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**Thursday
30 June 2016**

**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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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Stowell of Beeston	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, Home Office and Department for Transport
Baroness Anelay of St Johns	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Baroness Altmann	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Whip
Lord Bridges of Headley	Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Wales Office and Whip
Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Whip
Lord Dunlop	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Whip
Lord Faulks	Minister of State, Ministry of Justice
Lord Freud	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Deputy Chief Whip and Spokesman for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland
Lord Nash	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Lord O'Neill of Gatley	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
Lord Price	Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Lord Prior of Brampton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
Baroness Shields	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture Media and Sport and Home Office
Lord Taylor of Holbeach	Chief Whip
Baroness Verma	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Thursday, 30 June 2016

Crossrail: Annual Update

[HLWS52]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Claire Perry) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

On Tuesday 23rd February 2016, Her Majesty The Queen visited the under-construction Crossrail station at Bond Street where it was announced that the new railway will be known as the Elizabeth line in her honour. The renaming, which will take effect when central London services commence in December 2018, is in recognition and celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 64 years as the longest-reigning British monarch.

In the past year we have made great progress in many different areas of the project. The project is now approaching 75% complete with work well underway on planning for and delivering an operational railway. In the Central tunnel section, the first 13km of track has now been laid, approaching 70% of platforms have been completed, 77% of platform edge screens have been constructed and the opening of the temporary ticket hall at Whitechapel has been achieved.

At the end of May 2015, TfL Rail services commenced between Shenfield and Liverpool Street. MTR Crossrail has been operating the service since then as a precursor to full services commencing with the new Bombardier rolling stock, progressively from May 2017. Performance has improved, with MTR Crossrail and Network Rail being awarded the Transport Team Partnership of the Year at the London Transport Awards.

Practical completion of Canary Wharf station was achieved on 7 September 2015, the first station contract to do so, four months ahead of schedule. Work began six and a half years ago on this project, with Canary Wharf Group contributing £150m.

In November 2015, Transport for London released details of the train designs which will carry Elizabeth line passengers along the future route. The rolling stock, which is being manufactured and assembled at Bombardier's plant in Derby will each provide space for 1,500 customers and will ensure that the future capacity of the central London rail network will increase by 10%. The carriages of the first train have now been built and are being tested for use in Bombardier's 'V' Shop testing and commissioning facility which was recently opened by the Secretary of State for Transport.

Major surface works being delivered by Network Rail on the existing rail network continue apace and are now approximately 65% complete, with a number of key milestones reached. Christmas 2015 and Easter 2016, as well as two bank holidays in May 2016, saw Network Rail successfully deliver Crossrail project works as part of

some of the largest investment programmes ever undertaken on the national network, without overrun.

In addition, station designs at West Ealing and Southall stations have been approved; the civil engineering work at Acton dive-under and Stockley flyover is approaching completion and construction is well underway to rebuild Abbey Wood station. On the north eastern section of the route, improvement work is well underway at all 13 stations.

I am delighted to report that 573 apprenticeships have now been created. This goes alongside over 1,000 work experience opportunities and over 12,000 enrolments on courses at the Crossrail Tunnelling and Underground Construction Academy, which opened in 2012.

The Crossrail Board continues to forecast that the costs of constructing Crossrail will be within the agreed funding limits and that it will be completed on schedule. We still expect Crossrail to cost no more than £14.5 billion (excluding rolling stock costs). This is despite cost pressures across the project. However, these continue to be managed and Crossrail Ltd is implementing initiatives to deliver cost efficiencies during the remainder of the programme. Crossrail's joint Sponsors will continue to meet regularly with Crossrail Ltd to ensure that the project is being successfully managed and will be delivered within budget and on schedule.

During the passage of the Crossrail Bill through Parliament, a commitment was given that a statement would be published at least every 12 months until the completion of the construction of Crossrail, setting out information about the project's funding and finances.

