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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, 15 December 2016

Armed Forces Covenant

[HLWS365]

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

I am today laying before both Houses the 2016 Armed Forces Covenant annual report. The Covenant is a promise by the nation to ensure that those who serve, or have served, and their families are treated fairly. They protect the nation with honour, courage and commitment, and deserve to be treated with fairness and respect and suffer no disadvantage as a result of that service.

The report sets out what the Government has done to uphold the principles of the Covenant. The Armed Forces Act 2011 enshrined the Covenant into law, setting out the requirement for the Defence Secretary to report progress annually to Parliament.

Every local authority in mainland Great Britain is continuing to provide a network of support for the Armed Forces community. Over 1,300 employers have now also signed up.

This year, in response to feedback from our people, particular emphasis has been given to: improving access to commercial goods and services; ensuring healthcare, education, and accommodation; and improving communications about the Covenant.

89% of the UK's motor industry has agreed that Service personnel and their families will not face cancellation fees for suspending their cover when posted overseas, and they will be able to preserve their no claims discount for up to three years. NHS England launched a new Veterans' trauma network, aimed at providing a safety net for trauma-recovering Veterans and Service personnel transitioning back into civilian life. In addition to the Service Pupil Premium, the Ministry of Defence has allocated £6 million of funding from its Education Support Fund to help 471 schools, with over 25,000 children from Service families. We continue to help our people to get on and stay on the property ladder, through the Forces Help to Buy Scheme, which we have extended to 2018. 11,645 Service personnel have had their applications approved. We have also created a cohort of over 150 Covenant champions across the Armed Forces to act as local focal points within their communities.

Last year, we announced the launch of the new £10 million per annum Covenant Fund. Since then, it has funded nearly 300 large and small projects across the UK totalling nearly £12 million, to provide support to the Armed Forces Community. We have committed £2 million to provide a single point of contact to help Veterans towards appropriate support when and where they need it.

The Local Government Association, in partnership with the Forces in Mind Trust completed a review with over 400 representatives of local authorities to create a Covenant toolkit. This will help to spread Covenant delivery best practice across the United Kingdom.

A new Inter-Ministerial Group for the Armed Forces Covenant will be established in the new year.

The report has been compiled in consultation with other Government Departments, representatives from the devolved Governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and the external members of the Covenant Reference Group, which includes the three Service Families Federations, the Confederation of Service Charities, the Royal British Legion, the Soldiers Sailors Airman's and Families Association, the War Widows Association and Professor Hew Strachan.

Bribery and Corruption Assessment

[HLWS358]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My hon Friend the Minister of State for Security (Ben Wallace) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I, along with my hon. Friend the Minister for the Constitution (Chris Skidmore), are today publishing a Bribery and Corruption Assessment template. We are writing to all Central Government Departments encouraging them to use the template to set a high standard within government of our response to bribery and corruption.

No sector is immune to bribery and corruption. Central Government and those it does business with are vulnerable to this threat due to their unique decision-making roles and access to information. To better protect themselves from bribery and corruption, a comprehensive understanding of the unique set of risks posed is essential in order to effectively manage and mitigate the threat. The template directly supports this ambition.

We have therefore worked closely with experts and stakeholders across Government to develop this template, which is intended to be integrated into existing counter fraud activity and the work across Government, led by the Cabinet Office, to create standards for counter fraud work and, from these standards, a Government Counter Fraud Profession.

Development and publication of the template was a commitment made in the 2014 UK Anti-Corruption Plan. The UK Government is committed to tackling corruption through transparency, open government and accountability and setting a high standard in government for counter corruption work is also aligned to our wider ambitions that will be reflected in our development of an anti-corruption strategy.

A copy of The Bribery and Corruption Assessment template will be placed in the House Library and also made available on the government website: www.gov.uk.

Community Fisheries Control Agency

[HLWS357]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Hon Friend the Minister of State (George Eustice) has today made the following statement

The Government acknowledges the efforts of the Commission to address the ongoing migration crisis, but has decided not to opt in to the JHA content in the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 768/2005 establishing a European Fisheries Control Agency.

The proposal – which has now been adopted – forms part of a wider package of measures by the Commission to improve collaboration and co-ordination between the newly named European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) formerly Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA), Member States, the proposed European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the existing European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to support national authorities carrying out their coast guard functions.

The amendment will formally establish co-operation for the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal offences by giving EFCA powers to share information and intelligence, such as the data currently accessible through ship reporting, and to provide services, equipment and training. The EFCA will be able to coordinate multi-purpose operations, and facilitate building capacity and asset sharing; it also will increase its control and inspection activities.

Although there is little practical or operational benefit for the UK from this measure, the Government maintains that their effect amounts to an obligation that falls within the scope of the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) section of the Treaties and is, therefore, subject to the UK's JHA opt-in. It is on that basis that the Government has decided not to opt in.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

[HLWS361]

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

The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 8th December 2016 in Brussels. Damien Hinds MP, Minister of State for Employment at the Department for Work and Pensions, represented the UK.

The Council reached a General Approach on the revision of the governing regulations of the Eurofound, EU-OSHA and CEDEFOP agencies. The UK, along with all Member States and the Commission, supported the proposal.

The Presidency provided a progress report on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive. There were interventions from 22 Member States. The UK

intervention stressed the importance of legal clarity so that workers understood their rights and businesses understood the rules. The Presidency also provided progress reports on the European Accessibility Act and the Equal Treatment Directive.

There was a policy debate on the European Pillar of Social Rights. The UK intervention stressed the need to respect subsidiarity and Member States' own labour market approaches. The UK welcomed the Commission's communication that the Social Pillar should include flexibility about participation for non-Eurozone countries. This was followed by a lunch time discussion on Social Innovation where the UK outlined its experience with Social Investment.

The Commission presented analysis from the European Semester which was followed by an exchange of views on the European Semester. Ministers also considered the draft recommendations for the Eurozone countries. The UK welcomed the Commission's findings and the priorities identified for the year ahead.

The Council adopted draft Council Conclusions on accelerating the process of Roma Integration, Women and Poverty, and the Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative. The Commission also introduced the European Solidarity Corps, launched earlier that week.

Under any other business, the Swedish and German delegations called on the Commission to upgrade the status of its gender equality strategy, the Presidency provided an update on Omnibus regulations and the New Skills Agenda for Europe, and the Austrian delegation provided an update on the Special Olympics World Winter Games. The Presidency presented the outcome of conferences organised during their Presidency and the Maltese delegation presented their work programme for their Presidency.

EU Environment Council

[HLWS362]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Life Opportunities (Thérèse Coffey MP) has today made the following statement.

I will attend the EU Environment Council, which will take place on 19th December in Brussels alongside my Hon Friend the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry (Nick Hurd MP).

Following adoption of the agenda, the list of "A" items will be approved.

Under legislative proposals, the Council will debate a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/87/EC (the "EU ETS Directive") to enhance cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments.

Under non-legislative proposals, the Council will seek to adopt Conclusions on the protection of human health

and the environment through the sound management of chemicals.

The following items will be discussed under Any Other Business:

- a) Current legislative proposals:
 - i) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 for a resilient Energy Union and to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and amending Regulation No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and other information relevant to climate change (the “Effort Share Regulation”).
 - ii) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 climate and energy framework and amending Regulation No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and other information relevant to climate change (the “Land Use, Land Use change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation”).
- b) Current legislative proposals:
 - i) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment.
 - ii) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste.
 - iii) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste.
 - iv) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste.
- c) Communication from the Commission on next steps for a sustainable European future: European action for sustainability.
- d) Communication from the Commission on Clean Energy for All Europeans.
- e) Fitness check of the EU nature legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives).
- f) Reports on recent international meetings:
 - i) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Marrakech, 7 - 18 November 2016).
 - ii) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Cancun, 4 - 17 December 2016).
 - iii) 66th session of the International Whaling Commission

(Portorož, Slovenia, 20 - 28 October 2016).

iv) Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

(Ljubljana, 28 - 30 November 2016).

g) REFIT evaluation of the EU Ecolabel.

h) European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) (30 May - 5 June 2017).

i) Odour nuisance.

j) Budapest Water Summit 2016 (Budapest, 28 - 30 November 2016).

k) Work programme of the incoming Presidency.

