

**Vol. 781**  
**No. 5**



**Monday**  
**20 February 2017**

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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

**Written Statements ..... 1**

**Written Answers.....3**

[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/>

Members who want a printed copy of Written Answers and Written Statements should notify the Printed Paper Office.

This printed edition is a reproduction of the original text of Answers and Statements, which can be found on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>.

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

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<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
<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 Bourne of Aberystwyth</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, Wales Office
<b>Lord Bridges of Headley</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Exiting the European Union
<b>Baroness Buscombe</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 Gardiner of Kimble</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Baroness Goldie</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Henley</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Lord Keen of Elie</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
<b>Baroness Mobarik</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Nash</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
<b>Baroness Neville-Rolfe</b>	Commercial Secretary to the Treasury
<b>Lord O'Shaughnessy</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health
<b>Lord Price</b>	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
<b>Lord Prior of Brampton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
<b>Baroness Shields</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
<b>Lord Taylor of Holbeach</b>	Chief Whip
<b>Baroness Vere of Norbiton</b>	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

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2017

This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament licence, which is published at [www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/](http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/)

# Written Statements

*Monday, 20 February 2017*

## Defined Benefit Occupational Pension Schemes

[HLWS482]

**Lord Henley:** My honourable Friend Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions Richard Harrington MP has made the following Written Statement.

Today the Government is publishing a Green Paper “Security and Sustainability in Defined Benefit Pension Schemes”. This paper also forms part of the Government response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee report into Defined Benefit Pension Schemes. I would like to thank the Committee for its report.

Defined Benefit schemes are an important pillar of the UK economy and our pensions system. In order to generate the funds needed to pay the pensions of retired workers, around £1.5 trillion is invested by nearly 6,000 schemes. The Government is committed to a system that works for employers, schemes and the 11 million people who are in a Defined Benefit scheme.

While the Government does not believe that there is any systemic issues within the sector, it is clear that experiences differ from scheme to scheme. The Government recognises that recent years have been particularly challenging for some employers providing Defined Benefit pensions and the trustees responsible for running these schemes.

The Green Paper looks at a range of issues that have been raised by various stakeholders, for example, whether the Pensions Regulator’s powers should be extended to improve member protection. It focuses on four key areas – funding and investment, scheme affordability, member protection and consolidation, so that we can start to build consensus on whether we may want to reform the current system.

The paper relates only to private sector Defined Benefit schemes and is not concerned with other types of pension provision, such as public service pension schemes or Defined Contribution schemes.

The Government wants to hear from all those with an interest in defined benefit schemes, in particular from scheme members themselves. The consultation will close on 14 May 2017.

## Foreign Affairs Council: 6 February 2017

[HLWS484]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Sir Alan Duncan), 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 6 February. The Foreign Affairs Council was chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. The meeting was held in Brussels.

### *Foreign Affairs Council*

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

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2017/02/06/>

Agenda items included Libya, Ukraine, Egypt and the Middle East Peace Process. Ms Mogherini briefed Foreign Ministers on the Serbia/Kosovo dialogue and on planning for a conference on Syria to be held in Brussels in the spring.

### *Libya*

The Council discussed the situation in Libya and adopted Conclusions. The EU remains committed to an inclusive political settlement under the framework of the Libyan Political Agreement, with Libyan ownership of the political process and encouragement to all Libyan actors to engage constructively. There can be no military solution to the conflict. The EU reaffirmed its continued support for the UN Support Mission in Libya and welcomed engagement by Libya’s neighbours and regional organisations. Ministers also discussed the need to stem irregular migration along the Central Mediterranean route.

### *Ukraine*

Foreign Ministers discussed the recent escalation in violence in eastern Ukraine and the resulting humanitarian situation around the town of Avdiivka. They also discussed how the EU could increase support for the full implementation of the Minsk Agreements. Ministers agreed on the need for continued strong support for Ukraine’s reform agenda, which is crucial to strengthen Ukraine’s resilience, and welcomed the progress Ukraine has made on reform to date.

### *Egypt*

Foreign Ministers discussed the economic and political challenges facing Egypt, including the human rights situation, and agreed on the need for closer cooperation on these issues. Ministers also agreed that working more closely with Egypt on regional issues is a priority, given Egypt’s status as a strategic partner in countering terrorism and tackling illegal migration.

### *MEPP*

Foreign Ministers discussed issues relating to the Middle East Peace Process. The Council discussed possible timing for the next EU-Israel Association Council and agreed to revert to the issue. Member States expressed concern about the increase in Israel’s settlement building and the new settlement legislation passed by the Israeli Knesset.

Ministers agreed without discussion a number of measures:

- The Council updated the information related to twenty-one persons and one entity subject to restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- The Council took note of the annual progress report on the implementation of the European Union strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).
- The Council took note of the annual report on the implementation of the European Union strategy to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition – Actions in 2015.
- The Council approved the conclusion of an agreement aimed at continuing the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC).

## **Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation**

[HLWS483]

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

I am pleased to announce that I am appointing Max Hill QC as the new Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation.

Mr Hill has been a QC for nine years and has extensive experience both defending and prosecuting complex cases involving terrorism, homicide, violent crime, high value fraud and corporate crime. He successfully prosecuted the 21/7 bombers, and he appeared in the inquest into the 7/7 bombings. He also sits as a Recorder at the Old Bailey.

Mr Hill will take up this role from 1 March 2017. He takes over from David Anderson QC, who has served as Independent Reviewer with great distinction since 2011, and to whom I am extremely grateful for the significant contribution he has made.

# Written Answers

*Monday, 20 February 2017*

## A1: Nottinghamshire

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 19 September 2016 (HL1574), whether they will now publish in the Official Report the findings of the inquiry which was set up as a consequence of the escalation in costs for the A1 road improvement at Elkesley by 83 per cent to £13.6 million. [HL5295]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The outcome of Highways England's review is set out below.

Highways England found that a number of unforeseen and additional areas of work were identified after award of the contract, which added to the programme, as well as the cost.

These include:

- Changes to the central pier design
- Removal and treatment of a previously unidentified old landfill site.
- The need to excavate old concrete and tarmac within the central reservation.
- The need for an additional drainage pond

Highways England has taken steps to minimize the risk of a repeat of the escalation in costs seen on this scheme.

## Absent Voting

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Lord Young of Cookham on 9 January (HLWS400) concerning the Government response to Securing the ballot, what is their definition of "postal vote harvesting" [HL5211]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The handling of completed postal ballot packs by campaigners is unacceptable. The Electoral Commission already strongly advises against the practice, and as part of the wider reform package outlined in our response to Sir Eric's review, the Government is considering how a ban on this activity could be implemented.

## Accident and Emergency Departments: Geriatrics

*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to expand the Better Care Fund to enable investment in geriatrician posts based in A&E Departments, to reduce admissions and the likelihood of readmission. [HL5311]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Better Care Fund (BCF), first announced in Spending Round 2013 and implemented from 2015-16, is the first national, mandatory integration policy. The total size of the Fund has increased from £5.3 billion in 2015-16 to approaching £6 billion in 2016-17. The mandated minimum is also rising each year up to 2019-20.

BCF plans are agreed in local areas to pay for services that support a more integrated approach to health and social care that will benefit their population. The policy framework for the BCF includes some minimum requirements for investment in out of hospital National Health Service services and maintaining funding from clinical commissioning groups to social care.

Beyond this, and as long as it is consistent with the aims of the plan, areas can agree to fund work in hospitals that supports the wider aims of the Fund to reduce emergency hospital admissions, delays in discharge and admissions to care homes. This could include investment in geriatrician posts based in accident and emergency departments if partners agree this locally.

## Air Pollution

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that air pollution levels are reduced in the UK, in the light of the alert declared in London recently as a result of toxic air peaks. [HL5154]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The United Kingdom complies with EU legislation for nearly all air pollutants, but faces challenges in achieving nitrogen dioxide limits, along with 16 other EU member states. That is why we have committed more than £2 billion since 2011 to reduce transport emissions and the autumn statement provided a further £290 million to support greener transport. Air quality is improving, but the Government recognises that we need to go further and faster and we will be consulting on a new national plan by 24 April. The final plan will be in place by the end of July.

As part of the national air quality plan already in place we are requiring five cities (Birmingham, Derby, Leeds, Nottingham and Southampton) to implement Clean Air Zones.

London faces the greatest challenge because of the size and complexity of the Capital's transport networks and construction activity from unprecedented growth. The Mayor is responsible for air quality in the capital and has reserve powers under Part IV of the 1995 Environment Act to enable this. Under the Act the Mayor may direct the boroughs in the Greater London area concerning how they should assess and prioritise action in their areas. From September 2020 an Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be introduced in London. The ULEZ will apply to all cars, motorcycles, vans, minibuses, buses, coaches and HGVs and will cover the same area as the current Congestion Charge Zone.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated cost to the NHS of medical problems caused by breaches of air pollution limits. [\[HL5155\]](#)

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Whilst there is already evidence of the impacts of air pollution on health, and ongoing work to quantify these impacts, the associated costs to the National Health Service and social care budget are less understood. Public Health England (PHE) has commissioned a consortium, led by the UK Health Forum, to carry out a project on the estimation of costs to the NHS and social care due to the health impacts of air pollution as part of PHE's Health Economics Commissioning Framework. The aim is to enable air pollution to be assessed against other public health threats and to support the strategic priority setting process.

**Asylum: Children***Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the strategy for safeguarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children announced on 1 November 2016 will include (1) the provision of independent guardians for all unaccompanied children in the UK, and (2) a commitment to continue to fund local authorities which support unaccompanied children at the same, or higher, rate as they currently receive. [\[HL5118\]](#)

**Lord Nash:** The safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children will be published by 1 May 2017. It will set out further detail on how these children should be safeguarded and have their welfare promoted. In developing the strategy, the Government has committed to review the information currently provided to asylum seeking and refugee children about their rights, their current circumstances, and the role of local authorities in caring for them. We have also said that we will regularly review the funding provided to support and care for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children, working closely with the Local Government Association and local authorities.

*Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the written ministerial statement by the Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, Mr Edward Timpson, on 1 November 2016 concerning a safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children (HCWS232), what that strategy will contain; and when it will be published. [\[HL5177\]](#)

**Lord Nash:** The safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children will be published by 1 May 2017.

The strategy will set out how we will continue to support local authorities and other agencies to care for these young people, through increasing placement

capacity, encouraging the use of supported lodgings, addressing additional training needs and revising statutory guidance on how to support and care for these children. In developing the strategy, we will also evaluate procedures for the safe transfer of children from Europe, identify further action to prevent these children going missing, review information provided to these children about their rights, and review the funding provided to local authorities to assist them in supporting and caring for these children. The strategy will cover not only unaccompanied children who will become looked after, but also children who are seeking to be reunited with family.

**Aviation: Regulation***Asked by **Lord Trefgarne***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their intention to repatriate to the Civil Aviation Authority the regulation of civil aviation following Brexit. [\[HL5225\]](#)

**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 for the aviation industry.

**Bahrain: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund***Asked by **Lord Scriven***

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund was used to support a visit by the Chief of Police of Bahrain to Belfast to learn about how the Police Service of Northern Ireland manages public order issues. [\[HL5265\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Bahraini Chief of Police, Major General Tariq Al Hassan, visited Northern Ireland in June 2014 to observe and discuss the range of reforms to policing undertaken in Northern Ireland. The visit was funded from the Conflict Pool.

A small delegation of Bahrain police officers subsequently visited Northern Ireland for a week in August 2015 to observe globally recognised best practice in human rights compliant public order policing. This visit was funded from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund.

The UK continues to support Bahraini-led reform through a package of technical assistance. We believe it is not good enough to criticise countries from the sidelines. Only by working with Bahrain can we bring about the changes we would like to see in the country. Any assistance delivered by or on behalf of the UK



Government complies with our domestic and international human rights obligations.

### **Balkans: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans are in place to maintain the current level of Conflict, Stability and Security Fund funding for the Balkans over the next three years; and which countries will be affected by any proposed changes to the funding. [I] [[HL5252](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) allocations are confirmed on an annual basis with provisional allocations for future years. From April 2017 and over the next three financial years the Western Balkans allocation is currently flat. However, the National Security Council reviews allocations each year, and may decide to increase or decrease funding to balance the range of Government priorities that the CSSF supports.

### **Baltic States: Russia**

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, following the deployment by Russia of nuclear-capable missiles in Kaliningrad. [[HL5345](#)]

**Earl Howe:** The Government has regular discussions at all levels with officials from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on defence and security developments. The Secretary of State for Defence routinely discusses NATO's approach to Russia at the NATO Defence Ministerial Meetings, including on 15 and 16 February 2017, where he discussed progress on NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence. This is part of the biggest reinforcement of NATO's collective defence in a generation, with deployments of robust, multinational, combat-ready forces to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

### **Boarding Schools: Disadvantaged**

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the progress of the scheme to provide vulnerable children with free places in state and independent boarding schools. [[HL5257](#)]

**Lord Nash:** As reported by the media, Buttle UK announced on Friday 3 February that they have had to cancel their research project, which was aiming to measure the educational and well-being outcomes of using boarding, due to lack of referrals from local authorities.

However, we continue to believe that boarding can have great benefits for the right children, and want to see more

vulnerable and disadvantaged children able to take advantage of the high quality provision that boarding schools provide.

We will continue to work with the sector to encourage more local authorities to consider boarding as an alternative where it is right for the child.

### **British Home Stores: Insolvency**

*Asked by Lord Myners*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the report of the Insolvency Service investigation into the failure of BHS. [[HL5215](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my noble Friend Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 15 June 2016 to Question UIN [HL486](#).

### **Burma: Human Rights**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of UN reports related to alleged human rights violations perpetrated by Myanmar security forces in northern Rakhine State. [I] [[HL5248](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned by UN reports of human rights violations committed by the military in Rakhine state. We have repeatedly urged for a restrained security response, an independent investigation into allegations of human rights abuses and the immediate resumption of humanitarian access.

During his recent visit to Burma, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), met State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as well as military-appointed government ministers, and expressed our deep concerns about the current situation in Rakhine. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma), also raised this situation in Rakhine with the Burmese Speaker of Parliament when he visited London on 24 January 2017.

Given our concerns with the human rights situation in Burma, we will advocate with our EU and International partners the renewal of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma at the Human Rights Council in February and March.

### **Burma: Rohingya**

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 30 January (HL4720), how many Rohingya people are (1) receiving no assistance as a result of restrictions on humanitarian assistance and access, and (2) receiving partial assistance; and, for those receiving partial assistance, what they are receiving and what they are not able to receive. [[HL5132](#)]

**Lord Bates:** Government authorities have not permitted humanitarian needs assessments for Rohingya people across all of the areas affected by security operations. We are, therefore, not in a position to provide an accurate answer to the question.

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of deaths, illness and malnutrition in camps for the Rohingya in Rakhine State, Burma, as a result of restrictions on access to humanitarian assistance. [HL5133]

**Lord Bates:** There have been no significant restrictions on providing humanitarian assistance to Rohingya in camps in Rakhine State. These are outside the area affected by security operations since October 2016. Malnutrition rates in camps remain poor by international standards, with 8.6% of people suffering acute malnutrition according to the most recent survey. This is comparable to other areas in Burma. Mortality data is not systematically collected by international agencies providing support to the camps.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights mission to Bangladesh concerning Rohingyas fleeing from Myanmar, published on 3 February. [HL5296]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned by UN reports of human rights violations committed by the military in Rakhine state. We understand that since 9 October at least 66,000 refugees have fled across the border into Bangladesh.

We have repeatedly urged for a restrained security response in Rakhine, an independent investigation into allegations of human rights abuses and the immediate resumption of humanitarian access. During his recent visit to Burma, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), met State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as well as military-appointed Government Ministers, and expressed our deep concern about the current situation in Rakhine and the situation of the refugees. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma), raised this situation in Rakhine with the Burmese Speaker of Parliament when he visited London on 24 January 2017. I also raised these issues with Burmese Ministers during my visit to Burma last November.

