



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 23 September 2016 and the information is correct at the time of publication (04:10 P.M., 23 September 2016). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

Questions marked thus **[R]** indicate that a relevant interest has been declared.

Questions with identification numbers of **900000 or greater** indicate that the question was originally tabled as an oral question and has since been unstarred.

ANSWERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

■ Bail

Philip Davies: [\[45948\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, if he will list by offence type the number and proportion of cases in which the Crown Prosecution Service has opposed bail on the grounds of the associated person exception for (a) male and (b) female defendants in each of the last three years.

Robert Buckland:

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not maintain a central record of the number cases where bail has been opposed. This information could only be obtained by examining CPS case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

■ Domestic Violence

Philip Davies: [\[46045\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, in (a) how many and (b) what proportion of common assault cases flagged as involving domestic violence with allegations against (i) male and (ii) female defendants did the CPS oppose bail on the grounds of the associated person exception; and in what proportion of such cases was bail refused by the court in each of the last three years.

Robert Buckland:

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not maintain a central record of the number cases where bail has been opposed. This information could only be obtained by examining CPS case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

■ Stalking: Sentencing

Liz Saville Roberts: [\[45950\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what his policy is on offences under section 4A of the Protection from Harassment 1998 Act being referred to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of undue leniency.

Liz Saville Roberts: [\[45951\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what his policy is on offences under section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000 being referred to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of undue leniency.

Robert Buckland:

Neither of these offences are covered under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme and therefore the Law Officers have no power to refer sentences for these offences to the Court of Appeal.

The Government has committed to extending the scope of the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme and is carefully considering its approach.

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**■ Australia: Radioactive Waste****Stewart Malcolm McDonald:**[\[45947\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will take steps to stop the shipment of UK nuclear waste to Andnyamantha homelands in Australia up to 2020.

Jesse Norman:

There is a very small quantity of Australian owned radioactive waste currently stored in the UK. We anticipate that this will be returned to Australia in due course in line with contractual commitments. The location of any storage and disposal facilities for this waste will be a matter for the Australian authorities.

Any shipment of radioactive material out of the UK will comply with all relevant international laws and use ships which meet national and international requirements.

■ Business: Regulation**Mr Philip Hollobone:**[\[45444\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the potential opportunities to reduce the regulatory burdens on business (a) before and (b) after the UK leaves the EU.

Margot James:

The Government committed in its manifesto to reduce the burden of regulation on business by £10bn through a Business Impact Target. The first report on the Business Impact Target was published in June and showed that we have so far delivered £885 million of deregulation savings against it.

The Government will carefully consider the implications of leaving the European Union for the Business Impact Target, and the opportunities to further reduce burdens on business.

■ Carbon Sequestration**Tom Blenkinsop:**[\[45984\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 27 June 2016 to Question 40370, when his Department plans to outline its new approach to the carbon capture and storage industry; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) has a potential role to play in the long-term decarbonisation of the UK but its costs must come down.

We continue to work with industry to help develop CCS cost effectively and we will set out our future approach to CCS in due course.

■ Civil Nuclear Constabulary: Retirement

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[44999\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what his Department's policy is on making the pension age for Civil Nuclear Constabulary police officers the same as that for police forces under the responsibility of the Home Office.

Jesse Norman:

Government policy is for public sector workers to have a normal pension age equal and linked to the state pension age. Parliament defined 'members of a police force' in the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 in such a way as to exclude Civil Nuclear Constabulary officers from the special arrangements that were made for Home Office police forces under that Act. A recent High Court judgement confirmed this interpretation. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will work with the Civil Nuclear Police Authority to put in place the appropriate pension arrangements for Civil Nuclear Constabulary officers, within the parameters set out in the legislation.

■ Coal Gasification: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Margaret Ferrier: [\[45531\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the Answer of 20 October 2015 to Question 11541, whether the Department for Energy and Climate Change completed its assessment of the greenhouse gas emissions related to underground coal gasification.

Jesse Norman:

The Department recognises a need to understand the risks and benefits associated with underground coal gasification better. It commissioned a report from the consultancy WS Atkins Plc into the greenhouse gas implications of underground coal gasification. This report will be received in due course.

■ Construction: Industry

Roger Mullin: [\[45956\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of making the National Agreement for the Engineering Construction Industry legally-binding upon employers in the construction industry.

Jesse Norman:

The Government has no plans to intervene in the National Agreements used in the engineering construction industry. These agreements are voluntary between employer trade associations and trade unions.

■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Surveys

Caroline Lucas: [\[45465\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has for the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Public Attitudes Tracking Survey.

Jesse Norman:

The survey has been renamed the BEIS Energy and Climate Change Public Attitudes Tracker Survey. The next quarterly results from the survey will be released on 27 Oct 2016 and made available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-attitudes-tracking-survey>.

■ Employment Agencies

Diana Johnson: [\[45768\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many employment agencies and businesses the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate has (a) issued warning letters to and (b) prosecuted for publishing job advertisements in EEA states before publishing them in the UK since the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses (Amendment) Regulations 2016 came into force; and how his Department plans to monitor the effectiveness of those regulations.

Margot James:

In the four months since the introduction of the advertising provisions in the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses (Amendment) Regulations 2016, EAS has not issued any warning letters to employment agencies or employment businesses in relation to these specific provisions. There have been no prosecutions.

EAS inspectors review advertising records during the course of inspections of employment agencies and employment businesses to ensure compliance with these provisions.

■ Employment Agencies: Inspections

Diana Johnson: [\[45727\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many employment agencies and employment businesses the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate (a) investigated, (b) issued warning letters to and (c) prosecuted in each year since 2009-10; and how much was recovered by that agency in each of those years.

Margot James:

The table below sets out (a) the total number of cases completed by the Employment Agency Standards (EAS) Inspectorate since 2009-10 (EAS does not differentiate between cases which arise as a result of a complaint or an inspection so the figures relate to both); (b) the total number of warning letters following both complaints and inspections issued by EAS since 2009-10; (c) the total number of successful prosecution cases brought by EAS and the number of defendants who were convicted since 2009-10; and

(d) the money recovered by EAS as a result of their investigations (complaints and inspections) since 2009-10.

YEAR	CASES	WARNING LETTERS	PROSECUTION CASES	TOTAL DEFENDANTS	MONEY RECOVERED
2009/10	2,096	647	1	1	£204k
2010/11	1,344	917	-	-	£295k
2011/12	1,191	602	-	-	£129k
2012/13	1,145	471	4	7	£169k
2013/14	825	179	2	4	£85k
2014/15	604	133	2	3	£225k
2015/16	924	275	-	-	£88k

■ Energy: Investment

Dr Paul Monaghan:

[\[45625\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to improve investor confidence in the UK energy sector.

Jesse Norman:

The Government continues to make progress in securing investment in clean, secure energy, as with the recent announcement on Hinkley Point C. We are committed to ensuring that the UK remains an attractive destination for investment in the coming years.

