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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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# Written Statements

*Monday, 17 October 2016*

## Competitiveness Council

[HLWS195]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** I represented the UK at the recent meeting of the Competitiveness Council in Brussels on Thursday 29 September.

The Council started with the regular Competitiveness Check-up. The Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, outlined the challenges faced by start-ups and scale-ups in Europe, particularly in comparison to businesses in the US. In the subsequent exchange of views, the key themes were the need to advertise available sources of funding for start-ups; the lack of access to risk capital; and the importance of providing effective support at regional and national levels. A proposal for a joint meeting of Competitiveness and ECOFIN Ministers to discuss this issue was met with broad support. I intervened to express support for the focus on scale ups and shared an example of UK best practice through the British Business Bank.

The next item was the collaborative (sharing) economy. A Commission presentation was followed by discussion in which several Member States stressed the need for collaborative economy businesses to respect existing legislation and tax compliance. I intervened to support the Commission's vision, as outlined in the recently issued guidance. As part of my intervention I highlighted initiatives by organisations such as Sharing Economy UK (SEUK) to promote responsible growth within the sector.

The next item was a presentation on the Standardisation package. The core element of the package is the voluntary Joint Initiative on Standardisation, which brings together all the actors of the standardisation community. A large number of standards setting bodies and industry representatives signed it in June. The majority of Member States signed it in the margins of the Council. I signed on behalf of the UK.

Over lunch, Ministers were joined by Jean-Louis Marchand, President of the European Industry Construction Federation (FIEC) to discuss the construction sector. There was agreement on the importance of the construction industry to the EU economy and the need to increase investment in the sector, including through the use of existing financial instruments. The role of digitisation was recognised, as was the need to remove barriers in the internal market. I highlighted a number of UK initiatives, such as Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Smart Meters, where digitisation has been used to support innovation in the sector. I also cited the forthcoming Services Card (formerly known as the Services Passport) as an important mechanism to support the provision of cross-border services. Commissioner Bieńkowska said that the card

needed to tackle both regulatory and administrative barriers if it was going to add real value.

The afternoon session started with a discussion on the European steel industry. It focused on EU action since the start of the steel crisis in 2014. Commissioner Bieńkowska said that she had been working closely with the Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia Malmström to alleviate the impact of the pressures faced by Europe's steel industry. She said that a level playing field was needed to make the industry fit for globalisation and highlighted the problems caused by global overcapacity and dumping. Many Member States called on the Commission to bring forward its proposal on Market Economy Status for China as soon as possible, with reform of the EU Emissions Trading System, energy costs and the circular economy also recurring themes. I intervened to welcome the establishment of the Global Forum on Steel, as agreed at the G20 in September 2016.

The next item was a discussion on industrial policy in Europe. Several Member States called on the Commission to commit to an ambitious and proactive industrial strategy in its forthcoming 2017 Work Programme. The Commission welcomed the initiative by highlighting all the work that was on-going to support industry. This was followed by an item focussed on Europe's transition to a low-carbon economy, on which no Member State intervened.

The Slovak Presidency then introduced the item on the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court (UPC). The Commission noted that only two further ratifications were needed to bring the UPC into effect, and highlighted the urgency with which this was awaited by business. I intervened to commend the work that has gone into the UPC and said that the UK was actively looking into resolving the legal and practical challenges quickly and would provide a further update at the next Competitiveness Council.

The penultimate item was an update on a May conference on the challenge of balancing plant breeders' rights with patent rights. The Commission noted that any solution should not re-open the Biotech Directive, but was working on guidance to clarify its effect.

Finally, the Commission presented on the proposed review of the Supplementary Protection Certificate (SPC) Regulation, specifically the introduction of the SPC manufacturing waiver. While some Member States intervened to highlight the importance of the waiver, others outlined their misgivings, arguing that the right balance already exists between the rights of brand-name and generic pharmaceuticals manufacturers.

## Environment Council

[HLWS193]

**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 am attending the EU Environment Council in Luxembourg on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, along with 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 activities the Council will debate proposals for a Regulation on binding annual greenhouse gas emissions reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 and on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 climate and energy framework.

Under non-legislative activities, the Council will aim to adopt Council conclusions on the Convention on Biological Diversity and sustainable water management.

The following items are due to be discussed under Any Other Business:

a) 28th Meeting of the Parties (MOP 28) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Kigali, Rwanda, 10-14 October 2016)

b) Communication on Decarbonisation of the Transport Strategy

c) 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (Johannesburg, South Africa, 24 September-5 October 2016)

d) 39th International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly (Montreal, Canada, 27 September-7 October 2016)

e) Unspent funds from the New Entrants Reserve (NER300) Funding Programme

f) Natural resources management on the example of Białowieża Forest: repercussions for Europe

g) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC (NEC) - lessons learnt

## General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council (Trade)

[HLWS196]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My right honourable friend the Minister of State, the Department for Exiting the European Union (David Jones) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) on Tuesday 18 October is expected to focus on: preparation of the October European Council; legislative programming and the Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) on ‘better law-making’; and the Mid Term Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework.

I will also represent the Government at an extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) dedicated to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with Canada (CETA).

## Preparation of the October European Council

Ministers will discuss the draft conclusions of the European Council. The European Council itself will take place on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 October. The agenda covers migration, trade and EU policy toward Russia; this item will include a discussion on Russia’s recent actions in Syria. The UK will play a full part in the discussion on these issues both at the GAC and at the European Council.

