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Tuesday
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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>
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 Bates	Minister of State, Department for International Development
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
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Dunlop	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office
Lord Freud	Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Goldie	Whip
Lord Keen of Elie	Advocate-General for Scotland and Ministry of Justice Spokesperson
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

Tuesday, 18 October 2016

1980 Hague Convention on Child Abduction

[HLWS202]

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:

The Government has decided to opt in to the European Commission's proposals for the acceptance by the Member States, in the interests of the EU, of the accession of Kazakhstan, Peru and the Republic of Korea to the 1980 Hague Convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction.

All EU Member States are party to the 1980 Hague Convention, the primary civil law international instrument which provides a mechanism to seek the prompt return of wrongfully removed or retained children to their country of habitual residence.

When a country wishes to accede to the Convention, it is necessary for an existing contracting state to accept that country's accession before the Convention can apply between them. It is the European Commission's view that there is exclusive competence on the EU for all matters relating to the 1980 Convention and that therefore Member States must be authorised by the EU to accept accessions by third countries and must do so collectively through Council decisions.

Although not anticipated in the proposals, the Government believes that the UK opt-in under the Protocol to Title V of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies and it has therefore asserted its right to choose whether to opt in and has decided that it is in the UK's best interests to do so.

The Government has taken this decision notwithstanding the fact that they dispute the Commission's claim to exclusive competence.

The Government believes that the wider significance of these proposals for external competence mean that it is in the UK's interests to participate fully in these negotiations, including having the ability to vote. These proposals must be agreed by unanimity within the EU Council.

Cabinet Committees and Ministerial Responsibilities

[HLWS199]

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: My right honourable friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Ben Gummer) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today the Government is publishing an updated list of Cabinet Committees and Implementation Taskforces. It

includes three new committees, chaired by the Prime Minister, to oversee this Government's strategic priorities and deliver our manifesto commitments

The Economy and Industrial Strategy Committee will oversee the development of a new industrial strategy, ensuring that all parts of the country and all of our citizens see the benefits of economic growth; and will drive work to address the UK's longstanding productivity issues. The EU Exit and Trade Committee will oversee work to withdraw the UK from the European Union and develop a new relationship between the UK and the EU; and oversee our plans to promoting the UK as a place to do business and trade with, drive inward investment, and, in time, negotiate trade agreements. The Social Reform Committee will oversee social policy reforms, and drive the Government's work to increase social mobility, deliver social justice, and make Britain a country that works for everyone, not just a privileged few. These will sit alongside the National Security Council and the Parliamentary Business and Legislation Committee, which will continue to serve the same purpose as previously. The nine sub-committees announced today will support the process of collective agreement across government. The list also includes details of seven Implementation Taskforces, which will monitor and drive delivery of important cross-cutting priorities.

An updated List of Ministerial Responsibilities has also been published today.

Copies of the associated documents will be placed in the Library of House and published on gov.uk. The list of Ministerial responsibilities will also be sent to each Hon. Member.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

WMS Cabinet Committee&Ministerial responsibilities [1WMS (Committees and LMR) 18.10.16 (1).docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-10-18/HLWS199/>

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species: 17th Conference

[HLWS198]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Thérèse Coffey) has today made the following statement.

The 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) took place in Johannesburg between 24 September and 5 October 2016. CITES is a vital international mechanism for protecting some of our most precious yet vulnerable global wildlife.

Having attended the conference, I can report it was a great success, delivering strong agreements to protect some of the world's most iconic species. I am pleased that much of this action was driven by the UK.

For example, the UK led negotiations on African lions which saw the trade in wild lion bones banned and the establishment of a new CITES Task Force.

We also chaired discussions on rhinos, resulting in investigative action into failures to halt rhino horn trafficking in key destinations. A proposal to allow trade in rhino horn was also rejected.

Perhaps most significantly and in recognition of the peril facing many elephant populations, the conference voted against a resumption of trading in modern day ivory, in line with recent domestic UK action. There was also a clear direction to close national ivory markets where these fuel poaching and illegal trade and decisive action to strengthen National Ivory Action Plans which help combat ivory trafficking in key markets.