We are currently taking action with EU and International partners ahead of the Human Rights Council in March to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur under an Item 4 Resolution. Her role has been critical in documenting human rights violations by the security forces in Rakhine.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' report Interviews with Rohingyas fleeing from Myanmar since 9 October 2016, whether they will support the UN in setting up an inquiry into human rights violations against the Rohingya. [HL5334]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have called repeatedly for an independent investigation into allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine. The UN High Commissioner for Human rights has already issued a substantive report on the widespread and alarming level human rights violations carried out by the military Rakhine State since 9 October. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Burma also referred to them in her briefing following her visit in January. Her full report is due out in March ahead of the Human Rights Council, at which we will advocate for a full renewal of her mandate. In the light of the two reports we will also consider, with our EU and international partners, what scope there is for further enhancing scrutiny of the military's actions in Rakhine.

We support the Rakhine Advisory Commission led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, which is due to report in the summer. This has the support of the Burmese Government and the international community, and therefore represents the most realistic way forward.

In the meantime, we strongly urge the Burmese military to show restraint and to permit humanitarian access to the affected areas.

## Burma: Sexual Offences

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to allegations of rape and sexual violence committed against civilians in northern Rakhine state by Myanmar security forces; and what representations they have made to the government of Myanmar in this regard. [I] [HL5249]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned by reports of sexual violence in areas of conflict in Burma and allegations of human rights abuses in Rakhine state. We continue to raise our concerns with the Burmese Government.

As the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, I visited Burma in November 2016 and raised our concerns about conflict-related sexual violence during my meetings with Government Ministers. With the Burmese Defence Minister, I pressed the military for the resumption of humanitarian aid access in Rakhine and on handling allegations of sexual violence in a thorough and transparent manner.



*Asked by **Baroness Helic***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was provided in funding for Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative programmes implemented by the UK embassy in Myanmar over each of the last three years; and how much funding is projected to be provided until 2020. [I] [[HL5250](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Embassy in Rangoon funds a number of programmes in support of the Preventing Sexual Violence initiative. A total of £439,954 has been spent since 2014, including £204,012 in 2014-2015, £165,857 in 2015-2016 and £70,091 in 2016-2017.

Expenditure on this initiative for 2017-2018 is expected to be £325,000. In addition, a large part of the £102 million Department for International Development programme in Burma supports the women, peace and security agenda.

### **Carbon Emissions**

*Asked by **Lord Blencathra***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are (1) the amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> produced, and (2) the targets adopted to reduce carbon emissions, by (a) the UK, (b) India, (c) China, and (d) the USA. [[HL5238](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The UK's emissions in 2015 were 496 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is 38% lower than 1990 and 4% below those in 2014. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) accounted for 81% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2015 (404MtCO<sub>2</sub>) (BEIS Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics).

Countries submit Biennial Update Reports to the UNFCCC on their emissions. According to their most recent reports, emissions were as follows:

- India - in 2010 India's net greenhouse gas emissions were 1900 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, of which CO<sub>2</sub> emissions accounted for 1600 MtCO<sub>2</sub>.
- China - in 2012 China's net greenhouse gas emissions were 11300 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, of which CO<sub>2</sub> emissions accounted for 9800 MtCO<sub>2</sub>.
- The USA - in 2013 the USA's net greenhouse gas emissions were 5800 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, of which CO<sub>2</sub> emissions accounted for 5500 MtCO<sub>2</sub>.

Under the Climate Change Act, the UK has a legally binding 2050 target to reduce emissions by at least 80% on 1990 levels. The Fifth Carbon Budget (covering 2028-32) was passed into law on 21 July 2016. This budget is set in line with the recommendation of our independent advisers, the Committee on Climate Change, at 1,725 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, equivalent to a 57% reduction on 1990 levels.

As set out in the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement the targets for India, China and the USA are as follows:

- India has committed to reducing the carbon intensity of GDP by 33-35% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

- China has committed to reducing the carbon intensity of GDP by 60-65% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.

- The USA has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% by 2025, compared to 2005 levels. The US Mid Century Strategy for Deep Decarbonisation envisages emissions reductions of 80% by 2050, compared to 2005 levels.

### **Carillion**

*Asked by **Baroness Corston***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the performance by Carillion of their contract to provide personal items to serving prisoners. [[HL5351](#)]

*Asked by **Baroness Corston***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that Carillion complies with its contract to provide personal items to serving prisoners. [[HL5352](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Carillion plc, along with Amey plc, provide Facilities Management (FM) services for the public sector prison estate in England and Wales. Contractors have a responsibility to provide a linen and laundry sorting service to the prison; although most of the items passing through this service are actually the property of the prison. In most prisons, the sorting of these items is delivered by prisoners under the management of Stores personnel who are provided by the FM contracts. Although at the outset of the contract there were some issues with resources, performance in this area has generally been good.

FM contracts commenced in June 2015 and the Ministry of Justice continues to robustly monitor the performance of contractors.

### **Cattle: Hormone Treatments**

*Asked by **Lord Jopling***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the scientific study commissioned by the European Commission in the 1980s on the possible threat to the public from the implantation of growth-promoting hormones in cattle, which was not published at the time when the EU ban on the practice was imposed, has ever been made publicly available. [[HL5294](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The report does not appear to have been made publicly available.

The European Commission published a study in 2002 by the EU Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to public health in 2002. This Opinion, and other recent scientific literature was considered by the UK independent Veterinary Products Committee, which consulted on the report and published it in 2006.

## Chronic Illnesses

*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that patients with long-term conditions are given the opportunity to develop personalised care plans with the healthcare professionals delivering their care. [HL5313]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Personalised care planning is an important tool in empowering patients with long term conditions (LTCs) to take control of, and make decisions about, their care. Care planning continues to be promoted by NHS England through the Coalition for Collaborative care; an alliance of people and organisations committed to making person-centred, collaborative care the norm. In partnership with the Coalition, NHS England produced tools and guidance to support clinicians and commissioners to embed care planning locally, including around population risk-stratification to help identify those patients who could benefit most from a personalised care planning approach.

Personalised care plans are also an important feature of the clinical guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, which set out best practice in the management of LTCs. They also form the basis of a Personal Health Budget (PHB), and NHS England is working to ensure that between 50,000 and 100,000 people will benefit from a PHB by March 2021. Care plans are also an important element of NHS England's self-care programme, and in July 2016 NHS England agreed a deal to grant 1.8 million people with LTCs across 27 areas access to the Patient Activation Measure (PAM). The PAM is a validated tool which captures the extent to which people feel engaged and confident in taking care of their health, helping professionals to tailor support to meet their needs using approaches such as care planning.

## Communities and Local Government: Reviews

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (HL4332) on 16 January, what is the status of a review announced in Parliament by a Minister of the Department for Communities and Local Government. [HL4776]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** As I said in my answer to question HL4332, the department has no formal definition of a review. When a Minister of the Department for Communities and Local Government announces "a review" in Parliament, this generally refers to a commitment to consider whether a particular policy or programme will meet a stated intention or whether action should be taken accordingly. When a review is announced in this way, progress is reported to Parliament by way of

ministerial statements, replies to parliamentary questions, or in debate contributions by Ministers.

For example, progress of the review into breaches of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity was reported to the House in HLWS308 on 2 December 2016, and the outcome of the Homes and Communities Agency Tailored Review was reported to the House in HLWS293 on 30 November 2016.

On other occasions, the department conducts internal reviews into policy and then informs Parliament of the actions we will take. For example, on 21 November 2016, in HLWS274, I informed the House that following a review into the Government's policy requiring local authorities to set higher rents for higher income council tenants, we decided not to proceed with a mandatory approach.

## Community Rehabilitation Companies

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the value of each contract made with community rehabilitation companies in the last 12 months. [HL5128]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** There have been no contracts made with Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) by the Ministry of Justice in the last 12 months. The contracts with CRCs were awarded in December 2014 and went live in February 2015.

*Asked by Lord German*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what services community rehabilitation companies are required to deliver as part of their contract with Government. [HL5129]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Contractual requirements are available online via the Contracts Finder section on Gov.uk. All offenders, including those sentenced to less than 12 months, now get targeted support when they leave prison to help them reintegrate into society.

We are carrying out a comprehensive review of the probation service to improve outcomes for offenders and communities.

Public protection is our top priority and we will not hesitate to take the necessary action to make sure our vital reforms are being delivered to reduce reoffending, cut crime and prevent future victims. We will set out more detailed plans after our review is completed in April.

## Companies

*Asked by Lord Wills*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many enforcement actions have been taken against Trust and Company Service Providers by HM Revenue and Customs since 1 January 2014 under the following categories: (1) criminal prosecutions, (2) fit and proper rejection, (3) suspension, (4) fines imposed, (5)

reprimands, (6) undertakings, (7) conditions placed, (8) warnings given, and (9) action plans required. [HL5284]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) supervises businesses across seven sectors under the Money Laundering Regulations, including those Trust or Company Service Providers not already supervised by other bodies.

HMRC does not publish enforcement information broken down by sector as this could prejudice the prevention and detection of crime. HM Treasury publishes aggregate details of HMRC's enforcement actions in its annual "Anti-money laundering and counter terrorist finance supervision report".

### Conflict, Stability and Security Fund

*Asked by Baroness Sheehan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will set up a dedicated webpage for the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. [HL5317]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) is working to ensure that relevant summarised programme documentation is published for the Financial Year 2017/2018 onwards. All documents will be published on the .Gov.UK website in a section clearly identified as for the CSSF.

### Congenital Abnormalities

*Asked by Lord Shinkwin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fatal foetal abnormalities were diagnosed in each of the last five years. [HL5270]

*Asked by Lord Shinkwin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fatal foetal abnormalities were diagnosed after 24 weeks of a pregnancy in each of the last five years. [HL5271]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Consumers: Protection

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 1 February (HL4906), whether the Consumer Green Paper will address the level of staffing in local authorities which is deemed sufficient to enforce consumer protection. [HL5241]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Dangerous goods, poor quality services and criminal scams damage consumer confidence and legitimate businesses – a strong protection system benefits everyone.

There has been significant progress to improve coordination of consumer protection since 2011 but more needs to be done, particularly in light of the reductions in

resource at local authorities. We are examining the consumer protection regime and will consider proposals for the Consumer Green Paper in Spring 2017.

### Council Tax: Non-payment

*Asked by Baroness Afshar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have been subject to suspended committals for non-payment of council tax over the last three years; and what was the breakdown by (1) gender, and (2) age groups. [HL5203]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The table below shows the number of cases subject to suspended committals for non-payment of Council Tax over the last three years by gender. There are a few cases where the gender is not known. Data relating to age is not held centrally.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Not Known</i>	<i>Total</i>
2014	549	482	148	1,179
2015	547	402	166	1,115
2016 (January - September)	313	232	137	682

It is possible that one defendant may have more than one case.

Although suspended committals are reported as occurring within a particular year, the non-payment of Council Tax itself may be from a previous year or even a period covering more than one year.

This data is sourced from the HMCTS Libra Management Information System (MIS), and does not form part of the statistics for England and Wales published by the Ministry of Justice, which can be found at: [www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk). As such this data set is not subject to the same levels of quality assurance.

### Defence Equipment: Procurement

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the latest Ministry of Defence annual equipment plan has left the £5.8 billion contingency funding untouched. [HL5106]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence Equipment Plan 2016-26 includes contingency funding of £5.25 billion. This is in addition to specific risk provision within individual project budgets of approximately £11 billion.

Due to project costings regularly being updated the total amount of contingency is variable.

I am withholding information relating to the use of contingency funds as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

We judge the contingency sufficient to deal with cost growth within the equipment plan and broader risks that may emerge.

## Defence Medical Services: Reserve Forces

*Asked by Lord Touhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are encouraging the retention and motivation of Armed Forces reserve medical professionals. [HL5223]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) recognises the pivotal contribution that Reserve medical professionals make to the Defence Medical Services (DMS) and we are doing a number of things to ensure their recruitment, retention and motivation.

It is estimated that over 50 per cent of DMS Reserves specialists are recruited by their peers. A financial incentive is now available to encourage every DMS Reservist to be a recruiter and for them to support their peers through to the completion of Phase 1 training. A 'Golden Hello' payment is also being proposed for Reserve Medical Officers, Dental Officers and nurses/Allied Healthcare Professionals, the value and eligibility criteria of which is currently being considered by the single Services.

Concerning retention, the MOD is determined to ensure that Reserve medical professionals feel valued and have the opportunity to take full advantage of the offer to them. Engagement with employers is critical to retention and our dialogue with several organisations has led to standardised HR policies across the country on the employment and use of Reserves. This is reflected in the fact that 36 NHS Trusts have received the MOD's Employers Recognition Award.

The MOD is able to monitor the morale and motivation of medical Reserves through the annual DMS Continuous Attitude Survey. This enables action plans and initiatives to be explored through the single Services and heads of cadre.

## Defence: Expenditure

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to propose to NATO that NATO members which do not spend two per cent of their GDP on defence should not receive help or protection under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, the principle of collective defence. [HL5234]

**Earl Howe:** The UK plays a leading role in the NATO Alliance, which is one of the cornerstones of UK defence. NATO's strength lies in the clear message Article 5 sends that an attack against one Ally shall be considered an attack against all. The UK and all NATO Allies are committed to upholding Article 5 and any suggestion that we would not help protect our Allies weakens the Alliance.

All Allies agreed to meet the Defence Investment Pledge at the Wales Summit in 2014, and since then defence investment across the Alliance has increased in real terms. The UK regularly encourages all Allies to meet the commitment made to spend 2 per cent of GDP

on defence by 2024, because defence investment is how the Alliance will continue to have the military capabilities needed to tackle the full range of threats that it faces.

## Developing Countries: Abortion

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of the US following President Trump's reinstatement of the global gag rule; and what assessment they have made of the effect of this on the work of the Department for International Development and British development aid organisations working with women seeking assistance with, or advice on, abortion. [HL5086]

**Lord Bates:** The full implications of the reinstated and expanded Mexico City policy are not yet clear but we are closely following developments. DFID will consider the implications with our offices, with UK civil society and with donors.

## Developing Countries: Health Services

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will increase funding for abortion, contraception, and reproductive health information and services, in the light of the re-establishment of the global gag rule by President Trump. [HL5142]

**Lord Bates:** The full implications of the reinstated and expanded Mexico City policy are not yet clear but we are closely following developments. DFID will consider the implications with our offices, with UK civil society and with donors.

## Developing Countries: Older People

*Asked by Baroness Sheehan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the Department for International Development considered the contribution that older women and men make to the economies of developing countries in the preparation of its first Economic Development Strategy, published on 31 January. [HL5332]

**Lord Bates:** The Economic Development Strategy has drawn on country-specific analysis of the constraints to inclusive growth. The Strategy highlights a strong commitment to economic growth that brings benefits across society. It recognises the economic contribution of all groups in society as well as the costs of discrimination and exclusion.

*Asked by Baroness Sheehan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the Department for International Development is considering the levels of poverty faced by older women and men in developing countries as part of its



implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals commitment to leave no one behind. [HL5333]

**Lord Bates:** DFID's country offices analyse levels of poverty, including as experienced by older people, but better data on ageing is vital. DFID's Data Disaggregation Action Plan will strengthen data on ageing. DFID is working with the UK's Office for National Statistics to convene a UN City Group on Ageing and Age to improve national and international data on ageing by strengthening the capacity of National Statistical Offices in partner countries and developing and promoting minimum standards on age data in programmes.

### Diplomatic Relations

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the apology issued by the Israeli embassy over its interference in British politics, what measures they have put in place to ensure that no foreign government's embassy can behave in this way again. [HL5278]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are unable to comment on hypothetical situations, we will manage incidents when they occur and respond accordingly. The Israeli Ambassador has apologised, and is clear that the recent comments made by a former member of staff at the Israeli Embassy do not reflect the views of either the Embassy or Government of Israel. The UK Government considers the matter closed.

### Divorce

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to review the fault-based divorce system. [HL5103]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The government is committed to improving the family justice system so separating couples can achieve the best possible outcomes for themselves and their families. Whilst we have no current plans to change the existing law on divorce, we are considering what further reforms to the family justice system may be needed.

### Dog Fighting: Prosecutions

*Asked by Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions took place in relation to dog fighting in England and Wales in (1) 2014, (2) 2015, and (3) 2016. [HL5302]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** 10 defendants were proceeded against for dog fighting offences in England and Wales in 2014, and 21 defendants were proceeded against in 2015. Data for 2016 is planned for publication in May 2017.

This information was obtained from a manual review of court case files that centrally held data indicated may be relevant, and as such has not been through the same quality assurance processes as for routinely published data.