■ Energy: Low Incomes

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[45688\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what monitoring his Department undertakes of the number of homes which have successfully applied for the Energy Heroes scheme run by E.ON.

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[45689\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what financial support his Department provides under the Energy Heroes scheme run by E.ON in (a) England, (b) the North West of England and (c) Denton and Reddish constituency.

Jesse Norman:

The Energy Heros scheme is operated by E.ON independently of Government. We do not hold information on it.

■ Energy: Meters

Matthew Pennycook: [46035]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the revised 30 September 2016 deadline for DCC the go-live on energy consumers.

Matthew Pennycook: [46036]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment he has made of the effect of further delays to the DCC go-live date on the effectiveness of smart meter rollout.

Jesse Norman:

The Data and Communications Company is in the final stages of testing the national new data and communications infrastructure for smart metering. It is important to get this right to ensure a good consumer experience from the outset.

In parallel, the roll out continues to make good progress. Consumers are able to receive smart meters ahead of the national infrastructure going live and more than 3.6 million smart meters are already operating in homes and businesses across the country.

Matthew Pennycook: [46039]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to review the 2020 deadline for the rollout of smart meters to 100 per cent of UK households after delays to the DCC go-live date.

Jesse Norman:

Energy Suppliers are required under licence conditions to take all reasonable steps to install smart meters in all of their domestic customers' premises, and smart or advanced meters in smaller non-domestic sites, by 31 December 2020. There are no plans to amend this obligation.

Matthew Pennycook: [46074]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent estimate he has made of the number of gas and electricity smart meters (a) that have been installed to date and (b) projected to be installed by the end of 2016.

Jesse Norman:

As of the end of March 2016 over 3.6 million smart meters were operating under the programme. The Government publishes official statistics on the rollout of smart meters quarterly. The latest release can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistical-release-and-data-smart-meters-great-britain-quarter-1-2016>

The Government receives estimates of forecast smart meter installations from the larger energy suppliers. Their latest projections suggest a further 2.9 million meters are expected to be installed between 1 April 2016 and 31 December 2016.

■ Energy: Prices

Andrew Gwynne: [\[45683\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make it his policy to place a legal obligation on energy suppliers automatically to transfer pensioner households to their lowest possible tariff.

Jesse Norman:

Energy supply companies are required to ensure customers are on the cheapest tariff in line with their preferences: specifically, as to their chosen payment method and to the type of tariff (fixed term or variable) they prefer.

All pensioners receive help with energy bills each winter through the Winter Fuel Payment, receiving £200-£300 depending on circumstances. Pensioners on Pension Credit may also receive assistance under the Cold Weather Payment and Warm Home Discount.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[46037\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department plans to ask energy suppliers to reconsider the use of income-differential tariffs.

Jesse Norman:

Energy supply companies are required to ensure customers are on the cheapest tariff that is in line with their preferences and specifically, as to their chosen payment method and to the type of tariff (fixed term or variable) they prefer.

■ New Businesses: EU Grants and Loans

David Mackintosh: [\[45699\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department plans to take to help ensure that start-up companies who receive funding from EU institutions continue to have access to similar levels of funding after the UK leaves the EU.

Margot James:

The UK Government is committed to ensuring the UK continues to be a world leader in international research and innovation. My right hon. Friend Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer has committed that HM Treasury will underwrite all competitively bid for EU research funding that is applied for before departure. Future access to EU collaborative research will be subject to the negotiation.

The UK already has a wide number of measures in place to help start-ups. Start-up loans provide both finance and business advice with over £250 million loans drawn down to date. Advice on starting and growing businesses is available from the 39 growth hubs around the country and the national Business Support Helpline.

■ Nuclear Power Stations: China

Lisa Nandy:

[44646]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent representations the Government has received from (a) the Chinese government and (b) Chinese energy companies on proposals to build new nuclear power stations in the UK.

Jesse Norman:

The Department regularly engages with the Chinese government and with CGN about their proposed partnership with EDF in UK new nuclear build – as we do with all developers with proposals for new nuclear power stations. A record of ministerial engagement with external stakeholders is published on a quarterly basis, and can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-external-meetings-2016>.

■ Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Caroline Lucas:

[45466]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what Freedom of Information requests (a) his Department and (b) the Department for Energy and Climate Change received in the last 12 months in respect of requests for documents submitted to the European Commission in support of the UK case of State Aid Clearance for plans to support radioactive waste and decommissioning proposals for new nuclear power stations; what response his Department provided to those requests; and what the reasons were for each such response.

Jesse Norman:

The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has not received any requests for documents submitted to the European Commission for State aid clearance with regard to plans to support radioactive waste and decommissioning proposals for new nuclear power stations.

The former Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) received one such request in the last 12 months. The request asked for “the main document setting out the United Kingdom justification for state aid clearance, along with a full list of the titles of all support documents, submitted to the European Commission, in respect of the European Commission consideration of the pricing methodology for waste transfer contracts to be concluded between the UK Government and operators of new nuclear power plants and its compatibility with EU state aid rules, on which the Commission reported its conclusions on 9 October 2015”.

In its response DECC confirmed that it did hold the information requested but was withholding it as the information fell within the scope of the exception set out in regulation 12(5)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations and that the public interest lay in withholding the information.

■ Private Rented Housing: Energy

Andrew Gwynne: [\[46040\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what progress his Department has made on ensuring that energy efficiency in the private rented sector is improved to meet new regulations regarding E-grade standards for properties to be let.

Jesse Norman:

The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property)(England and Wales) Regulations 2015 requires that all landlords of domestic and non-domestic privately rented property in England and Wales ensure that, from 1 April 2018, their properties reach an energy performance rating of at least an E before granting a tenancy to new or existing tenants, unless a prescribed exemption applies.

The Department has undertaken, and will continue to undertake, engagement activity with landlord groups to help them understand the requirements of the regulations. Officials are currently preparing guidance to assist non-domestic landlords in complying with their obligations under the regulations, and we will prepare similar guidance for domestic landlords in due course.

The Department is also developing a landlord exemptions register, a requirement of the Regulations, which will be used by enforcement authorities to help target their enforcement activities, and which will allow landlords to register online any exemptions that apply.

■ Renewable Energy

Jim Shannon: [\[45145\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make it his policy to continue to support Government investment in (a) new energy sources and (b) tidal energy.

Jesse Norman:

Government investment in all forms of renewable energy continues to be predicated on achieving an energy mix that is secure, clean and affordable. Government will be announcing details of the next energy innovation programme and the Contracts for Difference (CfD) allocation round in due course.

