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

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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

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

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# Written Statements

Thursday, 7 July 2016

## Committee on Climate Change: UK's Carbon Budgets

[HLWS67]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My hon friend, the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change has made a statement:

I wish to inform the House that the Government is today laying the Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) advice on the compatibility of UK onshore petroleum with meeting the UK's carbon budgets, as well as the Government's response to that advice<sup>[i]</sup>. These are being laid before Parliament in line with Section 49 of the Infrastructure Act 2015.

The CCC's report mainly focuses on shale gas extraction. The Government welcomes the CCC's conclusion that shale gas is compatible with carbon budgets if certain conditions are met. We believe that our strong regulatory regime and determination to meet our carbon budgets mean those conditions can and will be met.

The Government is committed to exploring the UK's shale gas potential whilst maintaining the very highest safety and environmental standards. We are confident that the existing regulators have the right powers and flexibility to ensure that emissions are minimised. We will of course continue to work with the Environment Agency, the Health and Safety Executive and the Oil and Gas Authority to ensure this continues to be the case as the new shale industry grows.

Exploring and developing our shale gas and oil resources could potentially bring substantial benefits and help meet our objectives for secure energy supplies, economic growth and lower carbon emissions. We therefore welcome that the CCC shares the Government's view that shale gas could make a useful contribution to UK energy supplies.

We do not yet know the full scale of the UK's shale resources nor how much can be extracted technically or economically. There is therefore a clear need to seize the opportunity now to determine the full potential for shale development in the UK and we support the industry's work to bring forward exploratory wells.

Having access to clean, safe and secure supplies of natural gas for years to come is a key requirement if the UK is to successfully transition to a low-carbon economy. The UK was the first country to set legally binding carbon budgets, and this Government is fully committed to them, as shown by the announcement of the fifth carbon budget level last week. We need gas — the cleanest fossil fuel — to support our climate change efforts by providing flexibility and helping us to reduce the use of high-carbon coal.

Section 49 of the Infrastructure Act requires the Secretary of State, when laying the CCC report before Parliament, to lay either regulations providing for the right to use deep-level land to cease to have effect, or a report explaining the reasoning for not doing so. The Government response explains why the Government believes that our strong regulatory regime will meet the conditions set out by the CCC, and therefore further regulations are not required. This meets the Government's obligations under the Infrastructure Act. The Act requires a further report to be provided by the CCC in April 2021.

<sup>[i]</sup> These are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/committee-on-climate-change-report-and-government-response-on-the-compatibility-of-uk-onshore-petroleum-with-meeting-the-uks-carbon-budgets>

## Cremations

[HLWS78]

**Lord Faulks:** My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Michael Gove) has made the following Written Statement.

"Today the government is publishing its response to the recent consultation on infant cremations, which sought views on proposals for a number of changes to the Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008, and for improving other aspects of cremation practice.

Improving infant cremation legislation and practice has been a priority for me since I joined the Ministry of Justice last year. I am therefore very pleased to publish this document which sets out the changes we plan to make.

We consulted between December 2015 and March 2016 following consideration of David Jenkins' report of June 2015 into infant cremations at Emstrey Crematorium in Shropshire, and Lord Bony's Scottish Infant Cremation Commission report of June 2014. These reports found that ashes were either not recovered following infant cremations, or were recovered but parents were neither consulted over what should happen to their babies' ashes nor advised of the ashes' final resting place.

Such practices caused parents already grieving the loss of their baby immense additional distress. Some parents will never know what happened to their babies' ashes.

I have always made it clear that such practices should never happen again. It is my aim that the changes I am announcing today will ensure that no bereaved parent suffers in future as many have suffered in the past.

Following consideration of the responses to our consultation, we plan to make the following changes:

- Introduce a statutory definition of ashes.
- Amend statutory cremation forms to make sure that applicants' wishes in relation to recovered ashes are explicit and clearly recorded before a cremation takes place.
- Where parents choose a cremation following a pregnancy loss of a foetus of less than 24 weeks'

gestation, we will bring such cremations into the scope of our regulations, like all other cremations. I must stress that we have no plans to alter parents' current choices following a pre-24 week pregnancy loss, so parents will continue to be able to choose between cremation, burial and sensitive incineration or they can ask the hospital to make all arrangements on their behalf.

- Establish a national cremation working group of experts to advise us on a number of technical matters related to our proposed reforms, such as the detail of new regulations and forms, codes of practice and training for cremation authority staff, information for bereaved parents, and whether there should be an inspector of crematoria.

Copies of the consultation response document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The response is also available at <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/consultation-on-cremation>."

## HS2: South Yorkshire Update

[HLWS64]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Patrick McLoughlin), has made the following Ministerial Statement:

Since the Government proposed that South Yorkshire should be served by a High Speed station at Meadowhall in 2013, opinion amongst local stakeholders has remained divided. This has made the decision about where to best to locate an HS2 station in South Yorkshire very challenging. I would therefore like to thank Sir David Higgins, Chairman of HS2 Ltd, for the work he and HS2 Ltd have undertaken in re-appraising the options and welcome the report he has published today on this issue.