These figures relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

### Domestic Violence: Prosecutions

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of cases in which the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS's) decisions not to initiate prosecutions in cases of domestic violence have been successfully challenged, whether they will commission an inquiry into the policy and practice of the CPS in relation to that issue. [HL5071]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Victims of domestic abuse can challenge a CPS decision not to prosecute their case, under the Victims' Right to Review (VRR) scheme. In 2015-16, the CPS made 41,503 decisions in domestic abuse cases. 520 of these cases were appealed through the VRR scheme; 49 of which were upheld. Of the total number of domestic abuse decisions, the upheld rate was 0.12%. Of the number of domestic abuse VRR appeals, the upheld rate was 9.4%. An inquiry is not required because these volumes and proportions are small and the CPS is, in the majority of domestic abuse cases, accurate in its decision making.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Telephone Services

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 26 January (HL4622) concerning the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, what survey of incoming telephone calls was undertaken to determine that the average waiting time for calls to be answered is 32 seconds; who undertook the survey; over what period of time it was undertaken; and how many complaints the Agency has received in the average year since 2010 concerning (1) calls not answered, and (2) lengthy waits for calls to be answered. [HL5148]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Average waiting times for telephone calls to be answered by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) contact centre are determined by its automated call monitoring system. The 32 seconds waiting time was the average between April 2016 and January 2017.



Since 2010, the DVLA's contact centre advisers handle on average 10.6 million calls each year. Over this period, the DVLA has received 72 complaints in the average year about busy lines. A further breakdown to determine specifically those complaints about telephone calls that have not been answered or have been subject to lengthy waiting times is not available.

### East Coast Railway Line

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to make funding available to enable substantial upgrades of rail infrastructure on the East Coast Main Line during Control Period 6. [HL5219]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The East Coast Route Study is currently in development and will be published in Summer 2017, led by Network Rail's Network Strategy and Planning team. This document will take a long term view to 2043 and consider what is needed to support this in Control Period 6. The Government will be setting out its priorities for investment in rail services and infrastructure in the next Control Period (2019-2024) later this year. This will be informed by advice from the rail industry and other key stakeholders including Transport for the North.

### Egypt: Crimes of Violence

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Egypt about the recent murders of, and violence against, Egyptian Copts; and what discussions they have had with that government regarding effective measures to prevent sectarian and politically motivated attacks. [HL5304]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Combating sectarian violence in Egypt is a shared strategic objective for the Egyptian and UK Governments. Following the attack against El-Botrosiya Church on 11 December 2016, the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) wrote to the President of Egypt to express her deep condolences and reiterate the UK's support for Egypt in its fight against terrorism. The UK Government continues to work closely with the Egyptian authorities on security and counter-terrorism, including through training Egyptian officers in countering improvised explosive devices and close protection.

The UK Government has been clear that freedom of religious belief needs to be protected and that the ability to worship in peace is a vital component of a democratic society. We are concerned about recent reports of sectarian violence in Egypt, and welcome President Sisi's consistent calls for peaceful coexistence and the government of Egypt's expression of support for the rights of Christians and for religious tolerance.

### Electric Vehicles

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many electric charging points for vehicles are available in service stations on UK motorways; and whether data is available on the numbers of each type of charging point. [HL5217]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is aware of over 200 chargepoints available at service stations on UK Motorways. A list of the available chargepoints at Motorway Service Areas can be found on the Government's National Charge Point Registry (<http://www.national-charge-point-registry.uk/>), which provides data on the numbers of each type of charge points where this information is made available by the chargepoint provider. As the market for plug in electric vehicles develops we have identified a need to potentially do more in this area.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Secretary of State for Transport on 24 October 2016, whether they plan to limit charges for the use of electric charging points; and if so, how they intend to do so. [HL5218]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Our view is that pricing is ultimately a commercial decision for network operators or host sites. However, we do not want prohibitive pricing to be a barrier to the take up of electric vehicles, and we will continue to monitor developments closely.

The Government has announced its intention to make new regulations to require clear and consistent pricing information at electric vehicle chargepoints, which could make public charging easier for electric vehicle drivers, and encourage a more competitive and consumer-friendly market. We have identified existing powers which should allow much quicker action to be taken. We will bring forward new regulation in 2017, consulting further as necessary to improve consistency of pricing information.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have had discussions with vehicle manufacturers to work towards the standardisation of styles and shapes of electric charging systems in vehicles so that they are more compatible with a wider range of charging points. [HL5220]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Industry has been moving towards standardised connections between electric vehicles and chargepoints. In the UK we have already sought to address this by ensuring that all Government funded rapid chargepoints must be multi-standard, and work with all available types of plug-in vehicle. All Government-funded slower chargepoints must also have a Type 2 inlet on them – no other sockets are permitted. This position is supported by vehicle

manufacturers, all of whom agree that Type 2 is the most appropriate standard for public charging in the UK.

The recent EU Directive (2014/94/EU) on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, currently being transposed into UK law, will also facilitate the standardised provision of connectors for chargepoints across Europe.

### **Electronic Cigarettes**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the UCL report *Nicotine, Carcinogen, and Toxin Exposure in Long-Term E-Cigarette and Nicotine Replacement Therapy Users: A Cross-sectional Study* which found that people who switch to vaping have 97.5 per cent lower levels of NNA in their system, whether they will encourage people to switch from smoking cigarettes to vaping. [[HL5326](#)]

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding in the UCL report *Nicotine, Carcinogen, and Toxin Exposure in Long-Term E-Cigarette and Nicotine Replacement Therapy Users: A Cross-sectional Study* that vaping is much safer than smoking cigarettes and can help people switch from cigarette smoking. [[HL5327](#)]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Government has been and continues to be clear that vaping is substantially less harmful than continuing to smoke, and that the best thing a smoker can do for their health is to stop smoking completely. This study supports the Government's policy approach, demonstrating that to reduce exposure to harmful chemicals significantly, those smokers who chose to vape should substitute smoking with vaping entirely.

### **Eritrea: Human Rights**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they and neighbouring states are making in stemming the exodus of people from Eritrea; and what plans they have to secure the release of the reported large numbers of persons imprisoned for religious reasons. [[HL5080](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** There has been a reduction in the number of Eritrean nationals seeking asylum in the UK. Between January-September 2016, the number was 796, a 68% decline in applications compared with the same period in 2015 when the figure was 2807. There has also been a fall of about 50% in the number of Eritreans arriving in Italy.

Tackling illegal migration to the EU from the Horn of Africa is a priority. The UK is engaging on this bilaterally, and in collaboration with international partners within the frameworks of the Khartoum Process and the EU Trust Fund. In addition, the UK is working to address the underlying causes of migration from Eritrea, including

by supporting projects to promote professional development and employment opportunities to young Eritreans, and a programme to enhance judicial capacity and promote the rule of law.

Within Eritrea, only four traditional religious organisations (Orthodox Christian, Sunni Muslim, Catholic, and the Lutheran Evangelical Church of Eritrea) have official approval to operate. We are aware of reports that a number of individuals from non-sanctioned religions remain in detention, including 54 Jehovah's Witnesses, although reliable information is very difficult to obtain. Details of their detention have not been publicly released by the Eritrean government. Our Ambassador and EU counterparts have called for the release of all prisoners detained for religious beliefs or, as a minimum, that they are brought before a court for public hearing and fair trial, allowing them to defend themselves against any charge. We continue to press the government of Eritrea for specific details of their detention and health status.

### **Estate Agents**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will institute a review of the practice of estate agents requiring pre-contract deposits in the process of purchasing homes. [[HL5233](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government has no plans to review the practices of estate agents. The conduct of estate agents is governed by legislation – Estate Agents Act 1979 – which sets out the duties estate agents owe to clients and third parties. Under the Act all estate agents in the UK engaged in residential estate agency work are required to join an approved redress scheme so that consumers can seek free and independent redress from an approved body.

Estate agents who are members of The Property Ombudsmen (TPO) are required to comply with the TPO's Code. The Code sets out requirements in relation to pre-contract deposits. Breach of the Code could result in removal from the redress scheme – this will effectively prevent them from operating as an estate agent.

Estate Agents are also required to comply with other consumer legislation to prevent or prohibit unfair practices in their dealings with consumers.

### **EU Institutions**

*Asked by Lord Balfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff are employed in EU agencies located in the UK which will be required to relocate from the UK; and of this total, how many of them are British staff and how many come from other EU countries. [[HL5285](#)]

*Asked by Lord Balfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which EU agencies located in the UK will be affected by Britain's withdrawal from the EU. [[HL5286](#)]

*Asked by Lord Balfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government at what point they envisage that EU agencies located in the UK will be required to relocate; and whether this will be effected within the two years set for the Brexit negotiations. [HL5287]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** No decisions have been taken about the location of the UK based EU Agencies: the European Medicines Agency and the European Banking Authority.

As part of the exit negotiations the Government will discuss with the EU and Member States how best to continue cooperation in the field of medicines and banking regulation in the best interests of both the UK and the EU. It would not be appropriate to prejudge the outcome of the negotiations.

## EU Law

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish a White Paper on the Great Repeal Bill. [HL5308]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government will bring forward a White Paper on the Great Repeal Bill in advance of introduction of the Great Repeal Bill in the next session. It will set out our approach to giving effect to withdrawal on the domestic statute book.

## EURATOM

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the effect of the Government's decision to leave Euratom on the cost, safety and regulatory processes associated with existing and planned nuclear power stations. [HL5096]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Maintaining the UK's ability to trade in nuclear materials and equipment will be a key objective in negotiations to allow the uninterrupted progress of the UK's nuclear programme, which includes existing and planned nuclear power stations. Those negotiations have not yet started, but officials and Ministers are in regular contact with industry stakeholders and will continue to work closely with them as the negotiations progress.

The Government remains committed to the highest standards of nuclear safety, safeguards and support for the industry, and the Office for Nuclear Regulation will continue to be the independent regulator for the civil nuclear sector.

## European Court of Justice

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government at what stage of the process of leaving the EU they expect the European

Court of Justice to cease to have any jurisdiction in the UK. [HL5274]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Prime Minister has been clear that we will take back control of our laws and bring an end to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in the United Kingdom.

Leaving the European Union will mean that our laws will be made in Westminster, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.

And those laws will be interpreted by judges not in Luxembourg but in courts across this country.

The Government wants to have reached a broad agreement about our future partnership, including the nature of dispute resolution mechanisms, by the time the two-year Article 50 process has concluded.

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to seek to protect the rights of audience in the European Court of Justice for members of the UK legal professions following the UK's exit from the EU. [HL5357]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government will seek a new and ambitious Free Trade Agreement to ensure the UK has the greatest possible tariff- and barrier-free trade with the EU, including trade in legal services. The arrangements that will apply following the UK's exit are subject to the wider negotiations on our future relationship with the EU.

## European Medicines Agency

*Asked by Lord Balfe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of paragraph 8.42 of the White Paper The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union, whether they intend to negotiate with the EU Commission for the European Medicines Agency to remain located in the UK. [HL5204]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** No decisions have been taken about the location of the European Medicines Agency. The Government will discuss with the EU and Member States how best to continue cooperation in the field of medicines regulation in the interests of both the UK and the EU. It would not be appropriate to pre-judge the outcome of the negotiations.

## Exports

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they are spending per annum on the promotion of UK exports from 2016–17 until the end of this Parliament in 2020–21. [HL5058]

**Lord Price:** The Department for International Trade is made up of UK Export Finance (UKEF), International

Trade and Investment (ITI), Trade Policy Group (TPG) and the GREAT campaign.

UKEF is the UK's Export Credits Guarantee Department and TPG is the trade policy and negotiating capacity. ITI focusses on increasing the value and volume of trade overseas, increasing Foreign Direct Investment into the UK, encouraging UK exporters to export and the promotion of British good and services overseas.

The budget for ITI for 16/17 is £244,294,883. The budget for subsequent years will be published in due course.

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Department for International Trade has any plans to change the ways in which they provide assistance to UK companies to encourage exports. [HL5059]

**Lord Price:** The Department keeps its assistance for exporters continually under review. In November 2015 the Government launched its Exporting is GREAT campaign. Our new digital platform launched last November will provide new and experienced exporters with a range of information and services through great.gov.uk and the department will continue to grow its digital support for businesses. Expanding our services for exporters on great.gov.uk allows DIT to offer more relevant advice helping more businesses expand into new markets. DIT is also looking at how it can change its regional delivery to reach more exporters and deliver more through digital channels.

### Family Proceedings

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to put in place a legislative procedure to enable individuals who are not parties in family law cases to have access to information that mentions them by name. [HL5104]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Individuals who are not parties in family law cases may apply to the court for disclosure of information that mentions them by name. Disclosure of such information is at the court's discretion.

### Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of foetal alcohol spectrum disorders on the early years development of children, their behaviours and their life chances. [HL5050]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** It is recognised that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) can have a significant impact on the early years development of children, their behaviours and their life chances. The Department has been exploring the feasibility of commissioning new research in the area of FASD.

However, identifying methodologically feasible and robust new research in this area is challenging, expensive and faces ethical challenges.

The World Health Organization is starting a global prevalence study on FASD, recognising that this information is lacking in many countries. There are a number of challenges on the feasibility of estimating prevalence, which should be addressed in this study. We welcome this study and will consider the lessons for further work in the United Kingdom.

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have developed for the treatment and support of children and young people affected by foetal alcohol spectrum disorders. [HL5051]

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the measures adopted in Scotland which provide guidance and support for children and young adults affected by foetal alcohol spectrum disorders. [HL5052]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Early intervention services can help reduce some of the effects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and prevent some of the secondary disabilities that result. Responsibility for commissioning these services lies with clinical commissioning groups.

The Department will consider the impact of the measures adopted in Scotland to support children and young adults affected by FASD and whether there are any lessons for England.

The United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers' low risk drinking guidelines provide the public with the latest information about the health risks of different levels and patterns of drinking. The guidelines enable people to make informed choices about their drinking.

### Food: Taxation

*Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to include, within the recently announced review of VAT, a consideration of the levels of customs and excise duties applied to those drinks and foods which research suggests are most responsible for avoidable deaths and chronic illnesses; and whether they have any plans to introduce a hypothecated tax for the NHS. [HL5111]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The terms of reference for the Office of Tax Simplification's current VAT General Simplification Review are on gov.uk.

While the Government keeps all taxes under review, a fixed proportion of each class of NICs receipts (from employees, the self-employed and employers) is allocated directly to the NHS; this adds up to about 20% of NICs receipts. The rest of NHS funding comes from general taxation.



## France: Foreign Relations

*Asked by Lord Stevens of Ludgate*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 24 January (HL4702), what contacts the British Embassy in Paris has had with presidential candidates; and for what reasons. [HL5178]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Embassy in Paris has regular contact with a wide range of French politicians, including many of the Presidential candidates, in order to promote British interests.

## Gambia: Commonwealth

*Asked by Lord Luce*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will support the application of The Gambia to rejoin the Commonwealth. [HL5171]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK welcomes President Barrow's declaration of his intention to rejoin the Commonwealth. The UK encourages President Barrow to begin the process as soon as possible and looks forward to working with his administration.

## Gaza

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development on 1 September 2015, what international planning, if any, is underway to prevent the Gaza Strip becoming uninhabitable by 2020. [HL5213]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK remains deeply concerned by the situation in Gaza and the report's warning that Gaza could become uninhabitable by 2020. UK aid has supported economic development, provision of basic services, and enabled reconstruction through support to the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism. However, as the report makes clear, aid alone cannot solve the problems in Gaza. We welcome Israel's decision in 2015 to increase the water supply to Gaza, as well as other commitments which permit the construction of essential energy infrastructure. Improvements in energy and water provision are essential to improve the daily lives of the people living in Gaza. The UK Government frequently stresses to both parties the importance that these commitments are implemented quickly, and continues to press for a sustainable political solution for Gaza which will address Israel's legitimate security concerns whilst opening up movement and access.

The UK remains committed to supporting vulnerable Gazans. Our support includes humanitarian work such as funding for basic service delivery and development programming such as working with the private sector. The Programme Examination being conducted by the UK Government will confirm the best mix of programmes

going forwards, while ensuring maximum impact and value for money for the UK taxpayer.

## Gaza: Egypt

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts they are making to ensure the re-opening the Rafah Crossing in Gaza, at least for medical cases; and what means of international verification of its re-opening are available. [HL5212]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We continue to call on the government of Egypt to show maximum flexibility in opening the Rafah Crossing into Gaza to help facilitate travel in and out of Gaza. We are concerned about the closure of the Rafah crossing and its impact, particularly on urgent medical and other priority cases in Gaza. The crossing has been mostly closed since October 2014.