■ Solar Power

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[45437\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate he has made of the number of solar panels installed in homes and small businesses in the UK in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

We publish statistics on numbers of solar photovoltaic installations rather than on the number of solar panels installed or whether installations are domestic or small business. Typically installations on domestic properties will be less than 4 kiloWatts in capacity,

and those on small businesses between 4 and 50 kiloWatts in capacity. The number of *installations* within each of these capacity bands over the last three years for which statistics are available is as follows:

Number of installations

	2013	2014	2015
0-4 kW – largely domestic	97,327	131,994	179,066
4-50 kW – largely small businesses	8,086	9,041	12,254

Source data:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/solar-photovoltaics-deployment> (table 1)

■ **Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs**

Zac Goldsmith:

[45734]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he plans to take to improve the performance of the feed-in tariff scheme for solar power; and what the timetable for such improvements is.

Jesse Norman:

Solar has been deployed rapidly in recent years from low levels with almost 11 GW of capacity now installed.

Changes to the Feed-in Tariff scheme were introduced in 2016 to manage costs and ensure value for money. While it is appropriate to allow for a period of stability following these changes, we continue to keep the performance of the scheme under review.

Matthew Pennycook:

[46265]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what his policy is on reform of the feed-in tariff for solar generation.

Jesse Norman:

Almost 11 GW of solar capacity has now been installed. Solar continues to deploy under the Feed-in Tariff scheme, with over 140 MW of applications since the scheme reopened in February.

Changes to the Feed-in Tariff scheme were introduced in 2016 to manage costs and ensure value for money. While it is appropriate to allow for a period of stability following these changes, the Secretary of State continues to keep the performance of the scheme under review.

■ Solar Power: Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

Matthew Pennycook: [\[46246\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will take steps to review the decision to remove solar thermal from the Renewable Heat Incentive.

Jesse Norman:

In March the Department for Energy and Climate Change published a consultation "The Renewable Heat Incentive: A reformed and refocused scheme", including proposals relating to solar thermal.

The Government is currently considering responses to the consultation and will announce its final proposals in due course.

Zac Goldsmith: [\[46250\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether he plans to retain solar thermal under the Renewable Heat Incentive for (a) domestic and smaller commercial heating applications and (b) new applications including space heating and community heating.

Jesse Norman:

In March the Department for Energy and Climate Change published a consultation "The Renewable Heat Incentive: A reformed and refocused scheme", including proposals relating to solar thermal.

The Government is currently considering responses to the consultation and will announce its final proposals in due course.

■ Water Power: Contracts

Richard Graham: [\[46245\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department plans to continue to ring-fence Contracts for Difference funding solely for tidal and marine energy projects.

Jesse Norman:

The details of the forthcoming Contract for Difference (CfD) allocation round, including whether funding for wave and tidal stream projects should be ring-fenced, will be announced in due course.

CABINET OFFICE**■ Open Public Services**

Tom Watson: [\[46273\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the current work priorities are of the Open Public Services group.

Ben Gummer:

The Open Public Services team in the Cabinet Office existed to deliver the Coalition Government's Open Public Services White Paper, published in 2011. The team's work came to a natural end with the end of that government in 2015. The most recent account of the team's work is contained at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-public-services-2014-progress-report>

All Government Departments work to deliver public services which respond to individual choices and people's real life complex needs, whilst relentlessly focusing on improvements in quality.

■ Students

Craig Tracey: [46299]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether students aged over 18 years in higher education are separately identified as an element in the sub-national population and household projections by the Office of National Statistics.

Chris Skidmore:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Attachments:

1. UKSA Letter to Member - Household Projections [Craig Tracey (46299) v0 4 (002).pdf]

■ Written Questions

Tom Watson: [46275]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether he plans to update the guidance issued to Government departments on drafting answers to parliamentary questions.

Tom Watson: [46277]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will take steps to ensure that parliamentary questions are answered in full where the requested information is already available.

Ben Gummer:

Ministers are responsible for the answers they give to Parliamentary questions. The practice of providing links or references to published material is long standing. There are currently no plans to update the Guidance to Departments on drafting answers to Parliamentary questions given it was previously updated in the last Parliament.

TREASURY

■ Apprentices: Taxation

Steve McCabe: [46286]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress has been made on developing the digital system for employers to pay the Apprenticeship Levy.

Mr David Gauke:

The apprenticeship levy will be paid by employers alongside their other Pay As You Earn (PAYE) payments. This means employers will use the software they use for other aspects of their PAYE to report the apprenticeship levy to HM Revenue and Customs. A specification for the data items required for Real Time Information internet submissions for 2017-18 including the apprenticeship levy has been published and is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/real-time-information-online-internet-submissions-support-for-software-developers>.

Employers will be able to use a digital service to spend the levy on apprenticeship training and assessment. The development of the digital service is being led by the Skills Funding Agency and it will be available for employers to register their account from January 2017.

■ Biotechnology and Drugs: Industry

Chris Green: [45861]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to his Department's press release entitled, Chancellor steps up industry engagement, published on 7 September 2016, what plans he has to engage with the bio-tech and pharmaceutical industry as part of that industry engagement.

Mr David Gauke:

The Treasury regularly engages with businesses from all sectors and values the opportunity to hear their views.

Over the next month, the Chancellor will be meeting with over 80 representatives from businesses of all sizes, and from a wide variety of sectors and regions, including the bio-tech and pharmaceutical industry.

■ Care Homes: Tax Allowances

Alex Chalk: [45892]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of making care home expenses tax deductible.

Jane Ellison:

Tax relief for the cost of care in residential homes would disproportionately benefit those on higher incomes, whilst being of little or no benefit to those on more modest incomes. Furthermore, about half of pensioners do not pay tax and would be excluded from the scope of such a relief.

■ Companies: Costs

Steve McCabe:

[\[46285\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the combined effect of the Apprenticeship Levy, the National Living Wage and the increase in auto-enrolment charges on FTSE 250 companies' employment spend.

Mr David Gauke:

The Government is taking action to build an economy that works for everyone. We have committed to improve the technical and professional skills of the workforce by putting control of apprenticeship funding in the hands of employers, to boost the wages of the lowest paid, and, through Automatic Enrolment and pensions tax reliefs, to support people in saving for retirement. At the same time, we are supporting business with a competitive and fair tax system, including the reduction of the corporation tax main rate from 28% to 20%. Finance Act 2016 cut the rate further, to 17% in 2020, ensuring the lowest rate in the G20.

The Government has not produced a combined assessment of the effect of these specific policies on employment spend for this group of companies. The costs and benefits to business of regulatory measures such as the National Living Wage and Automatic Enrolment are set out in impact assessments (available at legislation.gov.uk and gov.uk respectively), and the independent Office for Budget Responsibility takes the impact of government policies on the economy into account in producing its forecasts.

■ Concentrix: Complaints

Alison Thewliss:

[\[46194\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many complaints his Department has received from hon. Members on the service of Concentrix in the last 12 months.

Jane Ellison:

Between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, HM Revenue and Customs received 670 formal complaints in writing or via e-mail from hon. Members relating to Concentrix service.

■ EU Grants and Loans: Tees Valley

Anna Turley:

[\[46136\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to ensure that Teesside is not disadvantaged by the withdrawal of EU funding when the UK leaves the EU.