On 23 June, the EU referendum took place and the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period the Government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation. The outcome of these negotiations will determine what arrangements apply in relation to EU legislation in future once the UK has left the EU

EURODAC

[HLWS363]

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

The Government has decided to opt in to the EU proposal for the EURODAC III Regulation.

The Regulation will govern the operation of the EURODAC fingerprint database, which holds the fingerprints of asylum seekers and certain illegal entrants to the EU, in order to help Member States determine who is responsible under the Dublin Regulation for dealing with an asylum claim and to tackle illegal migration.

The EURODAC database will be expanded to increase the categories of fingerprints recorded, to record facial images and biographical data, to increase the length of time data can be stored to five years and to provide better data sharing procedures between Member States. These changes will strengthen the UK's ability to control illegal migration, prevent multiple asylum applications across Member States and protect the UK's security through data sharing with law enforcement agencies.

Until the UK leaves the EU it remains a full member, and the Government will continue to consider the application of the UK's right to opt in to forthcoming EU legislation in the area of justice and home affairs on a case by case basis, with a view to maximising our security, protecting our civil liberties and enhancing our ability to control immigration.

Justice and Home Affairs: Post Council Statement

[HLWS364]

Lord Keen of Elie: My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Fire and Policing (Brandon Lewis) has made the following Written Statement.

“The final Justice and Home Affairs Council of the Slovakian Presidency took place on 8 and 9 December in Brussels. The Minister of State for Courts and Justice, Sir Oliver Heald QC MP and I represented the UK. In due course, the United Kingdom will be leaving the European Union. In the meantime, the UK will remain a member of the EU with all the rights and obligations that membership entails.

Justice Day (Thursday 8 December) began with a discussion on the proposal for a Directive on the fight against fraud to the Union’s financial interests by means of criminal law (PIF Directive). The UK has not opted in to this measure. The Presidency concluded that a qualified majority of Member States supported a compromise proposal which included within the scope of the Directive VAT fraud with damages of over €10m, where it related to cross border supplies between two or more countries. Formal adoption of the measure by the Council and European Parliament is expected in 2017.

This was followed by a debate on the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) dossier. The Presidency concluded that the majority of Member States supported the latest text as the basis for further progress. However, as unanimity is required for this dossier, and some Member States could not agree the current text, the Presidency indicated that it would be put to the European Council to seek agreement to move forward under “enhanced cooperation” provisions. The UK will not participate in the EPPO.

There was then a discussion on the proposed Directive on consumer contractual rights for the supply of digital content. There was agreement that certain contractual rights should be guaranteed by legislation rather than left to negotiation in individual contracts, but Ministers remained divided on issues relating to the scope of the directive. In view of the different views expressed, the Presidency proposed seeking a hybrid solution to the question of which contractual rights should apply to digital content embedded in physical goods. The Presidency concluded that further technical work was needed on the question of whether the directive should apply not only to digital content in exchange for money and/or personal data, but in exchange for other data as well.

Over lunch, Ministers heard from the Commission about the progress of work to agree non-binding standards with internet groups in the management of hate speech complaints. The Minister for Courts and Justice reiterated the UK’s commitment to protect citizens from online hate crime whilst protecting the right to free speech. Malta, who will hold the Presidency from January 2017,

informed Ministers that it proposed to hold a seminar on hate speech and the internet in March.

The final substantive item on the Justice day focused on Criminal Justice in cyberspace. The Commission provided a progress report on the implementation of the June Council Conclusions on improving criminal justice in cyberspace, noting that it was looking at establishing a secure electronic platform for the transmission of e-evidence. It was noted that the current patchwork of national solutions to securing e-evidence posed risks to Member States’ ability to carry out effective criminal investigations in cross-border cases.

I stressed the need to address online crime and the importance of collaborating with service providers and other Member States. I offered to share UK knowledge and expertise on cooperating directly with service providers, noting recent UK legislation (the Investigatory Powers Act) in this area, whilst arguing that a common EU approach to jurisdiction should reflect the ongoing work in the Council of Europe on the Budapest Convention on cybercrime.

Under Any Other Business, Malta presented its priorities for its forthcoming Presidency, including taking forward existing legislation and starting negotiations on the package of measures aimed at tackling terrorist financing, which are to be published by the Commission in December. Malta would also continue the work on e-evidence and the EPPO, with a discussion at the Informal JHA Council in January.

The Presidency provided an update on current legislative proposals, noting that political agreement had been achieved on the Counter-Terrorism Directive. The Presidency also provided updates on the recent EU-US JHA meeting, and the forthcoming EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Conference. The President of Eurojust presented Eurojust’s 4th report on foreign terrorist fighters.

Interior Day (9 December) started with an update from the Presidency on negotiations on the proposals for an Entry/Exit System to improve the security of the external Schengen border. The UK will not participate in this measure but supports its aim of securing the EU’s external border.

This was followed by a substantial discussion on migration. Discussion focused on calls for more support to the EU migration agencies and front line Member States, as well as for more work to be done upstream with countries of origin and transit.

I announced that the UK would deploy up to an additional forty staff to the Greek islands, in addition to the 75 staff already committed, to support the Greek authorities with asylum processing and the admissibility process. This action demonstrates the UK’s continuing commitment to implementing the EU-Turkey agreement and supporting our European partners.

Under the Fight Against Terrorism item the Council discussed action that was necessary to tackle the threat from Foreign Terrorist Fighters, informed by a report

provided by the Counter Terrorism Coordinator. Discussion focused on the need for better information sharing, improved engagement with countries in the Middle East and North Africa, and women and children. The Counter Terrorism Coordinator said that he would continue to work on these three strands with the group of most affected Member States, which includes the UK.

The Council also discussed issues arising from encryption of communications, focused on the need to ensure that law enforcement bodies are able to access information for law enforcement purposes. I noted that while the UK understands that encryption is important to doing business online, we agree that we must ensure that our law enforcement and security and intelligence agencies are able to access the content of communications in limited circumstances and subject to robust safeguards.

The Presidency presented a paper on the management of terrorist attacks, which aimed to start discussions amongst Member States on increased co-operation in this area. The Presidency called for more EU funding and stated that a meeting with the Heads of Rescue Services would take place in 2017. The Commission noted that action was needed on sharing best practice, enhancing technology and providing victims with specific support.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed principles of responsibility and solidarity in the context of the EU's migration and asylum policy. Member States' positions remained polarised and discussions would continue under the Maltese presidency.

The Presidency adopted a partial general approach on the proposal to amend Eurodac (the database of asylum claimants' details, including fingerprints) on the understanding it would need further amendments to reflect the outcome of negotiations on the Dublin IV and EU Asylum Agency proposals. The mandate would also be updated in the light of the discussions on the issue of interoperability of information systems. The UK has opted in to the Eurodac proposal and it remains under UK Parliamentary scrutiny. I also intervened with other Member States to object to the current text on law enforcement access and said that the UK would support further amendments to the text to make it easier to check Eurodac for law enforcement purposes.

Under Any Other Business, the Presidency updated on the EU-US JHA Ministerial meeting on 4/5 December, and looked forward to the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Conference on 15/16 December. The Commission noted that the EU Internet Forum on 8 December had announced a new tool to automatically remove online terrorist material, and launched the Civil Society Empowerment Programme to raise awareness and train civil society on how to produce effective counter narratives online. The incoming Presidency outlined their priorities, including: work on the current legislative measures; new proposals on the Second Generation Schengen Information System, due out in December; continued work to support the implementation of the EU-Turkey Agreement; internal security and counter-

terrorism; and interoperability and information exchange."

Police Grant Report (England and Wales)

[HLWS355]

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

I have today placed in the Library my proposals for the aggregate amount of grant to Local Policing Bodies in England and Wales for 2017/18, for the approval of the House. Copies are also available in the Vote Office.

The Government is committed to protecting the public. The Government will provide the resources necessary for the police to do their critical work, and prioritise finishing the job of police reform by enabling the police to transform so they can tackle changing crime, deal with previously hidden crimes and protect the vulnerable.

