, preschools and childminders.

We are delivering our Manifesto commitment to double the free hours of childcare provided for working parents of three- and four-year-olds, from 15 to 30 hours a week. Many parents want to go back to work, or work more hours, but can’t afford to because of the cost of childcare. This policy will make childcare more affordable and support parents to return to work, or to work more hours, if that is what they wish to do.

We are backing this with an additional £1 billion every year by 2019-20 including £300 million per year to increase Government funding rates. We are committed to allocating this record level of investment fairly and transparently so that early years providers can deliver free childcare on a sustainable and high-quality basis.

That is why we consulted on proposals to introduce a new funding system that is fair, transparent and maximises funding to providers. Our proposals to improve the way we allocate funding have been positively received and today, I can confirm our final funding policy. Key features are:

- a new early years national funding formula from April 2017 that will increase Government funding rates in 80% of local authorities;
- a minimum funding rate of at least £4.30 per hour for every local authority;
- a requirement for local authorities to pass 95% of their funding to providers;
- additional funding, worth £55m per year, to support maintained nursery schools until the end of this Parliament (2019-20);
- a new Disability Access Fund worth £615 per child per year to support disabled three- and four-year-olds to access their early years entitlement; and
- a requirement for all local authorities to have Inclusion Funds to channel additional support to children with Special Educational Needs.

These changes will put early years providers in a stronger position to deliver the free entitlements on a sustainable basis. They will help to ensure that every child, whatever their background and individual needs, can access the high-quality early education they need to prepare for school and improve their life chances. And from September 2017, they will support the delivery of 30 hours of free childcare to nearly 400,000 eligible working parents, thus making it easier for them to get on and balance work with their family lives.

Education lies at the heart of this government's ambition to make this a country that works for everyone – and today we are reaffirming our commitment by announcing this new, fairer way of funding our early years. It will ensure the dedicated individuals caring for our children have the support they need to give every child the best start, especially when looking after those who are most in need.

GREAT Britain Campaign: Machinery of Government Change

[[HLWS295](#)]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

Policy responsibility for the GREAT Britain campaign will transfer from the Cabinet Office to the Department for International Trade from 1 December 2016.

Illegal Wildlife Trade: Hanoi Conference

[[HLWS296](#)]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Andrea Leadsom) has today made the following statement.

The Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade took place on 17-18 November 2016, bringing together leaders from across the world to secure international political commitment to action on tackling the illegal wildlife trade (IWT). The Hanoi Conference was the third global conference on IWT to follow the London Conference in 2014 and Kasane Conference in 2015.

I was delighted to attend the Conference on behalf of the UK, alongside His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. The Conference was successful, with 42 countries and the EU adopting the Hanoi Statement by consensus and 23 countries, the EU and 6 international organisations pledging new and specific actions in the Statement Annex to deliver on their commitments from London and Kasane.

The UK played a key role in supporting Vietnam as chair and host, including direct financial support and seconding staff to the conference secretariat. Our contribution and leadership were widely recognised and commended by international partners. At the Conference, I was able to announce an additional £13million in UK funding for IWT and a number of new initiatives,

including expanded British Military training for African park rangers; a project with China to deliver joint training to African border forces; additional funding for Interpol to expand their work with key nations, tracking and intercepting illegal shipments of ivory, rhino horn and other illegal wildlife products; and up to £4million for the International Consortium for Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC).

Finally I was also pleased to announce that the UK will host a fourth high level meeting on IWT in 2018, to ensure that this urgent global issue stays at the top of the political agenda and that we continue to deliver on our manifesto commitment to lead the world in tackling IWT.

The UK was able to lead further progress in the margins of the Conference. I hosted a meeting of ASEAN Heads of Delegation, attended by the Duke of Cambridge, where I pressed for enhanced collaboration in this critical region, particularly on enforcement. The Philippines, chair of ASEAN in 2017, agreed that IWT would feature on the agenda.

In my meetings with Vietnamese Ministers, I welcomed recent positive steps taken by Vietnam to tackle IWT, and encouraged them to intensify further demand reduction and law enforcement efforts, including in respect of specific cases recently highlighted by NGOs and the media. I made clear the UK's commitment to ongoing practical cooperation between our two countries on these issues.

That so many countries and organisations came together once more in Hanoi to agree further action on IWT is a positive signal of ongoing political attention and also a consensus on the importance and urgency of the issue. We will remain focussed on driving forward this momentum and ensuring the commitments made in Hanoi are delivered in the lead up to the next event in London 2018.