## Greece: Asylum

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are giving to unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors in Greece. [HL5140]

**Lord Bates:** DFID supports safe accommodation spaces for unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors in Greece where children benefit from essential support. To date, we have supported more than 500 spaces.

## Greece: Refugees

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of UK aid to refugees in Greece is earmarked for sexual and reproductive health, including access to hospital maternity services. [HL5138]

**Lord Bates:** DFID funding supports improved access to health care for refugees in Greece, according to need. We do not earmark funding for particular health services. Our support provides access to sexual and reproductive health services, including maternity services such as medical services for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will support the procurement of essential sexual and reproductive health commodities, including modern family planning methods, for all refugees in Greece. [HL5139]

**Lord Bates:** DFID supports access to sexual and reproductive health services for refugees in Greece. This includes provision of essential commodities, including family planning methods.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they give financial or other support to the Faros project in Greece



which provides accommodation for young refugee boys who are at risk of sexual exploitation. [HL5141]

**Lord Bates:** The UK provides funding for safe spaces for unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors in Greece. This includes support to the Faros-run shelter in Athens.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will support the proposal by the EU Committee of the Regions to establish locally determined contributions and regionally determined contributions to the greenhouse gas emissions targets set by the Paris Agreement on climate change. [HL5165]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Under the Paris Agreement countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rises, it is then up to countries to plan how they will meet this. The EU and its Member State contribution to the Paris Agreement is a -40% reduction in domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Individual Member State targets to deliver this overall commitment are currently being negotiated.

UK greenhouse gas emission targets under the EU framework and our domestic Climate Change Act cover the whole of the UK. Devolved Administrations and Local Authorities also already have their own emissions targets and ambitions, and with wider actors in the UK, have an important role to play in contributing to UK emissions reductions.

### Health Professions: Training

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reduction in the number of applications by students in England for nursing and midwifery courses at British universities beginning in 2017 compared to courses beginning in 2016 reported by UCAS; and whether, in the light of the smaller reduction in such applications in Scotland and Wales where bursaries are available, they intend to reconsider the decision to abolish NHS bursaries. [HL5201]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** At this stage of the application cycle, based on the data the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service published on 2 February, Health Education England is confident that the National Health Service will be able to fill the number of nursing and midwifery places in England.

The intention of the reforms in England is to boost participation and secure the future supply of home-grown nurses to the NHS. They will also enable universities to create additional nursing, midwifery and allied health professional university training places in this Parliament.

Students will see an increase in the amount of living cost support they have in hand when studying. We can

build on the success of the wider higher education system and support students from all backgrounds pursue their chosen health career, as well as amending access rules for those who already have a degree. More widely, we are focusing on the needs of the profession by continuing to develop options which allow a number of routes into the workforce.

### Health Services: Older People

*Asked by Baroness Hollins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings of the report by the British Medical Association *Growing Older in the UK*. [HL5354]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Government welcomes the British Medical Association's report *Growing Older in the UK*. Supporting people to continue to play an active role in society as they grow older is a priority for Government and the report's findings will be taken into account in relevant policy development work.

*Asked by Baroness Hollins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce health inequalities amongst older people. [HL5355]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Public Health England's (PHE) older people and dementia work programme uses a range of approaches to help reduce inequalities amongst older people. These include: influencing and commissioning research evidence, publishing resources and tools to support improved commissioning by local authorities and the National Health Service, pilot programmes, collaborating with a range of third sector organisations who are working in the field, and advising the Department.

The NHS Health Check programme aims to target the major causes of premature death, ill health and inequalities in England. Since April 2013, almost five million people aged 40-74 have benefitted from this service. Evidence suggests that the greatest uptake is seen in more deprived communities and older adults.

PHE works closely with local areas to tackle health inequalities. For example, PHE is supporting local authorities to respond to the needs of older drug and alcohol users, particularly an ageing group who are experiencing poor physical and mental health and are more susceptible to alcohol or drug related death.

### Health Services: Prisons

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Health and Wellbeing Boards have oversight of, or involvement in, the provision of health services in prison; and if not, who does. [HL5339]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Health and Wellbeing Boards' role and responsibilities do not extend to cover the provision of health services in prison.

From April 2013, responsibility for commissioning all healthcare services for prisoners, including drug and alcohol services, rests with NHS England.

### Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

*Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take to ensure that the European Health Insurance Card will continue to be valid for UK citizens in EU countries after the UK leaves the EU. [HL5377]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** As the Prime Minister stated on 20 July 2016, as long as we are a member of the European Union we will respect the rights and obligations of EU membership, therefore the current arrangements for European Health Insurance Cards remain in place. Officials in both the Department of Health and the Department for Exiting the European Union are considering the position and options available to us with the aim of achieving the best outcome for the United Kingdom health system and for the UK as a whole. We are about to begin these negotiations and it would be wrong to set out unilateral positions in advance.

### Hepatitis

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Shaughnessy on 27 January (HL4700), on what estimation or data the Operational Delivery Network run rates were based, and whether this data will be made available. [HL5221]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** NHS England is funding access to new hepatitis C treatments in accordance with guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), apportioned to local Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) based on estimated local health needs. The numbers in the NICE costing template have been used to estimate a progressive rollout, starting with the treatment run rate of 10,000 patients in 2016/17.

Public Health England has published an interactive template hepatitis C commissioning template for prevalence and treatment which has been used as the basis for apportioning treatment run rates based on the estimated hepatitis C virus prevalence at local authority level, mapped to ODNs. Manipulation of the template is required to derive the required information. A copy of this template is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hep C commissioning template for prevalence [Hepatitis C commissioning template for prevalence and treatment.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-03/HL5221>

### High Speed 2 Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 1 February (HL4840), what estimate they have made of the percentage reduction in capital and operating cost of HS2 if the maximum operating speed were 320 kph rather than 360 kph; and whether there is to be a requirement that the manufacture or assembly of the trains will be undertaken in the UK. [HL5185]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The government believes that HS2 should be designed to a maximum speed of 360km/h, with a route alignment enabling up to 400km/h in the future. In 2012 HS2 Ltd advised that the cost of building the Phase 1 consulted route at 200km/h would be 9% lower than the cost of a route designed to a maximum speed of 360km/h. An intermediate speed option of 300km/h was considered to test the operating cost and value for money implications of a lower operating speed. This option increased journey times, reducing the forecast benefit-cost ratio of the Scheme.

Whilst a lower operating speed – including 320 km/h – could result in marginally reduced rolling stock capital costs and some reduction to operating costs; these are more than offset by the significant loss in revenue and user benefits.

It is too early to confirm whether the manufacture or assembly of the trains will take place in the UK. However, when tendering, bidders will be required to make clear how their proposal in respect of designing, building, testing and maintaining the rolling stock will deliver the HS2 Programme's strategic goals and objectives. These include the development of long term design and manufacturing skills, creation of employment opportunities and investment in workforce education to add value to the UK economy.

### HIV Infection

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the last five years, how many new HIV diagnoses have been classified as "late diagnosis". [HL5325]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** A late HIV diagnosis is defined as having a CD4 cell count less than 350 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> within three months (91 days) of diagnosis.

The following table shows the number of adults (aged 15 years and above) diagnosed with a CD4 count less than 350 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> within 91 days of diagnosis in the United Kingdom in 2011 - 2015.

The data for 2016 are due to be published in October 2017.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number with CD4 cell count less than 350 cells/mm <sup>3</sup>	2,624	2,449	2,132	2,115	1,958

Source: National HIV Surveillance data tables, 2016

## HMS Queen Elizabeth

Asked by **Lord West of Spithead**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 31 January (HL4999), whether "summer" is defined as (1) from the summer solstice to the September equinox, or (2) June to August. [HL5226]

**Earl Howe:** HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH is currently undertaking harbour trials as part of her test and integration phase. Sea trials will begin only on successful completion of this phase.

"Summer" was not defined in the answer to Question HL4999. Rather, the word was used to provide a broad indication of the likely timetable.

## Hospital at Home Scheme

Asked by **Baroness Masham of Ilton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any plans in place to increase investment in technology to support an expansion of hospital at home schemes. [HL5312]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The National Health Service's plans to improve services locally, including any plans to increase investment in technology to support an expansion of programmes such as the hospital at home schemes, are set out in local plans, including Sustainability and Transformation Plans. The plans have been published online and are available locally. Information about individual contracts and service lines is not held centrally.

## Hospital Beds

Asked by **Lord Porter of Spalding**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have commissioned to assess the number of delayed transfers of care by council area in the context of population size; and how many successful discharges there have been in each of those areas from hospitals to further NHS or social care services. [I] [HL5197]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** NHS Digital publishes annually the average daily rate of delayed transfers of care from National Health Service hospitals in England per 100,000 local authority population aged 18 years and over. Rates are shown separately for all delays, and for delays

attributable to social care, the National Health Service, and jointly to social care and the NHS.

The most recently published data are for 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 and are attached due to the size of the data.

Information is not collected centrally on the number of successful discharges by council area. In 2015-16, there were 16.5 million finished discharged episodes of NHS commissioned care from hospitals in England.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Delayed transfer of care 2015-16 data [Delayed transfer of care 2015-16 data.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-02/HL5197>

Asked by **Lord Blencathra**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who are occupying hospital beds, despite being fit and well enough to be discharged, have been doing so for (1) between one and three months, (2) between three and six months, or (3) six months or more. [HL5235]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The statistics published by NHS England on the number of patients occupying hospital beds whose discharge was delayed on the last Thursday of each month do not include any information about the lengths of stay of these patients.

## Housing: Sales

Asked by **Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many residential property transactions over £1.5 million there were, and how much Stamp Duty Land Tax revenue those transactions generated, in (1) 2013, (2) 2014, (3) 2015, and (4) 2016. [HL5112]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Historical statistics on residential property transactions and Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) receipts, by financial year, are published in HMRC's 'Annual Stamp Tax Statistics' publication, available on Gov.uk. The latest available data is for the financial year 2015-16.

The statistics in the table below are aggregates from the publication and do not include residential properties taxed at the 'corporate bodies' rate.

Financial year	Property transactions over £1.5 million (thousands)	SDLT revenue from these transactions (£ million)
2012-13	6	1,025
2013-14	8	1,325
2014-15	9	1,580
2015-16	9	1,855

## Immigration: EU Nationals

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what process a permanent resident right of an EU citizen living in the United Kingdom, that has been accepted by the issue of a Certificate of Residence in the UK, can be lawfully removed. [\[HL5210\]](#)

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Under EU law, European Economic Area (EEA) nationals qualify for a right of permanent residence in the UK provided that certain conditions are met. For those EEA nationals who are in the UK and have a right of permanent residence, it is not mandatory to apply for documentation confirming that right.

EEA nationals with a permanent right of residence may be deported from the UK on serious grounds of public policy or public security, where their personal conduct represents a genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat to one of the fundamental interests of society.

## Inflation

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to ensure that general living standards do not suffer as a result of rising inflation. [\[HL5179\]](#)

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Living standards, as measured by real household disposable income per head, grew at their fastest rate in 14 years in 2015. This took living standards to their highest ever level, and they are forecast to have risen further in 2016.

From April 2017, the Personal Allowance will rise to £11,500 and the National Living Wage to £7.50 an hour, meaning families will keep more of what they earn. We are helping households with the cost of living by increasing the supply of affordable housing, banning letting agents' fees and freezing fuel duty. We also believe our investment to boost productivity will raise living standards in the long run.

## Insolvency

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to reduce levels of insolvency among UK borrowers. [\[HL5183\]](#)

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The government is committed to supporting individuals in problem debt and has a range of measures in place to support consumers.

The Money Advice Service (MAS) coordinates the provision of free-to-client debt advice. Last financial year, MAS had a budget of £75m and funded 380,000 free-to-client debt advice sessions. In October 2016 the government announced plans to restructure the financial guidance landscape and bring debt advice, money guidance, and pensions guidance together in a single body

to give consumers better access to the financial information they need.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) took over responsibility for regulating the consumer credit market in April 2014, and introduced binding rules which strengthen consumer protection. These rules are based on the principle that money should only be lent to a consumer if they can afford to repay it. Lenders must also show forbearance if there is evidence of financial difficulty.

The FCA also introduced a cap on the cost of payday loans, which came into force in January 2015. As part of the review of this price cap, the FCA will examine the high-cost credit market more broadly (such as rent-to-own), and consider whether further interventions are necessary to address the risk of consumer harm.

## International Criminal Court

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to (1) the call of the African Union (AU), made at its annual heads of state summit in Addis Ababa, for the mass withdrawal of member states from the International Criminal Court (ICC), and (2) that part of the Addis Ababa Resolution that mandates the AU to hold talks with the UN Security Council calling for the reform of the ICC. [\[HL5232\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We regret the decision of any State Party to leave the International Criminal Court (ICC). We encourage any country considering leaving the ICC to discuss its concerns with fellow States Parties or directly with the Court.

We are aware of the draft decision at the AU Summit 22-31 January to adopt an "ICC withdrawal strategy". Our understanding is that the strategy does not actually call for mass withdrawal. It is a matter for each African state, and several African states reaffirmed their support for the Court.

The resolution is still in draft and we will be able to comment further once that becomes final.

## Iraq: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current humanitarian situation in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the existing levels of international donor support. [\[HL5246\]](#)

**Lord Bates:** The Kurdistan region hosts over one million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 230,000 Syrian refugees. A combination of the economic downturn in Iraq and IDP numbers has placed pressure on services in the region. The UN's 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan was developed in coordination with both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government and has received strong donor support. It has so far received 90% of the funds needed to provide life-



saving assistance to 7.3 million vulnerable Iraqis, including those living in the Kurdistan region. The UN will launch a new Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017 later this month.

### **Iraq: Islamic State**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to rebuild inter-communal trust in areas liberated from Daesh in Iraq. [\[HL5242\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are supporting the Iraqi Government's efforts to rebuild public trust in the Iraqi State and to unite all of Iraq's communities against extremism. We consistently urge the Government of Iraq to take concrete steps towards inclusive and representative local governance, capable of providing basic services and protection. The UK has pledged £9.25 million to the UN's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilisation, which is supporting the Iraqi Government to stabilise areas liberated from Daesh. This funding is re-establishing security and basic services, re-creating livelihoods and supporting grassroots reconciliation. Since June 2015, it has helped 862,000 people return to their homes across Iraq. The Secretary of State for International Development, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel) also announced a further £40 million in humanitarian assistance for Iraq at the UN General Assembly on 21 September 2016, specifically to support the response to Mosul.

### **Iraq: Overseas Aid**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that humanitarian, stabilisation and reconstruction efforts in areas of Iraq liberated from Daesh include provision for psycho-social post-trauma counselling and rehabilitation for traumatised individuals and communities. [\[HL5244\]](#)

**Lord Bates:** In areas of Iraq recently liberated by Daesh the UK is supporting UNICEF to provide lifesaving response services for victims of gender based violence, and the International Organisation for Migration to deliver general clinical and trauma care, including mental health services. The UK is the largest contributor to the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund, which responds to the most urgent needs of vulnerable Iraqis. This has included psychosocial support services for over 2,700 people, and referrals to specialist legal services for hundreds of survivors of torture and sexual violence.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to enlist the help of churches, religious institutions and communities in the provision of aid and support to those individuals in the Kurdistan Region of

Iraq who have fled their homes to escape Daesh. [\[HL5245\]](#)

**Lord Bates:** Faith-based organisations in Iraq are able to access UK funding through the UN-managed Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund, to which the UK is the largest donor. UK officials have met with faith-based organisations to discuss the humanitarian situation and to provide guidance on how to access the fund. UK Officials in the Kurdistan region are in regular contact with the Christian, Yezidi, and Muslim community leaders, and have participated in a Religious Dialogue Conference where all religions of the Kurdistan region were represented. All UK-funded humanitarian aid in the Kurdistan Region is distributed on the basis of need, irrespective of race, religion or ethnicity.