Since 2010 we have seen some of the biggest changes to policing in a generation. Crime is down by over a quarter according to the Independent Crime Survey for England and Wales. There is significantly greater local accountability and transparency and police leaders have taken the opportunity to radically reform the way they deliver services to the public. Police officers have been taken out of back office roles and resources focused on front line delivery. Police forces are working more closely than ever before to reduce costs and duplication, and have started to work more closely with other emergency services through co-location and collaboration in areas such as fire and mental health.

As Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has set out, there is still considerable scope for forces to continue to improve the efficiency of their organisations and transform the way in which they operate, and it is vital that the pace and urgency of change continues if we are to have a police force fit to meet the challenges of the 21st century. HMIC noted: "we found evidence to suggest that some forces have reduced the pace and ambition of their plans since last year." The Government expects Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Chief Constables to do everything in their power to drive efficiencies at pace, and this settlement provides the opportunity to improve the quality of policing and continue to reduce crime.

The Welsh Government is also setting out today its proposals for the allocation of funding in 2017/18 for Local Policing Bodies in Wales.

Following the principles set out on the 4 February 2016 when publishing the final police funding settlement for 2016/17 [HCWS510] direct resource funding for each PCC, including precept, will be protected at flat cash levels compared to 2015/16, assuming that precept income is increased to the maximum amount available in both 2016/17 and 2017/18. No PCC who chooses to maximise precept in both years will face a reduction in cash funding next year compared to 2015/16. We have

updated our precept forecasts for 2017/18 since February to reflect actual tax base increases in 2016/17.

More is still required to transform policing to meet policing's own vision for 2025. I am therefore announcing an increase in the level of reallocations essential to drive police reform. As planned at the time of the Spending Review, we will be investing additional funding in police technology. Precept income has increased faster than expected, which means we can meet our planning assumption on direct resource funding for PCCs and also substantially increase the size of the Police Transformation Fund to £175m in 2017/18. This will allow the policing sector to invest additional funding in the projects that will improve efficiency, protect vulnerable victims of crime, further improve the leadership and culture of policing and tackle new types of crime such as cyber crime.

The 2017/18 settlement continues the current methodology of applying uniform percentage changes to core grant funding for each PCC.

I have set out in a separate document (attached) the tables illustrating how we propose to allocate the police funding settlement between the different funding streams and between Local Policing Bodies for 2017/18. These documents are intended to be read together.

Table 1 sets out the overall revenue police funding settlement for 2017/18, and Table 2 sets out the overall capital settlement (both excluding Counter Terrorism Police Grant). Provisional force-level allocations of revenue grants (excluding Counter Terrorism Police Grant) for Local Policing Bodies in England and Wales for 2017/18 are set out in Table 3, and Table 4 sets out the capital allocations for Local Policing Bodies. Table 5 demonstrates how the Government expects that all PCCs can maintain flat cash budgets compared to 2015/16 if they maximise precept; the exception is where they have materially reduced their precept level in 2016/17.

Counter terrorism police funding

I will continue to allocate specific funding for counter-terrorism policing over the course of the Spending Review period to ensure that the police have the capabilities to deal with the terrorist threats that we face, in addition to the funding set out in this settlement. Funding for counter terrorism policing is protected. The indicative Spending Review profile for counter terrorism police funding in 2017/18 is £670m; this figure will be confirmed separately. In addition a further £32m will be provided for armed policing from the Police Transformation Fund in 2017/18.

Police and Crime Commissioners will receive full counter terrorism funding allocations in the New Year. For security reasons these allocations will not be available in the public domain.

Legacy Council Tax Grants

In 2017/18 we will provide Council Tax Freeze Grants to PCCs in England relating to the 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 council tax freeze schemes. We will

also provide Local Council Tax Support grant funding to PCCs in England. These will total £507m in 2017/18.

The Common Council of the City of London (on behalf of the City of London Police) and the Greater London Authority (on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) will also receive Council Tax Freeze Grants relating to the 2011/12 freeze grant scheme. The Greater London Authority will also receive an amount for the 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 schemes. These sums will continue to be paid by DCLG. There will be no new freeze grant schemes in 2017/18.

Baseline adjustments and reallocations

The Government has reallocated funding to support critical national priorities for policing.

National and International Capital City Grants

The Metropolitan Police Service, through the Greater London Authority, will continue to receive National and International Capital City (NICC) grant funding worth £173.6m, and the City of London Police will also continue to receive NICC funding worth £4.5m. This is in recognition of the unique and additional demands of policing the capital city, and also ensures that total direct resource funding to both forces is similarly protected.

Police Transformation Fund

Total funding for transformation will increase in size to £175m, an increase of over £40m. The Government will be working with the Police Reform and Transformation Board to ensure a sector led approach to use this increase in funding in order to incentivise and facilitate transformation in policing. This will improve the leadership and culture of policing, the diversity of its workforce, protection of vulnerable people, cross-force specialist capabilities, exploitation of new technology and how we respond to changing threats.

We will continue to fund a national uplift in armed policing capability and capacity to respond more quickly and effectively to a firearms attack with £32m of specific funding. We will also continue to fund current Police Innovation Fund projects.

Police technology programmes

Funding will continue to be reallocated for the new Emergency Services Network (ESN), the existing Airwave system, Home Office Biometrics and the National Law Enforcement Police Database. As planned at the time of the Spending Review, there will be an approximately £100m increase in funding for ESN. This is critical to give all officers priority access to 4G mobile broadband data on a single network, including in some areas where it is currently not available at all, allowing them to get even more benefits from mobile working than many forces are already achieving. This investment will bring productivity and operational benefits as well as substantial savings to the taxpayer. Funding for major technology programmes will be managed flexibly between projects, to ensure reallocated funding is used as efficiently as possible. Around £1m will be spent maintaining the Forensic Archive, which maintains

forensic exhibits relating to criminal investigations on behalf of the police.

Arms Length Bodies

The police settlement will continue to fund national policing bodies to deliver services and governance which are essential to the efficient and successful functioning of the police service. We will continue to fund HMIC's PEEL inspection programme, and the College of Policing direct entry schemes. There will be increased funding to support the Independent Police Complaints Commission as it becomes the Independent Office for Police Conduct with an expanded role in investigating serious and sensitive allegations involving the police, enabling it to implement the legislative reforms in the Policing and Crime Bill and enhancing its capability to handle complex major investigations.

A new reallocation of around £2m will support the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) to use new police-style enforcement powers set out in the Immigration Act 2016 to tackle labour exploitation including modern slavery across the economy. Through greater resources to use these new powers, the GLAA will be able to undertake more investigations into modern slavery offences that might otherwise fall to the police, saving police time and improving the law enforcement response to exploitation of the most vulnerable workers.

Pre-charge bail

The Government plans to implement significant reforms to pre-charge bail including time limits set out in the Policing and Crime Bill. We will end the situation where some people can spend months or even years on pre-charge bail with few or no safeguards by introducing: a presumption that suspects will be released without bail, regular reviews by the courts and formal guidance governing the imposition of conditions. This change in police practice may involve increased costs for the magistrates' courts and in legal aid, which a new reallocation of up to £15m for 2017/18 will meet.

Strengthening the response to organised crime

The National Crime Agency (NCA) and Regional Organised Crime Units will receive flat cash resource grants from the Home Office compared to 2015/16, in line with the approach taken to funding PCCs. This involves an adjustment to the police funding settlement to top up these grants, continuing the approach taken to NCA in 2016/17.

Police Special Grant including Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting policing

This is the third year we have decided to provide funding from the police settlement for the discretionary Police Special Grant contingency fund, which supports police force areas facing significant and exceptional events which might otherwise place them at significant financial risk. In 2017/18 I am providing £50m from the police settlement for Police Special Grant. This is an increase which reflects both an assessment of potential

need across police forces, and the specific costs likely to be incurred preparing for the policing operation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2018.

Council tax referendum principles

As in 2016/17, additional flexibility will be given to the 10 PCCs in England with the lowest precept bills (the lower quartile). The PCCs with the ten lowest bills will be able to raise their precept by £5 per Band D household. Other PCCs in England will receive a 2% referendum threshold.