The report re-examines both the HS2 station location and route in South Yorkshire as well as alternative high speed city centre proposals at both Sheffield Midland station and the former Sheffield Victoria station.

There are two key recommendations:

- That HS2 services should serve Sheffield Midland station in Sheffield city centre by running high speed 'classic compatible' trains into Sheffield via a dedicated link off the main High Speed line. Under this proposition Sir David believes it would be possible to provide two trains per hour into Sheffield city centre and a new high speed service to Chesterfield.
- That the high speed main line be moved further east, initially running parallel to the M18. Sir David suggests that this alignment not only avoids the complexities and risks associated with the Meadowhall route but also provides journey time savings to services heading to Leeds, York and Newcastle.

The report also notes that using the existing Sheffield Midland station for HS2 services opens up the possibility of running high speed trains from Sheffield to Leeds by building a link back onto the main HS2 line north of

Sheffield. This link could deliver Transport for the North's (TfN) ambition for a frequent 30 minute journey time between Leeds and Sheffield, and might also be used by Birmingham-Leeds HS2 services, allowing them to route through Sheffield. TfN are considering the Sheffield-Leeds corridor alongside other Northern Powerhouse rail schemes and I look forward to their advice on how the HS2 mainline can be utilised to help deliver their aspirations for fast and frequent city centre services across the north.

I appreciate that the recommendations set out by Sir David Higgins today will cause concern for those living along this newly proposed route and will also be unsettling for those living alongside the consulted route via Meadowhall. HS2 Ltd will now engage closely with these affected communities to provide them with the necessary support and information as quickly as possible. I would also like to reassure homeowners along both routes that they are eligible to apply to the Government's Exceptional Hardship Scheme from today.

Before I reach a decision about HS2 in South Yorkshire I will want to consider today's report in detail. It is my intention to make an announcement on the HS2 Phase Two route, of which South Yorkshire is a part, later this year. Should I decide to adopt the report's recommendations as my preferred option in South Yorkshire I will then hold a public consultation in order to allow local stakeholders and affected communities the opportunity to comment on the proposal, alongside a consultation on the property compensation and assistance schemes for the entire route.

## Infrastructure (Financial Assistance) Act 2012: Annual Report

[HLWS69]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Greg Hands) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Annual Report to Parliament under the Infrastructure (Financial Assistance) Act 2012 for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 has today been laid before Parliament.

The report is prepared in line with the requirements set out in the Infrastructure (Financial Assistance) Act 2012 that the government reports annually to Parliament on the financial assistance given under the act.

## Judicial Conduct Investigations Office: Annual Report

[HLWS79]

**Lord Faulks:** My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Michael Gove) has made the following Written Statement.

"With the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice, I will today publish the tenth Annual Report of the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (JCIO), formerly known as the Office for Judicial Complaints. The JCIO provides

support to the Lord Chief Justice and myself in our joint responsibility for the system of judicial complaints and discipline.

Over the past year the JCIO received 2609 complaints and 662 written enquiries, with 43 complaints resulting in disciplinary action. A first substantive response was provided within 15 working days in 99% of all cases and regular monthly updates given to all parties in 98% of cases.

I have placed copies of the report into the libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies of the Report are also available on the Internet at <http://judicialcomplaints.judiciary.gov.uk/reports-publications>

### June Environment Council

[HLWS75]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs (Rory Stewart) has today made the following statement.

I attended the EU Environment Council in Luxembourg on 20 June along with my Noble Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Lord Bourne). Roseanna Cunningham MSP also attended.

I wish to update the House on the matters discussed.

#### *EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)*

The Presidency introduced their progress report on negotiations to reform the EU ETS, framed in the context of the Paris Climate Agreement. The Commission saw carbon leakage rules as a priority and cautioned against over-burdening national authorities and industry. The Commission called for more ideas from industry on how best to use the Innovation and Modernisation Funds, and supported a focus on addressing the surplus of allowances in the system rather than direct price regulation.

In the ensuing policy debate, all Ministers supported the Presidency's progress report and proposals for next steps. The UK focused on the need to balance the reducing number of free allowances with appropriate carbon leakage support, protection of the Market Stability Reserve, strengthening of the carbon price, and reaching agreement on ETS alongside the Effort Share Decision.

#### *Paris ratification: presentation from the Commission and Council Statement*

The Commission briefly presented their proposal for a Council Decision on EU ratification of the Paris Agreement, published on 10 June. The Presidency then invited Ministers to endorse a Council Statement calling for ratification of the Paris Agreement by the EU and its Member States as soon as possible.

Following proposals from other Member States, the Presidency presented a compromise statement which included references to climate finance, and which the Council agreed by consensus.

#### *National Emissions Ceilings Directive: state of play*

The Presidency set out the state of play of the negotiations. The Presidency was disappointed agreement had not yet been reached, but noted good progress was made in the four trilogue meetings which had taken place. On the key issues of 2030 limits, flexibilities and the nature of 2025 ceilings, the institutions were still some way apart. Despite this, the Presidency believed a deal was close and had been in contact with the European Parliament with a view to arranging a fifth trilogue meeting. The Commission fully supported the Presidency's efforts.