In line with this commitment, this statement comes within 12 months of the last one which was published on 2 July 2015. The relevant information is as follows:

Total funding amounts provided to Crossrail Limited by the Department for Transport and TfL in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period (22 July 2008 to 29 May 2016)	£10,002,888,670
Expenditure incurred (including committed land and property spend not yet paid out) by Crossrail Limited in relation to the construction of Crossrail in the period (30 May 2015 to 29 May 2016) (excluding recoverable VAT on Land and Property purchases)	£1,599,948,000
Total expenditure incurred (including committed land and property spend not yet paid out) by Crossrail Limited in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period (22 July 2008 to 29 May 2016) (excluding recoverable VAT on Land and Property purchases)	£9,250,507,000
The Amounts realised by the disposal of any land or property for the purposes of the construction of Crossrail by the Secretary of State, TfL or Crossrail Limited in the period covered by the statement	Nil

The numbers above are drawn from Crossrail Limited's books of account and have been prepared on a consistent basis with the update provided last year. The figure for expenditure incurred includes monies already paid out in

relevant periods, including committed land and property expenditure where this has not yet been paid. It does not include future expenditure on construction contracts that have been awarded.

Note

Construction figures as of 29 May 2016. The total funding amounts provided to CRL by the Department of Transport and Transport for London refers to the expenditure drawn down from the Sponsor Funding Account in the period 22 July 2008 and 29 May 2016. Included within the amount is £1,376,331,092 of interim funding that has been provided to Network Rail to finance the delivery of the On-Network Works between 1 April 2009 and 29 May 2016. This amount is due to be repaid to CRL by 30 September 2017.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

[HLWS57]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: My Honourable Friend the Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy (Mr Ed Vaizey) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council took place in Brussels on 30-31st May 2016. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Intellectual Property, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, represented the UK at the Culture and Sport Councils on 31st May. As is procedure, this Statement sets out a record of that meeting.

Culture and Audiovisual

The first item was the adoption of conclusions on the role of Europeana in digitising cultural heritage. The UK supported the adoption

Council then moved to the main item on the agenda which was the Commission's proposal for a new Audiovisual Media Services Directive in the context of its Digital Single Market strategy. All Ministers welcomed the continuation of the Country of Origin principle as the cornerstone of the Directive and the UK repeated its view that this must not be eroded for the continued functioning single market. There was some discussion on proposals to secure funding for European content. The UK, along with Finland, observed that quotas might not be the best way to achieve this. On accessibility rules, the Commission agreed with the UK that sector-specific rules might be useful. The Commission and Presidency concluded by calling for a speedy adoption in order to keep up with ever-changing technology. There were six AOB items including information on an upcoming proposal for an EU Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, an item on the future funding of the European Union Youth Orchestra, a French item on interoperability of digital content and a request by Poland, supported by Slovenia, Romania, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Belgium and Malta for an increase to the existing €5m ceiling stipulated in the current European Regional Development Funds for small-scale cultural projects. There was also information from the German delegation on the latest

court decisions concerning the remuneration of publishing companies based on copyright law, and a presentation by the Slovak delegation on priorities for their upcoming Presidency. The UK did not intervene on any of these items

Sport

This Council focused on integrity and good governance in sport, with the adoption of Council conclusions, supported by the UK, and a policy debate. Member States outlined best practice in their countries and France and Denmark led calls for Member States to continue signing the Council of Europe Convention on Match-Fixing. The UK intervention highlighted the Prime Minister's recent Anti-Corruption Summit and the resulting pledge to launch an International Sports Integrity Partnership.

Under AOB, Malta fed back to Council on discussions at the recent meeting of the World Anti-Doping Agency in Montreal. The Commission also presented an update on studies on the specificity of sport and the role of sport in regional development. Sweden, Italy and France called for further work in this area. The UK did not intervene.

Council then adjourned until the next meeting; due to be held on Tuesday 22nd November 2016.

The UK was represented by officials at the High-Level Sport Structured Dialogue. This was opened, for the first time, to all delegations, rather than the usual Presidency Trio format. The Sports Movement was represented by IOC, EOC, FIFA and UEFA. The UK emphasised that strengthened dialogue was paramount to the integrity of the sports movement and drew parallels with the International Sports Integrity Partnership announced at the Prime Minister's recent summit. The UK also referred back to London 2012 Olympic Games and the sports betting integrity forum which the UK established.

A joint declaration of intent on enhancing regular dialogue on topics of shared responsibilities regarding major sports events was signed by the Dutch Presidency and the four representatives of the Sports Movement.

