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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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Written Statements

Wednesday, 12 October 2016

Hong Kong (Sino/British Joint Declaration)

[HLWS180]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: My right Honourable Friend, the Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Boris Johnson), has made the following written Ministerial statement:

The latest six-monthly report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today, and is attached. It covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2016. The report has been placed in the Library of the House. A copy is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office). I commend the report to the House.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Six- Monthly report on Hong Kong January-June 2016 [Six-Monthly Report on Hong Kong - 1 January - 30 June 2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-10-12/HLWS180/>

Justice and Home Affairs pre-Council statement

[HLWS182]

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:

The first formal Justice and Home Affairs Council of the Slovak Presidency will take place on 13 and 14 October in Luxembourg. The Policing Minister, my rt hon Friend Brandon Lewis MP, will attend the Justice Day and I will attend the Interior Day.

The Interior Day (Thursday 13 October) will begin with a progress report on the implementation of the European Border and Coast Guard, which came into force on 6 October. As a Schengen measure, the UK does not participate. However, the Government supports action by Schengen states to improve management of the external border and will support the European Border and Coast Guard's operations by mutual consent.

The Presidency will then provide a progress report on information technology measures related to border management, including the proposal to introduce systematic checks at the external border and the revised Smart Borders policy proposal for an Entry-Exit System (EES). The Presidency will also ask the Commission to

update on plans for the evolution of the Second Generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) and the forthcoming proposal for an EU Travel Information and Authorisation Scheme (ETIAS). We will intervene to support those Member States arguing that systematic checks should be the default at all external borders and to argue that future amendments to SIS II should support more effective police cooperation within the EU. As Schengen measures, the UK does not participate in the systematic checks at external borders and EES measures, and will not participate in the ETIAS proposal.

Next on the agenda will be a discussion on migration. This is likely to focus on implementation of the EU-Turkey deal, with updates on the wider migration situation. We will reaffirm that the UK is continuing to play its part to address the migration crisis through our support for practical work to strengthen the EU's external borders, including hotspots.

Over lunch, the Presidency will hold a discussion on progress towards establishing new migration Partnership Frameworks with five priority countries – Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. We will welcome the emphasis on addressing migration issues as a major element of the European Union's relations with third countries, but caution against limiting that approach to the current priority countries. We should look strategically at which regions and countries offer the most opportunity for impact, including in the Horn of Africa, Middle East and Asia.

After lunch, the Presidency will provide a progress report on the six proposals relating to reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). This is likely to focus on law enforcement access to Eurodac and the extent of the mechanism for monitoring and assessing the asylum and reception systems of Member States in the EU Asylum Agency proposal. The UK has not opted into the EU Asylum Agency proposal and is considering whether to opt in the other five proposals. We will encourage the Council to support easier law enforcement access to Eurodac.

Following this, there will be a debate on a proposal for a common EU Resettlement Framework. The Government has previously stated that resettlement schemes are best operated at the national level.

Under any other business, the Presidency will update Ministers on the Third Ministerial Conference of the Prague Process, in which the UK does not participate, and on the progress of current legislative proposals.

The Justice Day (14 October) will begin with a progress report and policy debate on the proposal for a Directive on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (PIF Directive), with a view to endorsing the development of a compromise that would bring serious VAT fraud within the scope of the Directive. The UK has not opted in to this proposal on the grounds that it would infringe on Member States' competence to control their own taxes.

The Presidency will seek Member States' support for a partial general approach on the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). The UK will not participate in an EPPO.

Under any other business, the Commission will provide information on combating hate crime in the EU, specifically on the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia, in which the UK does not take part as our law provides similar levels of protection, and the Presidency will update the Council on current legislative proposals.

Over lunch, the Presidency intends to discuss the role of Eurojust in relation to counter terrorism. We will make the point that the UK values the work of Eurojust in helping to coordinate investigations and prosecutions, including counter terrorism cases, but clearly any activity should be within its remit.