The PCCs to receive the £5 flexibility in 2017/18 are Essex, Greater Manchester, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Northumbria, South Yorkshire, Sussex, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

The Communities Secretary is announcing today the council tax referendum principles for local authorities in England in 2017/18. After considering any representations, he will set out the final principles in a report to the House and seek approval for these in parallel with the Final Local Government Finance Report. Council tax in Wales is the responsibility of Welsh Ministers.

Police capital

I still intend to allocate the majority of capital funding directly to Local Policing Bodies. Like last year all Local Policing Bodies will receive the same percentage change in Capital Grant. I will continue to maintain a capital contingency. An increased investment in police technology reflects a programme of work to replace end of life hardware, increase capacity, and enhance functionality including significant investment to replace end of life hardware required for the Police National Computer.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Police Grant Report WMS - Accompanying tables [2016.12.15
Police Grant Report tables.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-12-15/HLWS355/>

Public Health Grants

[HLWS360]

Lord Prior of Brampton: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Nicola Blackwood MP) has made the following written statement:

Today we are publishing the ring fenced public health grant allocations to local authorities in England for 2017-18.

We are committed to supporting improvements in public health and are making available £3.3 billion to local authorities for this purpose in 2017-18. Over the five years from 2016/17 to 2020/21 we will be investing over £16 billion to support local authorities' public health responsibilities, which include sexual health, tackling obesity, supporting physical activity, prevention reduction and treatment from drugs, alcohol misuse, stop smoking

services and other interventions. This is in addition to what the NHS spends on preventative interventions such as immunisation and screening.

We are expecting the 10 local authorities in Manchester to fund their public health activities from April 2017 through retained business rates as part of a wider pilot of business rate retention. Those 10 local authorities will not receive a central government grant to fund their public health activities.

Full details of the public health grants to local authorities can be found on gov.uk and are attached. This information will be communicated to local authorities.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Excel Spreadsheet - Grant Allocations Per Head [2 - Updated 2017-18 allocation per head figures for publication final.xlsx]

Local Authority Circular - LAC(DH)(2016)3 [1 - PH_grant_determination_and_conditions_2017_18 final.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-12-15/HLWS360/>

Royal BBC Charter and Framework Agreement

[HLWS356]

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 the 9 November 2016, my department submitted a draft version of a Royal Charter for the continuance of the BBC to Privy Council for consideration.

I am pleased to announce today, that the Royal Charter for the continuance of the BBC, which was approved by Her Majesty in Council on 16 November 2016, was printed on vellum and sealed on 8 December 2016.

I am laying copies of the Royal Charter and the associated Framework Agreement in both Houses today.

Strategic Defence and Security Review: Army

[HLWS366]

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

The Army is refining its force structure to deliver the capabilities set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2015 and modernise the Army's ability to fight at the divisional level. The SDSR 2015 significantly increased the readiness levels required of the Army, underpinned by investment in new capability and a war-fighting division as part of Joint Force 2025. It introduced the innovative Strike brigades, based on the new AJAX vehicle family and the development of Specialised Infantry battalions, reconfigured to provide an increased contribution to countering terrorism and building stability overseas.

I am today setting out refinements to the Army which will take place during the life of this Parliament. These have been aligned with the "Better Defence Estate" strategy announced in early November. As we previously committed, we will continue to sustain a regular Army of 82,000, a whole force of 112,000 regular and reserve troops and the Army's footprint in the devolved nations. All existing regimental cap badges will be retained. Large parts of the Army will be unaffected but it will involve some units changing their role, equipment or location.

A modernised division will be centred on the 3rd (UK) Division, organised with four brigades of two Armoured infantry and two Strike, rather than three Armoured infantry as now. A significant uplift in capability, it will hold one of each at high readiness, rather than the current single armoured infantry brigade. From this, in times of crisis, the Army will be able to deploy a credible division of three brigades. To develop and transition to this new posture, in 2017 the Army will launch a Strike Experimentation Group in Warminster. This will ensure that the first new Strike Brigade will be formed by the end of the decade.

In 2017 the Army will also create the first two new Specialised Infantry battalions to pioneer this new capability. A new Group headquarters for the units will be established, initially based in York alongside the 1st (UK) Division of which the Group will be part, before moving to Aldershot by 2020. To reinforce this capability the Army plans to create two further Specialised Infantry battalions by 2019. They will conduct defence engagement and capacity building, providing training, assistance, advice and mentoring to our partners.

As part of our continued investment in the Army Reserve we will build on the success of the Future Reserves 2020 plan. We will optimise reserve structures, embed the successful pairing of regular and reserve units and increase the number of reserve combat units supporting the division. As a result two new reserve infantry battalions will be created from 2017. A new reserve Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) regiment will also be created.

A summary of the Army units most affected is described below.

Summary of changes proposed under Army 2020 Refine Strike Brigade

The first Strike Brigade will operate from Catterick and Salisbury Plain and will be composed of the Household Cavalry Regiment, The King's Royal Hussars, the 1st Battalion Scots Guards and The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. A number of Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (REME) units will be allocated to provide close support logistic support, beginning with 1 Regiment RLC and 1 Close Support Battalion REME.

Specialised Infantry Battalions

In 2017 the Army will also create the first two new Specialised Infantry battalions to pioneer this new

capability. These units will be The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland and 4th Battalion The Rifles, the former relocating to Aldershot from Belfast by 2019. A new Group headquarters for the units will be established, initially based in York alongside the 1st (UK) Division of which the Group will be part, before moving to Aldershot by 2020. To reinforce this capability the Army plans to create two further Specialised Infantry battalions by 2019. These units will be the 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment both joining the group in Aldershot by 2020.

Renaming of administrative structures

The introduction of the Specialised Infantry capability will mean some reorganisation of the infantry divisional structure, within which infantry regiments are administered, from seven to six divisions.

The Scottish and The Prince of Wales's Administrative Divisions of Infantry will merge, incorporating The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Royal Welsh Regiment and The Royal Irish Regiment. This administrative division will be called The Scottish, Welsh and Irish Division. The Mercian Regiment from the Prince of Wales's Division will join with the King's Division. Army administrative divisions of infantry are the groupings within which the Army manages its infantry soldiers and officers to give them the necessary broad spread of relevant career experience from across a number of different units and activities. They have no operational role. There will be no changes to the names or regimental construct of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Mercian Regiment, The Royal Welsh Regiment, or The Royal Irish Regiment as a result of these administrative changes.

Support

The changes announced will require adjustments in some supporting and enabling elements of the Army. HQ 102 Logistic Brigade, 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery, 35 Engineer Regiment, Headquarters 64 Works Group Royal Engineers, 2 Medical Regiment, Headquarters 4th Regiment Royal Military Police, 33 Field Hospital and 104, 105 and 106 Battalions of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers reserve will be rationalised, with all manpower in those units being redeployed to other areas of the Army in its refined structure.

Army Reserves

As part of our continued investment in the Army Reserve we will build on the success of the Future Reserves 2020 plan. We will optimise reserve structures to better support the modernised division, embed the

successful pairing of regular and reserve units and increase the number of reserve combat units supporting the division. As a result, two new reserve infantry battalions will be created from 2017. These are 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and 8th Battalion The Rifles. A new reserve Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) regiment will also be created.

Terrorism Prevention and Investigation

[HLWS359]

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

Section 19(1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 (the Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of her TPIM powers under the Act during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

TPIM notices in force (as of 30 November 2016)	7
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 30 November 2016)	6
TPIM notices extended (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revoked (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revived (during the reporting period)	0
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices (during the reporting period)	4
Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused (during the reporting period)	1
The number of current subjects relocated under TPIM legislation (as of 30 November 2016)	7

The TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. The TRG met on 20, 27 and 28 September 2016. The next TRG meetings will take place on 12, 13, 15 and 16 December 2016.

During the reporting period one individual was prosecuted in relation to offences under section 23 of the Act (contravening a measure specified in a TPIM notice without reasonable excuse) and sentenced to twenty months imprisonment. This individual is not currently subject to a TPIM notice, the notice having been previously revoked.