Foreign Affairs and General Affairs Council June 2016

[HLWS55]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: My Right Honourable Friend, Minister for Europe (David Lidington), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs attended the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 June and I attended the General Affairs Council on 24 June. The Foreign Affairs Council was chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, and the General Affairs Council was chaired by the Dutch Presidency. The meetings were held in Luxembourg.

Foreign Affairs Council

A provisional report of the meeting and Conclusions adopted can be found at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2016/06/20/>

In her introductory remarks, Ms. Mogherini highlighted the Conclusions on Burma and business and human rights. Ministers signed the EU / East Africa Economic Partnership Agreement.

Arctic

The UK welcomed the adoption of Council Conclusions on the Arctic: the EU has an important role in helping to meet the challenges facing the region, focusing on those areas where it can add value, such as research, climate change and the environment.

The Sahel

Ms. Mogherini updated Ministers on her recent discussions with G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger), and emphasised the importance of working in partnership with third countries to address shared challenges, particularly migration. Council Conclusions were adopted which set out the importance of tackling the long-term drivers of instability and migration, as well as the need to continue to strengthen the capacity of local security forces.

Macedonia

Ministers discussed the longstanding political crisis in Macedonia. The Foreign Secretary expressed concern at the continuing crisis and supported renewed EU/US negotiations. Ms. Mogherini issued a statement after the Council ended, calling for the full implementation of the Przino Agreement signed one year ago by the political parties, which included the creation of a Special Prosecutor to investigate allegations of abuse of power.

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers exchanged views on prospects for the Middle East Peace Process, in light of the upcoming Quartet Report, and planned follow-up to the 3 June Paris Conference. In spite of sobering developments on the ground, Ministers shared the view that the EU must remain proactive and engaged, and be ready to invest further political capital as soon as conditions allow.

Georgia – visa liberalisation

Ministers exchanged views on visa liberalisation in the context of EU-Georgia relations, pursuant to the proposal submitted by the Commission in March to exempt Georgian nationals from the requirement to obtain visas when travelling to Schengen countries for short stays. The UK is not part of the border and immigration aspects of Schengen so would not be affected by any changes to the relevant Regulation 539/2001 pursuant to the Commission proposal.

Libya / EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia

The Council adopted the Council Decision to extend and expand Operation Sophia's mandate to boost the capability of the Libyan coastguard to help stem the flow of illegal migration and to combat arms trafficking. It is important that work to implement this decision starts as soon as possible. The UK will work with the Libyan authorities, regional countries, other EU Member States

and international organisations to achieve this. Operation Sophia has already saved almost 15,000 lives and destroyed over 120 smuggling vessels. Operation Sophia's additional tasking will build the Libyan Coastguard's ability to tackle migration and limit Daesh terrorists' freedom of movement.

Under *Any Other Business*, the German Foreign Minister updated the Council on the German chairmanship of the OSCE. He set out his plan to visit Nagorno Karabakh in late June to encourage both sides to continue a sustained dialogue.

Ministers agreed without discussion a number of measures:

- The Council adopted conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process.
- The Council adopted conclusions on Myanmar / Burma.
- The Council adopted conclusions on business and human rights.
- The Council adopted conclusions on child labour.
- The Council approved the signature and provisional application of the economic agreement between the EU and East African Community (EAC) partner states.
- The Council approved the EU annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2015.
- The Council repealed Common Position 2008/109/CFSP and Council Regulation 234/004, lifting restrictive measures and an arms embargo imposed against Liberia.
- The Council adopted the EU's common position in view of the third meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council with Serbia, which took place in Brussels on 22 June 2016.

General Affairs Council

A provisional report of the meeting and Conclusions adopted can be found at:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac/2016/06/21/>

The General Affairs Council on 24 June, in Luxembourg, discussed the outcome of the UK referendum, prepared the June European Council conclusions, and discussed implementation of specific aspects of the Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA), including the Commission's Work Programme for 2017.

Slovakia also presented its priority work programme for its upcoming Presidency of the Council of the EU.

June European Council

The Council discussed the draft conclusions ahead of the European Council on 28-29 June. The European Council is due to focus on migration, economic matters, external relations and the outcome of the UK referendum.