Modern Slavery: Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group Report 2016

[HLWS181]

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:

Today, I am publishing the 2016 report of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Modern Slavery. This group acts as a national rapporteur for the purposes of the Article 19 of the European Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. The report sets out an assessment of the scale of modern slavery in the UK and outlines the actions being taken to combat it. The report covers the whole of the UK and has been drafted in collaboration with the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

A copy of the report will be placed in the House Library and also made available on the GOV.UK website.

National Infrastructure Commission

[HLWS183]

Lord Young of Cookham: My honourable friend The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Simon Kirby) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I wish to update the House on the establishment of the National Infrastructure Commission as an Executive Agency, and an associated Contingencies Fund advance.

The purpose of the National Infrastructure Commission is to provide expert, impartial analysis of the long-term infrastructure needs of the country. The Commission reports on high-priority issues and produces an in-depth, independent assessment of the UK's major infrastructure needs on a 30-year time horizon.

The government consulted earlier this year on establishing the Commission using primary legislation. The government considers that the Commission can achieve the same objectives without legislation.

The Government will therefore proceed to establish the Commission on a permanent basis as an Executive Agency of HM Treasury. It will operate independently, at arm's length from Government, and will come into force in January 2017.

The resources for the operating costs of the Commission will form part of HM Treasury's Supplementary Estimate 2016-17, which is not expected to receive Royal Assent in the associated Supply and Appropriations Bill until mid to late March 2017. HM Treasury will therefore be utilising the Contingencies Fund to finance the Commission's operating costs that become payable prior to Royal Assent.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £5,000,000 for this new spending will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for HM Treasury. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £5,000,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

A copy of the Charter for the National Infrastructure Commission has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Written Answers

Wednesday, 12 October 2016

British Indian Ocean Territory

Asked by Lord Ramsbotham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the discussions with the government of the US over the extension of the 1966 agreement concerning the British Indian Ocean Territory will be followed by discussions with Mauritius over the future sovereignty of the Chagos Islands. [[HL2040](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government is disappointed at recent action by Mauritius in seeking a UN General Assembly resolution requesting "an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965". We believe this is an inappropriate use of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion mechanism and sets an unwelcome precedent for other bilateral disputes. Whilst we are disappointed that this item has been added to the UNGA agenda, we are pleased that discussions at UNGA will be deferred until at least June 2017 in order to allow for bilateral discussions with Mauritius. We are hopeful that we can reach an agreed way forward through such bilateral discussions.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the Department for International Development's total overseas development aid was spent on sexual, reproductive, maternal and child health in (1) 2013, (2) 2014, and (3) 2015. [[HL2069](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Department of International Development spent 12.4% of its official development assistance on sexual, reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in each year 2013 and 2014. Data for 2015 is not yet published.

Egypt: Aviation

Asked by Lord Stone of Blackheath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 19 September (HL1630), when flights between the UK and Sharm el-Sheikh will resume. [[HL2059](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government has not yet concluded that it is right to lift the restrictions on direct UK flights to and from Sharm el-Sheikh. The security of British nationals is the Government's top priority. Our security experts take account of many

factors in providing advice on whether it is safe to fly to certain destinations.

UK aviation security experts have worked closely with their Egyptian counterparts on the ground, sharing their expertise in establishing effective security arrangements. We continue to work in partnership in a spirit of cooperation, and are grateful for Egypt's close engagement and partnership. We look forward to achieving the return of flights once we can be assured that the necessary security environment can be sustained.

Football Association

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 12 September (HL1480), how they will establish whether the Football Association is adhering to the new Code of Governance. [[HL2003](#)]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The new Governance Code for Sport in the UK will be published shortly. It will build on the existing governance requirements of UK Sport and Sport England and set out new governance standards that will be expected of all sports bodies seeking public funding. It will be for UK Sport and/or Sport England to determine compliance.