## Legislative Programming and the Inter-Institutional Agreement on ‘Better Law-Making’

In April this year a new Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Law Making was adopted. One provision of this is that following the adoption of the Commission Work Programme by the Commission, the Commission, Council and European Parliament will issue a joint declaration setting out the top priorities and objectives for the year ahead. The Slovak Presidency is expected to update Ministers on the process surrounding the joint declaration.

## Multiannual Financial Framework

This will be a follow-up to the introductory discussion that took place at the last GAC on 20 September. Final decisions will be taken later in the year.

## Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with Canada (CETA)

The Presidency has also scheduled an extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council in trade formation with a view to agreeing Council decisions on the signing, provisional application and conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with Canada (CETA), before it is sent for deliberation by the European Parliament and for full ratification by all EU Member States. CETA is an important trade agreement for the UK in terms of the economic benefit it will bring to British businesses while we remain a member of the EU.

## Healthcare Safety Investigations

[HLWS194]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** My rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State has made the following Written Statement:

*“There is a culture within many parts of the NHS which deters staff from raising serious and sensitive concerns and which not infrequently has negative consequences for those brave enough to raise them”* (Sir Robert Francis QC, Freedom to Speak Up report - <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20150218150343/https://freedomtospeakup.org.uk/>)

The NHS has an excellent track record in recruiting and developing the very best - the brightest, the most dedicated and the most caring. Our staff have a passion for providing the highest quality care that they can, and a commitment to continuously improving their knowledge and their skills. We must not forget that what staff learn through the experience of giving care is at least as

valuable as what they are taught in the lecture theatre. Learning through experience is the key to improving the quality of people's care. This includes learning from mistakes.

We need to create the right conditions to enable staff to learn from their experiences, including their mistakes. All too often, they tell us that there is a culture of blaming, not learning. That is why the Government wants to change the atmosphere in which NHS staff work.

There is a strong connection between 'psychological safety' and a culture of learning within an organisation. In a true culture of learning, staff can feel confident they will be treated fairly, and patients and families can be assured that errors and the causes of them will be fully explored. Creating and sustaining this broader culture of psychological safety and learning is down to leaders and managers in the system. For them to be able to do so, the Department of Health, as steward of the health system, needs to set the right conditions for such a culture to flourish.

Recent inquiries have illustrated that staff need to feel more confident that the information they give to safety investigations, which have the sole function of learning from errors, will not be used unfairly. That is why we are proposing to create a 'safe space' - a statutory requirement that information generated as part of a safety investigation will be kept confidential and will not be shared outside the investigation's boundaries, except in a number of limited circumstances.

This is used currently by the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB), where investigators are able to offer this safe space to those they speak to, thanks to the robust statutory framework in which they work, arising from regulation-making powers in primary legislation. A key aspect of this statutory framework is the duty not to share information given in the course of an investigation with any other individual or body, unless (usually) there is a High Court order.

The proposal outlined in this consultation is to create a statutory prohibition on the disclosure of material obtained during certain health service investigations unless the High Court makes an order permitting disclosure, or in a limited number of other circumstances.

This broadly mirrors the regime followed in the area of air accidents investigations. It would allow the investigator to say to staff involved in incidents:

*'This investigation is not to attribute blame. The information you give me as part of this investigation will not be passed on to those not involved in the investigation unless there is a high court order, or if the information you provide demonstrates to me there is an active and ongoing threat to patient safety represented by the practice or actions of one or more individuals that requires action'.*

The safe space approach is designed to improve patient safety standards over time, by enabling clinicians to discuss openly and honestly their experiences, including aspects of care that ought to be improved. These are

valuable lessons that others can learn from, and will improve standards, potentially across the whole system. By concentrating on finding these more widely applicable lessons, safe space investigations will address themes rather than re-examine specific cases. But should the investigation uncover evidence of immediate risks to patient safety, criminal activity, serious misconduct or seriously deficient performance then the police or relevant professional regulator will be informed and will take the appropriate immediate action.

Creating a safe space is also a difficult balance to achieve – between reassuring staff that the information they give will not be passed on, while also reassuring patients and families that they have the full facts of their, or their loved ones', care. We all want the standard of that care to get better and better each year. The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views of patients, the public and the professionals who work in the NHS about our proposed approach. In particular, we want to find out from them about what needs to be changed, added, or strengthened in order to achieve the learning not blaming culture that will underpin quality improvement in the NHS. A copy of the consultation is attached.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Safe Spaces Consultation [Providing a 'safe space' in healthcare safety investigations.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-10-17/HLWS194/>

## UNCRC

[HLWS197]

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

The UK State Party is a proud signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and today I want to reinforce this commitment.

The Articles under the UNCRC set out a vision that all children- regardless of background or circumstance- develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. These principles reflect our own drive and commitment to social mobility and the ambitious reforms we each lead to ensure that Britain is country that works for everyone.

The 5th periodic reporting cycle with the United Nations concluded in June 2016. The UN Committee scrutinised the UK State Party's progress in implementing the CRC since our last report in 2008, and in July 2016 published their Concluding Observations.

I welcome these Concluding Observations. They recognise the great strides we have taken to make sure that all children have the opportunity to flourish and grow. For example, efforts taken to improve mental health services, improvements to law to ensure that children live in safe and loving environments, improvements to

supporting and protecting asylum-seeking children and ensuring that all children have access to high-quality education. Indeed, all Government Departments play a role in building a society where everyone has fair and equal opportunities to go as far as their talent and their hard work will allow. And our policies recognise that children are far from secondary in this vision.