European Semester

As part of the European Semester process, the Council approved the draft country-specific recommendations which will be endorsed at the European Council on 28-29

June. The recommendations were also approved at the Economic and Financial Council (ECOFIN) and the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO).

Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) – Better Law Making and Transparency

As part of the IIA process, the Council discussed the legislative priorities for 2017, in particular transparency aspects of the IIA and the Commission's Work Programme for 2017, which the Commission will present to the Council in November 2016.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Services

[HLWS54]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr James Duddridge), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

FCO Services operates as a trading fund of the FCO. I have set the following performance targets for 2016-2017:

- i) An in-year surplus before interest, tax and dividend
- ii) A return on capital employed of at least 7% (weighted average)
- iii) A Productivity ratio of at least 80%, measuring Actual Billable hours v Available Billable hours
- iv) To deliver the efficiency savings of £12.1m as reported over the Corporate Plan period
- v) A customer satisfaction result of at least 80%
- vi) To provide an annual discretionary dividend to the FCO of at least £1.5m
- vii) An overall improvement of 2% on the average 2015 index Your Say score for My Manager. Target 2016-17 = 65%

FCO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets through its Annual Report for 2016-2017.

Northern Ireland Security

[HLWS53]

Lord Dunlop: My Right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Theresa Villiers) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

This is the ninth statement on the security situation in Northern Ireland and the second statement to this Parliament. It covers the threat from Northern Ireland Related Terrorism, rather than from international terrorism, which members will be aware is the responsibility of my Rt Hon Friend the Home Secretary, who updates the House separately.

In the six months since my statement on Northern Ireland's security situation, the same, relatively small and fractured, violent dissident republican groupings have persisted with their campaign of violence. Their activities are against the democratically expressed wishes of the

people in Northern Ireland. They continue to seek relevance and inflict harm on a society that overwhelmingly rejects them. Their support is very limited. Northern Ireland's future will only be determined by democracy and consent. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and MI5 work diligently to limit the threat these groups are able to pose. Because of these efforts the vast majority of Northern Ireland's population are able to go about their daily lives untroubled by terrorism.

The terrorist threat level in Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland related terrorism remains SEVERE (an attack is highly likely) and the need for vigilance continues. Violent dissident republicans retain access to a wide variety of terrorist material including firearms, ammunition and improvised explosive devices and remain committed to an agenda of violence.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), MI5 and their security partners continue to work tirelessly to counter the threat, often placing themselves at significant risk in order to keep people safe. Countless attacks are prevented in their early stages. So far this year, the PSNI have recovered terrorist items including firearms, ammunition and bomb making equipment. There have been 59 arrests, of which, 8 individuals have been charged for terrorist related offences.

The lethal nature of the threat posed by terrorist groupings was demonstrated in March when prison officer Adrian Ismay died as a consequence of injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device functioned under his vehicle as he left his Belfast home for work. Adrian Ismay's death is first and foremost a tragedy for his family and friends. But it also serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing risks faced by prison officers, police officers and members of the armed forces, some of whom have been very fortunate to escape injury in other terrorist attacks, both on and off duty.

Violent dissident republicans continue to try to injure and murder PSNI officers, prison officers and members of the armed forces. The main focus of dissident republican violence continues to be in Northern Ireland. However, on 1 May, the Home Secretary announced that MI5 had increased their assessment of the threat level in Great Britain from Northern Ireland-Related Terrorism from MODERATE (an attack is possible but not likely) to SUBSTANTIAL (an attack is a strong possibility). Violent dissident republicans have long aspired to carry out attacks in Great Britain to perpetuate their ongoing campaign of violence, and as a way to gain publicity for their wholly unjustifiable acts.

Republican and loyalist paramilitary organisations also regularly conduct brutal criminal assaults in an attempt to exert control over their communities. Between January and May of this year, there were 27 paramilitary-style attacks, 3 of which were fatal. It is unacceptable in Northern Ireland that there are still people who believe they are above the law. They are not and the PSNI is determined to pursue them and bring them to justice.