The UK along with other Member States encouraged the Presidency to make another attempt at a first reading agreement by the end of June. However there was some difference in focus between Member States in terms of ambition and the need for realistic and attainable targets. A significant number of Member States expressed a clear preference for an agreement built on the most recent Presidency mandate.

#### *AOB: NOx emissions by diesel*

The Presidency reported on recent the discussion at Transport Council. The Commission reiterated their view that the main issue was Member State implementation of the Euro 5/6 regulations. It noted the progress made on the adoption of the real driving emissions (RDE) and worldwide harmonised light vehicles test procedure (WLTP) proposals. The Commission called on Member States to accelerate negotiations on the type approval regulations. The Commission said it intended to provide further guidance on the implementation of the Euro 5/6 regulations by the end of the year, but added this had to be based on a transparent exchange of information gathered during national studies.

The UK underlined the urgent need to resolve the issue to ensure health benefits and for Member States to fulfil their legal obligations.

#### *AOB: Endocrine Disruptors*

The Commission presented its recently adopted package on endocrine disruptors consisting of a Communication and draft Commission acts setting out scientific criteria in the context of EU legislation on plant protection products and biocidal products.

#### *Council Conclusions on Closing the Loop: Circular Economy*

The Council adopted by consensus Conclusions which responded to the Commission Communication on an EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy. The UK welcomed the Conclusions and, in particular, the call for EU action on microbeads which was supported by several other Member States.

#### *Council Conclusions on Illegal Wildlife Trafficking*

Council adopted by consensus Conclusions which responded to the Commission Communication on an EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. The UK intervened in support of the Conclusions and called for a robust EU commitment on trophy hunting at the



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Conference of the Parties in September. The UK also called for action in working towards the closure of the Chinese domestic market for ivory.

#### AOBs

The Council noted updates from the Commission on: negotiations on aviation emissions in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the outcome of which would have implications for the EU's Aviation Emission Trading System; the outcomes of the 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference; and the UN Environment Assembly.

The Council noted Presidency updates on: April's 'Make It Work' conference, an initiative which aims to improve EU regulation; April's Informal Council of Environment and Transport Ministers; and the recent 'REACH Forward' conference on chemicals legislation.

The Council noted information provided by: the Commission regarding Environmental Implementation Review; the German and Belgian delegations regarding the *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (BSal) virus affecting salamander and newt populations; and the incoming Slovakian Presidency, who informed Member States of the key environment priorities for its Presidency - climate change, biodiversity, waste and water.

### Legal Services Regulation

[HLWS70]

**Lord Faulks:** The Government is committed to encouraging open and competitive markets. Well-functioning markets are key to the health of the economy and promote growth, innovation and efficiency. Competitive markets are also in the best interest of consumers, enabling consumer choice resulting in better and more affordable products and services.

The legal services market is not only an important contributor to the UK economy, but also to access to justice. The Government is committed to a strong, independent and competitive legal services market, which will promote consumer choice and quality services at lower prices, ensuring greater access to justice for all.

On 30 November the Government published, 'A Better Deal: boosting competition to bring down bills for families and firms' which set out the Government's approach to encouraging open and competitive markets, for the benefit of the UK economy and UK consumers. A key part of the Government's approach is to ensure that the statutory frameworks underpinning regulatory regimes allow regulators to regulate in a way that is proportionate and promotes competition and innovation.

The Better Deal document included a pledge to consult on making changes to the regulatory framework for legal services to remove barriers to market entry, and regulatory burdens on, Alternative Business Structures in legal services, and on making legal services regulators independent from professional representative bodies.

Today, I am publishing a consultation that seeks views on the first of these proposals. The Government intends to consider the detail and timing of a further consultation on regulatory independence, in the context of the preliminary findings of the Competition and Markets Authority study into the legal services market, which are due to be published shortly.

Since 2010, when Alternative Business Structures were first licensed to provide legal services, over 600 ABS firms have entered the market. The introduction of ABS businesses, particularly those that have access to external investment and business and commercial expertise, has benefited the market more widely. Recent research has indicated that ABS firms are more likely to be innovative than other regulated legal services firms (<https://research.legalservicesboard.org.uk/wp-content/media/Innovation-Report.pdf>). These new, innovative providers have increased competition in the market, which we believe encourages a wider variety of legal services in the market that are more accessible and affordable to consumers.

As a result of concerns raised at the time about the potential risks of these new and unknown business models, the legislative framework for the regulation of ABS businesses, set out in the Legal Services Act 2007, is more onerous and prescriptive than that for traditional law firms.

In practice, ABS businesses have not been shown to attract any greater regulatory risk than traditional law firms and the Legal Services Board and front-line regulators suggest that the current statutory requirements act as a deterrent and an unnecessary barrier to firms wanting to change their current business model to a more innovative one, as well as to new businesses considering entering the market.

The proposals set out in this consultation aim to enable legal services regulators to reduce regulatory burdens on ABS, while taking a more effective risk-based approach to regulation.