Marrakesh Climate Change Conference

[[HLWS302](#)]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Today my honourable Friend, the Minister for State for Industry and Climate Change has made the following statement:

The annual Conference Of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations framework convention on climate change took place in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 7-18 November. The United Kingdom was represented by the Minister of State for Industry and Climate Change who has been negotiating for the UK and promoting British business. The conference was described as an 'implementation COP' focused on starting the process of turning the first global climate change deal, known as the Paris Agreement, into a clear blueprint for action.

The UK aims for Marrakesh were to: (a) strengthen action and ambition; (b) make progress on implementing the Paris Agreement; and (c) demonstrate the UK's leadership on climate change. These objectives were achieved.

(A) Regarding strengthening action and ambition, there were two key outcomes:

- i) The Marrakesh Action Proclamation underlined that the global commitment to tackling climate change is irreversible, calling for raised ambition and strengthened cooperation.
- ii) Announcements made by governments, businesses and other non-state actors further emphasised the global momentum and the action being taken. On behalf of the UK, Minister Hurd pledged support for many initiatives that will support countries in meeting their emissions reduction targets as the world aims to achieve carbon neutrality in the second half of the century.

(B) Regarding progress on implementing the Paris Agreement, consensus was secured on all of the areas where decisions were mandated, including the terms of reference for the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, and the Paris Committee on Capacity Building. Further progress included:

- i) The first meeting of the countries who ratified the Paris Agreement (CMA1).
- ii) Discussions on detail of the rulebook to support implementation of commitments and setting a deadline to finalise by 2018 with a review in 2017;
- iii) Agreement for an inclusive and transparent consultation on mitigation commitments ahead of the Facilitative Dialogue in 2018 to assess progress, in order to inform the next round of national pledges on mitigation;
- iv) Agreement that the Adaptation Fund should serve the Paris Agreement subject to decisions on governance and modalities to be taken at COP24 (in 2018); and
- v) Agreement to a five year work plan on “Loss and Damage” which will start in 2017. This will include a review of the sources of finance for loss and damage but does not admit new or separate financial arrangements for loss and damage.

(C) Regarding demonstrating UK’s leadership and commitment, we:

- i) Announced that the UK had ratified the Paris Agreement. On this occasion, the Secretary of State Greg Clark reiterated that we look ahead to continuing our leadership on climate action and ensuring that British business continues to play a key role in the new global low carbon economy. We believe it will benefit the UK while we implement our industrial strategy to deliver an economy that works for all.
- ii) Co-led with Australia the production and presentation of the \$100bn Roadmap on behalf of donor countries, setting out how the goal of mobilising US\$100bn of public and private climate finance by 2020 will be achieved.
- iii) Hosted a Green is GREAT pavilion, showcasing British strengths in managing the impact of climate change and providing a platform to show and sell British innovations.

- iv) Underwent our second ‘Multilateral Assessment’ setting out progress to meeting our 2020 emissions reduction targets and lessons that could be shared.

The positive outcome from Marrakesh will help to implement what was agreed in Paris more effectively. It caps a year of continued momentum on climate change, including the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement, and agreements on phasing down hydro-fluorocarbons under the Montreal Protocol and offsetting the growth in civil aviation emissions at the International Civil Aviation Organisation. From Government and private sector commitments to reduce emissions, it is clear that the economic and political drivers behind the global transition towards a low-carbon future – as well as the commercial opportunities that transition affords – remain.

Report of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation

[HLWS303]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

In accordance with section 36(5) of the Terrorism Act 2006, David Anderson QC, the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, has prepared a report on the operation in 2015 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

I am today laying this report before the House, and copies will be available in the Vote Office. It will also be published on GOV.UK.

I am grateful to David Anderson for his report. I will carefully consider its contents and the recommendations it makes, and will respond formally in due course.

Strathclyde Review: Government Response

[HLWS294]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: On 27 October 2015 the Government commissioned Lord Strathclyde to lead a review into secondary legislation and the primacy of the House of Commons. Lord Strathclyde published his report on 17 December 2015. The Government has today published its response to the Review and the four related parliamentary Select Committee reports, a copy of which is attached. As I said in my Statement on 17 November (HL Deb 17 November 2016, cols 1538-9), although the Government found Lord Strathclyde’s analysis to be compelling, and though we are determined that the principle of the supremacy of the elected House should be upheld, we have no plans to introduce new primary legislation at this time.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Strathclyde Response [Strathclyde response (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-12-01/HLWS294/>

UK International Development

[HLWS298]

Lord Bates: My right hon friend, the Secretary of State for International Development has today made the following statement:

Our world is changing. So our approach to development needs to adapt and keep pace with it. DFID will champion an open, modern and innovative approach to development.