### **Iraq: Religious Freedom**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Iraq to repeal legislation that forces children of parents who convert to Islam automatically to become Muslim. [\[HL5243\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have concerns with Article 26 of the National Identity Card Law as it limits an individual's freedom of religion. The President of Iraq objected to the clause and although the law was signed, the clause has been referred back to the Council of Representatives for reconsideration, but so far no action has been taken by the Council. We have made clear our concerns to the Government of Iraq. We are working alongside Non-Governmental Organisations, such as the Iraqi Council for Interfaith Dialogue, to continue to promote freedom of religion and belief in Iraq.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Coventry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what political and financial assistance they are providing to strengthen and develop the structures and mechanisms for interreligious dialogue and co-operation in Iraq. [\[HL5247\]](#)

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government promotes interreligious dialogue and co-operation in Iraq and the right to freedom of religion or belief for all of Iraq's religious communities. At the political level, we urge the Government of Iraq consistently at senior levels to uphold the rights of all minorities. We also work to build international consensus on upholding freedom of religion or belief. In addition, we support practical projects on community dialogue with civil society and faith groups. For example, through the Foreign Office's Magna Carta Fund, we have contributed £163,000 to support a project across several countries in the Middle East, including Iraq, to promote legal and social protection for freedom of religion or belief. This project aims to prevent intolerance and violence towards religious



communities by inspiring leaders in Iraqi society to defend freedom of religion or belief.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the 15-year sentence imposed in March 2003 on the Palestinian teenagers from the village of Hares. [[HL5280](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Whilst we have not raised this issue with the Israeli Government, we regularly discuss matters concerning the treatment of Palestinian minors in detention with the Israeli authorities.

### Israel: USA

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions the Prime Minister had during her recent meeting with President Trump regarding the proposed US embassy move to Jerusalem. [[HL5092](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and President Trump discussed a range of foreign policy issues during their meeting on 27 January. The UK's position on the location of our embassy has not changed.

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Prime Minister raised the issue of the location of the US Embassy in Israel with the government of the US during her visit to Washington on 25 to 26 January. [[HL5150](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and President Trump discussed a range of foreign policy issues during their meeting on 27 January. The UK's position on the location of our embassy has not changed.

### Israeli Settlements

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Prime Minister, at her meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel, will raise concerns about the continuing illegal settlement building, and UN Resolution 2334. [[HL5281](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** When the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), met the Prime Minister of Israel on 6 February they discussed the Middle East Peace Process and the UK's firm commitment to a two-state solution as the best way to bring stability and peace to the region. The Prime Minister reiterated the UK's opposition to settlement activity.

### Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of the US about the future of the F35 programme, following comments made by President Trump about the viability of the programme. [[HL5343](#)]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence is in regular discussion with its counterparts in the United States' Government about all aspects of the F-35 programme. The United Kingdom welcomes the recently announced reductions in programme costs and remains fully committed to the delivery of F-35 capability as announced in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review.

### Libya: Banks

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made at EU level on the role of the Libyan Central Bank and its use of oil revenues. [[HL5306](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I discussed Libya at the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) in Brussels on 6 February. The UK supported the FAC's conclusions on Libya, which welcomed progress made at recent Libyan economic dialogue meetings. We joined EU Member States in calling on all participants, including the Central Bank of Libya, to fully implement their agreement to keep the legitimate economy functioning, ensure the necessary funds for government activities and end the liquidity crisis. We noted with the Council that the welcome increase in oil production should enable the Libyan Government to deliver public services more effectively.

### Libya: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take, following the EU Council held in Malta, to (1) secure political agreement within Libya, (2) protect effectively the migrants and refugees in Libya, and (3) start investments, under the EU External Investment Plan, for new work opportunities in migrants' home countries. [[HL5305](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK remains committed to the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA). An inclusive political deal negotiated within the framework of the LPA is the best way of stabilising Libya and is the best option for delivering our migration priorities.

The UK is helping migrants return home rather than risk their lives continuing perilous journeys to Europe, and protecting men, women and children in danger of trafficking and sexual violence. The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) announced a new package of more than £30 million in UK aid to provide desperately needed assistance to

refugees and migrants, including supporting returns, addressing trafficking and sexual violence and providing cold weather clothing and medical care.

At the heart of the Department for International Development's new economic development strategy is creating jobs for people in their home countries and regions. This will help them meet their aspirations without the need to take the perilous journeys to Europe. The EU External Investment Plan's fund is not yet operational and the proposal is currently making its way through the EU legislative process. The UK will remain engaged as the proposal is developed.

### **Libya: Prisons**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will press for UN and other humanitarian agencies to be given full access to prisons and detention centres in Libya, starting with those holding refugees and migrants in Tripoli. [HL5131]

**Lord Bates:** The UK remains deeply concerned at alleged human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in Libya, including against prisoners and migrant detainees. We recognise that conditions in Libyan detention facilities are poor and we are providing humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees through the UN and other humanitarian agencies.

We are building relationships with Libyan Government departments, including law enforcement and immigration authorities, through regular visits to Tripoli. During these visits, we raise with the Government of National Accord the importance of adhering to international law and standards. We will continue to press for safe access for humanitarian agents.

### **Literacy**

*Asked by Baroness Rebuck*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have undertaken to better understand the impact on literacy levels of initiatives undertaken by voluntary sector organisations; and how they intend to ensure that funding is targeted where it will be most effective. [HL5176]

**Lord Nash:** The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), which was set up in 2011 through a £125 million grant from the Government, received £10 million from the Department in 2012 specifically to fund and evaluate 24 projects focused on interventions to improve the literacy of pupils who do not achieve the expected standard in English at the end of primary school.

To date, the EEF has published evaluation reports on 26 literacy-related projects. Of these, 11 involved voluntary sector organisations. Details of all of these projects and the individual evaluation reports are published on the EEF website at:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/school-themes/literacy>.

The findings from evaluations of these and other EEF funded projects are incorporated into the EEF's teaching and learning toolkit. This provides school leaders and teachers with an accessible summary of evidence from robust research studies on the impact and cost effectiveness of a range of educational interventions. This information can be used by voluntary sector organisations to inform their own approaches. The toolkit is published on the EEF website.

### **London Stock Exchange: Deutsche Börse**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the remarks of Thomas Schäfer, finance minister of Hesse, that the headquarters of the company created by the proposed merger of the London Stock Exchange Group and Deutsche Börse should be in Frankfurt, what assessment they have made of the impact on the UK economy of the transfer of that organisation from the UK to Germany. [HL5273]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Under the terms of the proposed merger the new combined company will be located in London. The merger has been approved by shareholders of both companies on these terms. In the UK the Bank of England and Financial Conduct Authority will assess the proposal from a regulatory standpoint. The proposal is also subject to outstanding assessments and approvals by the European Commission and overseas regulators.

### **Maritime Patrol Aircraft**

*Asked by Lord Touthig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the deliveries of the nine P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft are on schedule; and when they will be delivered. [HL5222]

**Earl Howe:** The Ministry of Defence is procuring nine P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft via a Foreign Military Sale arrangement from the US Government. Under the agreed schedule, the first UK aircraft is due to be delivered in 2019, and the final one is expected in 2021.

### **Mass Media**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports that the Minister for Digital and Culture is holding talks with UK newspaper industry representatives on accuracy in journalism and the rise of fake news, whether, as part of those discussions, he intends to raise the issue of fake news stories in mainstream tabloid newspapers. [HL5125]

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will investigate the propagation of fake news in the mainstream media. [HL5126]

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Minister for Digital and Culture on 29 November 2016 (53857) that they are "considering the implications of the dissemination of fake news on social media sites", what assessment they have made of whether fake news stories generated online through social media are more widely believed than fake news stories in the mainstream media; and, if they are not more widely believed, why they are taking steps to counteract fake news on social media. [HL5127]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** There are existing mechanisms in place to address inaccurate news in the mainstream media including requirements in the Broadcasting Code for television and radio programmes and requirements in the Editors' Code of Practice for publishers who are members of a self-regulator.

The Minister for Digital and Culture will shortly be sending invitations to select organisations to attend a discussion on fake news.

### **Mental Patients: Death**

*Asked by Baroness Tyler of Enfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the increase in unexpected patient deaths reported by England's mental health trusts; and what steps they are taking to reduce the number of such deaths. [HL5282]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Government wants to make the National Health Service the safest, most transparent healthcare system in the world - the first step towards this ambition is to collect safety data more reliably. The level of reported harm has increased as a result of our very deliberate improvements in the way such events are recorded and investigated.

The Government has introduced requirements for the reliable reporting of any safety incidents, all of which should be investigated fully at a local level then reported to NHS England.

From April 2017, all NHS trusts and foundation trusts will be required to publish numbers of avoidable deaths and how they are improving care.

### **Military Aircraft**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will paint the RAF Voyager which conveys Her Majesty the Queen and the Prime Minister in distinctive colours

which clearly indicate that it is British rather than RAF sky camouflage grey. [HL5237]

**Earl Howe:** There are no plans to repaint the Voyager aircraft, as its primary role remains the provision of military air-to-air refuelling capability.

### **Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries**

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of Brexit, what plans they have to encourage investment in the car production industry. [HL5181]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy works closely with the UK automotive industry including through the Automotive Council to understand the issues and opportunities the sector faces. The Government will continue its successful and longstanding programme of support for the competitiveness of the automotive sector, including pursuing a bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement with the EU that provides the greatest possible tariff free and frictionless trade in goods and services.

### **Motor Vehicles: Taxation**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their most up-to-date figure for the annual amount paid in respect of motorised vehicles in (1) Vehicle Excise Duty, (2) fuel taxes, (3) VAT, and (4) other government-imposed charges. [HL5276]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) raised £5.6bn in the fiscal year 2015-16. The Heavy Goods Vehicle VED Levy raised £198m in 2015-16. Of this figure, £50m accounts for non-UK HGV Levy and £148m for UK HGV Levy. Fuel duty raised £27.6bn in 2015-16.

The Government does not have any figures for VAT raised in respect of motorised vehicles. This is because the details that HMRC collect from taxpayers are not specific enough to provide that data.

The only further government charge is the Dartford Crossing Charge, which yielded £133.6m in revenue in 2015-16.

### **Multinational Companies: Taxation**

*Asked by Lord Harries of Pentregarth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Neville-Rolfe on 18 January (HL Deb, col 212), and in the light of paragraph 17(7) of Schedule 19 to the Finance Act 2016 which provides for the Treasury to make regulations requiring group tax strategies to include a country-by-country report, what steps they are taking to ensure that transnational companies are fully transparent about the real centres of their economic activity and reveal any misalignment

between that and where such companies declare their profits for tax purposes in their annual accounts. [HL5194]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government believes that profits should be taxed where economic activities are performed. The UK has introduced the OECD model of country-by-country reporting. This will provide a clear overall picture of the global position on profit and tax of multinational groups to tax authorities, enabling them to make more informed assessments of where risks lie.

The Government has set out its objective for a comprehensive and effective model of public country-by-country reporting that is agreed on a multilateral basis, to improve transparency over businesses' tax affairs and build public trust in the tax system. The UK will continue to work with international partners with a view to delivering on that objective. This includes our continued participation in the discussions on the European Commission's proposal.

### Nagorno Karabakh

*Asked by Baroness O'Cathain*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of responsibility for the massacre perpetrated against civilians in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on 26 February 1992. [HL5184]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In the absence of an independent investigation into the incidents that took place during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the UK has never made an assessment of responsibility.

We strongly support the work of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group, and support any mechanism for a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute which is acceptable to the parties.

### National Grid

*Asked by Baroness Featherstone*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the Connection and Use of System Code panel, and its modification and voting process, on (1) competition, and (2) consumer costs. [HL5209]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), as part of its investigation into the energy market, considered the governance of energy industry codes, which included the Connection and Use of System Code (CUSC) panel. They found that current arrangements for code governance had an adverse effect on competition. The complexity of codes can act as a barrier to new entrants and the implementation of pro-competitive change can be difficult. The CMA made a number of recommendations to Government and to Ofgem to address these issues; the Government is considering these recommendations and will respond in due course.

### NATO

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total number of troops and units which the UK, USA and Canada have stationed in other NATO countries in Europe. [HL5191]

**Earl Howe:** The most recent figures for UK military personnel based in European NATO countries can be found in the document entitled '*Quarterly location statistics: 1 October 2016*', which can be found on the gov.uk website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-quarterly-statistics-2016>

The following units are based in Germany: HQ British Forces Germany; HQ 20th Armoured Infantry Brigade; The Queen's Royal Hussars; 26 Regiment Royal Artillery; 35 Engineer Regiment; 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment; 1 Medical Regiment; 3rd Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; Theatre Fleet Support Unit (Germany).

The UK does not hold information on the personnel and units of the US and Canada based in European NATO countries.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL5191 - Quarterly Location Statistics [20170214 - HL5191 - UK military personnel based in other NATO countries in Europe.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-02/HL5191>

### NHS: Drugs

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total cost to the NHS of purchasing generic drugs from the Israeli pharmaceutical company Teva in the last financial year. [HL5277]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Information on the cost of generic drugs supplied by Teva is not collected centrally but supplies from Israeli company Teva represent a significant and important part of National Health Service medicines provision. We estimate that the total reimbursement cost of these medicines dispensed in the community may be in the region of £0.5 billion. This does not take account of the margin that pharmacies earn on the medicines they dispense. This margin is subsequently taken into account as contributing towards the target level of funding for community pharmacy as part of the community pharmacy contractual framework.

Israel plays an important role in helping supply medicines for the NHS. Some 100 million prescription items for medicines used in the community in England are estimated to come from companies based in Israel. Teva also funds clinical development in the United Kingdom, including research into dementia.



## NHS: Negligence

*Asked by Lord Shinkwin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many payments for wrongful birth, other than cases of failed sterilisation or vasectomy, were made by the NHS Litigation Authority to parents of children with Down's syndrome in each of the past five years; and what was the total cost of each payment. [HL5266]

*Asked by Lord Shinkwin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the NHS Litigation Authority has paid in total since 1990 to parents of babies with disabilities who claimed that they would have had an abortion had they known earlier that their child would have a disability. [HL5267]

*Asked by Lord Shinkwin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many successful claims for wrongful birth, other than cases of failed sterilisation or vasectomy, have been made since 1990; what was the total amount of compensation awarded by the NHS Litigation Authority in each case; and for what specific disabilities was compensation awarded in successful claims. [HL5268]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** There are two successful claims for wrongful birth recorded in the NHS Litigation Authority (NHS LA) Claims Management System that relate to a child being born with Down's Syndrome in the period requested. The damages paid to date relating to these two cases are £7,454,200, with the total payments over the lifetime of the claims calculated to reach £10,457,242.

Data is not held on the NHS LA Claims Management System on how much the NHS LA has paid out in total since 1990 to parents of babies with disabilities who claimed that they would have had an abortion had they known earlier that their child would have a disability. To obtain the data, a manual review of the case files would be required which would incur disproportionate cost. Data would only be available from April 1995 when the NHS LA was established, as before that trusts dealt with their clinical negligence claims locally.

There have been a total of 156 successful wrongful birth claims; this figure does not include failed vasectomy or sterilisation claims. To date, these claims have resulted in payments of damages of £114,264,308 with the total payments over the lifetime of the claims calculated to reach £123,894,773. It is not possible to provide data on the specific disabilities for which compensation was awarded in these cases without a manual review of the case files which would incur disproportionate cost.

*Asked by Lord Shinkwin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact that payments for wrongful birth, other than cases of failed sterilisation or vasectomy, have on people living with disabilities, and

public perception regarding the value of the lives of people with disabilities. [HL5269]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Department has not made any assessment of the impact of payments for wrongful birth on people living with disabilities or on public perception of the value of the lives of people with disabilities. We are committed to ensure that everyone with a disability is supported to live their life free from discrimination, and to creating opportunities for disabled people to fulfil their potential.

## Non-domestic Rates

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the criteria used to determine the increase in rateable value as regards business rates in the recent rates revaluation. [HL5259]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Business rates are based on valuations from the Valuation Office Agency and we do not intervene in their independent assessments. Rateable values are assessed to consistent standards and generally reflect the open market rental value of the property. And it is for the Valuation Office Agency to decide how to apply these standards to the circumstances of each property. A £3.6 billion transitional relief scheme will provide support for the minority who do face an increase.

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the appeals procedure against a proposed increase in rateable value; and what estimate they have made of the average length of time which will be required for an appeal to be considered. [HL5261]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** A ratepayer that wishes to appeal in relation to their rateable value has the right to make a proposal to Valuation Office Agency. If it is not resolved, the proposal is considered by the Valuation Tribunal for England as an appeal. The Government will introduce a new appeals system from April 2017 which streamlines the process and promotes early engagement by all parties to help resolve cases quickly. However, the time required for resolving appeals will depend on the complexity of the issues in any particular case.