Our strategic response

Tackling terrorism, including Northern Ireland Related Terrorism, is the highest priority for this Government. This Government's first duty is to keep people safe and secure right across the United Kingdom. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that our security agencies, the police and others are equipped to deal with any threat we might face.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review made clear that we will maintain our investment in capabilities to keep the people of Northern Ireland safe. Over this Parliament, we will provide PSNI with £160 million of Additional Security Funding to tackle the threat in Northern Ireland. Cross-government spending on counter-terrorism as a whole will increase by 30% in real terms over this Parliament.

In the Republic of Ireland, An Garda Síochána (AGS) continue to play a significant role in countering the terrorist threat, having effected seizures of substantial amounts of explosives, ammunition and firearms. Joint working between PSNI, MI5 and the Garda remains crucial in the investigation and disruption of the violent dissident republican threat.

Tackling ongoing paramilitary activity

There was never any justification for paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland, and there is none today. This is a central theme of the Fresh Start Agreement of November 2015 between the UK Government, Northern Ireland's main political parties and the Irish government. It contains commitments to deal in a broadly based way with paramilitarism in Northern Ireland.

The Independent Panel Report on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland has shown there are individuals who use the real and perceived remnants of paramilitary structures to engage in serious criminality and violence, which can have a devastating effect on communities. In addition the assessment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland, which was commissioned by the UK Government last autumn, judged that individual members of paramilitary groups with a legacy of violent activity, are engaged in organised crime and still represent a threat to national security.

A joint agency task force has been set up to enhance existing efforts to tackle cross-jurisdictional organised crime and the Executive is developing an action plan to tackle paramilitary activity, in response to the recent recommendations made by the panel. By the end of 2016, we also intend to establish an Independent Reporting Commission which will report on progress to tackle ongoing paramilitary activity.

Conclusion

The SEVERE level of threat in Northern Ireland from violent dissident republicans will continue in the near future, and further potentially lethal attacks are highly likely. However, the PSNI, MI5 and An Garda Síochána will continue their outstanding work, exerting every effort to disrupt attacks and prosecute those responsible. I would like to thank them all for the work they do. Under this

Government there will be no let-up in our efforts to ensure that terrorism never succeeds.

Operation SHADER

[HLWS51]

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

In the Counter-Daesh Quarterly Update to Parliament on 24 May 2016, I said that following the meeting of Counter-Daesh Coalition Defence Ministers in Stuttgart on 4 May, we were considering what further support the UK might offer to reinforce the Global Coalition.

I can confirm today that we will be sending around 50 additional trainers to the Al Asad Airbase in Western Iraq to provide instruction on countering improvised explosive devices (c-IED), infantry skills and combat first aid. As well as the extra training personnel, the UK will also provide around 90 personnel to assist with guarding the airbase, and around 30 personnel to form a Head Quarter staff to help command the mission. In addition an engineering squadron will deploy for around six months to build necessary infrastructure to support the deployment.

This deployment will add to the significant contribution the UK is already making to the campaign, with over 1,100 personnel deployed to the region. Our strike aircraft have now conducted around 900 air strikes against Daesh targets in Iraq and Syria and our Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance aircraft provide niche and highly valued capabilities. On the ground, as part of the Coalition's Building Partner Capacity (BPC) programme our forces have helped to train more than 18,000 members of the Iraqi security forces (ISF), including Kurdish forces, in Besmaya, Erbil and Taji. With Coalition support, Iraqi forces are pushing Daesh back and reoccupying territory. Fallujah has now been liberated after suffering at the hands of Daesh since early 2014. As Iraqi forces continue to regain territory and begin preparatory operations to retake Mosul, it is important that the Coalition continues to provide the support needed to allow them to make further progress.

The extra trainers will be working closely with US and Danish forces, who lead the BPC programme at Al Asad, providing training to the Iraqi Army 7th Division, Border Guards and Federal Police from behind the wire in c-IED and basic infantry skills, and combat first aid. This will in turn help Iraqi Forces consolidate recent military gains in Anbar province and the building of forces for operations around Mosul.

On 24 May 2016 I also set out our intention to provide the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq with a supply of ammunition to equip the Peshmerga. I am today laying a Departmental Minute concerning the gifting of ammunition to the Kurdistan Regional Government. This will enable the Peshmerga to defend themselves, protect citizens and continue to hold the front line against Daesh.