Mr David Gauke:

To ensure stability and certainty in the period leading up to our departure from the EU, the Chancellor has announced that structural and investment fund projects in the UK that are signed before the Autumn Statement will be guaranteed. In addition, projects where UK organisations bid directly and competitively for EU funding, such as Horizon 2020 funded projects, will be guaranteed by the UK Government if the bids are won before our departure.

Leaving the EU means we will want to take our own decisions about how to deliver the policy objectives previously targeted by EU funding. Over the coming months, we will consult closely with stakeholders to review all EU funding schemes in the round, to ensure that any ongoing funding commitments best serve the UK's national interest, while ensuring appropriate investor certainty.

■ Help to Buy Scheme

Stephen Hammond: [\[46218\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to extend the Help to Buy Mortgage Guarantee scheme beyond 31 December 2016.

Simon Kirby:

The Help to Buy: mortgage guarantee scheme is due to close to new loans at the end of year as planned.

■ Revenue and Customs: Scotland

Alison Thewliss: [\[46195\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many HM Revenue and Customs staff were employed in Scotland in each year since 2006.

Jane Ellison:

The number of HM Revenue and Customs staff employed in Scotland each year since 2006 is shown in the following table.

YEAR ENDING	HEAD COUNT
31/03/2006	11,415
31/03/2007	11,464
31/03/2008	11,018
31/03/2009	11,160
31/03/2010	10,031
31/03/2011	9,860
31/03/2012	9,839
31/03/2013	9,437
31/03/2014	8,959
31/03/2015	8,331
31/03/2016	9,147

■ Treasury: Research

Natalie McGarry: [\[45908\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which reports commissioned by his Department from external bodies between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2016 have not yet been published; when each report was commissioned for research; what the nature of the research commissioned was; from which external body or individual person the research was commissioned; what the value was of each such piece of research commissioned; on what date each report was received by his Department; for what reasons the research has not yet been published; and when he plans to publish each report.

Simon Kirby:

The Department does not hold this information centrally. The information requested can only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Accommodation Agencies: Fees and Charges

Diana Johnson: [\[45741\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many fines have been issued to letting agents for failure to publicise their fees to landlords and prospective tenants since section 83 of the Consumer Rights Act came into force on 27 May 2015.

Gavin Barwell:

The Department does not hold data on such convictions.

■ Communities and Local Government: EU Nationals

Mr Chuka Umunna: [\[45507\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many citizens of other EU countries work in his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Mr Marcus Jones:

My department has 36 staff who self declare as being from other EU countries.

My department's agencies have 14 staff from other EU countries, and the non-departmental public bodies have 12.

■ Communities and Local Government: Research

Natalie McGarry: [\[45904\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, which reports commissioned by his Department from external bodies between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2016 have not yet been published; when each report was commissioned for research; what the nature of the research commissioned was; from which external body or individual person the research was commissioned; what the value was of each such piece of

research commissioned; on what date each report was received by his Department; for what reasons the research has not yet been published; and when he plans to publish each report.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The information requested is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Green Belt

Craig Tracey: [\[46295\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will amend national planning policies so that development of land designated as Green Belt will be resisted until the implications of the UK exiting the EU, and its effect on population and household projections, have been fully assessed and new projections issued for the use of local planning authorities.

Gavin Barwell:

In line with our manifesto commitment, the government is committed to strong protection of Green Belt land. Local authorities are responsible for designating Green Belt land, as explained in our National Planning Policy Framework. Only in exceptional circumstances may a local authority alter a Green Belt boundary. Applications for most types of development within the Green Belt are inappropriate and should be refused permission except in very special circumstances. Latest figures for 2015-16 show Green Belt continuing to cover around 13 per cent of England.

■ Homelessness

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[45847\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to reduce homelessness.

Mr Marcus Jones:

One person without a home is one too many. That is why the Government is clear that prevention must be at the heart of everything we do to reduce homelessness. We are investing £500 million to prevent, relieve and reduce homelessness across this Parliament. This includes protecting homelessness prevention funding for local authorities, which will amount to £315 million by 2019-20, to help them continue to provide quality advice and assistance to everyone who approaches them for help. Since 2010, local authorities have helped prevent or relieve over one million cases of homelessness.

Reducing homelessness is a complex issue. The causes are varied and driven by issues such as health, education, justice, welfare, and employment. That is why we have increased central investment to tackle homelessness over the next four years to £139 million, including a new £10 million Social Impact Bond to support rough sleepers with the most complex needs. This builds on the success of the world's first homelessness Social Impact Bond, run by the Greater London Authority to turn round the lives around

of 830 of London's most entrenched rough sleepers. Over half have achieved accommodation, employment or reconnection outcomes.

In addition we have invested £15 million to improve outcomes for young people through the Fair Chance Fund. This funding is turning around the lives of around 1,900 18 to 25 year olds with complex and overlapping needs, by supporting them into accommodation, education, training and employment.

We also announced in the Budget an additional £100 million to deliver low cost 'move on' accommodation to enable people leaving hostels and refuges to make a sustainable recovery from a homelessness crisis, providing at least 2,000 places for vulnerable people to enable independent living. I am also considering Bob Blackman MP's Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016-17.

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[45848]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what representations he has received from charities, local authorities and policy experts on potential ways to reduce homelessness.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Ministers meet with representatives of local authorities, voluntary and charity sector organisations, policy experts and other partners on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues including potential ways to reduce homelessness.

The government publishes a list of all ministerial meetings with external bodies on departmental business on a quarterly basis. This is available at www.gov.uk.

■ Housing: Construction

James Cartlidge:

[46112]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what information his Department holds on how many residential planning permissions which were granted in England in the last five years have yet to commence building work.

Gavin Barwell:

As of 1 July 2016 planning permission had been granted since 1 January 2011 for 311,000 homes on sites where work had not yet started. However, latest figures show that on these sites yet to be started, 90 per cent of the dwellings are now progressing towards a start, up from 85 per cent in July 2015.

There are a range of factors which can delay the start of work on site. We are taking forward a range of proposals to help drive up delivery post permission, including changes in legislation to tackle unnecessary planning conditions and providing additional investment in infrastructure to help unlock housing sites and we expect developers and local authorities to work together to tackle problems at a local level.

■ Housing: Students

Craig Tracey: [\[46296\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will issue guidance on whether local authorities with significant student populations in their areas should identify the student population separately for the purpose of calculating the full objectively assessed need for housing in their areas in preparation of Local Plans and in estimating the five-year supply of land for housing.

Craig Tracey: [\[46298\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will clarify in his planning policy guidance that (a) students aged over 18 years in higher education in any local authority area with significant higher education establishments should be regarded as transient and not permanent residents and (b) particular care in identifying the objectively assessed need for housing should be taken not to count such students as in-migrants who remain resident in the area, but rather as a special element of the population which continually replaces itself.