Alongside the celebration of our achievements, the Committee also offered recommendations on areas that require additional attention or greater push for change. As we each look to our ambitious programmes of reform to make sure that Britain is a country that works for everyone, I encourage you to reflect on these

recommendations; for example, by reflecting the voice of the child fully in the design and implementation of policy.

Both the UNCRC articles and Concluding Recommendations serve as a helpful and important guide to making sure that our policies- whether they hold direct or indirect consequences- consider children.

My Department will issue the Committee's Concluding Recommendations across Whitehall this week. I encourage all Departments to read these recommendations and take them into account as we work together to achieve social mobility.



# Written Answers

Monday, 17 October 2016

## A303: Stonehenge

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Highways England plan to investigate using (1) a tunnel which avoids visual and physical damage to the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site and its setting, and (2) traffic management measures to discourage travel at peak times, for the A303 at Stonehenge. [HL2027]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Highways England are considering a number of options for improving the section of the A303 close to Stonehenge, which include a variety of tunnel options. The results will be available for consideration at a public consultation to be held in 2017. However, they do not have any plans for the historic site at Avebury, as the A4361 is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council.

Highways England are committed to encourage the public to plan their journeys in advance and to consider using England's motorways and major trunk roads of peak hours.

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking towards adopting the recommendation of the Joint World Heritage/ICOMOS Advisory Committee on Stonehenge that the asset life design of the A303 widening scheme should "incorporate asset resilience and future proofing in design". [HL2028]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has proactively sought the views of the Joint World Heritage/the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Advisory Committee and welcomes its recommendations.

Highways England are supported by Historic England to consider the asset resilience and future proofing for their proposals for this section of the A303. This will be presented at a public consultation on proposed route options in 2017.

## Academies: Admissions

Asked by **Baroness Humphreys**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of children born between (1) 1 September and 30 April, and (2) 1 May and 31 August, were admitted to academy schools in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [HL2026]

**Lord Nash:** The department does not hold a dataset which contains both a child's date of birth and the type of school they attend. The amount of data linkage across

datasets for separate years that would be required to answer the question would incur disproportionate costs.

## Academies: Capital Investment

Asked by **Lord Blunkett**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timetable for the announcement of successful bids for the pilot scheme for capital loans to multi-academy trusts. [I] [HL2077]

**Lord Nash:** We will notify multi-academy trusts (MATs) who have applied for the MAT capital loan pilot of their outcomes shortly.

## Asylum: Children

Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied young asylum seekers have arrived in the UK in the past 12 months; and where they have been sent. [HL2050]

Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the statement by the Minister of State for Immigration, Mr Robert Goodwill MP, in his letter to Lord Roberts of Llandudno of 12 September, CTS Reference M9899/16, that "over 3,000 unaccompanied children arrived in the UK in 2015", where those children were from, and where they were sent in the UK. [HL2055]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Annual Figures on the number of claims for asylum from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), including by country of nationality, are published quarterly by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics April to June 2016, is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016>.

The Government is committed to ensuring that there is a more equitable distribution of UASC across the country and that no one authority has to care for more UASC than they are able to. That is why we introduced the voluntary National Transfer Scheme and have consulted with every region in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on their capacity. In order to continue the success of the voluntary scheme more local authorities will need to participate and offer places for unaccompanied children from councils which are caring for disproportionately high numbers.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Immigration Stats - April - June 2016 [immigration-statistics-q2-2016snr.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-03/HL2050>

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contingency plans are in place for the young asylum seekers in Calais when the camp there closes. [HL2054]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Although the decision to clear the camp in Calais is a matter for the French Government, the UK and France remain committed to working together protecting our shared border in Calais and addressing the humanitarian challenges in the camps.

The Home Secretary reaffirmed this when she met her French counterpart in August. Since the beginning of this year, over 130 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Europe have been accepted for transfer to the UK under the family reunion provisions of the Dublin Regulation, of whom over 80 are from France. We continue to support the French Government to provide alternative accommodation for those in Calais, including thousands of new places in reception centres across France to accommodate migrants and unaccompanied children. The French Government continues to urge anyone who does not want to live in the makeshift camps in Calais to engage with the French authorities who will provide accommodation and support.

### **Aviation: Alcoholic Drinks**

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential merits of requiring the use of sealed tamper-proof bags for duty-free alcohol sales at airports to prevent excessive drinking on board aircraft. [HL2108]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government welcomes industry's commitment to tackling the issue of excessive alcohol consumption in airports and on-board aircraft. The use of tamper-proof bags for duty-free purchases is currently being trialled at a number of UK airports and as part of that trial industry will reach a view on the potential merits of this approach.

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reported comments by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 28 July that he would review the sale of alcohol in airports, (1) when that review will take place; (2) what its terms of reference will be; and (3) whether he plans to meet airlines to discuss the effect on the safety and comfort of passengers and cabin crew of excessive alcohol consumption on flights. [HL2109]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government strongly supports the industry and its efforts to find deliverable solutions to this issue. It is important to ensure that all air passengers have a safe and pleasant experience when flying.

The industry bodies have joined together to create the UK Aviation Industry Code of Practice on Disruptive Passengers, with the purpose of creating a common, consistent approach that co-ordinates and enhances

existing efforts to prevent and minimise disruptive passenger behaviour.