The gifting package will consist of heavy machine gun ammunition for use with the weapons previously gifted by the UK, and sniper rifle ammunition. The total cost is approximately £1.4 million plus an estimated £4100 in transport costs. Given the requirement to provide support to on-going operations in northern Iraq, the Departmental Minute will lay for five sitting days from the date of this statement.

Telecommunications Council

[HLWS56]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: My Honourable Friend the Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy (Mr Ed Vaizey) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Telecommunications Council took place in Brussels on 26th May 2016. As is procedure, this Statement sets out a formal record of that meeting. The UK's Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, Shan Morgan, represented the UK.

The first item was for agreement for a General Approach on the Proposal for a Decision on the use of the 470-790MHz frequency band in the Union (First reading - EM 5814/16 + ADD 1 & 2). The UK supported this General Approach. There were no major interventions and the General Approach was agreed by Council.

This item was followed by a debate on the EU Electronic Communications Regulatory Framework. The debate was informed by three questions from the Presidency. The UK intervention was as per the Pre-Council Statement. Other Member State interventions included Finland, Sweden, Romania and Latvia who generally agreed with the UK position on the importance

of protecting national competence with respect to spectrum management, but that there should be better EU coordination. Some Member States including Sweden, Poland and Lithuania also highlighted the need for any new Electronic Communications Framework to assist the rollout of broadband, especially in rural areas, by promoting competition. On the issue of increasing the scope of the framework to include over the top services (OTTs), many member states, including Finland, Ireland and Lithuania were wary of widening the current scope to include OTTs. However, Germany and Spain wished to do so in order to create a 'level playing field' for all comparable services. The Commission offered the view that the primary objective of the new framework should be further driving broadband rollout, especially ultrafast broadband.

This was followed by four items under AOB. The first two items were progress reports from the Presidency on: a Proposal for a Directive of the European on the accessibility to public sector bodies' web-sites (First reading - EM16006/11); and measures to ensure a high common level of network and information security across the Union (NIS - First reading - EM6342/13). This was followed by information from the Commission on developments on Internet Governance. Finally, the Slovakian delegation informed the Council of their priorities for their forthcoming Presidency. There were no interventions on any of these items.

[The agenda item on the role of platforms in the digital economy was withdrawn by the Presidency shortly before Council took place.]

Council then adjourned until the next meeting; due to be held on Friday 2nd December 2016.

Written Answers

Thursday, 30 June 2016

Circle Housing

Asked by **Baroness King of Bow**

To ask Her Majesty's Government on which occasions (1) ministers, and (2) officials, have met members of (a) the Management Board, and (b) the Senior Management Team, of Circle Housing Group since May 2010. [HL693]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Ministers and officials of the Department for Communities and Local Government have regular meetings with senior figures in the housing sector; Circle Housing Group included, and have done so since May 2010 in order to collaborate effectively with the sector.

Asked by **Baroness King of Bow**

To ask Her Majesty's Government on which occasions the Chair of the Regulatory Committee of the Homes and Communities Agency and his staff have met members of (1) the Management Board, and (2) the Senior Management Team, of Circle Housing Group since May 2010. [HL694]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The social housing regulator is an independent regulator and as such it is not appropriate for DCLG to comment on their operational work. However, we understand that they have met with Circle Housing Group as part of their ongoing regulatory engagement with this provider.

Council of Europe

Asked by **Lord Lester of Herne Hill**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend the UK to continue to be a member of the Council of Europe and party to the European Convention on Human Rights. [HL791]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK continues to be an active member of the Council of Europe and party to the European Convention on Human Rights. I also refer the noble Lord to the answer given by the the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Esher and Walton (Mr Raab) in the House of Commons on 14 June 2016 (House of Commons Vol. 611, Column 1615), in which he said that while we cannot rule out forever withdrawal from the Convention, it is not the Government's policy to withdraw.

Free Movement of People

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British citizens are resident in each European Union member state; how many from each of those states are resident

in the UK; and in each case how many are of pensionable age. [HL567]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: There is no legal obligation on a British citizen living overseas to register with the British Embassy, but the UN estimated that in mid-2015 there were more than 1.2 million UK citizens living permanently elsewhere in the EU. These estimates do not include British citizens travelling or residing for part of the year in another Member State.