Today I am publishing ‘Rising to the challenge of ending poverty: The Bilateral Development Review 2016’ and ‘Raising the standard: The Multilateral Development Review 2016’.

These reviews build on the Government’s UK Aid Strategy published in 2015 and set out how UK Aid will be focused on ending poverty and tackling great global challenges like mass migration, disease and climate change. It demonstrates how investing 0.7% of national income in international development will meet Britain’s moral obligation to the world’s poorest and work in the UK’s national interest.

The Bilateral Development Review sets out how DFID will respond to these global challenges and contribute to a more prosperous, secure and stable world. DFID will

follow the money, the people and the outcomes to make our aid more effective, transparent, and accountable to the poorest people in the world and to the taxpayers who fund our programmes.

The Multilateral Development Review builds on a systematic assessment of the performance of 38 multilateral institutions funded by the UK through DFID. The review sets out how the UK, as a committed champion of the multilateral system, will work with its multilateral partners and press them hard to take radical action so they continue to raise their performance. We will back high performers while also pressing them to improve even further.

For the convenience of members I attach a copy of these papers and accompanying document to this statement. I will also place a copy in the library of each House and make further copies available in the Vote and Printed Paper Offices.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Bilateral Development Review - Technical [Bilateral Development Review - technical note 2016.pdf]

Bilateral Development Review 2016 [Rising to the challenge of ending poverty - the Bilateral Development Review 2016.pdf]

Multilateral Development Review 2016 [Raising the Standard - the Multilateral Development Review 2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-12-01/HLWS298/>

Written Answers

Thursday, 1 December 2016

Abortion

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many HSA4 abortion notification forms were not submitted to the Chief Medical Officer within 14 days of termination in each of the last five years for which records are available. [[HL3358](#)]

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure that the Abortion Regulations 1991 are properly enforced; and what disciplinary processes may be implemented for violations of those Regulations. [[HL3359](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Section 2 of the Abortion Act 1967 and the Abortion Regulations in respect of England, require all Registered Medical Practitioners terminating a pregnancy to give notice in form HSA4 to the Chief Medical Officer within 14 days of the procedure. Information on how many forms were submitted late in each of the last five years is not routinely recorded. However, when a form is received 14 days after the date of termination, officials send a letter to the terminating doctor reminding them of their legal obligations. Wilful non-compliance with the notification requirements is a criminal offence and would be reported to the police to investigate.

Ahmad Manasra

Asked by **Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel concerning the 12-year prison sentence given to 14-year-old Ahmad Manasra. [[HL3241](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this specific case with the Israeli authorities. Whilst we condemn all acts of violence which target innocent civilians, we are deeply concerned about the treatment of Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons. We continue to push for the implementation of previously agreed improvements and encourage further changes in practice.

Andargachew Tsege

Asked by **Lord Collins of Highbury**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Ethiopia concerning the detention of Andargachew Tsige, a British national, further to those made by the Foreign Secretary in a call to his Ethiopian counterpart, Dr Tedros, and what reassurance have they obtained about (1) his treatment whilst in prison, (2) his access to

independent legal advice, (3) his access to regular consular assistance, and (4) his death sentence not being carried out. [[HL3270](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK Government takes Mr Tsege's case seriously. The Ethiopian Government are in no doubt as to our concerns for Mr Tsege and the priority we place upon his wellbeing. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) has raised the case each time he has spoken to his Ethiopian counterparts and the Ambassador raises it regularly at the highest levels in Ethiopia, most recently after her visit to Mr Tsege in prison on 11 November. From her discussions with Mr Tsege she was reassured of his welfare and was also able to give Mr Tsege a list of local lawyers. This is an important step toward Mr Tsege having access to legal advice to discuss his options under Ethiopian law. He must now be allowed to contact them without obstruction. We will continue to press the Ethiopians to abide by this commitment. The recent visit to Mr Tsege was the 12th visit to him by UK Government officials. We will also continue to press the Ethiopians to ensure that they abide by their commitment to ensure regular consular access to Mr Tsege. The Government opposes the use of the death penalty under all circumstances. We have made our stance on the death penalty very clear to the Ethiopian authorities.

Asylum: EU Law

Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how long it takes, on average, to make a decision on member state responsibility for asylum claims under the Dublin III Regulation. [[HL3379](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is not aware of any published data on the time taken to make a decision on Member State responsibility for asylum claims under the Dublin Regulation.