At present there are no plans for the Government to review legislation in this area as I believe it is essential that the Code of Practice is given time to bed in and mature. We will continue to engage and meet with a broad range of operators in the aviation sector and managing disruptive behaviour is one of the issues we wish to discuss.

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to prohibiting passengers from consuming their own alcohol on board aircraft, as is the case in the United States under Federal Aviation Administration regulations; and whether they have considered amending the Air Navigation Order 2016 to include such a prohibition. [HL2111]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Air Navigation Order has provisions that make it an offence to board an aircraft, or be in an aircraft, while drunk, as well as behaving in a disruptive way. Additionally, the aviation industry has clear rules and procedures in place which make it clear that only alcohol bought onboard will be allowed to be consumed. There are no current plans for the Government to review legislation further in this area. Aviation safety is, however, always kept under review.

### **Aviation: Antisocial Behaviour**

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incidents of disruptive passengers on flights departing from or arriving in the UK have been recorded in 2016; what mechanism they use to record such incidents; and what assessment they have made of the effect of such incidents on the safety of other passengers and cabin crew. [HL2110]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government does not collect specific data on the frequency of incidents of disruptive passengers on flights departing from, or arriving in the UK. As such, no estimates have been made.

If serious enough such incidents would be counted amongst data for safety related events. In accordance with EU Regulation No 376/2014, safety-related events which endanger or which, if not corrected or addressed, could endanger an aircraft, its occupants or any other person have to be reported to the Civil Aviation Authority as part of the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Scheme (MORS).

### **Aviation: Regulation**

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will be responsible for the regulation of British civil aviation during and after Brexit. [HL2222]



**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is the Government's expert Arm's Length Body for the safety, security, consumer rights and economic regulation of civil aviation in the United Kingdom. The CAA participates in European Union (EU) regulatory systems in these areas. The Government is considering carefully all the potential implications arising from the UK's exit from the EU including the implications for the continued participation in European aviation safety and security regulatory processes. Until we leave, EU law still applies, and EU regulation in these areas will continue to apply in the UK, alongside national rules.

### **Baltic States: Sovereignty**

*Asked by Lord Wallace of Saltaire*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to mark the centenary of the independence of the Baltic states, and in particular the role played by the Royal Navy in protecting Estonia and its neighbours from the Soviet Navy. [\[HL2073\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Preparations are underway for the centenary celebrations in the Baltic States. The Royal Navy played a significant role in the war for independence in Estonia and Latvia and we hope the Senior Service will be able to feature in the 2018 and 2019 celebrations. The British Army and Royal Air Force will also be involved in marking these celebrations. The UK Government will be represented at centenary events in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

### **BBC: Finance**

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to reinstate direct funding of the BBC monitoring service and the BBC World Service. [\[HL2245\]](#)

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The World Service is one of BBC's most distinctive services and it is a vital part of UK's soft power influence around the world. The government has protected licence fee funding for the World Service at £254m a year for the next five years, with additional Exchequer funding of £34m in 2016/17 and £85m per year for the following three years.

BBC Monitoring provides a valuable service to the Government in monitoring and recording media output around the world. It is important that BBC has full editorial and managerial independence and integrity in the provision of BBC Monitoring, and this includes funding decisions. However, BBC Monitoring must be provided in accordance with the Monitoring Agreement agreed between BBC and the Cabinet Office.

### **Borders: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Baroness Goudie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have ever considered using drones to monitor Northern

Ireland's post-Brexit border with the Republic of Ireland and the European Union; whether they have any plans to do so; and if not, whether they intend explicitly to rule it out. [\[HL2015\]](#)

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangement pre-dates the EU and leaders in Ireland and the United Kingdom, including the Northern Ireland Executive have been unequivocal - all want to protect this arrangement.

To date the use of drones has not been considered as a method of monitoring the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland post-Brexit. Indeed regulation in the UK does not permit the use of drones beyond line of sight. Discussions between the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister have underlined their desire to work together to find a creative and innovative solution and to maintain the closest possible relationship following the UK's exit from the EU.

We will continue the high level of collaboration with Ireland on the future of the CTA once the UK has left the EU, avoiding the imposition of fixed immigration controls and being clear that there will be no immediate changes to our practices surrounding the CTA.

### **Children's Centres**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Nash on 1 August (HL1311), whether they intend to publish the response to the consultation on Sure Start; and if not, why not. [\[HL1996\]](#)

**Lord Nash:** I refer Lord Beecham to my Written Answer on 13 September to HL1466. The Prime Minister has been clear that tackling poverty and disadvantage, and delivering real social reform, will be a priority for this Government. We will consider future policy on children's centres as part of this. We will provide further detail in due course and will make clear how stakeholders and members of the public can contribute.

### **Cider: Excise Duties**

*Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to change the current duty structure for cider in the light of their statement that alcohol duties should be directly proportional to alcohol content. [\[HL2009\]](#)

**Lord Young of Cookham:** Current rules require that cider duty is structured in bands according to the strength of the product.

The government continues to keep all taxes under review, and in that context is considering the views of stakeholders.