### Neighbourhood Planning

[HLWS74]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Housing and Planning has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 11 January 2016, I extended for a period of 6 months the criteria for consideration of the recovery of planning appeals to include proposals for residential development over 10 units in areas where a qualifying body has submitted a neighbourhood plan proposal to the local planning authority or where a neighbourhood plan has been made (Hansard HCWS457).

I am now extending that period for a further 6 months from today but, in the light of the experience which has now accrued on neighbourhood planning, I intend to limit the criteria to include proposals for residential development of more than 25 units in areas where a qualifying body has submitted a neighbourhood plan to

the local authority but the relevant plan has not yet been made. This change to the criteria would not however preclude Ministers from exercising their discretion to recover any other appeal which fell outside these parameters if they considered it appropriate under any of the criteria set out in the Written Ministerial Statement made by Mr. Parmjit Dhanda on Monday, 30 June 2008 (Hansard col 41WS).

### **Office for Nuclear Regulation: Annual Reports**

[HLWS66]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Rt.hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change made the following statement:

Later today the annual report to Parliament setting out the use of the Secretary of State's powers exercised to the Office for Nuclear Regulation during the year, will be published. This is in accordance with Section 108(1) of the Energy Act 2013

[HLWS65]

**Baroness Altmann:** My honourable Friend The Minister for Disabled People (Justin Tomlinson) has made the following Written Statement.

Later today the Office for Nuclear Regulation's Annual Report and Accounts for 2015-2016 (HC 112) will be published. Having consulted the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who is accountable for nuclear security and the Office for Nuclear Regulation, I can confirm, in accordance with Schedule 7, Section 25(3) of the Energy Act 2013, that there have been no exclusions to the published document on the grounds of national security.

### **St Helena and Ascension Island: Child Safeguarding**

[HLWS72]

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

On 10 December 2015 I informed the House that the UK Government had published a report by Sasha Wass QC on allegations surrounding child safeguarding issues on St Helena and Ascension Island. The report was independent and comprehensive, and I welcomed its conclusion that no evidence had been found of corruption or cover up in the St Helena Police Service, the St Helena and Ascension Island Governments, the FCO or DFID.

However, the report did find evidence of systemic failings by social services and police in the past. The report made a number of recommendations in relation to child safeguarding. The Government accepted all of its

recommendations, and on 29 January 2016 the FCO appointed Ms Ginny Ferson to St Helena as UK Government Special Representative: Wass Inquiry Implementation. Ms Ferson went immediately to St Helena, visiting Ascension Island en route. She established good relationships with local Government officials, police and other stakeholders and worked alongside them on implementing the Wass Inquiry recommendations. This included an analysis of previous reports commissioned by the FCO and DFID to determine which previous recommendations remained outstanding but valid. Those recommendations that remained valid but outstanding have now been implemented.

To ensure full transparency, the St Helena and Ascension Island Governments collated the recommendations of the Inquiry Report into a risk-rated action plan which has been published on their respective government websites. Ms Ferson's report will be available on gov.uk.

Good progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Inquiry Report. The UK Government has increased the funding it provides to the St Helena Government for child safeguarding and for health and social care more generally, and improved coordinated efforts are bringing about real change. For example, Jamestown Hospital is undergoing a £2.8M refurbishment of its medical wing, due for completion by the end of July 2016. In addition, a funding uplift has enabled the rebuilding of a dedicated community nursing team and re-opening of three local health clinics. The Safeguarding Directorate and Police Service have rolled out a locally-adapted version of Working Together 2015 based on the UK model. The Ascension Island Government has done likewise. All schools now have a designated child safeguarding lead. Most recommendations have been fully implemented, others are on course to being completed. One relating to secondments to a UK police investigations team will be implemented as soon as staffing levels allow.

It is important that the improvements are sustainable and Ms Ferson includes advice on future-proofing in her report which we alongside the St Helena and Ascension Island Governments have taken on board.

We are determined to build on this work on child safeguarding across our territories. The FCO's Child Safeguarding Unit has promoted the recommendations of the Inquiry Report throughout the Overseas Territories to maintain focus on continuing to strengthen child safeguarding measures. We have intensified our work with key UK departments and bodies such as the National Crime Agency, Crown Prosecution Service and social work experts, to provide additional expertise to territory governments on improving safeguarding measures across the board.

The UK and our Overseas Territories will continue to work together to protect children from harm, and promote their welfare as a priority.

## Submarine Dismantling Project

[HLWS77]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Defence Procurement (Mr Philip Dunne) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I am announcing that Capenhurst Nuclear Services (CNS), at Capenhurst, in Cheshire, has been selected as the MOD's site for interim storage of the Intermediate Level radioactive Waste (ILW) from decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines prior to disposal. AWE Aldermaston in Berkshire has been identified as a contingency site.

CNS, Capenhurst will have the capability to store this ILW until it can be disposed of in a Geological Disposal Facility, some time after 2040.

Like all the sites shortlisted, the operator CNS already manage radioactive materials, and were found to meet the Submarine Dismantling Project's requirements best, including value for money.

There are two options at CNS, Capenhurst to store ILW. The option that MOD will be taking forward is to use an existing facility, with a second on-site contingency option of constructing a new store.