However, the Dublin Regulation specifies a range of time limits within which requests to accept responsibility must be made and replies received. The Dublin Regulation states that in all cases requests should be made as quickly as possible. The time limits vary depending on the circumstances of the case.

We will always fully consider take charge requests from other EU Member States under the Dublin Regulation, and we have made significant progress in improving and speeding up the existing process since the beginning of the year. Ahead of the Calais camp clearance, transfer requests were processed within 10 days and children are transferred within weeks from France.

Asylum: LGBT People

Asked by **Lord Scriven**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the report by the UK Lesbian and Gay

Immigration Group and Stonewall, No Safe Refuge: the experiences of LGBT asylum seekers in immigration detention centres. [HL3332]

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to address the concerns of harassment of LGBT asylum seekers raised in the report by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and Stonewall No Safe Refuge, and the concerns raised by the inquiry into the use of immigration detention by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration. [HL3333]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We take the welfare of persons detained under immigration powers very seriously and no form of ill-treatment or discrimination is tolerated.

Published guidance for staff in the immigration detention estate, Detention Services Order 2/2016 'Lesbian, gay and bisexual detainees in the detention estate' and Detention Services Order 11/2012 'Care & Management of Transsexual Detainees' sets out how detainees with these protected characteristics should be safeguarded and treated in detention.

The Government is currently considering the report 'No Safe Refuge: Experiences of LGBT asylum seekers in detention' by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and Stonewall.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

11_2012_-_Care_and_Management_of_transsexual_detai
[11_2012_-_
_Care_and_Management_of_transsexual_detainees_v2_1_external
.pdf]

Lesbian_Gay_Bisexual_Detainees
[Lesbian_Gay_Bisexual_Detainees.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3332>

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to revise the Immigration Act 2016 guidance on adults at risk in immigration detention; and if so, whether they will include a presumption that LGBT immigrants, particularly those seeking asylum, should not be detained. [HL3334]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The guidance in respect of the Government's policy on adults at risk in immigration detention came into force on 12 September 2016. The Government has no immediate plans to revise it.

There is a general presumption of liberty for all individuals. Detention is used only when necessary, most often in order to enforce an individual's removal from the UK. The adults at risk policy makes particular provision

for individuals who are regarded as vulnerable, by reference to a list of vulnerability "indicators".

Transsexual (and intersex) individuals are included in the list of indicators, following a recommendation from Stephen Shaw, in the report of his review into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons, that transsexual people should be presumed unsuitable for detention. Furthermore, any LGB individual who exhibits any of the indicators, or who is otherwise recognised as vulnerable, would fall within the scope of the policy.

Climate Change

Asked by Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what priority the Foreign and Commonwealth Office places on climate change; how many of its civil servants work or worked on climate change in a full and part-time capacity (1) currently, (2) in 2015, (3) in 2014, and (4) in 2013. [HL3432]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Climate change is one of the important global issues that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) works on through diplomacy. In doing so, we work closely with other government departments including the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The FCO has staff working on climate diplomacy both in London and overseas.

Overseas, staff numbers include UK-based and locally engaged staff. We have identified activity allocated towards 'Climate Change/Low Carbon Economy/Energy Security' on our financial systems. These figures rely on individual staff member's recording of their activities, and show numbers of FCO staff Full Time Equivalent (FTE) who spend some time in this policy area. The resource is allocated as part of broader geographical activity so exact numbers can change. Hence we are able to provide a snapshot of the number of staff at a point in time. In January 2016, 149 FTE members of staff were working on climate change and energy issues across our network of embassies, high commissions and other overseas posts, of which 72 staff worked on these issues full-time. In January 2015, 158 FTE members of staff worked on climate change and energy issues, of which 79 were devoted to these issues full-time. In January 2014, 177 FTE staff undertook this work, of which 86 were devoted full-time. And in March 2013, 177 FTE staff members worked on these issues, of which 72 were devoted full-time. Our next set of updated figures will be available in the New Year.

In London, the following figures reflect our best estimates of staff working specifically on climate change as part of units primarily focused on climate and energy. Currently there are 8 FTE members of staff working on climate change. In September 2015, 16 FTE members of staff were working on this issue. In September 2014, 20 FTE members of staff were working on it. And in July

2013, an estimated 26 FTE members of staff were working on climate change.