## North Korea: Forced Labour

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether staff of the British Embassy in Pyongyang have visited the Masikryong ski resort in an official capacity; and what is their assessment of reports that children are subject to forced labour at that resort. [HL5120]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Officials from the British Embassy in Pyongyang have visited the Masikryong ski resort for consular planning purposes. We



are aware of reports since of child forced labour at the resort, which are deeply concerning. The UK Government has been clear that forced labour is a form of modern day slavery and must be brought to an end. In a statement to the UN Security Council on 9 December 2016, the UK's Permanent Representative to the UN condemned the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's use of forced labour at home and overseas.

### **Nuclear Fusion: Research**

*Asked by **Baroness Featherstone***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the fusion research programme at the Culham Centre will continue to be funded following the UK's departure from the EU. [HL5202]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The UK is a world leader in fusion research and development (R&D) and we have no intention of compromising this following the government's decision to withdraw from the Euratom Treaty. We fully recognise the importance of international collaboration in fusion research and the UK's key role in these efforts.

Maintaining and building on our world-leading fusion expertise and securing alternative routes into the international fusion R&D projects such as the Joint European Torus (JET) project at the Culham Centre will be a priority. Government is working closely with the UK Atomic Energy Authority on ways to achieve this.

### **Offshore Industry**

*Asked by **Lord Bruce of Bennachie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are proposed to stimulate new exploration and appraisal drilling on the UK Continental Shelf. [HL5206]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In addition to establishing the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA), over the last two years the Government has introduced a package of measures for the oil and gas industry worth £2.3bn. This included £40 million of funding for new seismic surveys to stimulate exploration and investment in existing and frontier areas in the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS), and funding for the Oil and Gas Technology Centre to serve as a global centre for solving the challenges of mature basins and maximising economic recovery of the UKCS. In addition, the OGA has awarded over £450,000 in an industry competition to improve the geological understanding of specific areas of the UKCS, taken forward two recent offshore licensing rounds, and introduced a new "Innovate Licence" to give operators greater flexibility around their work programme.

### **Offshore Industry: Decommissioning**

*Asked by **Lord Bruce of Bennachie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans there are for reviewing the decommissioning policy for UK

oil and gas installations at the end of their operating life. [HL5205]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The policy for the decommissioning of UK Offshore oil and gas installations is based on the International Marine Organisation guidelines, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and ultimately OSPAR decision 98/3, which prohibits the dumping, and the leaving wholly or partly in place, of disused offshore installations within the maritime area. A derogation to leave installations or parts of installations in place can be agreed, if the installations were put in place prior to 1999 and the jacket is over 10,000 tonnes, or if it is a gravity-based concrete installation.

We comply with our legal obligations and the policy is fully understood and well accepted by industry, NGOs, statutory nature conservation bodies and other users of the sea. We have no current plans to review this policy; however we are constantly updating our guidance to reflect what we and industry have learned from the removal of infrastructure already decommissioned.

### **Overseas Students: EU Nationals**

*Asked by **Lord Beith***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether former higher education students who are EU nationals who apply for permanent residence in the UK are required to have held comprehensive private health insurance during the time during which they were in higher education; and if so, whether students from EU countries are notified of the existence of such a requirement when, or before, they begin their courses of study. [HL5145]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** EU citizens and their family members have the right to enter, live and acquire permanent residence in other Member States when certain conditions are met, as set out in EU law. This includes a requirement to hold comprehensive sickness insurance where they have been exercising their Treaty rights as students and later rely on such periods to qualify for permanent residence.

Guidance on the conditions for exercising Treaty rights as a student has always been publicly available to EU nationals. This can currently be found from page 21 onwards of the guidance on 'qualified persons' available on the UKGOV website via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-economic-area-nationals-qualified-persons>

The guidance is also attached to this answer.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

EEA Qualified Persons [EEA-qualified-persons-v4\_0EXT.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-31/HL5145>

## Overseas Trade

*Asked by Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the main exports and imports between the UK and (1) France, (2) Germany, and (3) Italy, in (a) 2014, (b) 2015, and (c) 2016. [HL5130]

**Lord Price:** The top three exports and imports which the UK trades with France, Germany and Italy are shown in the tables attached. This data contains HMRC trade in goods data, which is on the basis of goods crossing the customs border, and trade in services data which is from the ONS Pink Book on a balance of payments basis. Data for 2015 is pending correction by ONS, so is not shown. Data for 2016 will be published later this year. Both the HMRC and ONS data has been published and is publicly available.

Further information on UK trade in goods is available in the HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics interactive database.

Further information on 2014 UK trade in services is available in ONS The Pink Book 2016.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

The top three exports and imports [Top 3 goods and services.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-31/HL5130>

## Overseas Trade: Israeli Settlements

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 14 November 2016 (HL2849) concerning illegal settlement construction by Israelis, what measures they are putting in place to ensure that further trade between the UK and illegal settlements is prohibited. [HL5279]

**Lord Price:** The UK and Israel have a strong and important trading relationship and we are firmly opposed to boycotts or sanctions. We do not recognise the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including the settlements, as part of Israel and they are not covered by the current EU-Israel Association Agreement which governs our trade with Israel.

It is up to individual businesses whether they undertake business dealings with companies operating in illegal settlements. The Government neither supports nor encourages such dealings. The FCO advises businesses on the risks of so doing.

## Palestinians

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are providing funding for (1) efforts to promote a comprehensive Palestinian negotiating team, and (2)

Palestinian elections at all levels of government. [HL5254]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have previously funded legal, policy and communications expertise for the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's Negotiations Affairs Department. This funding ended in 2015. We continue to advocate the resumption of bilateral negotiations to resolve the conflict in the Middle East.

We are not currently providing funding for Palestinian elections. Previously, we have supported women's participation, working with women to help prepare them to compete in elections, and to help them serve their communities most effectively when elected.

## Palestinians: Employment

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they, the EU and other international agencies are taking steps to increase the employment opportunities available for young Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza; and what assessment they have made of the benefits of introducing a system of loans for small and new businesses. [HL5214]

**Lord Bates:** Job creation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) is a priority for the UK and other donors. The Palestinian Market Development Programme (PMDP), a joint UK-EU programme, is improving the competitiveness of the Palestinian private sector and helping to create jobs for young people. The system of loans for small and new businesses in the OPTs is comprehensive and well resourced, hence the focus of UK efforts is to provide matching grants and technical assistance to Palestinian businesses

## Palestinians: Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to undertake a comprehensive review of the current needs of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, Jordan and Lebanon. [HL5253]

**Lord Bates:** The Secretary of State is currently conducting an examination of DFID's programme in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). It will look at how best to meet the needs of Palestinians, including refugees in the region.

## Palestinians: Recognition of States

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their responsibilities under the Balfour Declaration of 1917 include the recognition of a Palestinian State as well as the Israeli one. [HL5255]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK will recognise a Palestinian state at a time most helpful to the peace

process. We judge that a negotiated end to the occupation is the most effective way for Palestinian aspirations of statehood to be met. We continue to be one of the principal supporters of Palestinian state building efforts, assisting them to tackle poverty, build institutions, and boost their economy.

### **Palestinians: Syria**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing to the 560,000 Palestinian refugees who have been displaced by the crisis in Syria. [[HL5089](#)]

**Lord Bates:** The UK supports Palestinian refugees affected by the Syria crisis through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This includes those who have fled to Jordan and Lebanon, as well as those displaced inside Syria. As part of DFID's Syria Crisis Response, we have provided £79.8 million to UNRWA's Syria Regional Emergency Appeals. In 2015 DFID's funding to UNRWA provided food assistance every 3 months to over 67,000 people inside Syria, and over 4,000 in neighbouring countries. Our support also facilitated over 150,000 visits to primary health care services inside Syria, and more than 15,000 visits in Jordan and Lebanon. UNRWA continues to meet immediate needs through a range of programmes, including the delivery of essential relief items such as blankets, clothing, and cooking equipment.

### **Passenger Ships: Rescue Services**

*Asked by **Lord Berkeley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what regulations and procedures are in place relating to the evacuation of ships designed to carry more than 5,000 passengers and crew, when those ships are too far from land for any air support; and where, and when, the last full-scale trial of such a scenario was undertaken. [[HL5124](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** All UK passenger ships, such as described in the question, must comply with international requirements as laid down in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Chapter 5 Regulation 7.

These requirements on the vessel owner include having an evacuation and search and rescue plan, which are logged and available to Her Majesty's Coastguard and exercised periodically.

### **Pay**

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of claims that UK professionals from working-class backgrounds are paid almost £7,000 less

on average each year than those from wealthier families. [[HL5180](#)]

**Lord Nash:** We recognise that all too often family background determines success in later life, even when in a good job. We are determined that education should play a central role in reversing that by ensuring all young people have access to the right knowledge and skills, high quality, timely advice, and opportunities for challenging, life-shaping experiences. Employers also need to do more to attract and draw out the talents of employees from all backgrounds.

### **Power Stations**

*Asked by **Lord Berkeley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of their reported plans to subsidise power stations which provide guaranteed emergency electricity supply when needed on winter weekday evenings, what estimate they have made of the length of time it will take coal and nuclear power stations to reach guaranteed output capacity; and how much notice these power stations will be given of the additional demand. [[HL5095](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Where capacity margins narrow beyond a pre-determined threshold, automated Capacity Market Notices are issued to the market providing 4 hours advance notice that additional capacity may be required.

Before bidding into the Capacity Market, participants must ensure they would be able to meet all the obligations that would fall to them in the event of successfully securing a Capacity Market agreement. Failure to fulfil these obligations during a stress event would result in clear and pre-determined penalties.

### **Prescriptions**

*Asked by **Lord Bradshaw***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Shaughnessy on 19 January (HL4501), whether the Answer also applies to the Automated Repeat Prescription Service offered by some high street pharmacies; and what checks there are to ensure that this does not lead to over-ordering. [[HL5240](#)]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** My Written Answer of 19 January applies also to repeatable prescriptions provided through the Electronic Prescription Service.

Any service provided by a pharmacist including ordering prescriptions on behalf of patients, should be carried out in accordance with their professional code of conduct, ethics and performance and the standards for registered pharmacies – both regulated by the General Pharmaceutical Council. This would include obtaining all the information they require to assess a person's needs in order to give safe and effective treatment and to obtain consent for professional services they provide.

## Press Recognition Panel

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Press Recognition Panel is entitled, under powers granted to it by the Royal Charter, to advocate changes to English law. [HL5168]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The purpose of the Press Recognition Panel is to carry on activities relating to the recognition of self-regulators in accordance with the terms of the Royal Charter. The Press Recognition Panel is not prohibited from publishing information regarding the press self-regulatory framework delivered by the Royal Charter.

## Prison Sentences

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons are presently serving sentences of imprisonment for public protection in England and Wales; and how many of them are more than 80 years of age. [HL5143]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** As at 31 December 2016 there were 3,683 prisoners serving a sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP). Of the 3,683 IPPs, 599 were pre-tariff and 3,081 were post-tariff. There are currently fewer than 3 IPP prisoners in prisons aged over 80 years old.

We are working hard to reduce the backlog of parole hearings involving IPP prisoners. We have set up a new unit within the Ministry of Justice to tackle this issue and are working with the Parole Board to improve the efficiency of the process.

## Prisoners: Republic of Ireland

*Asked by Baroness Corston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many citizens of the Irish Republic are held in UK prisons. [HL5349]

*Asked by Baroness Corston*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many citizens of the Irish Republic sentenced to prison in the UK are permitted to serve their sentence in the Republic. [HL5350]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** At 31 December 2016, there were 746 Irish citizens detained in England and Wales in prisons and in the NOMS run Immigration Removal Centres.

The United Kingdom and Ireland are signatories to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The Convention provides for the voluntary transfer of an individual. It is open to any Irish national serving a sentence of imprisonment to apply for transfer.

The transfer of prisoners from Scotland and from Northern Ireland is a devolved matter and is the responsibility of the relevant devolved authority.

## Private Education: Insolvency

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanisms are in place to support and safeguard a student if the private college they attend goes into liquidation. [HL5199]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** Private providers of higher education must meet robust financial sustainability standards in order to be designated for student support. Providers that have not been trading for three years must submit a plan to ensure that students can achieve their academic outcomes if they are unable to fully deliver their course.

In cases of significant financial failure where a private provider goes into administration, the department may grant temporary designation to the new owners to protect the student interest and to allow students to complete their studies.

The UK quality code for higher education sets out the responsibility of degree awarding bodies when providers delivering their courses become insolvent, cease trading or the agreement is terminated. Degree awarding bodies ensure that adequate contingency plans are in place against these possibilities, but where they occur, a range of solutions may be possible for ensuring that students who wish to complete their course can do so.

The Higher Education and Research Bill will ensure that in future the Office for Students (OfS) has the necessary powers to require student protection plans are in place for all approved and approved (fee cap) providers, and to intervene if there are signs that quality in any HE institution is failing. The OfS will take a 'risk based' approach to student protection, ensuring that the level of protection required in the plan is proportionate to each provider. It is intended that the OfS will monitor the financial health of institutions, alongside other potential 'triggers', and will require student protection measures to be implemented whenever there is a risk to student's continuity of study. We expect these student protection plans to be available to all students, and to set out the protections students can expect if a course closes, or in the rare instance where an institution decides to exit the market.

## RAF Lossiemouth

*Asked by Lord Tuhig*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the infrastructure work at RAF Lossiemouth will be completed in time to enable the base to be used by the P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft. [HL5224]



**Earl Howe:** The P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft can already operate from RAF Lossiemouth on a temporary basis, as has been demonstrated on various occasions by aircraft operated by the US Navy. RAF Lossiemouth has been designated as the Main Operating Base for the RAF P-8A Poseidon fleet and the aircraft is expected to begin operating from there in 2020. As part of the preparations for this, plans are being finalised to build the support and training infrastructure to create a well-established and permanent base as the home for the UK P-8A fleet.

### Refugees: Children

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 25 January (HL Deb, cols 665–6) what support they have given to Europol in determining the fate of the 10,000 refugee children whom Europol reported in January as having gone missing. [HL5066]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK has committed significant resources to helping the EU deal with the migration crisis, including seconding staff to Europol.

The UK government recognises the vital role Europol has to play in coordinating law enforcement activity against migration related criminality. The National Crime Agency (NCA) and Immigration Enforcement second staff to Europol to work on these issues specifically, including within the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC). The UK continues to encourage international partners to share relevant information with Europol, supporting the EMSC's aim of strengthening support for EU Member States through enhanced intelligence exchange.

In addition to the support we give to Europol, the Government has established a £10 million Refugee Children Fund for Europe to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe. The UK is the largest bilateral contributor to the humanitarian response to the crisis in Europe and the Balkans with a total allocation of £70 million.

### Refugees: Children in Care

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer given by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 25 January (HL Deb, cols 665–6), what assessment they have made of the report in the Independent, on 17 April 2016, of at least 239 refugee children in the UK having disappeared from care facilities in the UK, and the report by ECPAT UK Heading back to harm: A study on trafficked and unaccompanied children going missing from care in the UK, published in November 2016, claiming that from September 2014 to September 2015, 593 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children went missing from care at least once. [HL5011]

**Lord Nash:** The Government has a comprehensive framework for safeguarding children, including unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children. In light of the recent increase in arrivals of refugee children into the UK, we have been working with local authorities, non-government organisations and other public bodies to make sure that looked after migrant children receive the immediate support they need.

This support has included making sure local authorities are aware of the heightened risk that they may go missing due to being trafficked. We are also funding the Refugee Council and ECPAT to deliver training for foster carers and support workers of unaccompanied migrant children, who may be at risk of trafficking, to ensure they can also offer the appropriate support to the children in their care.

On 1 November we announced through a written ministerial statement our plans to publish a strategy, by 1 May 2017, for the safeguarding of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children in England. In developing this strategy, we will consult local authorities to identify any further action that might be taken to prevent these children going missing.

### Regional Growth Fund

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the Regional Growth Fund on stimulating enterprise in the English regions. [HL5288]

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the Regional Growth Fund in assisting the areas and communities in England that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity. [HL5289]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The £2.6 billion Regional Growth Fund is on track to deliver £16 billion of private sector investment and over 550,000 created or safeguarded jobs by the mid-2020s.