## Defence Equipment: Procurement

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what commercial risk assessments are undertaken by (1) the Ministry of Defence, and (2) Defence Equipment and Support, into the financial stability of (a) UK-based suppliers of equipment, and (b) overseas suppliers of equipment. [HL2285]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) routinely carries out financial health checks on all potential contractors prior to contract award to ensure they have sufficient financial resources to deliver the contract. These checks, which include a review of a company's audited accounts and turnover, are conducted in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011.

This process is reiterated in all competitive and single source tender documentation issued to tenderers prior to any contract award. Where justified, the MOD can exclude potential suppliers who pose an unacceptable risk to public money.

## Disability: Employment

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the findings of the recent report Realising Aspirations for All by the charity Sense. [HL2042]

**Lord Freud:** We welcome the Sense report, Realising Aspirations for All and its findings. We want all disabled and people with a long term health condition to fulfil their potential and achieve their aspirations.

We will soon publish a Green Paper on work and health and conduct a consultation to understand how every individual can have the opportunity to work and share in the economic and health benefits that work brings, regardless of their health condition or disability. We will engage with Sense and other key stakeholders as part of the Green Paper consultation.

## Energy: Self-sufficiency

*Asked by Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the strategic importance of self-sufficiency in energy for the UK's national security. [HL2071]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The security of the UK's energy supply is an important factor in the national security of the country and featured prominently in the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review, published last year. The government also produces an annual assessment of the security of the UK's energy supply which considers the availability of electricity and gas to meet consumer demand in Great

Britain over the next four years. The strategically important contributions of both domestic energy production and diversity of supply are included in this analysis.

*Asked by Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the development of smaller reactors and the use of fracking for gas in order to strengthen the UK's self-sufficiency in energy. [HL2072]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is committed to ensuring the UK has a secure and resilient energy system while meeting our climate change obligations and keeping bills as low as possible. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and shale gas have the potential to play a part in achieving this.

The Government has committed to investing at least £250 million over the next five years in nuclear research and development, which will include support for SMRs. In March 2016, the Government launched the first phase of a competition to identify the best value SMR for the UK, as well as allocating up to £30m over the next 5 years for an SMR-enabling advanced manufacturing programme to develop skills capacity.

The Government supports the exploration of our shale gas resources in a safe and sustainable way. The shale gas resources beneath Britain have the potential to bolster our energy security and lead to jobs and economic growth. UK geology is promising but we make no assumptions about production levels. We need exploration to determine the potential.

The Government has been clear that shale development must be safe and environmentally sound.

## Faith Schools: Admissions

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation they have held on the proposal to remove the 50 per cent cap on religious selection for existing schools as well as new schools, and which groups they have consulted. [HL2066]

**Lord Nash:** On 9<sup>th</sup> September the Prime Minister announced that we will remove the 50 per cent cap for new faith free schools and consult on a new set of much more effective requirements to ensure that new faith schools are properly inclusive. The consultation is available to view at [consult.education.gov.uk/](http://consult.education.gov.uk/) under 'Schools that work for everyone'. We would welcome your views on our proposals.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of recent polling of the views of parents on religious selection in state-funded schools. [HL2067]

**Lord Nash:** We are consulting on proposals to enable more high quality providers of schools to establish new schools and we are keen to hear the views of parents as part of the consultation. Many faith schools are successful and popular with parents and we want to provide sufficient high quality places to meet demand. We will take account of all the responses received when considering the government's response to the consultation.

### Financial Services: Marketing

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to restrict the advertising and promotion of primary option trading and investment to retail investors in the UK by firms based in Cyprus and Malta. [HL2036]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The government takes this issue very seriously.

The government will introduce measures to strengthen investor protection when it transposes the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II).

This will include powers for the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to prohibit or restrict the marketing, distribution or sale of financial instruments, including relevant binary options where there are significant investor protection concerns.

These powers will apply from 3 January 2018.

### Housing: Prices

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the claim by the Intergenerational Foundation that high house prices increased segregation in society. [HL2060]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** We accept that our failure for many years not to build enough homes has serious consequences. House prices have risen faster than incomes; while renters are paying, on average 50 per cent of their income in rent which makes saving for a deposit all the more difficult. This means that the dream of home ownership is further away for younger people today when compared to previous generations.

This Government is committed to solving the housing crisis by every means possible. That means taking action to ensure that we build more homes in this country. We have doubled the housing budget to almost £20 billion over the next five years, including £8 billion to deliver over 400,000 affordable homes by 2021.

We have also taken steps to help people on the path to home ownership. Our Help to Buy: Equity Loan has helped over 91,000 households to buy a new-build home since the scheme was introduced in 2013. 81 per cent of these sales have gone to first-time buyers.

But we recognise the need to go further. That's why we launched the £3 billion Home Building Fund that will help deliver 225,000 badly-needed new homes on sites throughout England. Further measures will be included in a Housing White Paper later this autumn.

### M20: Large Goods Vehicles

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of objections to the creation of lorry area in Kent to address problems caused by Operation Stack. [HL2047]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Highways England (HE) held a public consultation on their proposals for a lorry area between 11 December 2015 and 26 January 2016. The information gathered was analysed and published in:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/535213/Public\\_Consultation\\_Report\\_Managing\\_Freight\\_Through\\_Kent\\_March\\_2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/535213/Public_Consultation_Report_Managing_Freight_Through_Kent_March_2016.pdf) and is attached for ease of reference.