In addition, global rules on hunting trophies were enhanced, with export permits now mandated for almost all species listed as endangered.

The many victories for global wildlife are too numerous to detail, with action also delivered for Pangolins, as the world's most trafficked mammal, the African Grey Parrot and species of sharks amongst others.

Vitally, while CITES deals with the legal trade in species, Illegal Wildlife Trade was also a strong focus, with agreements reached on increased global cooperation, and intelligence sharing to boost efforts to reduce demand for wildlife products and tackle corruption. This agreement is crucial as we look towards the Hanoi conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade which will bring together global leaders in November to push further action. Following on from the ground-breaking London Conference, the UK is providing funding and advice to Vietnam in hosting this latest conference, assuring the Illegal Wildlife Trade's place at the top of the global political agenda and delivering on our manifesto pledge to continue to lead the world on this issue. The Secretary of State Andrea Leadsom will lead HMG's delegation to the Conference, which will also be attended by HRH the Duke of Cambridge. Their presence at this vital time will show that the UK continues to be at the forefront of global action, pushing for an end to this brutal trade.

UK leadership in this area is clear. At home, we are tackling wildlife crime through our National Wildlife Crime Unit, which will receive £1.2 million of funding over the next four years. Abroad, the British military is delivering anti-poaching training to rangers in Gabon, home of Africa's largest population of forest elephants. We are also investing £13 million in projects around the world to support communities and boost law enforcement through our Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, including specialised interception tracking courses to protect rhino and elephant populations across sub-Saharan Africa.

Decisions made in recent weeks will have a real impact in safeguarding some of the world's most vulnerable species. The UK has been at the forefront of driving this and we will remain committed to protecting global wildlife for generations to come.

Hydrofluorocarbon Greenhouse Gases

[HLWS200]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Thérèse Coffey) has today made the following statement.

I would like to update the House on the outcome of the recent United Nations Montreal Protocol negotiations in Rwanda.

I am very pleased to report that a deal was agreed amongst the 197 Parties to the Protocol to phase down hydrofluorocarbon greenhouse gases (HFCs) over the next three decades.

The Montreal Protocol, agreed in 1987, is already seen as one of the most successful environmental treaties ever agreed, having phased out 98% of the ozone depleting substances that would have caused major damage to human health, agriculture and the wider environment. That included chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) which were used in products such as refrigeration, air condition and aerosols. As a result, the ozone layer is showing the first signs of recovery.

The replacements for CFCs and HCFCs – hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – while not damaging the ozone layer, do still have a global warming potential thousands of times greater than carbon dioxide. The growth of refrigeration and air conditioning in developing countries means HFC use could have amounted to as much as 11% of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

HFC alternatives are increasingly available and the UK had, before this weekend's agreement, already taken the lead in committing to cut usage by 80% by 2030 – amongst the most ambitious phase downs in the world. The deal in Rwanda means the rest of the world is now following suit, bringing major benefits for the climate and levelling the playing field for UK businesses.

It is estimated that this deal will reduce cumulative emissions by the equivalent of between 60 and 70 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2050, which equates to the output of around 600 coal fired power stations operating between now and 2050. In turn that is likely to avoid close to 0.5 degrees Celsius of global warming by the end of this century, making it possibly the single biggest step the world could have taken in achieving the Paris climate agreement goal of keeping temperatures well below 2 degrees.

The UK negotiating team played a central role in the discussions, influencing the strategy of like-minded countries to achieve an ambitious outcome and chairing the legal drafting group, which worked ceaselessly to turn the political agreement into legal text, then clarified and defended it through the final night of negotiations.

The key elements of the deal are as follows.

Developed countries will meet the following phase down commitment:

By 2019, production and consumption of HFCs will be reduced by 10% relative to the amount of HFCs produced or consumed in the years 2011 to 2013, plus an additional allowance of 15% of the baseline used for their phase out of HCFCs.

By 2024, the amount will be reduced by 40% and then by 70% by 2029, 80% by 2034 and finally 85% by 2036.

All developing countries, except India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, The United Arab Emirates, Iran and Iraq will meet the following phase down commitment:

By 2024, production and consumption of HFCs will be limited to 100% of the average amount of HFCs produced or consumed in the years 2020 to 2022, plus an additional allowance of 65% of the baseline used for their phase out of HCFCs.