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for future funding rounds of the Regional Growth Fund; and whether they expect bids to be open to public and private sector organisations. [HL5290]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Following the 2015 Spending Review no future rounds of the Regional Growth Fund are proposed.

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Local Enterprise Partnerships (1) applied for, and (2) were successful in receiving, funds from the Regional Growth Fund in each of the six funding rounds. [HL5291]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The following Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) have received awards from the Regional Growth Fund:

Black Country LEP  
 Coast to Capital LEP  
 Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP  
 Coventry and Warwickshire LEP  
 Cumbria LEP  
 D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership  
 East Riding Enterprise Partnership  
 Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP  
 Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership, New Anglia LEP (1 bid, 3 partners)  
 Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Humber LEP  
 Greater Manchester LEP  
 Humber LEP  
 Lancashire LEP  
 Leeds City Region LEP  
 Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership  
 Liverpool City Region LEP  
 New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership  
 North East LEP  
 Northamptonshire LEP  
 Sheffield City Region LEP  
 Solent LEP  
 Stoke & Staffs LEP  
 Tees Valley Unlimited Local Enterprise Partnership  
 The Marches  
 West of England LEP  
 Worcestershire LEP

### **Regional Schools Commissioners**

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total cost of Regional Schools Commissioners. [[HL5338](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The current combined annual gross basic salaries of the eight Regional Schools Commissioners (RSCs) totals £1,203,173.

### **Reservoirs: Northumberland**

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 2 February (HL4792), whether they will publish the Section 20 Water Resources Operating Agreement relating to Kielder Reservoir with any information which might compromise national security or public safety redacted. [[HL5208](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Environment Agency does not plan to publish the Section 20 Kielder Reservoir

Operating Agreement because the document also contains commercially sensitive information.

### **Road Traffic Offences: Mobile Phones**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend the law to allow the automatic confiscation of a mobile phone that has been used illegally by a driver. [[HL5189](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is increasing the fixed penalty notice for using a hand held phone when driving from 3 to 6 points and £100 to £200 from 1 March 2017. We plan to evaluate the effectiveness of this action. There are no further measures planned.

### **Russia: Electronic Warfare**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reported remarks of the Secretary of State for Defence on 3 February that Russia had carried out a sustained campaign of cyber attacks against the UK, whether they will publish the evidence supporting that statement; whether they have made formal representations to the government of Russia with a view to ending any such campaign; and if so, with what result. [[HL5275](#)]

**Earl Howe:** In his speech of 2 February 2017 the Secretary of State for Defence (Sir Michael Fallon) spoke about widely reported examples of Russian cyber activity against countries around the world. He acknowledged that the United Kingdom (UK), along with its Allies, is strengthening its capability to resist any form of attack.

The UK will attribute specific cyber incidents privately or publicly when we judge it in the national interest to do so. We currently consider public attribution on a case by case basis.

### **School Milk**

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answers by Lord Nash on 25 January (HL Deb, cols 662–3), what guidance has been provided to primary and secondary schools to ensure compliance with the milk requirements of the standards for school food in England, published on 9 September 2016; and how schools are required to demonstrate that they have complied with those requirements. [[HL5031](#)]

**Lord Nash:** Departmental advice on the School Food Standards, which includes the requirements for milk, is attached and available on Gov.uk. A summary of the standards and a practical guide are available from the School Food Plan website.

Governing boards are legally responsible for meeting the School Food Standards.

From previous surveys of compliance against the previous standards, we are confident that almost all schools are following the new standards appropriately.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

School\_Food\_in\_England [School\_food\_in\_England.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-26/HL5031>

## Sierra Leone: Joint Exercises

*Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what conclusions they have drawn from the recent joint exercise carried out by British Army personnel and their Sierra Leone counterparts. [HL5344]

**Earl Howe:** Exercise GUMA SUN, conducted from November to December 2016, was a positive experience for the Queen's Royal Dragoon Guards and the Reconnaissance Unit of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces. The exercise developed further understanding of joint activity and military planning in West Africa and of peace support operations. It also tested the capability of British soldiers to operate in a challenging and unfamiliar environment. Detailed lessons will be captured, analysed and then fed into Army planning and capability development.

## Social Security: Reciprocal Arrangements

*Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will seek reciprocal arrangements on social security schemes with EU member states after the UK leaves the EU. [HL5378]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The current arrangements with member states will be subject to our negotiations with the EU. The Government is considering the various options that may be available and it would be wrong to set out unilateral positions in advance of the negotiation process. At every step of these negotiations we will work to ensure the best outcome possible for the UK.

## Social Services

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Care Quality Commission de-registrations have taken place in each of the last three years for which figures are available, of (1) nursing homes, (2) residential care homes, and (3) domiciliary care services; and how many beds were involved in relation to categories (1) and (2). [HL5363]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has provided the following information:

The total number of nursing homes, residential homes and domiciliary care service locations <sup>1</sup> active as at 31 December 2014, 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016 is as follows:

Date	Nursing Home		Residential Home		Domiciliary care service
	Number of Locations	Number of Beds	Number of Locations	Number of Beds	Number of Locations
31 December 2014	4,609	221,899	12,563	246,371	7,737
31 December 2015	4,550	220,412	12,280	242,885	8,036
31 December 2016	4,518	221,523	11,978	239,503	8,189

Note: Service types and bed numbers can change over time. Numbers presented here use the service types/bed numbers applicable in the database at 10 February 2017. <sup>1</sup> A location can have multiple service types and so some locations could be counted in both the care home (nursing or residential) and domiciliary care service columns.

Care homes with both the 'Care home services with nursing' and 'Care home services without nursing' service types have been categorised as a 'Nursing home'; those with only the 'Care home service without nursing' as 'Residential home'.

Year of De-registration	Nursing home		Residential home		Domiciliary care service
	Number of Locations	Number of beds	Number of Locations	Number of beds	Number of Locations
2014	232	8,992	995	14,742	1,437
2015	307	14,478	938	17,356	1,594
2016	370	17,451	1,011	17,757	1,812
Total	909	40,921	2,944	49,855	4,843

Source: CQC database as at 9 February 2017.

The majority of de-registrations are initiated by the service providers and are not due to CQC enforcement activity. The figures provided represent the number of locations that have been de-registered. In some cases, these will be true closures where the location is no longer open or operating. In others however, it may be that the location has appeared to close when in fact the service continues, but under new registration due to a legal entity change or a change in the provider. This means that the number of de-registrations should not be used as an indication of the total number of locations.

<sup>2</sup> A location can have multiple service types and so some locations could be counted in both the care home (nursing or residential) and domiciliary care service columns.

Care homes with both the 'Care home services with nursing' and 'Care home services without nursing' service

types have been categorised as a 'Nursing home'; those with only the 'Care home service without nursing' as 'Residential home'.

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for the year to 31 December 2016, how many contracts for (1) nursing home places, (2) residential care home places, and (3) domiciliary care services, were handed back to local authorities in England with responsibility for adult social care; and in which local authorities that happened. [HL5364]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Department does not collect detailed information about local contracting.

Commissioning high quality social care is the responsibility of local government which is best placed to understand the needs of local people and communities, and how best to meet them.

Local authorities have legal duties to facilitate effective local markets, supporting people to have choice. The Department supports local authorities in meeting their market shaping duties when commissioning services and provides further support and guidance through sector-led improvement programmes.

The Department has worked with the *Association of Directors of Adult Social Services*, the Local Government Association, the care sector and other partners to produce a wide range of guidance and support about market shaping and commissioning. We have brought this together in an online hub called Adult Social Care Market Shaping, which is an online only resource, widely available to people and organisations, including local authorities, service users, and care providers.

Where a care provider 'hands back' a contract to a local authority, the authority remains responsible for meeting the needs of people who previously had services provided under the contract and for arranging replacement services. Where a care provider fails financially and services cease, potentially abruptly, the local authority has duties under the Care Act 2014 to step in and ensure people's needs continue to be met, regardless of who pays.

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether local authorities continue to provide services to all the clients involved when a registered provider of adult social care hands back a contract; and what assessment has been made of the additional cost local authorities may incur when such contracts are handed back. [HL5365]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Department does not collect detailed information about local contracting.

Commissioning high quality social care is the responsibility of local government which is best placed to understand the needs of local people and communities, and how best to meet them.

Local authorities have legal duties to facilitate effective local markets, supporting people to have choice. The

Department supports local authorities in meeting their market shaping duties when commissioning services and provides further support and guidance through sector-led improvement programmes.

The Department has worked with the *Association of Directors of Adult Social Services*, the Local Government Association, the care sector and other partners to produce a wide range of guidance and support about market shaping and commissioning. We have brought this together in an online hub called Adult Social Care Market Shaping, which is an online only resource, widely available to people and organisations, including local authorities, service users, and care providers.

Where a care provider 'hands back' a contract to a local authority, the authority remains responsible for meeting the needs of people who previously had services provided under the contract and for arranging replacement services. Where a care provider fails financially and services cease, potentially abruptly, the local authority has duties under the Care Act 2014 to step in and ensure people's needs continue to be met, regardless of who pays.

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new Care Quality Commission registrations of (1) nursing homes, (2) residential care homes, and (3) domiciliary services, have taken place in each of the last three 12-month periods for which figures are available; and how many beds were involved in relation to categories (1) and (2). [HL5366]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Care Quality Commission has provided the following information:

The total number of nursing homes, residential homes and domiciliary care service locations <sup>1</sup> active as at 31 December 2014, 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016 was as follows:

Date	Nursing Home		Residential Home		Domiciliary care service
	Number of Locations	Number of Beds	Number of Locations	Number of Beds	
31 December 2014	4,609	221,899	12,563	246,371	7,737
31 December 2015	4,550	220,412	12,280	242,885	8,036
31 December 2016	4,518	221,523	11,978	239,503	8,189

Note: Service types and bed numbers can change over time. Numbers presented here use the service types/bed numbers applicable in the database at 10 February 2017.

<sup>1</sup> A location can have multiple service types and so some locations could be counted in both the care home (nursing or residential) and domiciliary care service columns.



Care homes with both the 'Care home services with nursing' and 'Care home services without nursing' service types have been categorised as a 'Nursing home'; those with only the 'Care home service without nursing' as 'Residential home.'

Number of nursing homes, residential homes and domiciliary care service locations <sup>2</sup> that have been registered per year from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016 and number of beds in the homes:

Year of Activation	Nursing home		Residential home		Domiciliary care service
	Number of Locations	Number of beds	Number of Locations	Number of beds	
2014	265	12,560	755	12,178	1,683
2015	248	12,991	655	13,870	1,893
2016	338	18,562	709	14,375	1,965
Total	851	44,113	2,119	40,423	5,541

Note: A location that registered in the period, may have since been de-registered.

<sup>2</sup> A location can have multiple service types and so some locations could be counted in both the care home (nursing or residential) and domiciliary care service columns.

Care homes with both the 'Care home services with nursing' and 'Care home services without nursing' service types have been categorised as a 'Nursing home'; those with only the 'Care home service without nursing' as 'Residential home.'

*Asked by Lord Warner*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the supply of providers of publicly-funded adult social care is included as an issue on the Department of Health risk register, and if so, how seriously this issue is rated. [HL5368]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** The Department does not release details of risk registers that support policy making and delivery.

We monitor the capacity of the social care system and are aware of pressures, but have not seen a significant decline in the supply of care providers.

The Care Act (2014) placed duties on local authorities making them responsible for ensuring there is an effective pool of quality providers of social care in their area with capacity to meet the needs of their local population. The Department is supporting local authorities to influence their local market through improved market facilitation and commissioning to ensure that local markets are effective.

The Department has worked with *Association of Directors of Adult Social Services*, Local Government Association, the care sector and other partners to produce a wide range of guidance and support about market shaping and commissioning. This is available in an online

hub called Adult Social Care Market Shaping, which is an online only resource.

The Department continues to monitor capacity and effectiveness of the market.

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many elderly people in the UK presently require social care; what is their estimate of the increase in the number of elderly people requiring social care over the next 10 years; and what is both their short-term and long-term strategy to address the provision of social care for the elderly. [HL5374]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Social care is a means tested service. The Care Act 2014 requires that local authorities must assess any adult who appears to have a care and support need. If a person has eligible care needs and meets the means test criteria the local authority must arrange a package of care.

The latest available data suggests that:

- 200,000 packages of short term care were provided in 2015-16 by local authorities; and

- 400,000 elderly people were receiving long term care funded by their local authority on 31 March 2016.

The Personal Social Services Research Unit estimates that this number will increase to 500,000 by 2025, and 590,000 by 2030. (These demand projections cover long term care only).

NHS Digital publishes a report on the social care activity of Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities in England. A copy of *Community Care Statistics, Social Services Activity, England, 2015-16* is attached.

The Care Act received Royal Assent in May 2014. The Act sets out the legislative framework for the most significant and far-reaching programme of reform in adult social care undertaken since 1948. It is having a profound impact on the way the system works, the responsibilities of local government and partners, and the rights, outcomes and experience of people who need care, carers and their families. The first phase of the Care Act implemented, from April 2015, saw the introduction of a large number of reforms including establishing a new statutory "wellbeing principle" and a national minimum eligibility threshold for care and support.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Community Care Statistics [HL5374 NHS Digital comm-care-stat-act-eng-2015-16-rep.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-08/HL5374>

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent they have taken into account changes in (1) the number of social care bed spaces provided, and (2) local

demand for social care bed spaces, in determining the requirements for adult social care provision throughout England. [[HL5405](#)]

**Lord O'Shaughnessy:** Residential care is largely provided by an independent sector of care homes and nursing homes who respond to local demand.

The Care Act 2014 placed duties on local authorities to facilitate local markets, articulating likely changes to supply and demand in a Market Position Statement (or equivalent) and engaging with local providers to encourage a local pool of provider organisations that allows people a choice of quality organisations.

Local authorities are best placed to understand the changing needs of their citizens and communities. The Department supports local authorities in meeting their market shaping duties when commissioning services and provides further support and guidance through sector-led improvement programmes.

The Department has worked with the *Association of Directors of Adult Social Services*, the Local Government Association, the care sector and other partners to produce a wide range of guidance and support about market shaping and commissioning. We have brought this together in an online hub called Adult Social Care Market Shaping, which is an online only resource, widely available to people and organisations, including local authorities, service users, and care providers.

### Solar Power: Roads

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost-effectiveness, durability, safety and efficiency of paving roads with solar panels. [[HL5239](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** No assessment has been made by the Department for Transport regarding the cost-effectiveness, durability, safety and efficiency of paving roads with solar panels. The Department is aware of similar schemes overseas, including France, the Netherlands and the United States of America and will monitor the progress of them.

### State Visits: USA

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost to the UK of providing security for the visit of the US President to the UK; and which department or agency will be meeting those costs. [[HL5136](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Policing is a devolved matter, and as such the level of policing required and costs incurred for specific events is a matter for the relevant Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner. Police and Crime Commissioners can

make an application for a Special Grant if they face significant and exceptional costs.

### Sudan: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 30 January (HL4652) concerning Sir Simon McDonald's meetings with senior government figures in Khartoum, whether Sudan's refusal to grant humanitarian access to the Two Areas was discussed; and if so, what was the outcome of those discussions. [[HL5227](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Further to my written answer in HL4652, we continue to urge both sides to fully engage in the African Union-led peace process, including by reaching lasting agreements on a full cessation of hostilities and unrestricted humanitarian access. Most recently, during the visit of the UK Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan to Khartoum, the Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour on 24 January reconfirmed the government of Sudan's commitment to an international proposal for improving humanitarian access to the Two Areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan. We continue to urge the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to agree to these proposals to guarantee medical support directly to the areas under their control as a way to unblock a broader agreement on longer term access.

### Sudan: Religious Freedom

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Sudan about the life sentence imposed on the Czech aid worker Petr Jasek, and the imprisonment of Reverend Hassan Abduraheem Kodi Taour and Abdulmonem Abdumawla; and what assessment they have made of the extent to which the court proceedings met internationally accepted standards of justice and were in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [[HL5231](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are deeply concerned by the verdict in the case against Pastor Hassan Abduelraheen Kodi, Petr Jasek, and Abdulmonem Abdumawla. We are aware that the defendants have the right to appeal. Officials from our Embassy in Khartoum were present in court for the verdict, and together with our international partners, coordinated attendance at all hearings since the defendants' initial arrest. We have regularly raised our concerns over this case directly with the government of Sudan, most recently on 22 January; and we will continue to do so as part of our ongoing human rights dialogue.