Lebanon: Military Intervention

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the government of Lebanon has requested British air support for its frontier and other military forces; and if so, what their response was. [[HL2080](#)]

Earl Howe: No formal request for air support to the Lebanese Armed Forces has been received from the Government of Lebanon. However, should the UK Government receive such a request, it would be given due consideration, in consultation with the counter-Daesh Coalition.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to oblige electricity supply companies to forward feed-in tariff payments to small or domestic suppliers to a similar timescale as that which applies to small or domestic customers. [[HL2031](#)]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Payments to generators are based on generation meter readings and must be made at least quarterly. There is no restriction on FIT licensees making payments more frequently; generators may wish to consider this when choosing a FIT licensee or deciding to switch FIT licensees.

Social Rented Housing: Finance

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that the funds allocated for new housing are used promptly; what steps they are taking to ensure that the housing revenue account borrowing programme is fully used by local authorities and housing associations; and what assessment they have made of whether greater flexibility between allocations is now necessary. [HL2081]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: There are a number of government programmes that support the delivery of new homes including the biggest affordable housing programme since the 1970s.

Government affordable housing programmes are bid-based. The Homes and Communities Agency manages programmes outside London, and the Greater London Authority in London. A programme is normally launched through a bid round with a publication of prospectus which sets out information required for bids, eligibility and assessment criteria and grant conditions. Providers can submit bids to the grant-giving body who assess bids based on the criteria set out in the prospectus, focusing on value for money and deliverability. This allows for flexibility between allocations because value for money can be assessed across products, tenures, geographies and the types of providers. The Homes and Communities Agency carries out quarterly contract reviews with each provider to ensure delivery is on track. Through this route we have delivered 193,000 affordable homes between 2011 and 2015, exceeding the target by 23,000.

The Government also regularly monitors the additional borrowing that local authority have been allocated under the Housing Revenue Account borrowing programme to ensure delivery of the provision of new affordable homes. We also consider applications from local authorities seeking flexibility in the profiling of their borrowing allocations across years. However, flexibility is not needed between authorities' allocations as the programme, which was time limited, is now closed, and authorities are making good progress in using their allocations to deliver affordable homes.

Supported Housing: Finance

Asked by Baroness Hollins

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guarantees they plan to give that, once the new funding system for supported housing comes into place in 2019–20, existing tenants will not be affected negatively by any changes. [HL2022]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government is committed to protecting the most vulnerable through our welfare reforms. That is why we have exempted supported housing from the Local Housing Allowance policy until 2019/20, from which point we will bring in a new funding model which will ensure that the sector

continues to be funded at current levels, taking into account the effect of Government policy on social sector rents. The new funding model will include a ring-fenced local top-up to ensure that funding is used only for supported housing provision and will support existing tenants.

The funding will be administered locally so that local authorities can respond flexibly to local need. We believe local authorities are best placed to make decisions about how to support vulnerable people in their areas and to commission the supported housing services that are needed locally.

Syria: Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether international relief and resettlement aid has reached Manbij in Syria; and if not, what plans they have to make this possible. [HL2079]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: DFID partners, working with the local council, have already provided relief to Manbij city in the form of repairs to water and electricity networks, as well the provision of safe water, hygiene kits and support for waste removal. Our international NGO partners are also assessing needs and planning to provide further assistance.

DFID supports the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Humanitarian Pooled Fund, which has allocated over \$1 million for the prepositioning of humanitarian supplies for use in Manbij. These will be distributed as access into Manbij increases – it is currently hampered by the presence of unexploded ordnance.

UK Withdrawal from EU

Asked by Baroness Quin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effects of the UK leaving the EU on the audio-visual industry. [HL2037]

Asked by Baroness Quin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what meetings they have held with representatives of the audio-visual industry about the implications for the industry of the result of the referendum on EU membership; and which government departments have been involved in such meetings. [HL2038]

Asked by Baroness Quin

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to hold meetings with representatives of the audio-visual industry about the effects of the UK leaving the EU; and if so, which government departments will be involved in such meetings. [HL2039]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: The Government is determined to ensure the UK audio-visual industry thrives outside of the EU. The Secretary of State held a roundtable with key stakeholders to discuss implications for the industry, and

over the coming weeks and months government will be engaging in further discussions with the businesses and key stakeholders.

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