* Population of UK citizens permanently resident in the European Union; UN estimate, mid-2015

<i>Total (thousands)</i>	
<i>TOTAL UK IN EU</i>	<i>1,216.0</i>
Austria	11.0
Belgium	27.3
Bulgaria	5.3
Croatia	0.7
Cyprus	40.5
Czech Republic	4.8
Denmark	18.6
Estonia	0.5
Finland	6.9
France	185.3
Germany	103.4
Greece	17.7
Hungary	7.0
Ireland	254.8
Italy	65.0
Latvia	1.1
Lithuania	3.3
Luxembourg	6.6
Malta	12.0
Netherlands	49.5
Poland	34.5
Portugal	17.8
Romania	3.1
Slovakia	4.9
Slovenia	0.6
Spain	308.8
Sweden	25.0

Office for National Statistics data show that, between January and December 2014, there were approximately

2.9 million European Union member state nationals resident in the UK.

* Population resident in the United Kingdom, excluding some residents in communal establishments, by nationality; ONS statistics August 2015 (2014 data)

<i>Total (thousands)</i>	
<i>TOTAL EU IN UK</i>	<i>2,940</i>
Austria	18
Belgium	17
Bulgaria	59
Croatia	4
Cyprus	17
Czech Republic	37
Denmark	26
Estonia	14
Finland	14
France	160
Germany	131
Greece	54
Hungary	85
Italy	170
Latvia	108
Lithuania	155
Luxembourg	0
Malta	8
Netherlands	82
Poland	853
Portugal	175
Republic of Ireland	331
Romania	175
Slovakia	79
Slovenia	5
Spain	131
Sweden	32

There are many different ways of defining and calculating migration data so different sources will not necessarily be comparable.

No information is available on the numbers of UK and EU citizens in receipt of a UK State Pension broken down by nationality. This is because the UK State Pension is a contributory based pension, where nationality or citizenship do not form part of the eligibility criteria.

There is no data available on the number of European Union member state nationals resident in the UK who are of pensionable age.

Heart Diseases: Nurses

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the cardiac nursing workforce is comprised of heart failure specialist nurses. [[HL816](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Health and Social Care Information Centre provides information on the number of nursing staff employed in the National Health Service in England, but it does not separately identify the cardiac nursing workforce or heart failure specialist nurses.

It is for local NHS organisations with their knowledge of the healthcare needs of their local population to invest in training for specialist skills and to deploy specialist nurses.

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to develop a workforce register of heart failure specialist nurses in England. [[HL817](#)]

Lord Prior of Brampton: The Government does not plan to develop a workforce register of heart failure specialist nurses in England.

It is for local National Health Service organisations with their knowledge of the healthcare needs of their local population to invest in training for specialist skills and to deploy specialist nurses.

Housing Estates: Regeneration

Asked by Baroness King of Bow

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 December 2015 (HL4001), how much funding has been awarded to each of the successful applications to regenerate local authority housing estates. [[HL692](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Four schemes were shortlisted to receive loan funding. One scheme withdrew and became self financing. We are in contract with Genesis Housing Association providing £56 million recoverable loan for the redevelopment of the Grahame Park Estate. We expect to be in contract with Swan New Homes, in relation to the Blackwall Reach redevelopment in Tower Hamlets shortly. The due diligence process with Notting Hill Homes is underway with regard to the Aylesbury Estate redevelopment.

Infrastructure: Planning Permission

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which applications under section 100 of the Planning Act 2008

an Examining Authority has appointed a person to act as assessor. [HL637]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There has been only one application for development consent where an assessor has been appointed by under section 100 of the Planning Act 2008. This was for the Preesall Saltfield Underground Gas Storage project.

Iran: Foreign Relations

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current state of bilateral relations with Iran a year after the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in Vienna on 14 July 2015. [HL822]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was agreed in July 2015 which, along with the subsequent lifting of international sanctions, represents a new era in Iran's relationship with the wider world. Since my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) reopened our Embassy in August 2015, significant progress has been made in developing the bilateral relationship between the UK and Iran. We welcomed Foreign Minister Zarif to London on 4 February 2016, in what was the first bilateral visit of an Iranian Foreign Minister since 2003. We hope to be able to upgrade to the level of Ambassadors in the near future.