As put forward during the public consultation, we have also selected a contingency site. Should both Capenhurst options prove unsuitable, AWE Aldermaston will then be taken forward as the MOD's preferred contingency site.

As a responsible nuclear operator the MOD takes seriously its duty to manage the submarine fleet throughout their operational service and during the disposal process. Today's announcement reiterates my commitment that this activity will be undertaken in a safe, secure, cost-effective and environmentally sound manner.

## Surveillance and Interception of Communications

[HLWS76]

**Baroness Stowell of Beeston:** My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

I have today laid before both Houses a copy of the latest annual report from the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and a copy of a report by the Interception of Communications Commissioner on his oversight of directions issued under section 94 of the Telecommunications Act 1984. Both reports provide rigorous and independent oversight and scrutiny of the use of covert investigatory powers.

The Chief Surveillance Commissioner, the Right Honourable the Lord Judge, was appointed in July 2015 to keep under review public authority use of covert surveillance, covert human intelligence sources and property interference powers. The Chief Surveillance Commissioner provides statutory oversight to ensure that

public authorities use correctly and lawfully the relevant provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 and the Police Act 1997. He heads the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC) which supports him in the discharge of these statutory duties.

His annual report provides a detailed account of the way in which the OSC has provided this scrutiny, both through authorisation of deployments where prior approval of a Surveillance Commissioner is required by statute, and through a rigorous and comprehensive programme of inspections. The report also sets out the findings and conclusions that Lord Judge and his team have drawn from this process.

Covert surveillance powers are a critical tool for investigators dealing with terrorist and serious criminal activity, and the work of the OSC is essential to ensuring that there is public confidence in the way that such covert powers are used. I am pleased to note that the report finds the vast majority of public authorities are complying fully and conscientiously with the statutory requirements, and that the OSC are working actively to identify and address any issues that arise, and any cases that fall short of desired standards.

In February 2015 I directed the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Right Honourable Sir Stanley Burton, to oversee the use of directions given under section 94 of the Telecommunications Act 1984. The Commissioner has since carried out a comprehensive review of the use of section 94 directions, the extent of their use and the processes and policies that govern their use. I welcome the Commissioner's support for the changes that we are seeking to make through the Investigatory Powers Bill which will replace the use of section 94 directions with a more comprehensive statutory regime for the acquisition of communications data in bulk or the issuing of a national security notice. Accompanying this new statutory regime will be Codes of Practice that will contain far greater detail and clarity around the policies, procedures and safeguards associated with the use of these powers.

I would like to thank both Commissioners, and the staff that work for them, for the continued diligence and rigour with which they undertake their oversight roles and commend these reports to the House.

## UK Debt Management Office: Business Plan

[HLWS71]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Harriett Baldwin) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The United Kingdom Debt Management Office (DMO) has today published its business plan for the year 2016-17. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both houses and are available on the DMO's website, [www.dmo.gov.uk](http://www.dmo.gov.uk).



## **UK-Turkmenistan Double Taxation Conventions**

[HLWS68]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** My honourable friend The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (David Gauke) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A Double Taxation Convention with Turkmenistan was signed on 10 June 2016. The text of the Convention has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' pages of the GOV.UK website. The texts will be scheduled to draft Orders in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

## **United States Visiting Forces: Contingent Liability**

[HLWS73]

**Earl Howe:** My hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (Mark Lancaster) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I have today laid before Parliament a Departmental Minute to advise that the Ministry of Defence has received approval from Her Majesty's Treasury to recognise a new contingent liability associated with

potential redundancy payments to Civil Servants currently located at RAF Mildenhall, RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth, which are scheduled for closure under the United States Visiting Forces European Infrastructure Consolidation Review.

In January 2015 the United States Department of Defense communicated their decision to withdraw from RAF Molesworth and RAF Alconbury with the activities undertaken there being consolidated at RAF Croughton. Additionally, they also announced their withdrawal from RAF Mildenhall. Currently, US plans are not yet sufficiently mature to say definitively when these Stations will close.

There are approximately 470 MOD Civil Servants employed at these three stations. While staff will be supported in seeking to secure alternative employment in the Civil Service it is likely that some Civil Servants will be made redundant. The responsibility for the provision of redundancy payments is split between the UK and the US. I can advise you that Her Majesty's Treasury have agreed a contingent liability of up to £6 million.

I can assure you that all MOD Civil Servants who are affected by these base closures will be managed in accordance with the MOD Civil Service terms and conditions and will be provided with advice and support to make decisions about their future.

## Written Answers

Thursday, 7 July 2016

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Asked by **Lord Chadlington**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to engage with individuals who are aware of having an alcohol problem but have not, because they are too ashamed or frightened, sought help. [HL780]

Asked by **Lord Chadlington**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to provide non-religious support to people with alcohol misuse problems. [HL781]

Asked by **Lord Chadlington**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what online resources are readily available for people struggling with alcohol misuse. [HL782]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Local authorities and their health and wellbeing board partners have responsibility for planning the full range of alcohol services, from early intervention and prevention, through to commissioning alcohol treatment services to meet need in their area and ensure services are accessible to everyone. Furthermore in line with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) public health guidance (PH 24) *Alcohol-use disorders: preventing harmful drinking*, Public Health England (PHE) encourages health and social care professionals to carry out Identification and Brief Advice through general practitioners and programmes such as NHS Health Checks and Making Every Contact Count. A copy of the NICE guidance is attached.