Darfur: Chemical Weapons

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning, through the UK's membership of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, to ask for clarification from the government of Sudan regarding allegations made by Amnesty International that Sudan has used chemical weapons in attacks against civilians in the Darfur region; and whether they will request a challenge inspection if further clarification is not forthcoming. [\[HL3186\]](#)

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK continues to work very closely with both the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and Amnesty International. The government of Sudan, as a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), is obliged to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons within its territory and to report to the OPCW. In order to instigate a challenge inspection to be carried out by the OPCW, another state party to the CWC is required to present further credible evidence, for example, in addition to the allegations contained in Amnesty's report. We are not aware of any such further evidence. We continue to urge the government of Sudan to allow access throughout Darfur and to enable the United Nations/African Union Peacekeeping Mission to carry out its core mandate to protect civilians.

District Heating

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consumer protection exists in relation to energy pricing for customers of district heating networks. [\[HL3472\]](#)

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: There are provisions relating to price transparency, metering and billing of district heating networks in the Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations 2014. There is also a requirement for energy costs to be provided in a format which enables customers to compare the charges of different energy suppliers. A voluntary code called HeatTrust was established last year by the industry trade association, with the support of Government, to improve customer protection in this sector. HeatTrust has recently launched an on-line price comparator tool for heat network customers.

Heat network customers are covered by general consumer protection, competition and contract law as well as tenancy law where relevant.

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what responsibilities Ofgem has in relation to consumer

protection for customers of district heating networks. [\[HL3473\]](#)

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Ofgem is responsible for the regulation of the gas and electricity markets. Its remit does not cover district heating networks or protection for heat network customers.

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to conduct a review into competition between, and pricing of, district heating networks. [\[HL3474\]](#)

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: At present, there are no plans for the government to conduct a formal review into competition between, and pricing of, the heat network industry. The Government monitors these issues as part of its implementation of the Heat Network Investment Project and the development of the market more generally.

European Parliament Members: Pensions

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will be responsible for the finances of UK MEPs' pensions following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. [\[HL3437\]](#)

Lord Young of Cookham: The arrangements for withdrawal from the EU, including from the budget, will be a matter for the withdrawal agreement as part of the Article 50 process.

Floods

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 3 November (HL2670), how the remaining 10 per cent of funding allocated for flood relief is being spent. [\[HL3429\]](#)

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Funding is being allocated on a case-by-case basis to support evidenced local need.

Gaza

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 15 November (HL2871), whether they will raise the issue of access to Gaza for UN and other international non-governmental organisation personnel at more senior levels with both Israel and Egypt. [\[HL3383\]](#)

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: While we do not intend to raise the specific issue of access for United Nations and Non-Governmental Organisation personnel, we continue to call on the governments of Israel and Egypt to show maximum flexibility in opening the crossings into Gaza to

help facilitate travel in and out of Gaza. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv most recently raised the issue of movement and access with the Israeli Head of Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories Civil Division on 7 September. We remain concerned that the Rafah crossing with Egypt has been mostly closed since October 2014.

Health: Finance

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to undertake a public consultation on the future of public health funding in England. [HL3395]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The ring-fenced public health grant for local authorities will remain in place for 2017-18. In 2015, the Government announced that by the end of this Parliament local government would retain all of the money it raises through business rates. The Government consulted over the summer on an option for fully funding local authorities' public health spending from their retained business rates receipts. We are currently considering the responses to this consultation and will publish a summary of the responses and a proposed way forward in due course.

Ilois: Resettlement

Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had or plan to have with the government of Mauritius following their decision to deny the right of return to the Chagos people. [HL3438]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have continually sought the views of the Mauritian Government in regards to the Chagossian resettlement review. The British High Commissioner to Mauritius met representatives of the Mauritian Government on 16 November to explain our decision against resettlement and the support package of approximately £40 million for Chagossians, including those living in Mauritius. The Government will continue to make efforts to work closely with Mauritius to develop cost-effective programmes which will make the biggest improvement in the life chances of those Chagossians who need it most.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding reports by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the demolition or confiscation of 18 structures, eight of which had been provided as humanitarian assistance, in six Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem and Area C, displacing people, including children, and affecting the livelihoods of others. [HL3237]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: While we have not made any representations to the Israeli authorities on this specific case, on 7 September during a meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Lieberman in London, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) expressed our opposition to demolitions. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv also continues to raise our strong concerns about demolitions with the Israeli authorities.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding damage to structures and access restrictions to grazing areas resulting from military training exercises conducted by Israeli forces in the northern Jordan Valley. [HL3238]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not made representations to the Israeli authorities on this specific issue.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning reports of the wounding of Palestinian students, with others suffering from tear gas inhalation, by Israeli forces inside Al Quds University in Abu Dis, East Jerusalem. [HL3239]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not made representations on this specific issue. We recognise the Israeli authorities' legitimate need to deploy security measures in some circumstances, but we have encouraged them to avoid excessive use of force and act in a way which minimises tensions. In instances where there have been accusations of excessive use of force, we have urged the Israeli authorities to conduct swift and transparent investigations.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel concerning the extension of Israel's wall which will block access to Palestinian lands in the Cremisan Valley. [HL3240]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have raised this issue repeatedly with the Israeli authorities. Officials from the British Consul General in Jerusalem have also met with local community leaders to emphasise our continuing support for the community and our opposition to the Separation Barrier in general.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel following the Israeli military blockade of