Parole

Asked by Lord Trefgarne

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the criteria approved by Ministers for use by the Parole Board when considering whether to authorise the release of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences. [HL768]

Lord Faulks: Ministers do not set criteria for use by the independent Parole Board when considering the release of indeterminate sentence prisoners. They must serve the minimum term, or tariff, set by the sentencing court after which they may be considered for release by the Parole Board. The Board is required to apply the statutory test for release contained in section 28 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997. The Board must assess the level of risk to the public – using reports and assessments from prison, probation and other professionals involved in the management of the offender – and will only direct release if they conclude that the prisoner could safely be managed on licence in the community.

Prisoners: Radicalism

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Rochester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prisoners have been identified as having been

radicalised whilst in custody in England and Wales since the beginning of 2014. [HL600]

Lord Faulks: Radicalisation is a process rather than an event and therefore it is not possible to identify with any certainty which prisoners have been radicalised specifically during their time in prison.

Extremism is one of the biggest threats facing this country. That is why the Justice Secretary commissioned a review of Islamist extremism in prisons.

As we have made clear, the report has been received and a summary document will be published in due course.

Refugees: Turkey

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of Médecins Sans Frontières' refusal to take any funds from the EU in protest against the EU's refugee policy, whether they will reconsider their support for the EU–Turkey refugee deal. [HL765]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is committed to the successful implementation of the EU/ Turkey migration deal. The numbers of migrants arriving on Greek islands has significantly reduced since this deal came into effect and it is making a genuine difference to managing the flows of migration; preventing people from dying in attempting the crossing or putting themselves in the hands of smugglers.

We continue to deploy expert staff to the Greek islands to act as interpreters and help with the processing of migrants. These teams help ensure that vulnerable people, including children, are identified and can access asylum procedures as quickly as possible.

South Sudan: Hospitals

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the Juba Teaching Hospital in South Sudan has adequate supplies of electricity; what assessment they have made of the effect of power cuts and power rationing on that hospital's ability to provide treatment; whether they have raised the issue of the lack of electricity at the Juba Teaching Hospital with the government of South Sudan; and what steps they will take to ensure that that government takes action. [HL747]

Baroness Verma: The Government of South Sudan has provided one year's supply of fuel to the Juba Teaching Hospital. The fuel was delivered and electricity was restored to the hospital at the end of May 2016. The Government has also recently signed a contract with a private company to undertake general renovation of the hospital.

The South Sudan Government's annual budget allocations for health and education are amongst the lowest in the region averaging 6% for education and 4%

for health, compared to an average of 17% and 15% respectively in other East African countries. The UK has consistently lobbied for increased budget allocations to these sectors. The UK is pressing the Government of South Sudan to increase funding for health in the 2016-17 annual budget which will be set in July, particularly for medicines, hospital infrastructure, recurrent running costs including fuel, and personnel for hospitals and clinics. This issue was most recently raised in a meeting with the Minister of Health, Riek Gai Kok on 21 June 2016.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to increase the amount of funding they give to develop hospital infrastructure in South Sudan. [HL748]

Baroness Verma: The UK is the lead for a multi-donor Health Pooled Fund in South Sudan which has provided over £18 million between 2013 and 2016 to support hospital infrastructure in eight county level hospitals, four state level hospitals and seven faith-based hospitals. A further £6million has been allocated for 2016 to 2018.

Turkey: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 6 June (HL320), what assessment they have made of the effects on Turkey's candidate status for accession to the

EU of the recent resolution of the German Parliament declaring the killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks in 1915 and 1916 an act of genocide. [HL758]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government recognises the horrific suffering inflicted on the Armenian people and other groups living in the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th Century. The Government's policy is that the recognition of genocide is a matter for judicial decision, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies. The Government believes that the priority today should be to promote reconciliation between the peoples and Governments of Turkey and Armenia.

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 6 June (HL320), which elements of Turkish democracy they consider "modern"; and whether they consider any aspects not "modern". [HL759]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Turkey is a democracy with multi-party elections whose government has been democratically elected. Progress has been made on reforms in some areas in recent years, but, as the European Commission has highlighted, there has also been significant backsliding. As a friend and ally we strongly encourage Turkey to continue work towards the full protection of all civil liberties – and will continue to do so.

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