Gavin Barwell:

The National Planning Policy Framework asks local authorities to assess their full housing needs and identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period. Our planning guidance sets out a clear methodology for assessing development needs for housing and is clear that local authorities should plan for sufficient student accommodation in their area, including through engaging with universities and other higher educational establishments. It is for local authorities to establish a robust housing evidence base to justify their proposed approach.

■ Local Government: Pensions

Richard Burden: [\[46065\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when he plans to publish his Department's response to the consultation on the Local Government Pension Scheme: investment regulations; and what steps he is taking to ensure full parliamentary scrutiny of any resulting proposals.

Mr Marcus Jones:

[Holding answer 15 September 2016]: The government's response to the consultation will be published in due course.

The regulations will be made according to the negative resolution procedure as required by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. The instrument will be scrutinised by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments and the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee and may be subject to additional scrutiny in either House in accordance with the procedures applicable to all negative resolution statutory instruments.

■ Mobile Homes

Mr Christopher Chope:

[\[45729\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what the (a) membership and (b) terms of reference are of the Park Homes Working Groups.

Gavin Barwell:

The members of the park homes working group set up by the Government in 2015 were:

1. Peter Aldous MP (Conservative) - Waveney
2. Steve Brine MP (Conservative) - Winchester
3. Natascha Engel MP (Labour) - North East Derbyshire
4. Sonia McColl - Park Homes Justice Campaign
5. Brian Doick - National Association of Park Home Residents
6. Alan Savory - Independent Park Homes Advisory Service
7. Alicia Dunne - The National Caravan Council
8. Ros Pritchard - British Holiday and Home Parks Association
9. Paul Holland - South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Council
10. Lisa Osborn - North Somerset District Council
11. William Tando - Department for Communities and Local Government
12. Annette Brooke* - Former Liberal Democrat MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole
13. Stephen Lloyd* - Former Liberal Democrat MP for Eastbourne
14. Andrew Miller* - Former Labour MP for Ellesmere Port and Neston

*from February – May 2015

The terms of reference of the group was to identify evidence of poor practice in the park homes sector and investigate how best to raise standards further and tackle abuse. The group concluded its work earlier this year and I will shortly consider its final recommendations.

■ Planning Permission

Grant Shapps:

[\[45494\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what contingency plan his Department has to address increases in the time taken to process planning applications by local authorities.

Gavin Barwell:

Chapter 7 of the Technical consultation on the implementation of planning changes, published in February 2016, sets out our proposals to address delays in the processing of planning applications by local authorities. We are considering responses.

Diana Johnson:

[\[46059\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many Development Consent Orders for (a) energy and (b) transport projects his Department considered in each year since 2009-10 in each region; and how many such orders were (i) accepted and (ii) rejected by him.

Gavin Barwell:

Following the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission by the Localism Act 2011, decisions on whether to grant development consent for energy projects have been made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (formerly the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change) and transport projects have been decided by the Secretary of State for Transport. Prior to decision making powers being transferred to the Secretary of State by the Localism Act 2011, the Infrastructure Planning Commission determined one application for development consent for an energy project, granting consent in 2011.

■ Public Lavatories

Karl Turner:

[\[45932\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will bring forward legislative proposals for the mandatory provision of accessible toilets by all public organisations and private businesses for their customers and service users.

Gavin Barwell:

Part M of the Building Regulations requires that reasonable provision is made for accessible toilets in buildings other than dwellings, where relevant types of building work are undertaken (typically the erection, extension or alteration of a building). Statutory guidance as to how that requirement can be met is contained in *Approved Document M (Access to and use of buildings) Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellings*. Section 5 of the Approved Document provides detailed guidance on suitable toilet and sanitary accommodation. Government has no current plans to amend these requirements, but will keep guidance on toilet provision under review.

For existing public and commercial buildings, the Equality Act 2010 places duties on building owners, employers and business operators to put in place suitable management practices and to make reasonable adjustments to physical features of buildings in order to ensure that disabled people are not placed at a disadvantage when compared to a non-disabled person. This includes consideration of the nature and availability of toilet provision.

■ Refuges

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[45415\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many women's refuges operated in the UK in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Marcus Jones:

The Government does not hold data on the number of domestic violence refuges centrally. We expect local areas to assess the need for domestic abuse services and to make decisions on the provision of specialist safe accommodation, including refuges to meet our goal that no one is turned away from the support they need.

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[45435\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of women's refuge services; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Domestic abuse is a devastating crime that destroys the lives of victims and their families. That is why we are committed to ensuring that no victim is turned away from the support they need. We have committed long term funding of £40 million over the next four years to support to victims of domestic abuse.

Refuges and other forms of specialist accommodation-based services play a vital role in providing this support. We are looking to local partnerships to ensure they meet the needs they identify in their local area.

■ **Solar Power: Non-domestic Rates**

Zac Goldsmith:

[\[45728\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will take steps to reduce the planned increases in business rates on solar rooftops from April 2017; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Business rates are based on valuations from the Valuation Office Agency and we do not intervene in their independent assessments. We will look closely at the impacts of the forthcoming revaluation and consult on how to make sure the right support is in place for ratepayers to adjust to any changes.

■ **Students**

Craig Tracey:

[\[46297\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in relation to the sub-national population and household projections, if he will review with the Office of National Statistics, the methods of recording and counting of students as an element of the population in local authority areas having significant student populations.

Mr Marcus Jones:

DCLG uses the Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections to produce the household projections. Students are not counted as a separate population in the ONS mid-year population estimates or the ONS population projections. The ONS maintains responsibility for how these statistics are produced, and DCLG have no plans to review the methods used to produce these statistics.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT■ **Arts and Sports: Disability**

Natalie McGarry: [\[45888\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what recent steps she has taken to increase the participation of people living with disabilities in (a) sports and (c) the arts.

Tracey Crouch:

Government recognises the importance of sport and physical activity to disabled people who take part at both grassroots and the elite level. Our new sport strategy, 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation', published in December 2015, emphasises the importance of getting people active, particularly those groups currently under-represented, including disabled people.

Between 2011 and 2017 Sport England is investing over £170 million to get more disabled people playing sport. It published its own strategy for England, Towards an Active Nation on 19 May, which sets out how it intends to deliver against the government's sport strategy. This includes a specific focus on disabled people who are less likely to regularly take part in physical activity.

We believe that everyone should have access to arts and culture - having a disability should not be a barrier to enjoying Britain's awe-inspiring cultural treasures. That is why we are working with venues and organisations representing disabled people to identify barriers to access. Arts Council England has also made a significant change in its approach to diversity by launching The Creative Case for Diversity, which asks the organisations it funds to make themselves and their work more reflective of the communities they serve. As part of Arts Council's investment in diversity and The Creative Case, four new strategic funds for diversity were announced in December 2015, totaling £8.6 million. This included a new £2.6 million Change Makers fund to build long-term relationships between National Portfolio Organisations and aspiring arts leaders from the BME and deaf and disabled communities, and Unlimited, which will support the development of a range of new work by deaf and disabled artists.