The majority of services offer interventions that are non-religious and are based on cognitive behavioural principles with motivational enhancement techniques.

There are a number of online resources to help with alcohol issues, including the One You and NHS Choices websites. One You is an integrated social marketing campaign run by PHE which aims to engage adults in making changes to improve their own health. This includes offering users advice and information about alcohol as well as tools which help monitor their drinking. NHS Choices offers a range of information about alcohol dependence and includes an online directory of local alcohol services that those worried about their alcohol use can approach for assistance.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Alcohol-use disorders: prevention NICE guidance [Alcohol-use disorders preventing harmful drinking (PH24).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-27/HL780>

### Antidepressants: Young People

Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, further to the review of clinical trial evidence Comparative efficacy and tolerability of antidepressants for major depressive disorder in children and adolescents: a network meta-analysis published in the Lancet on 8 June, they intend to review clinical guidelines for the prescription of anti-depressant medication for the treatment of major depression in young people. [HL823]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has advised that it regularly reviews published guidelines as a matter of good practice to check whether an update is warranted.

NICE is tracking a clinical trial that is anticipated may have significant impact on the recommendations in its guideline on depression in children and young people: identification and management (CG28). A copy of this guideline is attached. NICE is co-ordinating the next review of this guideline to coincide with the publication of the outcomes of the trial, which is expected in February 2017. The Lancet paper will be considered as part of that review.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NICE guidance depression in young people [HL823 NICE CGs on Anti-depressants in Young People.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-27/HL823>

### Childbirth

Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reductions they aim to achieve in rates of (1) stillbirths, (2) neonatal deaths, and (3) brain injuries, in (a) single pregnancies, and (b) multiple pregnancies, by 2030. [HL784]

Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when, where and how often they plan to publish a formal update on progress made towards achieving their aim of halving the rates in England of stillbirths, neonatal deaths and brain injuries occurring during or soon after birth by 2030. [HL785]

Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will include information on twins and multiple births in any formal updates on progress towards their aim of halving the rates in England of stillbirths, neonatal deaths and brain injuries occurring during or soon after birth by 2030. [HL786]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In November 2015, the Secretary of State announced a national ambition to halve the rates of stillbirths, neonatal and maternal deaths and brain injuries occurring during or soon after birth by 2030. This ambition applies to both single and multiple pregnancies.

The Department will publish an annual report on the progress towards achieving this aim and will include information on twins and multiple births. The first report will be published later this year.

### Developing Countries: Hepatitis

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take to ensure that the UK delivers on the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030, to which it committed at the 69th World Health Assembly on 28 May. [HL837]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK is supporting efforts to tackle viral hepatitis through a number of different channels. We support hygiene promotion and improving access to clean and safe water, to reduce the risk of transmission of hepatitis A and E. We are the largest donor to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which increases access to immunisation in low income countries – including protection against hepatitis B. We support UNITAID, which is working to improve access to better diagnostics for hepatitis C, and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), which is working to reduce prices and increase access to new treatments. In addition DFID supports comprehensive harm reduction programmes and strategies through its support to the Global Fund, which help reduce transmission of both HIV and Hepatitis C.

DFID's health focus is to improve the provision of basic health services for the poorest by strengthening health systems, improving health worker capacity and increasing access to essential medicines and equipment. Increasing coverage, access and quality will strengthen health services to address all health problems including viral hepatitis.

### EURATOM

*Asked by Lord Inglewood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to leave the European Atomic Energy Community. [HL911]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The implications of the European referendum result for our membership of the European Atomic Energy Community have yet to be determined. It will be for the Government, under the new Prime Minister, to begin negotiations to exit the EU and determine our future relationship with the European Atomic Energy Community.

### Genetics: Screening

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 27 June (HL645), why no information is available of the number of patients who have died to date, particularly for those patients who consented prior to that answer. [HL829]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Genomics England participants have consented to the collection of long term health data via the Health and Social Care Information Centre. This includes data on death but these data are collected and checked in accordance with standard procedures which means that there is a delay in linking to the whole genome sequencing data.

*Asked by Lord Freyberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Prior of Brampton on 27 June (HL645), how many of the 8,408 rare disease genomes and 1,671 cancer genomes have been shared with Genomics England's commercial interpretation partners. [HL830]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Genomics England has confirmed that 293 rare disease and 310 cancer genomes have been sent to their clinical interpretation partners. Genomics England expects this flow to increase steadily as further links with clinical interpretation providers are established.

### Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the contribution of the Global Fund in the fight against Malaria. [HL853]

**Baroness Verma:** The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has played a critical role in the fight against malaria. To date, it has invested \$7 billion to prevent, diagnose and treat the disease. Between 2002 and 2015, this support has helped distribute approximately 600 million mosquito nets and treated over 515 million cases of malaria. Given that the Global Fund contributes 58% of all international finance for malaria, it has played an important role in helping reduce deaths from the disease by 48% between 2000-2014.