Written Answers

Thursday, 15 December 2016

Channel Four Television

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they used to appoint new board members for Channel 4. [HL3953]

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

Council Tax: Fraud

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to assist local authorities to combat council tax fraud. [I] [HL3782]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: In March, the government published the sector-produced Local Government Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy. This set out a series of recommendations encouraging councils, to enhance their capability to tackle all types of fraud including Council Tax. In November the government published the National Fraud Initiative report which detailed the cancellation, by local authorities, of over 37,000 Council Tax Single Person Discount claims for fraud and error over the last two years as a result of the data matches provided by NFI. £11 million of underpayments are being recovered and future underpayments of £24 million have been prevented.

Counter-terrorism

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent report by the Open Society Justice Initiative, Eroding Trust, how many persons have lost their employment, or resigned their posts, following incorrect or unnecessary referrals to the Channel programme and other Prevent programmes and schemes, since those programmes and schemes began. [HL3613]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are not aware of any individuals who have lost their employment, or resigned their posts due to any involvement with the Channel programme, beyond what is stated in the report mentioned.

Channel is a voluntary and confidential process which provides support to people who may be vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism.

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 November (HL2748), when they last met with the Muslim Council of Britain specifically to discuss the Prevent strategy and the threat from radicalisation. [HL3629]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have seen the devastating impact radicalisation can have on individuals, families and communities. Prevent works best when delivered in partnership with communities, civil society groups and individuals.

We work with a wide range of organisations in this country to prevent people from becoming radicalised; to challenge poisonous extremist narratives and safeguard our young people and our society. These are organisations prepared to show leadership, point to solutions and challenge and confront terrorist and extremist ideologies whatever form they take.

Dental Health: Children

Asked by Baroness Benjamin

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 31 October (HL Deb, col 426) concerning the identification by NHS England of 10 areas of deprivation for special treatment on childhood oral health, what that special treatment will consist of. [HL3771]

Asked by Baroness Benjamin

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 31 October (HL Deb, col 426) concerning the identification by NHS England of 10 areas of deprivation for special treatment on childhood oral health, when they will announce the areas in which the pilot programme will take place; and on what basis those areas have been selected. [HL3772]

Asked by Baroness Benjamin

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 31 October (HL Deb, col 426), whether they will consider rolling out the treatment programmes across England if the pilots are successful. [HL3773]

Lord Prior of Brampton: NHS England, Public Health England and the Department are working together to finalise the scope of the Oral Health Prevention Programme. The Government anticipates that it will include initiatives to help children who are at greater risk of dental disease to attend the dentist at appropriate intervals and to receive high quality care, including prevention, when they attend.

We expect to be able to make an announcement on the areas selected in the coming months. Using data from the latest under five year old survey, detailing decayed, missing and filled teeth, has enabled the identification of areas deemed to have the greatest deprivation.

Pilots are not being established. This is a targeted programme, the learning from which will be available to inform future commissioning in particular areas where needed.

*Asked by **Baroness Benjamin***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 31 October (HL Deb, col 427), what work Public Health England has undertaken to look into the possibility of adopting an English version of Scotland's Childsmile scheme; and when a decision on this can be expected. [HL3774]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Public Health England (PHE) is working to support local authorities who have lead responsibility for commissioning oral health improvement programmes. PHE has recently published toolkits to support the implementation of programmes similar to those in Childsmile and is working locally to support their implementation, including the *Local authorities improving oral health: commissioning better oral health for children and young people - An evidence-informed toolkit for local authorities*, and *Improving oral health: A toolkit to support commissioning of supervised toothbrushing programmes in early years and school settings*. Copies of both these toolkits are attached. PHE has also published the *Return on investment of oral health interventions tool*. This is an online-only toolkit which supports local authorities to model return on investment.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Improving oral health [Improving oral health- an evidence-informed toolkit for local authorities.pdf]

Local authorities [Local authorities improving oral health commissioning better oral health for children and young people - An evidence-informed toolkit for local authorities.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-02/HL3774>

Dental Services: Children

*Asked by **Baroness Benjamin***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost of a tooth extraction procedure for a child in an NHS hospital. [HL3775]

*Asked by **Baroness Benjamin***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost of a tooth extraction procedure for a five- to nine-year old in an NHS hospital. [HL3776]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The information is not available in the format requested.

The table below shows the average cost to National Health Service trusts and NHS foundation trusts of providing tooth extractions for patients aged 18 years and under during 2014/15:

HRG Code	HRG description	Unit Cost (£)
CD06B	Extraction of Multiple Teeth, 18 years and under	834
CD07B	Minor Extraction of Tooth, 18 years and under	439

Source: Reference costs, Department of Health

Deportation: Democratic Republic of Congo

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Durham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to assess the safety of those who have been removed from the UK to the Democratic Republic of Congo. [HL3748]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: All returns to the Democratic Republic of Congo, including those persons who raise a protection claim, are considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account their individual facts, credible and up-to-date country of origin information and relevant case law.

Extended Schools

*Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for extended school services in the light of the report *Unfinished Business: where next for extended schools?*, published by the Child Poverty Action Group and the Family and Childcare Trust; and what assessment they have made of the report's recommendations. [HL3929]

Lord Nash: The report "Unfinished Business: where next for extended schools?" was received and reviewed by my Department. Officials have met representatives of the Child Poverty Action Group to discuss the findings. This report adds to our evidence base in this policy area.

My Department is also currently extending that evidence base by conducting in-depth research on what activities schools offer outside their core timetable and the challenges they encounter.

As a part of the March 2016 Budget, the previous Chancellor announced that funding from the soft drinks industry levy would help up to 25% of secondary schools to extend their school day.

The Department is currently determining the details of how this funding will be allocated and we will provide further details in due course.

Faith Schools: Admissions

*Asked by **Baroness Whitaker***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the proposal to replace the 50 per cent cap on faith-based admissions to faith schools, as set out in the Government consultation *Schools that work for everyone*, what consideration they have given to the finding of the Education Policy Institute that "there is a risk that increasing the numbers of faith schools would come at the price of increased social segregation, with a risk of lower social mobility". [[HL4002](#)]

Lord Nash: The EPI report fails to recognise the fact that the government's proposals are about creating more good school places for more parents in more parts of the country by giving them more choice. Our proposals to expand the number of good school places available to parents will help more young people, irrespective of their background, have the chance to go as far as their talents will take them.

Faith schools are among the highest performing schools in the country, with more primary and secondary faith schools judged good or outstanding than their non-faith counterparts^[1]. Faith schools are popular with parents and the removal of the 50% faith cap will enable the establishment of even more good schools.

[1] *Ofsted official statistics: Maintained schools and academies inspections and outcomes as at 31 March 2016* shows faith schools are more likely to be *good* or *outstanding* as compared to non-faith schools (89% as compared to 86% at primary; 81% as compared to 75% at secondary).

Firearms

*Asked by **Lord Rosser***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 November (HL Deb, col 1724), how many firearm detection dogs have been trained in each year since 2010; and how many are expected to be trained during the remainder of this Parliament. [[HL3582](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The number of detection dogs available for deployment to detect illegal goods and clandestines by Border Force is 110. Border Force has a small but growing number of dogs trained specifically to detect firearms and their component parts, with more firearms detection dogs planned to enter into service from December.

*Asked by **Lord Rosser***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 November (HL Deb, cols 1723–4) concerning seizures of illegal firearms, what assessment has been made of the current level of detection technology; and what improvements are being sought. [[HL3583](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: A cross-government review of science and technology for firearms detection is currently underway but for reasons of national security

the Government is not able to discuss details of the review or its eventual findings.

*Asked by **Lord Rosser***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 November (HL Deb, cols 1723–4) concerning seizures of illegal firearms, what discussions they have held with other EU member states to ensure that the UK can maintain and enhance joint working capabilities with EU member states following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. [[HL3584](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The importance of UK cooperation with EU Member States to tackle criminal activity and address mutual security concerns has not changed following the vote to leave the EU. We are exploring options for future cooperation arrangements, but it would be wrong to set out unilateral positions on specific measures in advance of formal negotiations.

Food: Hygiene

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to strengthen the requirements and penalties relating to the meeting of hygiene standards by food businesses. [1] [[HL3786](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) does not have any immediate plans to increase requirements or penalties for hygiene standards.