■ **Arts: Local Government**

Justin Tomlinson: [\[46020\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, against what criteria she measures the compliance of local authorities with the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

Mr Rob Wilson:

The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 requires local authorities in England to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for their local communities. The 1964 Act requires the Secretary of State to superintend, and promote the improvement of, the public library service provided by local authorities in England, and to secure the proper discharge by local authorities of the duties conferred on local authorities under the Act.

The Secretary of State has the power to intervene by directing a local inquiry following a complaint that a local authority has failed to carry out its duties under the Act, or of her own motion. In taking that decision, the Secretary of State gives consideration to a number of factors, including:

- Whether there is any serious doubt or uncertainty as to whether the local authority is (or may cease to be) complying with its legal obligation to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service.
- Whether the local authority appears to be acting in a careless or unreasonable way.
- Whether the decision is or may be outside the proper bounds of the local authority's discretion, such as a capricious decision to stop serving a particularly vulnerable group in the local community.
- Whether the local authority appears to have failed to consult affected individuals or to carry out significant research into the effects of its proposals.
- Whether the local authority has failed to explain, analyse or properly justify its proposals.
- Whether the local proposals are likely to lead to a breach of national library policy.
- The advantages of local decision making by expert and democratically accountable local representatives.
- Whether there is any further good reason why a local inquiry should be ordered.

Where a complaint is raised we will consider the available evidence in light of the above factors. If there is serious doubt that the library service provided by the local authority offers a comprehensive and efficient service, I will not hesitate to open an inquiry.

■ British Telecom

Mr Geoffrey Cox:

[\[45886\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to encourage BT to increase its commercial investments.

Matt Hancock:

Nine out of ten homes and businesses now have access to superfast broadband, but our goal is to make sure the UK builds the right infrastructure to maintain our position as a world-leading digital nation. BT has a big part to play in this.

The government supports Ofcom in the changes that it wants to see in relation to Openreach. A more independent Openreach is needed to benefit consumers and boost investment in the UK's digital infrastructure.

We are encouraging BT to invest in high-quality broadband infrastructure and have brokered a deal between Openreach and the Home Builders Federation that will see fibre-based broadband offered to all new developments either for free or as part of a co-funded initiative. Additionally, Virgin and GTC have recently signed new deals in this area.

We are creating a favourable regulatory environment to incentivise commercial investment for BT and all Communications Providers. For example: we will reform the Electronic Communications Code, to support faster and more efficient infrastructure rollout and to encourage investment and growth in the UK digital industry; and we are making permanent a relaxation of the rules for deploying fixed broadband infrastructure originally introduced in 2013.

■ **Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Research**

Natalie McGarry: [\[45905\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, which reports commissioned by her Department from external bodies between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2016 have not yet been published; when each report was commissioned for research; what the nature of the research commissioned was; from which external body or individual person the research was commissioned; what the value was of each such piece of research commissioned; on what date each report was received by her Department; for what reasons the research has not yet been published; and when she plans to publish each report.

Matt Hancock:

We do not hold this information centrally, and the information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ **Dormant Assets Commission**

Ronnie Cowan: [\[46220\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, when she expects the Dormant Assets Commission to report.

Mr Rob Wilson:

The Commission on Dormant Assets is expected to report its findings and recommendations to Government in December 2016.

■ **Public Libraries**

Justin Tomlinson: [\[45952\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what plans she has to support the library service in England.

Mr Rob Wilson:

I am responding as Minister with responsibility for Libraries policy.

The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 requires the Secretary of State to superintend, and promote the improvement of, the public library service provided by local authorities in England, and to secure the proper discharge by local authorities of the functions in relation to libraries as conferred on them as library authorities.

The Government invested £2.6m in 2015/16 to install and upgrade WiFi in over 1,000 libraries in England. This means that WiFi is now available in over 99% of public libraries in England.

In addition, the Government and the Local Government Association established the Libraries Taskforce in 2015. The Taskforce has already published Toolkits and case studies to assist local authorities and consulted on "Ambition", a draft vision for public libraries. This will provide a range of practical and innovative options local authorities can deploy to maintain and transform our library services. I expect to see local authorities working with Government and their local communities to consider these options, and to ensure library services are sustainable for the long term.

Justin Tomlinson:

[\[46019\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many public libraries were open in England in each year since 2010.

Mr Rob Wilson:

I am responding as Minister with responsibility for Libraries policy.

Data relating to public libraries is collected and published annually in December by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The following table indicates the number of library service points within the statutory public library services of local authorities that are open ten or more hours per week, as at 31 March for each year.

	TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN ENGLAND OPEN 10+ HOURS PER WEEK
2010	3,428
2011	3,393
2012	3,243
2013	3,181
2014	3,142
2015	3,076

The Libraries Taskforce recently commissioned from local authorities in England basic data regarding the numbers and types of public libraries available within each local authority. The data will assist the library sector and users to monitor the delivery of library services.

DEFENCE

■ Armed Forces: Housing

Jim Shannon:

[\[46173\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the delivery of services under the CarillionAmey contract to support armed forces married quarters.

Jim Shannon:

[\[46174\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will take steps to end the CarillionAmey contract to support armed forces married quarters and revert to previous regional arrangements.

Harriett Baldwin:

The Ministry of Defence has put in place a strategy to provide an alternative contractor should CarillionAmey fail to sustain performance.

The Department continues to assess CarillionAmey's performance to determine whether the implementation of this strategy is necessary.

■ Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

Jim Shannon:

[\[46169\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people have (a) joined and (b) left the (i) armed forces and (ii) the Reserves in each of the last five years.

Mike Penning:

Current information on how many people have joined and left the Armed Forces and the Reserves from 2011 to 2015 is shown below.

	FINANCIAL YEAR					
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Intake to UK Regular Forces	14,800	14,370	11,880	12,980	13,800	4,110
Outflow from UK Regular Forces	21,370	23,520	23,000	18,910	16,540	5,210
Intake to Future Reserves 2020	*	*	4,120	6,810	8,200	3,100
Outflow from Future Reserves 2020	*	*	5,360	4,140	4,260	1,860

Note:

* Due to the lack of validated data it is not possible to calculate intake and outflow for these periods.

Detailed information regarding the size of the UK Armed Forces is at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/426880/QPR_Apr2015.pdf

■ Armed Forces: Recruitment

Jim Shannon: [\[46170\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many FTRS contracts have been used to reinforce the Capita armed forces since that contract began; and how it is being met.

Mark Lancaster:

The Recruiting Partnering Project contract has been reinforced with 17 additional Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) contracts. These personnel have been used in a variety of roles supporting the Army's recruiting effort.

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[46211\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the targets were for recruitment for each of the armed forces in each of the last five years.