With 1 in 10 child deaths in Africa still caused by malaria, the UK recognises that more needs to be done to tackle this deadly, but preventable disease. That is why earlier this year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State committed that the UK would spend £500 million a year to help tackle malaria. This support will contribute towards reducing the death rate from malaria by 90% by 2030.

*Asked by Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what level of resourcing from the international community needs to be applied to meet the Global Fund's target of saving an additional eight million people at risk of dying from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. [HL854]

**Baroness Verma:** The investment case for the Fifth Replenishment of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) projects that a successful replenishment of \$13bn will enable the Global Fund to save 8 million lives and avert up to 300 million new infections over the period 2017-2019.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the Israeli water supplier, Mekorot, reduced water supply to the West Bank during Ramadan. [HL820]

**Baroness Verma:** The UK regularly raises the issue of water in the OPTs with the Israeli authorities, most recently on 27 June. We continue to stress the urgent need for Israel to take immediate and practical measures to improve the current situation and ensure fair distribution of water in the West Bank and Gaza. We encourage both parties to find a swift resolution to this issue and to reconvene the Joint Water Committee to facilitate approval of projects that will improve Palestinian access to water. We see continuity of supply to the West Bank as essential for both the basic needs of Palestinians and for stability and security more widely.

### Multiple Births: Perinatal Mortality

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether NHS England's stillbirth care bundle will be reviewed to assess whether it is having an impact on reducing stillbirths among multiple pregnancies; and what plans they have to update it if further improvements are required. [HL787]

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will be on the NHS England's Maternity Transformation Board, and whether they plan to introduce a national maternity dashboard to provide analysis relating to both single and multiple pregnancies. [HL788]

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to update the national maternity commissioning framework, and if so, whether it will include information about multiple pregnancies. [HL789]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The *Saving Babies Lives care bundle* covers all types of pregnancy, including

multiple pregnancies. The care bundle will be evaluated so that it can be developed and refined to ensure that it continues to reflect best practice.

The Maternity Transformation Programme Board will drive forward the implementation of the National Maternity Review, *Better Births*, published in February this year. It will also include work to reduce the rate of stillbirths, neonatal and maternal deaths in England. The formation of the Board marks a clear step forward towards delivering the vision laid out in the National Maternity Review, ensuring that key organisations work together to improve maternity services. *Better Births* makes recommendations on the use of data including the development of a set of national indicators to aid data comparison. NHS England and its delivery partners are developing plans to implement this and the report's other recommendations, and as part of this are considering the case for a national dashboard. A copy of both *Better Births* and the *Saving Babies Lives* care bundle are attached.

The Board held its first meeting on 8 June 2016 and is chaired by Sarah-Jane Marsh, Chief Executive of Birmingham Children's Hospital and Birmingham Women's Hospital. The Board members and the organisations they represent are detailed in the following table.

NHS England and its delivery partners are developing plans to implement the vision set out in *Better Births*, the report of the National Maternity Review. These plans are likely to include commissioning guidance.

<i>Person</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Sarah-Jane Marsh	Chair
Jane Cummings	Senior Responsible Officer, Chief Nursing Officer
Keith Willett	Deputy Chair, Medical Director for Acute Care, NHS England
Matthew Jolly	Clinical lead (obstetrics) / workstream lead (data)
Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent	Clinical lead (midwifery)
Dame Julia Cumberlege	Stakeholder Reference Group Chair / Clinical Commissioning Group Improvement and Assessment Framework Panel Chair
Flora Goldhill	Department of Health / workstream lead (best practice for safer care)
Wendy Reid / Bill Irish	Health Education England / workstream lead (workforce)
Viv Bennett	Public Health England / workstream lead (public health)
Ruth May	NHS Improvement (Director of Nursing)
Mike Durkin	NHS Improvement (Director of Patient Safety)
Jimmy Walker	Care Quality Commission
Lauren Hughes	NHS England /workstream lead (local transformation)



<i>Person</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
James Sanderson	NHS England / workstream lead (choice and personalisation)
Simon Medcalf	NHS England / workstream lead (perinatal mental health)
Tom Denwood	NHS Digital / workstream lead (technology)
Martin Campbell	NHS England / workstream lead (pricing)
David Richmond	Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Cathy Warwick	Royal College of Midwives
Nigel Acheson	Regional delivery lead / Regional Medical Director, South
Roz Lindridge	Clinical Networks maternity lead / East Midlands Associate Director, Clinical Networks and Senate

The Answer includes the following attached material:

National Maternity Review: Better Births [national-maternity-review-report (3).pdf]

Saving Babies Lives [saving-babies-lives-car-bundl.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-27/HL787>

## NHS: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what happens to unused medication sealed and in date, in hospitals on the discharge or death of a patient. [HL903]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In general, if the hospital pharmacy issues medicines to a ward or individual patient and those medicines remain in the organisation, either because they are not supplied on discharge or the patient dies, then the medicines would be returned to ward stock or the pharmacy and re-used. If the medicines had been brought in to the hospital by the patient and the patient is subsequently discharged or dies, and the medicines remain in the hospital, then they would be safely disposed of by the hospital pharmacy.