Highways England held a second public consultation between 12 August and 23 September 2016 on the design of the lorry area. They are currently analysing all comments Highways England received and will publish a consultation report in due course.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Public Consultation Report [HL2047 -

Public\_Consultation\_Report\_Managing\_Freight\_Through\_Kent\_March\_2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-03/HL2047>

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the creation of a lorry area in Kent, intended to address problems caused by Operation Stack, will cost, including the cost of improvements required to the local infrastructure. [HL2048]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In the Spending Review and Autumn Statement of November 2015, the Government announced up to £250 million for a major permanent lorry area. Highways England is developing a scheme that is close to the M20 motorway and minimises the impact on the local infrastructure.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered upgrading the M20 or the A2/M2 as an alternative to the establishment of a permanent lorry area near Junction 11 of the M20. [HL2049]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Highways England carried out an assessment of alternative options for a solution to Operation Stack and this considered increasing the overall capacity and resilience of Kent's motorway

network. The alternatives were included in a public consultation held between December 2015 and January 2016.

Overall, a lorry area was the best performing option and this was stated in the report on the consultation which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/management-of-freight-vehicles-through-kent> and is attached for ease of reference.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Public Consultation Report [HL2049 -  
Public\_Consultation\_Report\_Managing\_Freight\_Through\_Kent\_  
March\_2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-03/HL2049>

## Military Intervention

*Asked by Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to classify the cost of armed intervention to achieve regime change as overseas aid. [HL2070]

**Lord Bates:** No - the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for general military activities is circumscribed; ODA can only be used in well-defined training on a limited list of topics consistent with development objectives, for example in human rights and humanitarian law.

## Monetary Policy

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review the impact of quantitative easing on investment and on savings to determine whether it is of greater benefit to one or the other. [HL2035]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is responsible for setting monetary policy to deliver its primary objective of maintaining price stability. As the MPC remit makes clear, ensuring price stability is an essential pre-requisite for economic prosperity. The MPC is accountable to both Parliament and the public, through regular reports and evidence given to the Treasury Committee. The Bank of England has previously produced analysis of the distributional effects of asset purchases on different groups in society. At the August Inflation Report hearing on 7 September the Bank committed to updating this analysis.

## Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons for the fall in revenue

from Vehicle Excise Duty since October 2014. [HL2044]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) annual audited accounts showed that £5.9 billion was collected in vehicle excise duty (VED) during 2015-16. The amount of VED collected varies year on year and this was a reduction of £93 million, a decrease of around 1.5% from the previous year. This figure compares favourably with the Office of Budget Responsibility's forecast that VED revenue would fall by up to £300 million during 2015-16.

The decrease in revenue for the last financial year is principally attributable to the ever increasing number of fuel-efficient cars on the road which attract a lower rate of duty, as well as a small increase in evasion.

In addition, in the 2015-16 annual accounts, the Comptroller and Auditor General noted that the decline in cash receipts had been significantly influenced by the short term effect of giving motorists the option to spread VED payments over longer periods through the introduction of Direct Debit.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to address the shortfall in revenue from Vehicle Excise Duty since October 2014. [HL2045]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The amount of vehicle excise duty (VED) collected varies year on year. The Office of Budgetary Responsibility forecast that VED revenue would fall by £300 million in 2015-16. The actual reduction of £93 million was principally caused by the ever increasing number of fuel-efficient cars on the road which attract a lower rate of VED, as well as a small increase in evasion.

The DVLA operates a comprehensive package of measures to tackle VED evasion. These measures range from reminder letters, penalties and court prosecutions through to the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, wheel-clamping and the removal of unlicensed vehicles. The latest figures show that 98.6% of all motorists comply with the requirement to pay VED.

## Palestinians: Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the consequences to date of the reduction in the foreign aid budget to the Palestinian Authority between 2013 and 2016. [HL2082]

**Lord Bates:** The UK provided £88 million in financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) from 2013-2016. UK aid has supported the PA to deliver basic services and promote economic growth. The PA continues to face challenges to ensure fiscal stability. As the Development Secretary is new to her role, she is conducting a full examination of DFID's work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including UK financial assistance to the PA.



## Parades Commission

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the rules and procedures of the Northern Ireland Parades Commission were most recently reviewed, and when the next review will be. [HL2168]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Public Processions (NI) Act 1998 requires the Parades Commission to keep the procedural rules and guidelines it issues under that Act under review and empowers it to, from time to time, revise the whole or any part of the procedural rules and guidelines and issue the revised versions.

The rules and guidelines are reviewed on an annual basis; the timing of such reviews is a matter for the Parades Commission.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in what way the Northern Ireland Parades Commission is accountable to them and to the courts. [HL2169]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Parades Commission operates independently of Government in line with the provisions contained in the Public Processions (NI) Act 1998.

The Commission is accountable to the courts for its operational decisions.

The Commission is accountable to the Northern Ireland Office for the management of its resources.

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government in what way the Northern Ireland Parades Commission meets international treaty obligations on human rights. [HL2170]

**Lord Dunlop:** The duties and functions of the Northern Ireland Parades Commission are set out in the Public Processions (NI) Act 1998. The Act is compliant with international treaty obligations on human rights.

## Schools: Admissions

*Asked by Baroness Humphreys*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to allowing the parents of children born prematurely to nominate their child's due date, rather than the actual date of birth, when applying for school places. [HL2024]

**Lord Nash:** We have announced our intention to support summer born children by allowing them to delay entry to the reception year until they are five and for those children to remain with that cohort as they progress through school.