Palestinian communities south of Nablus District from 4 to 11 September. [HL3242]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities. However, whilst we recognise the legitimate need of Israel to deploy security measures in certain circumstances, we strongly encourage the Israeli Government to avoid use of excessive force and act in a way which minimises tensions.

Labour Market

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of Brexit on the labour market. [HL3341]

Lord Bridges of Headley: As we conduct our negotiations, it must be a priority to regain more control of the numbers of people who come here from Europe. We are considering very carefully the options that are open to us. As part of that it is important that we understand the impacts on the different sectors of the economy and the labour market from any changes that we make. My Department, working with officials across government, continues to undertake a wide range of data analyses to inform the UK's position.

Military Aid

Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which countries UK armed forces are providing training to (1) security forces, (2) armed forces, or (3) other armed groups. [HL3314]

Earl Howe: UK Armed Forces are providing training to Armed Forces or security forces in the current Financial Year in the countries listed below. The types of training provided cover a broad spectrum of subject matter including English language training, medical training, the conduct of disaster relief, and peacekeeping operations. The lists indicate the primary recipients of the training. In some cases training provided predominantly for members of the Armed Forces may also include participants from the security forces. Training may also sometimes be provided in the countries indicated to members of the Armed Forces of third party states, for example where one location is used to run a regional course with participants from several nations, or where training is provided to international peacekeeping forces in that country.

Armed Forces

Afghanistan
Albania
Armenia
Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda

Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
British Virgin Islands
Brunei
Burma
Cayman Islands
Chile
China
Colombia
Czech Republic
Cyprus
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Dominican Republic
Dominica
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Georgia
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lebanon
Lithuania
Macedonia
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Mauritania
Mongolia
Montenegro

Morocco
 Nepal
 Nigeria
 Oman
 Pakistan
 Papua New Guinea
 Philippines
 Poland
 Qatar
 Rwanda
 Saudi Arabia
 Serbia
 Sierra Leone
 Singapore
 Somalia
 South Africa
 Sri Lanka
 Sudan
 Tajikistan
 Tanzania
 Thailand
 Tunisia
 Uganda
 Ukraine
 United Arab Emirates
 United States of America
 Uzbekistan
 Vietnam
 Zambia
Security Forces
 Gabon
 Iraq
 Kenya
 Kosovo
 Malta
 Pakistan
 Rwanda
 Sierra Leone
 Somalia
 South Africa
 Uganda

NHS: Proof of Identity

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government which NHS Trusts require patients to provide two forms of identification before they can receive treatment; and whether this applies to persons who attend accident and emergency

departments or urgent care units for accident and emergency urgent treatment. [[HL3460](#)]

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients have been refused NHS treatment in the past year because they could not provide required proof of identity. [[HL3461](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: A small number of trusts are requiring patients to provide identification before they receive treatment.

Care deemed by a clinician to be urgent or immediately necessary must never be withheld until payment is received. Where treatment is considered to be immediately necessary in order to save a patient's life or to prevent their condition from being life-threatening, treatment must not be delayed or withheld in order to establish their chargeable status.

NHS: Sustainable Development

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they use to measure the success of NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans. [[HL3390](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: In order to be successful in transforming their local health and care system, Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) will need to demonstrate strong leadership, local engagement, an ambitious vision and a plan for financial sustainability.

Over time STPs will be monitored on improvements in the quality of their local health services. Most importantly, through the work they are doing as a system, STPs will need to demonstrate a step change in patient outcomes in areas that have been identified a priority for the National Health Service such as mental health, cancer and primary care.

Nurses: Apprentices

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider the restoration of an apprenticeship-based route to qualification as a state registered nurse. [[HL3411](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: As part of the Government agenda to develop aspirational apprenticeships, the Department of Health and Health Education England have actively supported the development of an apprentice standard for a registered nurse. This has recently been approved by the Department for Education. The employer-led Trailblazer Group will need to complete the assessment plan and end point assessment before the standard is ready for delivery and can be used by employers.

We expect to see the first nursing degree apprenticeship programmes begin in September 2017.