Mike Penning:

Information on the targets for recruitment for each of the Armed Forces in each of the last five years is shown below.

FINANCIAL YEAR	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Regular Naval Service	2,230	2,925	3,433	3,260	3,571
Maritime Reserves ¹	-	-	-	740	760
Royal Fleet Auxiliary	36	52	122	353	336
Total Naval Service	2,266	2,977	3,555	4,353	4,667
Regular Army Service	11,190	10,300	7,020	8,160	7,320
Army Reserves ¹ -	-	-	-	4,900	7,270
Total Army Service	11,190	10,300	10,575	13,060	14,590
Regular Royal Air Force Service	1,561	1,586	1,731	2,212	2,670

FINANCIAL YEAR	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Royal Air Force Reserves ¹	-	-	-	600	750
Total Royal Air Force Service	1,561	1,586	1,731	2,812	3,420

Notes:

¹ There are no figures for these periods as centralised recruitment targets were not set until October 2013 following publication of the Reserves White paper.

Jim Shannon:

[\[46234\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many regular armed forces personnel have been involved in recruiting since the commencement of the Capita contract for recruitment; and what the cost to the public purse has been of that involvement.

Mike Penning:

Information on the number of regular Armed Forces personnel involved in recruiting since the commencement of the Capita contract for recruitment and the cost to the public purse is in the table below. It should be noted that the Capita contract only covers recruitment to the Army.

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Manpower	1,621	849	849
Cost	£62,923,193	£39,643,712	£38,651,408

■ Armed Forces: Training

Mrs Madeleine Moon:

[\[45933\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to ensure that apprenticeships and training programmes are adequately supported through current and future defence procurement (a) guidance and (b) programmes; and if he will make a statement.

Mark Lancaster:

The Ministry of Defence is proud to be the single largest provider of quality apprenticeships in the UK, having delivered more than 150,000. We therefore play an important role in helping the Government meet its commitment to reaching three million apprenticeship starts in England by 2020.

We work closely with colleagues across Government and industry to help maintain and develop the essential skills needed to deliver defence outputs. That includes working

with industry partners to develop new world-class apprenticeship standards. Where we know that specific skills are needed for the effective delivery of defence capability, our procurement policies allow for consideration of these skills in our tendering activity, and their continued development through the life of relevant contracts.

■ Army Reserve

Jim Shannon:

[46167]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many soldiers on leaving service have transferred to the Reserves in each of the last five years.

Mark Lancaster:

Defence Statistics publish information on a regular basis showing intake figures for the Armed Forces, including the Army Reserve. Information on the number of former Regular soldiers joining the Army Reserve by year since April 2012 is contained in 'UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics August 2016' and associated tables which is available in Table 7c at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-monthly-service-personnel-statistics-2016>

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Trained Direct Entrant	710	1,120	1,590	1,970	400 (as at 1 July 16)

Army Reserve FR20 Trained Direct Entrants comprises ex-Regulars who directly enter the trained strength and have been discharged from the Regular Army Trained Strength within six years of enlistment to the Army Reserve.

Information prior to 1 April 2012 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

■ Army Reserve: Females

Jim Shannon:

[46168]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what targets he has set for recruiting female soldiers into the Armed Forces Reserve; and how he plans to track those soldiers' performance through the recruiting process.

Mark Lancaster:

There is a combined UK Regular and Future Reserve 2020 target to increase female personnel to 15 per cent of total intake by 2020. Progress against this target is reported on a biannual basis in the Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics. The information can be found in table 26 at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2016>

■ Army Reserve: Recruitment

Jim Shannon:

[46171]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Reserves recruits made it through Phase 1 of the recruitment process in the last 12 months; and whether the target for such recruitment was met.

Mark Lancaster:

Information on how many members of Future Reserves 2020 have completed Phase 1 training and commenced Phase 2 training in the 12 months to 31 July 2016 is shown below:

Maritime Reserve 160

Army Reserve FR20 1,830

Royal Auxiliary Air Force 270

There is no target for completing Phase 1 training but targets exist for trained strength, new entrant inflow and ex-regular trained joiners.

Notes

- 1. Future Reserves 2020 includes volunteer reserves who are mobilised, High Readiness Reserves and those volunteer reserves serving on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and Additional Duties Commitment (ADC). Sponsored Reserves who provide a more cost effective solution than volunteer reserve are also included in the Army Reserve FR20.
- 2. Professionally Qualified Officers have been excluded for the Army Reserve FR20 as they may be simultaneously completing Phase 1 and Phase 2 training.
- 3. Figures represent the number of personnel who have completed Phase 1 training and commenced phase 2 training the following month in the 12 months ending 31 July 2016.
- 4. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in 5 are rounded to the nearest 20 to avoid systematic bias.

■ Army Reserve: Training

Jim Shannon:

[46177]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of Army Reserves successfully passed the annual mandatory training test in 2015.

Harriett Baldwin:

Military Annual Training Tests (MATTs) are a series of 10 tests which members of the Army undertake to ensure that individuals remain competent and proficient in basic military skills and attitudes. The number of MATTs individual members of the Army are required to take varies depending on the role or specialism they are in, whether Reserve or Regular. For example those working in HQ or specialist/professional roles are not

required to undertake all MATTs. Those Reserves failing to pass the MATTs they are required to take risk not qualifying for their annual training bounty.

The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Jim Shannon:

[\[46178\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Army Reserves who did not pass the annual mandatory training test in 2015 were deployed on operation.

Harriett Baldwin:

There are 10 Military Annual Training Tests (MATTs) ranging from map reading and navigation through to Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear (CBRN) training. In 2015, 32 Army Reservists who had either not completed or failed an aspect of their MATTs were mobilised for deployment. The decision to deploy is made by the Chain of Command only on the basis that the gap in MATTs would not prevent them from safely and responsibly fulfilling their deployed role. In addition to MATTs, all deployed personnel receive an intensive programme of training specific to the operation.

In addition, 2 Medical brigade mobilised and deployed 122 medical Reserve personnel to Sierra Leone in a non-combat role in 2015, as part of the fight against Ebola. As part of its preparation the unit conducted its own MATTs for which pass and fail records are not held centrally and cannot readily be provided.

■ HMS Defender

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[\[46212\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the expected maintenance period is for HMS Defender.

Harriett Baldwin:

The maintenance period of HMS Defender is planned to start before the end of 2016 and complete in late 2017. Precise details and its duration are currently the subject of ongoing negotiations with industry.

■ Kurds: Military Aid

Jim Shannon:

[\[45868\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what discussions he has had with the Kurdistan regional government on support for its army in tackling Daesh.

Mike Penning:

The British Defence Attaché in Baghdad and Defence Advisor in Erbil regularly discuss these issues with representatives of the Kurdistan Regional Government and Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs. I will discuss these issues with the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish Regional Government during my forthcoming visit to the region.