By 2029, this amount will be reduced by 10% and then by 30% in 2035, 50% in 2040 and finally 80% by 2045.

Production and consumption established before 2020 will be eligible for financial support from developed countries to help with the transition to low global warming alternatives.

India Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, The United Arab Emirates, Iran and Iraq, will meet the following phase down commitment:

By 2028, production and consumption of HFCs will be limited to 100% of the average amount of HFCs produced or consumed in the years 2024 to 2026, plus an additional allowance of 65% of the baseline used for their phase out of HCFCs.

By 2032, this amount will be reduced by 10% and then by 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and finally 85% by 2047.

Production and consumption established before 2024 will be eligible for financial support from developed countries to help with the transition to low global warming alternatives.

Certain Gulf countries and others with high average temperatures will be able to exempt large scale air-conditioning from the phase down requirements if they believe suitable alternatives are not available for their climates.

There will be a review of the availability of technologies which use alternatives to HFCs in 2022 and every 5 years thereafter to inform any necessary adjustments to the phase down schedule. There will also be a review 4 to 5 years before 2028 specifically to consider whether those countries which have to cap HFC production and use by 2028 need a compliance deferral of 2 years due to faster HFC growth than anticipated.

OSCE Informal Ministerial Council

[HLWS203]

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, (Mr Boris Johnson), attended an informal meeting of Foreign Ministers of participating states of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), held in Potsdam, Germany on 1 September 2016 at the invitation of German Foreign Minister and OSCE Chair-in-Office, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Nearly all 57 OSCE states were represented, around 40 of these by their Foreign Ministers.

Foreign Minister Steinmeier called the meeting to discuss both current security challenges in the region and the OSCE's future role and agenda. A number of common themes emerged over the course of the meeting. Many Foreign Ministers, like the Foreign Secretary, highlighted resolution of the crisis in Ukraine, and restoration of Ukrainian sovereignty as the most pressing priority for the OSCE. Strong support for the work of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) was evident, with the Chair-in-Office leading many speakers in condemning the obstruction of SMM operations and intimidation of monitors.

As well as conflict prevention and resolution, other themes that emerged as high priorities for many OSCE participating states were protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reducing the risk of military accidents and incidents. A strong desire was evident on the part of most states to restore respect for OSCE principles and commitments, many referring to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and military intervention in the Donbas in this context.

On the eve of the Potsdam meeting, Foreign Minister Steinmeier published proposals relating to Conventional Arms Control in Europe. Updating existing Confidence and Security Building Measures in this field is a UK priority and, we believe, is needed urgently to reduce the risk of military accidents and incidents. We will continue to work closely with Germany and other partners to push for such modernisation as well as for respect for the spirit and letter of these instruments. Implementation of all commitments is a prerequisite for building trust and restoring confidence between the participating states of the OSCE.

In the margins of the Potsdam meeting the Foreign Secretary had many bilateral meetings and conversations. These included exchanges with his Ukrainian and Polish counterparts, and with OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier. He expressed strong UK support for the work of the OSCE's autonomous institutions when he met Michael Link, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and Dunja Mijatović, the Representative on Freedom of the Media. In his various meetings the Foreign Secretary commended the Baroness Falkner of Margravine, the UK candidate to head the OSCE's third autonomous institution, the High Commission on National Minorities.

In this first encounter as Foreign Secretary with the OSCE, the Foreign Secretary noted the potential, as yet

not fully tapped, of the organisation's uniquely comprehensive approach to security and a participation that reaches from Canada to Central Asia. The discussions in Potsdam helped clarify priorities for the coming weeks, months and years. We now need to focus our efforts on tackling them together with robust determination.

Relations between the UK and Argentina

[HLWS201]

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:

I would like to update the House on the current state of relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Argentina following my recent visit to Buenos Aires.

After more than a decade of difficult relations under Argentina's previous government, the election of President Macri in November 2015 paved the way for an improvement in our relationship. It is in the UK's interests to strengthen ties with Argentina. Argentina is the world's 25th largest economy and has considerable natural resources. A more constructive relationship will enhance the UK's prosperity.