However, though the FSA's 'Regulating Our Future' programme it is working to reform and improve the current regulatory system, thus making sure that people have safe food, food they can trust, and that it is what it says it is.

Four Seasons Health Care

*Asked by **Lord Myners***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the debt levels of Four Seasons Health Care; whether they have any plans to intervene to protect the interests of patients; and whether they are able to require the company's private equity owner to invest new equity. [[HL3810](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: Adult social care is largely delivered through an independent sector of care provider organisations that operate in a competitive market. As with any market, some providers enter and exit, which is an important mechanism for driving up quality and effectiveness. Market exits are regular occurrences and are handled effectively by local government.

It is of course vital that vulnerable people with care needs do not have their services interrupted if their care provider failed financially and services stop. The Care Act 2014 introduced new duties on local authorities and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to protect and

reassure people with care needs, their families and friends. The Act places a duty on all local authorities in England to temporarily step in and make sure all people in their area continue to have their needs met, regardless of who pays for their care. Recognising that local authorities might struggle if a significant provider were to fail, the CQC has a new function to oversee and monitor the financial sustainability of the largest and most difficult to replace providers. The oversight function provides an early warning to relevant local authorities in the event that one of these providers is likely to fail and their services cease.

Four Seasons Health Care is one of the providers that because of their size, is part of the CQC's Market Oversight Scheme. CQC continues to monitor the finances of all of the providers in the scheme. Government has no powers to require a private company that is acting lawfully to change its financial approach.

The Care Act 2014 also places new duties on local authorities to promote their local market to ensure all service users have a choice of high quality services available.

Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures Review

Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to complete and then publish the review of gaming machines and social responsibility measures. [[HL3979](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The review of gaming machines and social responsibility measures began with a 6 week call for evidence on 24 October, closing on 4 December. The call for evidence generated a lot of interest from the general public, as well as from a variety of interest groups, local authorities, trade bodies and industry. We are now looking in depth at the evidence and aim to publish our findings and any proposals in spring 2017.

Housing: Construction

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 24 November (HL Deb, col 2050), on what evidence the statement that "we are building more houses than ever before" was based. [[HL3635](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The government's policies mean that we have delivered nearly 900,000 new homes in England since 2010 and private new build housing starts are at their highest financial year level since 2007/08. Our planning reforms also mean that major planning applications determined on time are at the highest percentage on record. However, we acknowledge that we have not been building enough homes in England for decades and that we have more to do. The Autumn Statement set out £5.3 billion of investment to build more

homes. We will set out a further comprehensive package of reform to boost housing supply and halt the decline in housing affordability in a Housing White Paper to be published in January.

Inflation

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on living standards of future rises in the rate of inflation. [[HL3936](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) expect inflation to increase to 1.4 per cent by the end of 2016 and peak at 2.6 per cent in Q2 2018. Despite this, by 2021 living standards, as measured by real household disposable income, are forecast by the OBR to be 2.8 per cent higher than they are today. The government is taking steps to support real incomes and employment, including raising the National Living Wage, raising the personal allowance, freezing fuel duty, and providing more affordable homes.

Kids Company

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the £3 million grant received by Kids Company in July 2015 was (1) spent on staff wages, (2) returned to the Cabinet Office, and if so, on what dates, and (3) returned with interest if the funding was placed in a bank account with Kids Company. [[HL3626](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The return of the grant payment made to Kids Company in July 2015 is a matter for the Official Receiver. The Official Receiver's consideration is ongoing.

National Curriculum Tests

Asked by Lord Maxton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of recent changes to the national curriculum and teacher assessment frameworks on the need for effective and clear communication between teachers and parents on children's performance in school. [[HL3962](#)]

Asked by Lord Maxton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received from parents concerning communications between teachers and parents on children's performance in school. [[HL3963](#)]

Lord Nash: The Government removed the system of levels used to report children's attainment in September 2014. As set out in the report of The Commission on Assessment Without Levels, published in September 2015, levels had come to have a negative impact on teaching and did not provide a suitable means of assessing the attainment of pupils accurately.

Levels were only ever intended to be used for end of Key Stage statutory assessment but, over time, they came to dominate all assessment. The decision to remove levels has granted schools the freedom to choose an approach to assessment and reporting that works for their pupils and their curriculum. The report published by the Commission provided helpful guidance and best practice to schools on developing new approaches to assessment and reporting.

Even though levels have been removed, statutory assessments at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 remain, as does the requirement on schools to report annually to parents on their child's achievements and progress.

NHS: Finance

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of giving priority to new patients over return patients, as proposed in the consultation on the 2017–18 and 2018–19 National Tariff Payment System, by transferring up to 30 per cent of the current payment for follow-up appointments to new appointments. [I] [[HL3752](#)]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on patients with chronic diseases of the proposal in the consultation on the 2017–18 and 2018–19 National Tariff Payment System to give priority to new patients over return patients; and what mechanisms are proposed if appropriate services to manage such patients in the community are not put in place. [I] [[HL3753](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The proposals in the consultation that relate to reducing the outpatient follow-up price to increase the first attendance are aimed at incentivising the reduction of clinically inappropriate follow-up appointments. It is recognised that not all services are run in the same way and this is why not all follow-up prices were subject to a 30% reduction. Based on an assessment of the specialties, a 10% or 20% percent reduction was applied where appropriate. The services in the 30% category are in the main, surgical, where follow-up rates vary considerably and some may be inappropriately high. In response to sector feedback NHS Improvement (NHSI) made changes to the categorisations before publishing the consultation. If there are pathways within specialties that may be adversely affected, NHSI will consider further guidance to providers and commissioners on the basis of responses to the consultation which closed on 6 December.

If providers and commissioners believe that the funding as described in the national tariff is not sufficient to support a service, and the commissioner does not have adequate community provision in place, then the national tariff allows providers and commissioners to agree variations that will allow for the correct provision of care. This could involve agreeing changes to prices, or the way

that care is funded. NHSI and NHS England will look at new patient-centred ways of contracting healthcare and are working closely with providers and commissioners to ensure that they allow for care to be delivered in a more joined up way between healthcare providers.

NHS: Migrant Workers

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assurances they intend to give to NHS employees who were born in other EU member states that they will be able to continue working in the NHS following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. [[HL4074](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health have made it clear that they wish for European Union (EU) citizens, including those working in health and social care, to remain in the United Kingdom once the UK has left the EU, and that this would only not be possible if British citizens' rights in European member states were not protected in return. The Government is working hard to achieve that outcome.

Non-domestic Rates: Greater London

Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of the effect on London local authority budgets of the proposed retention of business rates. [[HL3780](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: By the end of the Parliament, local government will retain 100 per cent of taxes raised locally, giving councils control of additional £12.5 billion of business rates to spend on local services. To ensure the reforms are fiscally neutral, new responsibilities will be devolved to local authorities. We recently conducted a consultation on our approach to the implementation of 100 per cent Business Rates Retention. There were over 450 responses, including 26 from individual London boroughs and a joint response from the Greater London Authority and London Councils. My officials are currently considering all responses and we will publish a summary of the responses and our proposals for the broad way forward in due course.

In the meantime, we will continue close collaboration with local government in taking this work forward, including through the Business Rates Retention Steering Group, which is jointly chaired by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The Steering Group was established to consider the mechanisms needed to set up and run the new business rates system, as well as the timetable and implementation of the reforms. It oversees the work of a set of technical working groups, each looking at particular aspects of the reforms. The Group meets on a regular basis and has done so on 7 occasions since April 2016. All papers for meetings are published here:

<http://www.local.gov.uk/business-rates>

Ofcom: Finance

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the source of funding for Ofcom; whether it levies fees and charges; and if so, (1) under what authority, (2) against whom, and (3) what mechanisms there are for challenging the level of those fees and charges. [HL3822]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: Ofcom is currently funded through fees from industry for regulating broadcasting and communications networks and from grant in aid from government. The Digital Economy Bill contains a provision to change Ofcom's funding so that it will be entirely self-funded, only receiving grant-in-aid for delivery of specific government programmes

Under the Communications Act 2003 (sections 38 - 39 and 347) the Broadcasting Act 1990 (sections 4 and 87), the Broadcasting Act 1996 (sections 4 and 43) and the Postal Services Act 2011 (section 43), Ofcom is required to raise income from each of the sectors it regulates, such that it covers the costs to be incurred by Ofcom in regulating that sector.