The main difference between the two scenarios is that, in the first there is sufficient guarantee of the storage conditions to ensure the medicines' integrity can be assured. In the second scenario, such integrity cannot be guaranteed.

## NHS: Expenditure

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was NHS England's expenditure in 2015–16 on (1) cancer, (2) HIV, (3) cystic fibrosis, (4) multiple sclerosis, and (5) hepatitis C, and what is the UK planned expenditure in 2016–17 on each. [HL838]

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was NHS England's expenditure on all specialised services, disaggregated by different condition areas, in the last financial year, and what is their planned expenditure for the current year. [HL839]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Planned spend figures for specialised commissioning by NHS England at programme of care level are not generally available. However, the hepatitis C budget for 2016/17 has been published and is £191 million.

Actual spend levels by NHS England are analysed to provide a breakdown for the previous year. An exercise to establish these figures is due to begin shortly.

Services for Multiple Sclerosis are commissioned mainly by clinical commissioning groups and spend data is not collected centrally.

## NHS: Negligence

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many clinical negligence legal cases there have been in the last five years; and how many of those were settled by way of a payment for damages within six months of the trial date. [HL793]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The National Health Service Litigation Authority (NHS LA) has provided the following data.

In the five financial years 2010/11 to 2014/15, the NHS received a total of 51,369 new clinical negligence claims. Many of these were resolved without the commencement of legal proceedings.

This figure relates to England only and does not include claims dealt with by insurers or Medical Defence Organisations, which between them handle the vast majority of claims involving private treatment and general practitioners.

Data on the payment of damages within six months of a trial date is not held.

## Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding contingencies are in place in the event that the UK exiting the EU results in a drop in foreign nationals studying in Britain and Northern Ireland. [HL887]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** We remain an EU member until the time we complete successful exit negotiations, with all the rights and obligations that derive from this. The UK has, and will continue to have, a world-class education system that attracts students from across the world including the EU.

## Palestinians: Water Supply

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment has been made of the access to clean drinking water and adequate water supplies for the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories. [HL799]

**Baroness Verma:** Water and sanitation facilities in Gaza are declining. Demand for water exceeds supply by nearly four times and 96% of extracted water currently fails WHO safety standards. 40% of Gaza's population receive just 5-8 hours of water every 3 days. In the West Bank the Joint Water Committee has not met for a number of years, which continues to stall agreement of water projects. In the West Bank, there are reports of reduced water supplies in large parts of the West Bank during Ramadan.

UK officials are in regular dialogue with Israel, the Palestinian Authority (PA), the UN, World Bank, EU and other development actors on energy and water issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We continue to press both parties to reconvene the Joint Water Committee to facilitate approval of projects that will improve Palestinian access to water. Through the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, DFID has invested up to £1.24m to help vulnerable rural farmers in Area C and improve irrigation efficiency by rehabilitation of water systems. The UK supports partners such as the UN Works and Relief Agency, who provide basic services and repair water infrastructure in Gaza. Through the Climate Action for Middle East and North Africa programme, DFID has provided €600,000 to develop project preparation documents for the Gaza Desalination Plant.

## UK Withdrawal from EU

*Asked by **Lord Birt***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the consent of Parliament will be obtained to a new agreement governing the UK's relationship with the EU. [HL896]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** This is a matter for the new Prime Minister and their Cabinet. As the PM has said, we have now got to look at all the detailed arrangements, and Parliament will clearly have a role in making sure that we find the best way forward.

*Asked by **Viscount Waverley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the event of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, whether they plan to amend domestic legislation prior to the ratification of any final outcome of negotiations with the EU. [HL916]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The implementation of the withdrawal agreement will be a matter for the next government and the new Prime Minister.

*Asked by **Viscount Waverley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to table motions in both Houses of Parliament to enable Parliament to debate the negotiations for the UK exiting the EU holistically, or whether they intend to table motions to debate individual elements of the negotiations. [HL917]

*Asked by **Viscount Waverley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the event of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, both Houses would have to approve the final outcome of the negotiations between the UK and the EU. [HL918]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** This is a matter for the new Prime Minister and their Cabinet. As the PM has said, we have now got to look at all the detailed arrangements, and Parliament will clearly have a role in making sure that we find the best way forward.

## X-rays: Medical Equipment

*Asked by **Baroness Walmsley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether x-ray equipment bought for a hospital trust by local fundraising efforts belongs to that trust or to NHS Property Services. [HL895]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** On the abolition of primary care trusts in April 2013, former primary care trust land, buildings and related contracts transferred either to NHS Property Services or to National Health Service trusts, depending on the details of the individual transfer schemes. Clinical equipment was not generally transferred to NHS Property Services.

Equipment donated after April 2013 directly to individual NHS hospital trusts and x-ray equipment bought for a trust by local fundraising efforts would belong to the NHS trust unless it has been specifically transferred to NHS Property Services under the terms of a particular transfer scheme.

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