Nurses: Resignations

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of nurses who qualified in 2010 left the NHS within five years of qualification. [HL3410]

Lord Prior of Brampton: NHS Digital provides data on the number of nurses working in the National Health Service in England, but information on the percentage of nurses who qualified in 2010 and left the NHS within five years of qualification, is not collected.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel over the legislation currently before the Knesset which could retroactively legalise Israeli settlement building on private Palestinian land. [HL3263]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: On 16 November the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) issued a statement expressing our deep concerns over this bill. The UK's position on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is clear: they are illegal under international law, present an obstacle to peace and take us further away from a two state solution. In November, Minister Ellwood issued two statements about Israeli settlement announcements, expressing deep concerns about the development of new Israeli settlement units in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Israel's systematic policy of settlement expansion is undermining the chances of achieving a two state solution.

Public Finance

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to reduce the current budget deficit. [HL3340]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The government remains committed to returning the public finances to balance, and has set out a new fiscal objective to achieve this at the earliest possible date in the next Parliament.

The government's new fiscal mandate for this Parliament is to reduce the cyclically-adjusted deficit to less than 2% of GDP by 2020-21. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that this rule will be met 2 years early with £26.6bn of headroom.

The OBR also forecast that the headline deficit will be reduced to 0.7% of GDP in 2021-22, the smallest deficit in two decades. The current balance, which is defined as the headline deficit excluding investment spending, returns to surplus in 2019-20.

Refugees: Children

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to select and guide the foster parents of new child refugees. [HL3546]

Lord Nash: Caring for any child requires skills and dedication. Local authorities and independent fostering agencies select and prepare all foster carers for this challenging role. The Government is committed to ensuring foster carers are afforded the appropriate recognition, support and training to ensure every looked-after child receives the high-quality care they need. We have funded a range of initiatives including "Fosterline" – a helpline which provides a confidential, impartial free advice service for foster carers and potential foster carers.

In addition, in September we commissioned the Refugee Council and ECPAT to deliver training for foster carers and support workers who are not experienced in working with unaccompanied asylum seeking or refugee children. The Government has also committed to evaluate the need for any additional training required by foster carers looking after unaccompanied children as part of our wider safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children. Further information on our safeguarding strategy can be found on the Government's website, GOV.UK, by searching for 'Safeguarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children'.

Refugees: Syria

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many LGBT Syrian refugees have been resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement programme. [HL3335]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The number of people who have been resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme is published in the quarterly Home Office statistics. The sexuality and gender identity of those vulnerable people being resettled under this scheme is not routinely recorded or reported.

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to assist LGBT Syrian refugees to access the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme. [HL3336]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are clear that our scheme will prioritise the most vulnerable refugees, and that is why under the VPR scheme the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies refugees for resettlement using its established vulnerability criteria.

We are working with UNHCR and other partners to intensify their outreach to groups that might otherwise be reluctant to register for fear of stigma/discrimination and unaware of the safe space and options available to them.

This includes all religious minorities, LGBT people, people with disabilities, survivors of torture and sexual violence and others.

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to assist LGBT Syrian refugees who have been identified by the UNHCR as eligible for resettlement in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (1) before, and (2) following, their arrival in the UK. [HL3337]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Refugees being resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement scheme are invited to attend cultural orientation before they arrive in the UK.

This includes information on the diverse and inclusive nature of UK society and on the rights and responsibilities of citizens and those resident here. Once in the UK they are provided with a 12 month support package tailored to their individual needs. This includes accommodation, caseworker support and integration assistance, medical and social care needs and English language tuition. We ask local authorities to think carefully about whether they have the infrastructure and support networks needed to ensure the appropriate care and integration of these refugees before they begin resettling people.

Research

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks made by the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation in evidence to the Commons Science and Technology Committee concerning the establishment of a high level forum on the impact of Brexit for science and research (7th Report, Session 2016–17, HC 502), whether representatives of small and medium sized enterprises will be included in this forum. [HL3606]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government has been talking extensively to stakeholders. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation is setting up a forum with a number of senior representatives of UK research and innovation organisations to discuss opportunities and issues arising from the UK's exit from the European Union. This group will work with Government to ensure it has the best evidence to keep the UK punching above its weight in research and innovation. The membership of this forum will be confirmed shortly.

Serena Shim

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will call on the governments of Turkey and the USA to establish an independent investigation into the death of

the US journalist Serena Shim in Turkey in 2014. [HL3384]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have no plans to call on the government of Turkey or the USA to investigate the death of Serena Shim in Turkey.