As part of this work we are giving careful consideration to how we can best implement any new arrangements we might put in place, and how we can best support premature children into school.

We want to support these children in the best way we can, however, it is important that we take the time to consider the wider impact of any policy changes.

## Schools: Finance

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in developing a new formula for school funding; and when the new formula will be applied. [HL1999]

**Lord Nash:** In July, the Secretary of State committed to introduce national funding formulae for schools and high needs from financial year 2018-19. We are considering the options carefully, taking into account the need to give schools and local authorities stability, and the importance of getting these historic reforms right. We will set out detailed proposals later in the autumn, and make decisions early next year, for the new system to be in place from April 2018.

## Schools: Registration

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help the Local Government Association prevent children being taught in illegal schools. [HL2062]

**Lord Nash:** We are determined to keep children safe in and out of school and have made it very clear that it is an offence to operate an unregistered independent school. In January 2016, we announced funding for Ofsted to establish a dedicated team of specialist inspectors to investigate such settings and since that time, there has been a significant escalation of Ofsted investigations.

The Department for Education and Ofsted are working closely with local authorities to identify and tackle illegal schools, and close collaboration has resulted in the closure of many such settings.

## Social Services: Children

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what conclusions they have drawn from the research commissioned by the Department for Education in 2010 into the development of government guidance on governance arrangements in children's services: Research governance in children's services: the scope for new advice. [HL2041]

**Lord Nash:** This report highlighted the importance of governance and ethical consideration in children's services research. The report suggested that at the time of the research, local practice was variable, but there were, and still are, a number of accepted research governance arrangements in place for local authorities and other research organisations to seek guidance and approval, including the Association of Directors of Children's



Services (ADCS), the Social Research Association, the NSPCC, and university ethics boards. The Department for Education has concluded that these arrangements are the best route for local authorities and external research organisations to obtain external guidance on research governance and ethics.

Following publication of the report, the Department, in consultation with the ADCS Research Group, has developed ethics guidance and an ethics checklist for its own funded research and evaluation. This is based on the Government Social Research Professional Guidance, which sets out the principles that should be used when conducting social research for the Government. It states that those conducting, commissioning or managing Government social research have a responsibility to ensure that research is conducted using appropriate methods and that the rights and interests of all those involved in the research process are protected. Research should be conducted in a manner that:

- ensures valid, informed consent is obtained before individuals participate in research (for children under 16, parents/legal guardians as well as the children themselves must be approached for consent to participate);
- takes reasonable steps to identify and remove barriers to participation;
- avoids personal and social harm; and
- protects the confidentiality of information about research participants and their identities.

### St Helena: Airports

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 25 July (HL1170), who is responsible for arranging the promised meeting to brief members of the House on the airport at St Helena, and when it is expected to be held. [HL2013]

**Lord Bates:** DFID are holding a briefing meeting for all interested peers on St Helena airport on 25 October, between 13:00 and 14:00 in Room 10a (House of Lords). Invitations were issued on 5 October.

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what compensation claims have been received by the government of St Helena as a result of the delay in opening the airport to commercial traffic, and how those claims are being dealt with. [HL2014]

**Lord Bates:** As far as we are aware, the St Helena Government has not received any claims for compensation following the identification of wind shear at St Helena Airport.

### St Richard Reynolds Catholic Primary School

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the admission arrangements of St Richard Reynolds Catholic Primary School in Richmond. [HL2068]

**Lord Nash:** The Department does not actively police the admission arrangements of individual schools.

Each school has an admission authority to set its admission arrangements and ensure those arrangements comply with the School Admissions Code ("the Code"). The admission authority for St Richard Reynolds Catholic Primary School is the School's governing body.

If a parent has concerns about the admission arrangements of a school they can object to the Schools' Adjudicator. If the Adjudicator finds that the school's arrangements are unlawful, the admission authority must revise their arrangements to ensure they comply with the Code and other admissions legislation.

### Supported Housing: Finance

*Asked by Baroness Hollins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guarantees they plan to give to people with a learning disability that they will continue to have their right to independent living respected following the introduction of the new funding system for supported housing. [HL2019]

**Lord Freud:** Supported accommodation plays a vital role in the lives of many vulnerable people. A safe and stable and supportive place to live can be the key to unlocking better outcomes for people and for many it is a stepping stone to independent living in the longer term. The Government values the role supported housing plays and is committed to encouraging further development to meet future demand.

The Secretary of State confirmed in his written Ministerial Statement to Parliament on 15<sup>th</sup> September that the Government will shortly be publishing a consultation document on supported housing.

*Asked by Baroness Hollins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the introduction of the new funding system for supported housing, what guarantees they plan to give that guidelines for local authorities will be sufficiently robust to ensure that there are no trade-offs between different groups in need of supported housing. [HL2021]

**Lord Freud:** The Secretary of State announced in a Written Ministerial Statement on 15 September 2016 that a formal consultation document will be published shortly. This consultation will consult on appropriate safeguards to ensure that funding continues to support vulnerable groups and promotes the supply of supported housing.

*Asked by **Baroness Hollins***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for monitoring the impact of the new funding system for supported housing on people with a learning disability after 2019. [[HL2023](#)]

**Lord Freud:** The Secretary of State confirmed in his written Ministerial Statement to Parliament on 15<sup>th</sup> September that the Government will shortly be publishing a consultation document on supported housing.