Ofcom currently raises its funds from:

- i) TV and Radio broadcasters;
- ii) Providers of on-demand programme services;
- iii) Electronic communication network and services providers;
- iv) The Postal Universal Service Provider and
- v) DCMS grant in aid

Ofcom imposes its fees in accordance with its published Statement of Charging Principles. Whilst there is no statutory mechanism for challenging Ofcom's fees, before making or revising its Statement of Charging Principles Ofcom must first consult those people who, in its opinion, are likely to be affected by the principles contained in that document. Ofcom also responds to stakeholders queries on the fees and charges set.

Ofgem: Finance

Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the source of funding for Ofgem; whether it levies fees and charges; and if so, (1) under what authority, (2) against whom, and (3) what mechanisms there are for challenging the level of those fees and charges. [HL3823]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Ofgem's annual budget is approved by Parliament but its main funding comes from the licence fee it is able to levy on licence holders under the Gas Act 1986 and the Electricity Act 1989.

Through its Forward Work Programme, Ofgem agrees its annual licence fee (and any amendments to this) in consultation with licence holders, and publishes its cost recovery principles on its website. The basic principle is

that costs are recovered from network licensees in line with the proportion of gas or electricity customers that are directly connected to their respective networks. Ofgem also charges cost-reflective fees to consider applications for new licences or licence variations.

It also receives some funding directly from Government for the administration of environmental schemes.

There is no formal mechanism to appeal against the level of the licence fee, although Ofgem is subject to Parliamentary scrutiny and must abide by the principles for Fees, Charges and Levies set out in Managing Public Money:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/454191/Managing_Public_Money_AA_v2_-jan15.pdf

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Managing Public Money [HL3823 -
Managing_Public_Money.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-05/HL3823>

Outdoor Education

Asked by Lord Bird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Youth Hostels Association England and Wales report A year of positive change: Our Impact Review 2015/16, what plans they have to ensure that every child experiences outdoor and residential learning opportunities as part of a primary school education. [HL3765]

Lord Nash: Outdoor and residential education can play an important role in children's development. When activities are structured and organised effectively, they can provide young people with stimulating experiences which build on the knowledge and understanding they gain through classroom lessons.

Schools have the freedom to plan and deliver curriculums that meet the educational needs and interests of their pupils, provided that they meet any statutory requirements. School leaders and teachers are in the best position to use their professional judgement to decide whether outdoor education meets the needs of their pupils, and to plan lessons and use their budgets accordingly.

Police

Asked by Baroness Harris of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government what meetings and discussions they have had with the British Transport Police, the Ministry of Defence Police and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary regarding a merger of those organisations into a new National Infrastructure Constabulary; and whether such a merger will take place during this Parliament. [HL3770]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Strategic Defence and Security Review included a commitment to “integrate infrastructure policing further and to review the options to do this”. The cross-Whitehall review team have been working with British Transport Police, Ministry of Defence Police and Civil Nuclear Constabulary, and they are a part of the governance structure and have provided expert input into the review. No decisions have yet been taken.

Police: Counter-terrorism

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 24 November (HL3373), how the work of regional Counter Terrorism Units is monitored to ensure value for money. [HL3754]

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 24 November (HL3373), what checks are carried out by the Home Office, or by any bodies on its behalf, to ensure that police forces do not spend money allocated to counter-terrorism on activities with no connection to terrorism or serious crime. [HL3755]

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 24 November (HL3373), who is responsible for monitoring compliance by police forces with the National Police Chiefs' Council guidance on policing linked to onshore oil and gas operations, and how compliance is reported to the Home Office. [HL3757]

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 24 November (HL3373), how many meetings have taken place since 2010 between the National Counter Terrorism Police Operations Centre and representatives of the coal and gas industry to discuss fracking protests. [HL3758]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary allocates specific ring-fenced funding for Counter Terrorism Policing to ensure that police have the capabilities to deal with the terrorist threats that we face. This includes allocations at a regional level and to individual forces for specified activities, including for Counter-Terrorism Units. These allocations – and the details of the underpinning grant agreements – are sensitive and not in the public domain.

The Home Office oversees performance and delivery by CT policing, including monitoring and agreeing expenditure. In doing so, we work closely with the national lead for counter-terrorism policing and are supported by the National Counter-Terrorism Policing

HQ. This oversight includes ensuring CT policing delivers efficiencies and value for money as part of the Spending Review settlement. Individual police forces are also subject to independent audit agreements.

The Home Office does not keep information on meetings held between the National Counter Terrorism Police Operations Centre and representatives of the coal and gas industry to discuss fracking protests.

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) guidance on policing linked to onshore oil and gas draws on the experience and lessons learned by forces involved in previous policing operations involving anti-fracking protests.

This guidance is not compulsory and police forces may deviate from recommendations provided there is a clear reason to do so. The guidance is regularly reviewed by the National Police Lead responsible for Shale Oil and Gas Exploration on behalf of the NPCC.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many people have been stopped by the police, resulting in action being taken for road traffic offences, in each year since 2010. [HL3653]

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many full-time equivalent traffic police have been employed in England and Wales in each year from 2010 to date. [HL3654]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes data annually on the primary function of police officers, as part of the police workforce statistics. These data include officers whose primary function is “Road Policing”. Officers with multiple responsibilities are recorded under their primary function.

The data requested are provided in the table. Data for years prior to 2015 were collected under a different framework, with different definitions, and are therefore not directly comparable with data as at 31 March 2015 or 2016.

Calendar year:	Number of FPNs issued for motoring offences	Number of positive breath tests
2010	1,839,151	84,436
2011	1,439,783	80,761
2012	1,309,054	76,179
2013	1,144,530	70,675
2014	1,022,352	65,585
2015	1,016,827	60,019

Some forces are unable to make a clear distinction between certain functions and therefore record the

majority of, or all, employees under one function. Decisions on the size and composition of the police workforce are operational matters for Chief Officers working with their Police and Crime Commissioners and taking into account local priorities.

The Home Office does not hold information centrally on the number of people who have been stopped by the police, resulting in action being taken for road traffic offences. The Home Office collects and publishes data annually on the number of positive breath tests and the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued for motoring offences each year. These figures are provided for each year since 2010 in the tables. The latter data only relate to motoring offences that were dealt with via an FPN, and do not include offences where the driver was offered and accepted a driver retraining course, or was prosecuted.

Preventive Medicine

Asked by Lord Tebbit

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they are currently spending on measures to prevent (1) dementia, and (2) HIV and AIDS. [HL3762]

Lord Prior of Brampton: We will invest more than £300 million on dementia research over the course of this Parliament. This includes research into causes, diagnosis, cures, care and prevention of dementia.

A key aspiration in the *Challenge on Dementia 2020*, published in February 2015, is to improve public awareness and understanding of the factors which can increase the risk of developing dementia and how people can reduce their risk by living more healthily.

Public Health England (PHE) has responsibility for the risk reduction element of the 2020 Challenge and has allocated around £62,000 in 2016-17 to support this ambition.

PHE has also allocated £2.5 million in 2016-17 for its Prevention and Sexual Health Promotion programme. These monies are dispersed on HIV prevention programmes, the HIV Prevention Innovation Fund, support for the national HIV self-sampling service, as well as the Sexual and Reproductive Information Service, and on monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

On 4 December 2016, NHS England announced an investment of up to £10 million over 3 years as part of a major extension to the national HIV prevention programme led by PHE. The aim is to support those most at risk of acquiring HIV through providing access to pre-exposure prophylaxis within a clinical trial. NHS England also funds access to post-exposure prophylaxis.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Challenge on Dementia 2020 [Challenge on Dementia 2020.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-01/HL3762>

Pupils: Bullying

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Nash on 24 November (HL Deb, col 2046), (1) how Ofsted inspectors categorise incidents of bullying, discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, either direct or indirect, including racist, sexist, disability and homophobic bullying, use of derogatory language, and racist incidents, in relation to the wider assessment of the school; (2) what specific measures and actions Ofsted recommends after such incidents are recorded; and (3) how progress is monitored and recorded. [HL3977]

Lord Nash: This is a matter for Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw. I have asked him to write to you and a copy of his reply will be placed in the libraries of the House.