Sex and Relationship Education

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Nash on 24 November, when they expect to announce a date for the introduction of statutory sex and relationship education in all state schools. [HL3553]

Lord Nash: Sex education is already compulsory in secondary maintained schools, and the Government is clear that all schools should make provision for high quality, age-appropriate sex and relationship education, which is a vital part of preparing young people for life in modern Britain.

The Secretary of State agreed that we need to look again at how schools deliver high quality personal, social, health and economic education including sex and relationship education. The Government is considering all the options and will give a view in due course.

Social Security Benefits: EU Countries

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many F-001 requests for information have been submitted by (1) HMRC and (2) DWP to other EU member states since 1 May 2010. [HL3326]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The issuing of F-001 requests is the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC does not keep a record of the number of F001s issued.

Social Security Benefits: EU Law

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many provisional benefit payments have been made by (1) HMRC and (2) DWP pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 since 1 May 2010. [HL3327]

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many benefit payments based on provisional calculations have been made by (1) HMRC and (2) DWP pursuant to Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 since 1 May 2010. [HL3328]

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance HMRC and DWP have (1) published, or (2) issued to

their staff, about the application of the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 concerning provisional benefit payments and calculations. [[HL3329](#)]

Lord Freud: Regulation (EC) 883/2004 co-ordinates social security systems across the EU, EEA and Switzerland. Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 is the implementation regulation which provides for administrative co-operation between Member States to implement the co-ordination regulation.

Article 6 provides for a Member State to make benefit payments on a provisional basis as the Member State of residence if there is a dispute with another Member State as to who is responsible for the payment of benefits. Article 7 provides for a Member State to make a provisional award of benefit if another Member State has not provided all the evidence requested from them.

The Government does not collect information on the number of provisional benefit payments made on the basis of either Article 6 or 7 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009.

There is published guidance on how to determine an award of benefit through the application of Article 6 (Annex A DWP Annex B HMRC). This is part of the Decision Makers Guidance which is made available to the public.

In domestic guidance there is the facility for a decision maker to make an award of benefit where the evidence required is incomplete, with a revision of that award undertaken, if appropriate, once the required evidence is received. This would cover claims made under Article 7. Each claim to benefit is assessed on a case by case basis.

St Mary's Hospital Paddington

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with NHS England and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group for Central London over the future of the Jane Wadsworth Clinic, St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. [[HL3441](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: There have been no discussions between Ministers at the Department with NHS England and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group for Central London about the future of the Jane Wadsworth Clinic, St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

Supported Housing

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (HCWS154), when they intend to publish their evidence review of the scale, scope and cost of the supported housing sector. [[HL3331](#)]

Lord Freud: The Supported Accommodation Review was published online on 21 November and can be accessed on the gov.uk website.

Syria: EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, or are having, with the European Commission and the European External Action Service about the development of an EU strategy for Syria. [[HL3214](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Ministers and officials regularly discuss what approach the EU should take in response to the situation in Syria with EU colleagues, including at recent October and November Foreign Affairs Council meetings.

Syria: Military Intervention

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ascertain how much land is currently occupied by the Turkish Army in al-Rai and Azaz near Jarabulus in Syria; what attacks the Turkish Army have made on Afrin Canton; and whether the local Turkmen population has rejected protection by Turkey. [[HL3404](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are unable to verify the information requested given the opaque and fast-moving situation in Northern Syria. We welcome the Free Syrian Army's success in clearing Daesh from the border with Turkey, which it achieved with active Turkish military support. We also recognise that the Syrian Democratic Forces continue to make an important contribution to counter Daesh efforts. We call on all parties to work constructively alongside the Global Coalition to achieve our shared objective of defeating Daesh and avoid civilian casualties.

Youth Justice System Review

Asked by Lord Cormack

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish the Taylor Review of the Youth Justice System. [[HL3310](#)]

Lord Henley: Ministers are currently considering Charlie Taylor's review of the youth justice system. We intend to publish the final report and the government's plans for reform of the youth justice system before the end of this year.

Zimbabwe: Police

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on (1) freedom of the press, and (2) the impact on freedom of expression, of proposals to empower police to intercept communications and seize electronic equipment in Zimbabwe. [[HL3398](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are concerned about the proposed Social Media Bill in Zimbabwe. The British Ambassador raised this with the Minister for Information, Media and Broadcasting on 19 September highlighting the importance of protecting freedom of media and

expression, as guaranteed by Zimbabwe's 2013 constitution. The Ambassador also emphasised the importance of urgent implementation in law of the provisions of the constitution.

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