### **Supported Housing: Housing Benefit**

*Asked by **Lord Beecham***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of supported housing properties likely to be affected by the proposed reduction in housing benefit, and what is their estimate of the range of weekly costs to tenants of such properties. [[HL1995](#)]

**Lord Freud:** Supported accommodation plays a vital role in the lives of many vulnerable people. That is why on 15 September 2016 we announced, via a Written Ministerial Statement, that we would be deferring the application of Local Housing Allowance Rates in the social sector for supported housing until 2019/20, at which point we will bring in a new funding model which will ensure that the sector continues to be funded at current levels, taking into account the effect of Government policy on social sector rents.

*Asked by **Baroness Hollins***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many respondents to the first consultation on reforming housing benefit for supported housing in 2011 considered the idea of a localised pot to support the right of disabled people to live independently. [[HL2020](#)]

**Lord Freud:** The consultation in 2011 sought views on a wide variety of options, and received a range of viewpoints, reflecting the diversity of the sector. It did not consider whether localised funding would support the right of disabled people to live independently.

### **Trade Promotion: USA**

*Asked by **Baroness Barker***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the budget of the UK Trade Office in Raleigh, North Carolina for (1) 2016–17, and (2) 2017–18. [[HL1992](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government Office in Raleigh will be run by the member of staff hired locally in the US. Costs are expected to be low and limited to salary, office space rental and discretionary budget for travel and representational activities.

*Asked by **Baroness Barker***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what performance targets they have set for the UK Trade Office in

Raleigh, North Carolina for (1) 2016–17, and (2) 2017–18. [[HL1993](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The new UK Government Office in Raleigh, North Carolina will promote a broad range of British prosperity interests, including trade and investment and engagement with industry, research and development and higher education institutions. Performance objectives will be agreed with a broad range of HMG stakeholders, including the Department for International Trade, the UK Science and Innovation Network and policy teams in the British Embassy in Washington DC. The Office will be managed and supported by Her Majesty's Consul General in Atlanta.

*Asked by **Baroness Barker***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much inward investment the UK Trade Office in Raleigh, North Carolina is expected to generate in (1) 2017–18, and (2) 2018–19. [[HL1994](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government Office in Raleigh, North Carolina will contribute to inward investment objectives in support of the Department for International Trade's targets for the South East United States. These targets are set by sector. North Carolina has one of the fastest growing economies in the United States. Our office there will allow us to explore opportunities for collaboration with the many institutions and businesses located in Raleigh's Research Triangle Park.

### **Tribunals**

*Asked by **Baroness Thomas of Winchester***

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the consultation on transforming the tribunal system Transforming our Justice System is not cross-referenced to the Department for Work and Pensions consultations website, given its relevance to the appeals process for Personal Independence Payment. [[HL2078](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The noble Lady will be aware that the Government is investing £1 billion to modernise our world-leading justice system. That means creating a system that is just, proportionate and accessible.

The 'Transforming our Justice System' consultation is about the administration of justice across all courts and tribunals and not one specific area. My officials are engaging with appropriate stakeholders, including disability groups, on relevant matters.

### **Voluntary Work: Young People**

*Asked by **Lord Ouseley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen on 16 September (HL1556), how many young people participated in the National Citizen Service programmes during (1) 2014, and (2) 2015; how those

participants were recruited; and how much expenditure was incurred in each year. [HL2133]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** In 2014, 57,789 young people took part in NCS throughout England. The number of young people who took part in the programme in 2015 will be released as part of the independent evaluation of the 2015 programme in due course.

Information on annual NCS expenditure can be found in the published NCS Trust accounts, which are available online through Companies House.

All recruitment is the responsibility of the NCS Trust, the independent organisation which delivers NCS. Recruitment is carried out through the NCS supply chain which includes more than 200 delivery organisations. NCS recruitment primarily takes place in schools, but young people can also sign up through the NCS website.

A range of other local channels support NCS recruitment, including partnerships with local authorities, youth groups, community and voluntary organisations, as well as NCS graduates.

### **Working Mothers**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support structure they have put in place for women who are returning to the workforce after they have had children. [HL2061]

**Lord Freud:** We are helping women to return to the workforce after they have had children through the support provided by Jobcentre Plus. Work Coaches provide personalised support, tailored to meet the needs

and requirements of parents, helping them to find work that fits with their individual circumstances. The Flexible Support Fund allows Work Coaches to address barriers to employment and support parents into work. This can be used in a variety of ways including paying for travel and childcare to allow parents to undertake training, attend interviews or start work.

We are also putting in place a new package of government support that will make childcare more affordable and more accessible. This will build on the support already offered and will mean more parents have choice, security and peace of mind when it comes to being in work and supporting their family.

Parents on Universal Credit have been offered more generous support from 11 April 2016, where they are able to claim up to 85% of childcare costs, compared to 70% previously. This is up to a monthly limit of £646 for one child or £1,108 for two or more children, up to the age of 16.

The Government currently offers 15 hours of free childcare for all three and four year olds and some of the most disadvantaged two year olds in England. From September 2017, this free childcare offer will be doubled for working parents of three and four year olds in England from 15 to 30 hours per week.

We are also introducing Tax-Free Childcare, which will be available to around two million households to help pay for childcare costs from early 2017. For every £8 parents pay into an online account, the Government will pay £2 – up to a maximum contribution of £2,000 per child each year, for children aged up to 12. Parents of disabled children will receive extra support worth up to £4,000 per year per child, until their child is 17.

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