Since December the Government has taken positive steps towards resetting our relationship by focusing on areas where both states can benefit. The Prime Minister has committed to move our relationship with Argentina into a more productive phase.

During my visit to Buenos Aires – the first by a Foreign Office Minister since 2009 – I agreed an historic UK-Argentina Joint Statement establishing closer co-operation across our bilateral relationship. This includes ambitions to: increase trade links; identify new investment opportunities; strengthen cultural ties; cooperate in the fight against corruption and organised crime; and increase links in the fields of science and technology.

Our position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands remains unchanged. The UK will always support the right of the Falkland Islanders to determine their own future.

The Joint Statement secured important benefits for the Falkland Islanders. We committed to work together on areas of mutual interest in the South Atlantic. Argentina agreed to take appropriate measures to remove any obstacles limiting the economic growth and sustainable development of the Falkland Islands, including in trade, fishing, shipping and oil and gas. We also agreed the Falkland Islanders are free to set up further flight connections with other countries in the region, with a monthly stopover in Argentina. Both sides expressed

support for the recently confirmed project to use DNA examination to identify the remains of unknown Argentine soldiers buried in the Falkland Islands.

The Government will explore ways to build on these positive first steps and consider how the UK can best maximise the opportunities offered by an improved relationship with Argentina.

Supporting Troubled Families

[HLWS204]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Hon Friend the Minister for Local Government (Marcus Jones) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce the publication of the National Evaluation of the first Troubled Families Programme which ran between 2012 and 2015.

The programme was set up in 2012 to work with a minimum of 116,000 families with multiple and complex problems who had previously been failed by services.

This evaluation reveals the true scale of families' problems, finding that families each had an average of seven serious social problems including issues of: drug and alcohol abuse; mental and physical health problems; domestic violence; debt; truancy; anti social behaviour and unemployment.

Our own data shows that more than 116,000 families on the programme saw their lives improve – more children attending school, youth crime and anti-social behaviour significantly cut and, in more than 18,000 cases, an adult holding down a job for three months or more.

The evaluation reports provide additional detail on how the programme benefitted families. For example, in-depth interviews with the families found that they reported increased confidence as a result of the programme's intensive 'whole family' help, which they rated as better than the services which had tried to intervene before.

The evaluation also finds that the programme helped improve and join up local services for families by encouraging a single keyworker approach to work with the whole family on all of its problems.

There are also important lessons in the reports that are being taken on board for the new Troubled Families Programme which will work with up to 400,000 more families by 2020.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-evaluation-of-the-first-troubled-families-programme>

Written Answers

Tuesday, 18 October 2016

Bank of England

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of comments by Kristin Forbes, a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, on possible over-counting of the economic effects of Brexit, what assessment they have made of the Bank of England's growth forecasts. [[HL2140](#)]

Lord Young of Cookham: The government has produced no such assessment of the independent Monetary Policy Committee's forecasts for the UK economy.

The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has the responsibility to produce detailed forecasts for the economy and public finances twice a year. The OBR will produce forecasts to accompany the Autumn Statement on 23 November.

Department for International Development: Ministers

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to appoint a new Minister of State for the Department for International Development in the House of Lords as a replacement for the current Minister; and if so, when they intend to make that appointment. [[HL2105](#)]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: The Rt Hon Lord Bates has been appointed as Minister of State at the Department for International Development (DfID).

Disability: Employment

Asked by Lord Ramsbotham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that people who are deafblind, and those with complex needs, benefit from plans to halve the disability employment gap. [[HL2043](#)]

Lord Freud: The Government is committed to enabling all disabled people to fulfil their potential and achieve their aspirations. Work is an important part of this, which is why the Government has committed itself to halving the disability employment gap.

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

The feedback from the consultation and the work that we are doing to build and test the evidence base will help us to find out what really works to remove the barriers disabled people and people with health conditions face in getting and staying in work.