We call on all countries to comply with their international human rights obligations. We support the work of the UN Independent Expert on the situation of

human rights in Sudan to assess efforts undertaken by the government to respond to recommendations made in this context.

### **Sudan: Sanctions**

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 23 January (HL Deb, col 425) concerning recent developments in Sudan, and in the light of the reported statement by the Sudanese Ambassador to London, Muhammad Abdallah al-Tom, to the Sudanese Media Centre of the impact of the lifting of US economic sanctions on Sudan on Sudanese-British economic and commercial relations, what assessment they have made of the impact of the lifting of US economic sanctions on Sudan on business relations between Sudan and the UK. [HL5116]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK welcomes the recent decisions made by the previous US Administration on Sudan related sanctions. The UK will consider opportunities to promote trade with Sudan; however, the business environment remains an obstacle to a sizeable increase in interest from British companies. We continue to urge the government of Sudan to make progress on these issues and on a cessation of hostilities in the Two Areas and Darfur and humanitarian access, which would enable the lifting of sanctions to become permanent.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 23 January (HL Deb, col 425) concerning recent developments in Sudan, and in the light of the indictment of the leaders of Sudan by the International Criminal Court for genocide and crimes against humanity, including the use of chemical weapons and assaults on the civilian population, whether they are planning the removal of any sanctions against Sudan or the promotion of bilateral business interests. [HL5117]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcome the US decision to lift their bilateral sanctions on Sudan. The UK will continue to support the UN targeted sanctions relating to Darfur, as well as the EU arms embargo that remains in place across Sudan. In line with our policy of phased engagement, the UK will consider opportunities to promote trade with Sudan, as well as other areas of mutual interest, such as migration and countering violent extremism.

### **Syria: Humanitarian Aid**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the \$12 billion pledged in February 2016 at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference has so far

been paid; and when they expect the full payment to be made. [HL5082]

**Lord Bates:** At the 2016 Supporting Syria and the Region Conference, donors pledged \$6 billion grants for 2016 and a further \$6.1 billion for 2017-2020. The Department for International Development has set up a tracking mechanism that reports on the delivery of all the financial commitments made at the Conference.

The most recent tracking report was published on 6 February 2017. It shows that of the \$6 billion grants pledged for 2016, donors have spent \$6.2 billion. We expect donors to fully spend their 2017-20 pledges by 2020 and continue to work with other London Conference co-hosts to urge donors to mobilise financial support to the crisis.

### **Syria: Politics and Government**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the evidence given by the Foreign Secretary to the International Relations Committee, when Foreign Office policy towards Syria changed (1) to allow for the possibility that President Bashar al-Assad could stand in a future election in Syria, and (2) to consider the possibility of an arrangement with Russia to combat Daesh and find a way forward over the future of Syria. [HL5151]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK's long-standing position is that there can be no sustainable peace in Syria while Asad remains in power. That remains our position. Syria needs a transition to a new, inclusive, non-sectarian government to achieve the credible political settlement that will bring long-term stability. This is set out in the Geneva Communiqué and endorsed by UN Security Council 2254. Any electoral process should be supervised by the United Nations and comprise all 11 million displaced Syrians, including those who have fled to other countries.

The UK and Russia face a shared threat from terrorism in Syria and we both want to see the defeat of Daesh. We engage with Russia on wider Syria issues. When we believe that Russian actions are prolonging the suffering of the Syrian people, we will make clear our concerns.

### **Tanks**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Army's Ajax tanks require dismantling before they can be accommodated on transport aircraft. [HL5371]

**Earl Howe:** There are a number of options available for the air transportation of Ajax across the world, including the A400M and C-17 aircraft. The vehicle is designed to be modular and parts can be removed for this very purpose; this is not unusual and does not cause any issue.

## Tax Avoidance

*Asked by Lord Harries of Pentregarth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 28 December 2016 (HL4016), and in the light of the LuxLeaks trials in Luxembourg, whether they intend to review their policy of not offering immunity from prosecution to whistle-blowers in so far as it applies to cases where information has been supplied about aggressive tax avoidance schemes that have caused a significant loss to the public purse. [HL5192]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government does not currently intend to review the law.

## Tax Avoidance: Luxembourg

*Asked by Lord Harries of Pentregarth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Young of Cookham on 28 December 2016 (HL4016), and in the light of the involvement of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in the LuxLeaks trials in Luxembourg and the reported pressure placed upon one of the LuxLeaks whistle-blowers to sign a secrecy agreement, whether they intend to desist from conducting any further Government business with PwC. [HL5193]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** As stated in my response of 21 December 2016 (HL4016), the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 ensures that workers who raise concerns of wrongdoing to their employer or a relevant external body (by making what is known as a 'protected disclosure') and suffer detriment as a result may seek redress through an Employment Tribunal.

When a finding of unlawful practices has been made against the organisation at a Employment Tribunal, a public body may exclude that organisation from participation in a procurement procedure. This is laid out in the discretionary exclusion grounds of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Such a finding has not been made against PwC as a result of the LuxLeaks trials.

## Tobacco: Smuggling

*Asked by Lord Palmer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish the results of the HMRC consultation Tobacco Illicit Trade Protocol on sanctions to tackle the illicit tobacco market. [I] [HL5156]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) consultation 'Tobacco Illicit Trade Protocol – licensing of equipment and the supply chain' sought views on two aspects of the Protocol. These were the mandatory licensing of tobacco manufacturing machinery and the potential licensing of participants in the supply chain of tobacco products for the purposes of tackling the illicit trade.

A response document on the licensing of tobacco manufacturing machinery was published on 5 December 2016 and draft legislation was published at the same time.

Licensing of the supply chain is more complex and could affect a large number of UK businesses. Therefore, while HMRC is in a position to proceed to implementation of the licensing of machinery, supply chain licensing requires further consideration. A response document covering this aspect of the consultation will be published later in the year.

## Transport: Rural Areas

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how Article 51 of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 concerning social aid for transport for residents of remote regions can be introduced in England; for what purposes; and what aid is already in place. [HL5186]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Article 51 of Regulation No 651/2014 is a permissive provision that specifies types of aid that will be deemed compatible with EU state aid rules. The Article itself does not require any action to be taken for it to be introduced in Member States; this is a Regulation and is directly applicable. The decision of whether to grant such aid is one for Member States.

## Type 45 Destroyers

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are any issues with the noise levels emitted underwater by the Navy's Type 45 destroyers; and how far away underwater the Type 45 can be heard by a submarine. [HL5370]

**Earl Howe:** The Type 45 destroyers were designed and built primarily as highly capable air defence destroyers but are configured and equipped for a range of operations, including as part of a maritime task group, where they would operate alongside anti-submarine warfare frigates.

The level of underwater radiated noise of the Type 45 destroyers is in accordance with the design of the ships.

I am withholding further information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces.

## UN Commission on the Status of Women

*Asked by Baroness Sheehan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contribution they will be making to the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women taking place in New York from 13 to 24 March; and what efforts the Department for International Development will make to raise issues affecting older women in developing countries. [HL5331]



**Lord Bates:** A key objective for Her Majesty's Government at the Commission on the Status of Women is to ensure that global standards on the rights of all women and girls are protected and progressed. We recognise that particular issues are faced by older women, and are committed to ensuring that the issues affected girls and women across their lifecycle are addressed.

### Unmanned Air Vehicles

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the 54 Watchkeeper reconnaissance drones ordered by the Ministry of Defence in 2005 have yet entered service; and if not, why not. [HL5372]

**Earl Howe:** Watchkeeper is in service with the British Army, first deploying on operations to Afghanistan in 2014.

We do not routinely comment on the specific status of equipment as to do so would compromise operational security and would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces.

### USA: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether British nationals applying for new ESTAs for travel to the US under the Visa Waiver Program will be subject to additional checks and requirements, including the disclosure of social media information and mobile phone contacts. [HL5152]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** No - although the United States, like all sovereign nations, reserves the right to conduct border controls.

### USA: Immigration Controls

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they were first made aware of the measures contained in the executive order Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry To The United States, signed by President Trump on 27 January. [HL5153]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) said during Prime Minister's Questions on 1 February, we were not given advance notice of the Executive Order before it was signed on 27 January.

### Water Abstraction: Licensing

*Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 2 February (HL4792), whether they will publish the abstraction licences relating to (1) Thirlmere Reservoir,

and (2) Haweswater Reservoir, with the precise locations of the abstraction points redacted. [HL5207]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Environment Agency does not publish the licences because these include the precise locations of abstraction points for public water supply which cannot be made generally available on national security and public safety grounds. Information on the Thirlmere and Haweswater reservoirs is already available at 'Water Abstraction Licences - Environment Agency' on gov.uk website.

### Wines: Imports

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many imported bottles of wine were sampled in each of the last five years, in order to check for fraud and forgery, broken down by samples from (1) EU member states, and (2) the rest of the world. [HL5187]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The information requested is not held.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is responsible for protecting the Exchequer from alcohol duty fraud. The majority of this fraud in the UK relates to the diversion of genuine products, without payment of duty. HMRC has a published strategy for dealing with alcohol fraud. This is risk-based and sampling does not form part of this approach.

### Wines: Labelling

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether sampling of Spanish and French wine has been increased in the light of allegations that cheap Spanish wine is being labelled as French wine. [HL5188]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Wine sampling is conducted by Her Majesty's Government on a random and risk-led basis. It therefore remains fully adaptable to respond to actual and perceived risks faced by the wine sector and consumers.

### Young Offenders: Travellers

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider targeted education and vocational skills interventions for Gypsy, Traveller and Roma children in youth custody in the light of the Traveller Movement's finding in Overlooked and Overrepresented: Gypsy, Traveller and Roma children in the youth justice system that 55 per cent of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma children in Secure Training Centres had learnt skills for jobs they would like to do in the future. [HL5073]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** We want all children in custody to be fully occupied in education and training throughout the

day with a core curriculum focussed on preparing them for employment, an apprenticeship or continued education when they are resettled back into their communities. As part of our reforms we will ensure governors have increased flexibility to work with providers to decide how education is best delivered to meet the different needs of the young people in their establishments.

### **Youth Justice: Ethnic Groups**

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have consulted, or had representations from, the National Police Chiefs' Council on the merits of updating the

ethnicity data collection used in the youth justice system to include the 2011 Census ethnic group classifications. [[HL5075](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Following a letter received from the National Police Chief's Council lead for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller issues, in December we responded by acknowledging their interest and to confirm that the Youth Justice Board (YJB) are keen in principle to move to the 18+1 ethnicity monitoring system from the 2011 Census.

The YJB is examining the requirements and dependencies with existing IT systems and identifying the feasibility and indicative costs of moving to the revised classification system.

## Index to Statements and Answers

<b>Written Statements.....1</b>	Developing Countries: Older People ..... 10
Defined Benefit Occupational Pension Schemes .1	Diplomatic Relations ..... 11
Foreign Affairs Council: 6 February 2017 .....1	Divorce ..... 11
Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation..2	Dog Fighting: Prosecutions ..... 11
<b>Written Answers.....3</b>	Domestic Violence: Prosecutions ..... 11
A1: Nottinghamshire .....3	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Telephone Services..... 11
Absent Voting.....3	East Coast Railway Line..... 12
Accident and Emergency Departments: Geriatrics .....3	Egypt: Crimes of Violence ..... 12
Air Pollution .....3	Electric Vehicles..... 12
Asylum: Children .....4	Electronic Cigarettes..... 13
Aviation: Regulation .....4	Eritrea: Human Rights ..... 13
Bahrain: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund ....4	Estate Agents ..... 13
Balkans: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund ....5	EU Institutions..... 13
Baltic States: Russia .....5	EU Law..... 14
Boarding Schools: Disadvantaged.....5	EURATOM ..... 14
British Home Stores: Insolvency.....5	European Court of Justice..... 14
Burma: Human Rights.....5	European Medicines Agency..... 14
Burma: Rohingya.....5	Exports..... 14
Burma: Sexual Offences.....6	Family Proceedings ..... 15
Carbon Emissions.....7	Foetal Alcohol Syndrome ..... 15
Carillion.....7	Food: Taxation..... 15
Cattle: Hormone Treatments .....7	France: Foreign Relations..... 16
Chronic Illnesses .....8	Gambia: Commonwealth ..... 16
Communities and Local Government: Reviews...8	Gaza ..... 16
Community Rehabilitation Companies .....8	Gaza: Egypt ..... 16
Companies .....8	Greece: Asylum ..... 16
Conflict, Stability and Security Fund .....9	Greece: Refugees ..... 16
Congenital Abnormalities.....9	Greenhouse Gas Emissions..... 17
Consumers: Protection.....9	Health Professions: Training ..... 17
Council Tax: Non-payment .....9	Health Services: Older People ..... 17
Defence Equipment: Procurement.....9	Health Services: Prisons ..... 17
Defence Medical Services: Reserve Forces.....10	Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements ..... 18
Defence: Expenditure .....10	Hepatitis..... 18
Developing Countries: Abortion .....10	High Speed 2 Railway Line..... 18
Developing Countries: Health Services.....10	HIV Infection..... 18

## Index to Statements and Answers

HMS Queen Elizabeth.....	19	Offshore Industry.....	27
Hospital at Home Scheme .....	19	Offshore Industry: Decommissioning.....	27
Hospital Beds .....	19	Overseas Students: EU Nationals .....	27
Housing: Sales.....	19	Overseas Trade .....	28
Immigration: EU Nationals .....	20	Overseas Trade: Israeli Settlements.....	28
Inflation .....	20	Palestinians .....	28
Insolvency .....	20	Palestinians: Employment .....	28
International Criminal Court .....	20	Palestinians: Overseas Aid .....	28
Iraq: Humanitarian Aid.....	20	Palestinians: Recognition of States.....	28
Iraq: Islamic State.....	21	Palestinians: Syria.....	29
Iraq: Overseas Aid.....	21	Passenger Ships: Rescue Services .....	29
Iraq: Religious Freedom.....	21	Pay .....	29
Israel: Palestinians.....	22	Power Stations .....	29
Israel: USA .....	22	Prescriptions .....	29
Israeli Settlements .....	22	Press Recognition Panel .....	30
Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft.....	22	Prison Sentences .....	30
Libya: Banks.....	22	Prisoners: Republic of Ireland .....	30
Libya: Politics and Government .....	22	Private Education: Insolvency .....	30
Libya: Prisons.....	23	RAF Lossiemouth.....	30
Literacy.....	23	Refugees: Children .....	31
London Stock Exchange: Deutsche Börse.....	23	Refugees: Children in Care.....	31
Maritime Patrol Aircraft .....	23	Regional Growth Fund .....	31
Mass Media .....	23	Regional Schools Commissioners .....	32
Mental Patients: Death .....	24	Reservoirs: Northumberland.....	32
Military Aircraft .....	24	Road Traffic Offences: Mobile Phones .....	32
Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries.....	24	Russia: Electronic Warfare .....	32
Motor Vehicles: Taxation.....	24	School Milk .....	32
Multinational Companies: Taxation .....	24	Sierra Leone: Joint Exercises.....	33
Nagorno Karabakh.....	25	Social Security: Reciprocal Arrangements .....	33
National Grid.....	25	Social Services.....	33
NATO.....	25	Solar Power: Roads .....	36
NHS: Drugs .....	25	State Visits: USA.....	36
NHS: Negligence.....	26	Sudan: Humanitarian Aid .....	36
Non-domestic Rates.....	26	Sudan: Religious Freedom.....	36
North Korea: Forced Labour .....	26	Sudan: Sanctions.....	37
Nuclear Fusion: Research.....	27	Syria: Humanitarian Aid.....	37



## Index to Statements and Answers

Syria: Politics and Government.....	37
Tanks .....	37
Tax Avoidance .....	38
Tax Avoidance: Luxembourg.....	38
Tobacco: Smuggling.....	38
Transport: Rural Areas .....	38
Type 45 Destroyers.....	38
UN Commission on the Status of Women.....	38
Unmanned Air Vehicles .....	39
USA: British Nationals Abroad.....	39
USA: Immigration Controls .....	39
Water Abstraction: Licensing.....	39
Wines: Imports .....	39
Wines: Labelling .....	39
Young Offenders: Travellers.....	39
Youth Justice: Ethnic Groups .....	40