Royal Blackburn Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the increased burdens on the accident and emergency (A&E) services at Royal Blackburn Hospital as a result of the decision not to reopen the A&E department at Chorley Hospital on a full-time basis in the foreseeable future. [HL3751]

Lord Prior of Brampton: No estimate has been made by this Department. It is the responsibility of the National Health Service to plan, develop and improve services locally so they meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

NHS Improvement advises that the impact of the closure of Chorley's accident and emergency (A&E) department on neighbouring trusts was examined as part of an independent review jointly commissioned by NHS Improvement and NHS England and found to be minimal. Reopening the A&E 12 hours a day is expected to reduce further that impact. NHS Improvement will continue to monitor the situation as part of its ongoing oversight of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and other neighbouring trusts.

Rwanda: Burundi

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 22 September (HL1691), what additional assistance is being given to alleviate heightened tensions between the governments of Rwanda and Burundi. [HL3745]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Burundi's increasing self-imposed international isolation, and the deterioration in Burundi's relationships within the region, including Rwanda, is particularly worrying. The recent restrictions

imposed by Burundi on cross-border trade will further exacerbate the serious negative economic impact of the crisis on the lives of Rwandans and Burundians. The UK, with international partners, continues to support a range of efforts to promote dialogue and ease tension in the region. We have worked with EU and Security Council partners to deliver strong messaging to the government of Burundi. We have imposed EU sanctions on individuals responsible for violence; and suspended direct EU aid to the government.

The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) visited Rwanda and Burundi in December 2015 to urge all parties to act responsibly to reduce violence. We have been clear in our public and private dialogue with Rwanda on the need for neighbours to play a responsible stabilising role in Burundi and to avoid retaliating to antagonism. The Department for International Development continues to support Burundian refugees in Rwanda, and has provided £17 million since 2015.

Schools: Standards

*Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the reasons for the UK's static position over the last three years, and in particular its decline in the maths ratings, with reference to the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment results for 2015. [\[HL3862\]](#)

Lord Nash: The Government is committed to raising standards in mathematics to reflect the best practice in the world. In the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2015, 15 year olds in the UK perform at the OECD average in mathematics. Although the UK dropped one place in the PISA rankings for mathematics since 2012 – from 26th to 27th – five more countries took part in the study and the UK's score of 494 remained the same from 2012 to 2015.

We continue to reform our primary and secondary curriculum and standards. The first cohort is due to take the new GCSEs in mathematics next summer. The pupils who sat the 2015 PISA assessment in England were born around the year 2000 and have experienced little of the changes introduced since 2010, and virtually none of the reforms in primary education.

Sex and Relationship Education

*Asked by **The Earl of Listowel***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the importance of the teaching of high quality sex and relationship education in schools in preventing violence against women. [\[HL3960\]](#)

Lord Nash: The Government wants to provide all young people with a curriculum that prepares them to succeed in modern Britain. This includes sex and

relationship education (SRE) that is age-appropriate and fit for the world they live in today.

Sex education (SE) is compulsory in all maintained secondary schools and many academies and primary schools choose to teach it. Any school that teaches sex education must have regard to the Secretary of State's statutory guidance on sex and relationships education. In some schools, sex and relationship education (SRE) is taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

Both the Secretary of State's statutory guidance on sex and relationships education and the PSHE Association's non-statutory programme of study for PSHE include guidance on teaching about positive relationships.

The Government welcomes the Women and Equalities Select Committee (WESC) recommendations on preventing sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools and we have responded setting out steps we will take in response, working with key partners.

The case for further action on PSHE and SRE delivery is actively under review, with particular consideration to improving quality and accessibility.

Teachers: Training

*Asked by **Baroness Donaghy***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many core initial teacher training places were allocated for 2017–18 to higher education institutions, apportioned by primary and secondary phases and broken down by individual secondary subject. [\[HL3738\]](#)

*Asked by **Baroness Donaghy***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many core initial teacher training places were allocated for 2017–18 to school-centred initial teacher training, apportioned by primary and secondary phases and broken down by individual secondary subject. [\[HL3739\]](#)

*Asked by **Baroness Donaghy***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many initial teacher training places were allocated for 2017–18 to School Direct fee-paying routes linked with higher education institutions, apportioned by primary and secondary phases and broken down by individual secondary subject. [\[HL3740\]](#)

*Asked by **Baroness Donaghy***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many initial teacher training places were allocated for 2017–18 to School Direct fee-paying routes linked with school-centred initial teacher training, apportioned by primary and secondary phases and broken down by individual secondary subject. [\[HL3741\]](#)

*Asked by **Baroness Donaghy***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many initial teacher training places were allocated for 2017–18 to School Direct salaried routes linked with higher

education institutions, apportioned by primary and secondary phases and broken down by individual secondary subject. [\[HL3742\]](#)

*Asked by **Baroness Donaghy***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many initial teacher training places were allocated for 2017–18 to School Direct salaried routes linked with school-centred initial teacher training, apportioned by primary and secondary phases and broken down by individual secondary subject. [\[HL3743\]](#)

Lord Nash: We will publish the full list of allocations for 2017-18 by subject and route in due course. This information will comprise data on both primary and secondary phase, inclusive of all provider-led and school direct trainee places.

Telecommunications: Planning Permission

*Asked by **Lord Lexden***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 29 November and 6 December (HL3375 and HL3759), who are the members of the independent group representing communications and planning interests which monitors non-compliance with the code of practice, and how the group can be contacted. [\[HL3986\]](#)

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The independent review group of the Cabinet and Pole Siting Code of Practice was chaired by a representative of the Office of the Telecommunications Adjudicator and its membership comprised of representatives from the following organisations:

Openreach

Virgin Media

Sky

UK Competitive Telecommunications Association (UKCTA)

Planning Officers Society

National Parks Authority

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Historic England

The group can be contacted through its secretariat which is provided by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Representatives from other Government departments also attended meetings as required.

Travellers: Community Relations

*Asked by **Baroness Whitaker***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will undertake to replace the funding currently available through Local Economic Partnerships from the European Structural Funds and European Development Fund for supporting the economic integration of UK

Roma and Gypsy populations, after the UK has left the EU. [\[HL3764\]](#)

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Leaving the EU means we will be able to take our own decisions about whether and how to deliver the policy objectives previously targeted by EU funding. Over the coming months, we will consult closely with stakeholders to review all EU funding schemes in the round, to ensure that any ongoing funding commitments best serve the UK's national interest.

Turkey: EU Accession

*Asked by **Lord Stoddart of Swindon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they continue to recommend the accession of Turkey to the EU in the light of the decision that the UK should leave it; and if so, why. [\[HL3721\]](#)

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: As and when the requirements for accession are met in full, it will be for Turkey and European Union members at the time to decide on membership. That point remains some way off.

Turkey: Military Coups

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the actions of the government of Turkey in arresting and detaining people and dismissing judges, prosecutors and academics following the coup d'état earlier this year. [\[HL3708\]](#)

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: In the aftermath of the coup attempt we have emphasised the need for Turkey to respect human rights, including press freedom, and the rule of law. It is vital that the Turkish Government's response to the coup attempt be demonstrably lawful and measured, and undertaken in line with Turkey's international obligations. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), raised these issues at the highest level during his visit to Turkey on 25-27 September. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Sir Alan Duncan) reiterated these messages to senior Turkish interlocutors during his visit to Turkey on 19 October and with Turkey's Minister for Europe, Omer Celik, most recently in a telephone call on 7 November. We will continue to engage with the Turkish Government at all levels over these issues and monitor the situation closely.

UK Trade with EU

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on public finances of restrictions on the UK's access to the EU's single market after Brexit. [\[HL3935\]](#)

Lord Young of Cookham: The Government continues to undertake a range of analyses to inform the UK's position for the upcoming EU exit negotiations. We are seeking the best possible arrangement for the United Kingdom and the work being conducted reflects this.

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