Disability: Employment Schemes

Asked by Baroness Eaton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendation in the recent report from the charity Sense, Realising Aspirations for All, to break the link between welfare benefits and access to employment by making support voluntary and available to all disabled people, regardless of the benefits they claim. [[HL2103](#)]

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

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

Driving: Disqualification

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many disqualification decisions taken in another EU member state have been given effect in the UK, in each of the last three years, under the terms of the European Convention on Driving Disqualifications. [[HL2238](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: After committing a driving offence in another EU member state, 26 drivers were disqualified in the UK in 2014 under the terms of the European Convention on Driving Disqualifications. There are no numbers for 2015 & 2016 as the convention ceased to apply in December 2014 following the UK's Treaty of Lisbon opt-out.

Electric Vehicles

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they will take to ensure that electric cars emit a warning noise so that those cars are audible. [[HL2161](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: EU Regulations require vehicle manufacturers to fit artificial sound generators on new types of electric and hybrid electric vehicles from 2019. The requirements for these sound generators will be based on an existing UN-ECE regulation. By 2021 all new electric and hybrid electric vehicles on sale will require sound generators. Vehicle manufacturers may

optionally choose to fit sound generators before the 2019 date.

Exchange Control

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the drop in the value of sterling in recent months reflects the markets' view of the likely future health of the UK economy. [HL2102]

Asked by Lord Inglewood

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to reintroduce exchange controls following Brexit. [HL2120]

Lord Young of Cookham: The UK has an inflation target, not an exchange rate target, and Her Majesty's Government does not express a view on the level of exchange rates. Instead, the exchange rate is allowed to adjust flexibly in response to economic conditions and movements in sterling are determined by market forces.

This framework means we do not need to introduce exchange rate controls.

Liam Fox

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government what experience the Secretary of State for International Trade has had of working inside British business. [HL2097]

Lord Price: My Rt hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade's CV is available on gov.uk.

M20: Large Goods Vehicles

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the National Infrastructure Commission will examine the economic impact of (1) the deployment of Operation Stack in 2015, and (2) their plans for a lorry area to address problems caused by Operation Stack. [HL2136]

Lord Young of Cookham: The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) will examine strategic transport infrastructure when it conducts its first National Infrastructure Assessment.

The Chancellor, together with the NIC, has launched a call for ideas to give stakeholders an opportunity to contribute their ideas for issues which could form the subject of future NIC studies. This process will help us ensure the NIC is focused on the country's most critical infrastructure challenges.

Motor Vehicles: Ownership

Asked by Lord Trefgarne

To ask Her Majesty's Government what controls exist relating to the release of information on vehicle

ownership held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [HL2149]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) takes the security of the data it holds very seriously and has measures in place to protect it. The law allows vehicle keeper details to be disclosed in certain circumstances, including as a first point of contact to establish where liability for an incident or event may lie.

All DVLA's data release services are subject to a formal assessment before they are made available for use. This ensures that there are adequate policies as well as procedural and technical controls in place to protect the data. Privacy Impact Assessments are also completed to identify and address any privacy risks and ensure that personal data is processed in compliance with the law.

An audit carried out earlier this year by the Information Commissioner's Office confirmed that the DVLA's procedures offer high assurance that processes are in place to mitigate the risks of non-compliance with the Data Protection Act.

Natural Gas

Asked by Baroness Humphreys

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people living in communities of 150 residents or more in the UK have no access to mains gas. [HL2025]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Estimates for communities and residents are not available. However, published estimates for the number of households in Great Britain not connected to the gas network are available at Lower Super Output Area level in the attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Copy of LSOA estimates 2014 [Copy of
LSOA_estimates_of_households_not_connected_to_the_gas_network_2014_published_Jan_2016.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-03/HL2025>

Road Works

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to improve street works organisation and reinstatement. [I] [HL2317]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government wants to deliver better journeys for drivers. Roadworks are essential, but that doesn't mean they should be in place any longer than is absolutely necessary. We are continuing with our work to modernise and update legislation and statutory guidance where this is necessary and where it will lead to improvements in the way that road and street works are managed.

<p>Recent examples include consultations earlier this year on updated statutory guidance relating to inspections and modernised regulations relating to the qualifications regime. In 2015, we updated regulations and guidance on permit schemes that are now in place in almost 60% of</p>	<p>local authority areas and which are resulting in more effective management of street works and reductions in the duration of works. We are also working with stakeholders to review the Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in the Highway (SROH).</p>
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