The UK is steadfastly supporting the Kurdish Peshmerga as they fight, alongside other Iraqi forces, to defeat Daesh in Iraq. The UK has trained more than 6,000 Kurdish Peshmerga in infantry fighting skills, gifted 1,000 Vallon counter-IED detectors, provided

more than 50 tonnes of non-lethal support, 40 heavy machine guns, nearly half a million rounds of ammunition and £600,000 worth of military equipment. We have also delivered over 300 tonnes of weapons and ammunition on behalf of other Coalition nations. In addition, the Kurdish Peshmerga benefit from RAF intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance capability and airstrikes - Tornado, Typhoon and Reaper have flown more than 3,000 missions in Iraq, carrying out over 1,000 successful strikes against Daesh targets, and in support of Iraqi forces.

■ NATO: Military Exercises

Douglas Chapman:

[\[46003\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many (a) assets and (b) personnel of his Department were involved in Exercise Northern Coasts in the Baltic Sea in each of the last five years.

Mike Penning:

During 2015 and 2016 one Sandown Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel, with a ship's company of 43 and 40 personnel respectively, was sent on Exercise Northern Coasts in the Baltic Sea. No assets or personnel were involved in the previous three years.

■ Terrorism: Northern Ireland

Jim Shannon:

[\[46175\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what contingency plans his Department has to respond to a raised security threat level in Northern Ireland.

Mike Penning:

Policing and security remains the responsibility of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Security Service. As with the rest of the UK, there are a number of standing contingency plans in place to provide Defence support in Northern Ireland beyond the capacity of the civil authorities and in times of crisis. I am withholding the detail of these contingency plans for the purpose of safeguarding national security and in order not to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Beyond this, as with the rest of the UK, Defence will consider requests for additional assistance on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that support provided is in line with Military Aid to the Civil Authorities principles.

Jim Shannon:

[\[46176\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the military (a) capabilities and (b) asset levels in Northern Ireland to deal with the threat level.

Mike Penning:

Both the adequacy of military capabilities and asset levels in Northern Ireland are continually reviewed with the Northern Ireland Office and civil authorities, who lead on security in Northern Ireland, to ensure our support is proportionate, effective and efficient. Policing and security remains the responsibility of the Police Service of Northern

Ireland and the Security Service and therefore this includes our support to civil authorities. For example, support routinely provided in Northern Ireland includes explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and Defence are currently undertaking an enhancement of military vehicles used for the provision of this support.

I am withholding further information on assessments as its disclosure would prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

■ Trident Submarines

Douglas Chapman:

[46002]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will publish the contract with KPMG to provide oversight to the Successor programme.

Harriett Baldwin:

KPMG are not providing oversight to the Successor programme. In July 2015, KPMG were awarded the Acquisition Support Partner framework contract, assisting the Ministry of Defence to improve the performance of its overall acquisition system. This includes but is not restricted to supporting the nuclear and submarine enterprise.

The contract has been published on the Government website (Contracts Finder) and can be accessed by the following link:

- <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/3b5ce6b4-ca89-45ca-8526-ca89140a5a32>

■ Type 45 Destroyers

Jim Shannon:

[46179]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether it is his policy to ensure that Type 45 ships will be repaired and fully operational in order to support the planned new aircraft carrier.

Harriett Baldwin:

All Type 45 Destroyers remain in a planned operational cycle and continue to be routinely deployed. Included in this will be periods when they are undergoing repair.

■ Type 45 Destroyers: Portsmouth Dockyard

Douglas Chapman:

[45999]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for how many days all six Daring-class Type 45 destroyers have been berthed together at HMNB Portsmouth in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016.

Harriett Baldwin:

The six Daring-class Type 45 destroyers were berthed together in Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth for 34 days this summer. The ships had either just returned from operations, were preparing for imminent deployment, conducting training, undergoing maintenance or on leave.

EDUCATION

■ Adult Education: Qualifications

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45934\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will review proposed arrangements for the non-examined assessment elements of new GCSEs and A-level examinations to enable adult learners who wish to sit those qualifications as private candidates to do so.

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45989\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the examination boards in England, Wales and Northern Ireland collect data on the number of private candidates who sit GCSE and A-Level examinations.

Nick Gibb:

These questions are a matter for Ofqual, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation. I have therefore asked its Chief Regulator, Sally Collier, to write directly to the Hon. Member. A copy of her reply will be placed in the House libraries.

■ Apprentices

Steve McCabe: [\[46284\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the number of Government-standard qualifying apprenticeship schemes available when the Apprenticeship Levy comes into force in spring 2017.

Robert Halfon:

Employer-led reforms to apprenticeships are replacing existing complex frameworks with short, simple, accessible apprenticeship standards designed by employers according to their skills needs. The existing apprenticeship frameworks will close as the new standards are developed and become widely used, and in March 2016 we began the phased withdrawal of SASE frameworks.

We envisage a migration from apprenticeship frameworks to standards over the course of the Parliament, with as much of this as possible to take place by 2017/18.

So far, 246 new apprenticeships standards have been published. A further 176 new standards are in development, and we expect more to come forward before the Apprenticeship Levy is implemented in spring 2017.

■ Breastfeeding: Curriculum

Alison Thewliss: [\[46198\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to promote breastfeeding in the curriculum.

Edward Timpson:

Where there is a demand from parents and pupils, schools can choose to teach about any topic of interest, including breastfeeding. For example, it can be covered in schools'

personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) lessons. The suggested programme of study for teachers by the PSHE Association does not specifically cover breastfeeding, but it includes teaching about parenthood and the development of parental skills. Schools can expand on these topics if they wish, and include breastfeeding if there is a demand to cover it.

■ Education: Digital Technology

Adam Afriyie:

[\[46303\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to support the use of digital technology for improving attainment across the curriculum.

Nick Gibb:

The Government's approach is not to be interested in technology for its own sake, but rather how it can help teachers work more effectively and children to achieve. The Department has an enabling role so schools can take advantage of the opportunities, but not promoting particular approaches.

We are focused on three areas:

- Unlocking innovation in the ed-tech industry by moving to a common set of standards for data within schools and government.
- Building the evidence base of what works so schools can make informed decisions.
- Helping teachers and school leaders to build their knowledge and understanding of technology so that they are able confidently to make best use of it.

Technology presents a number of opportunities to improve outcomes for children. Used well, technology can be a huge aid to schools, but the international evidence shows that caution is needed to ensure technology is used to best effect.

■ Educational Exchanges

Philip Davies:

[\[43948\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on the availability of university year-abroad schemes.

Joseph Johnson:

The referendum result has no immediate effect on students abroad under the Erasmus scheme or applying for 2016/17. Payments will be made in the usual way. Access to the programme after we leave the EU is a matter for the forthcoming negotiations. The Department offers the same support for study abroad under other schemes as for Erasmus.

■ Erasmus+ Programme

Greg Mulholland:

[\[43825\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what representations she has received from the higher education sector on the future of the Erasmus programme.

Joseph Johnson:

The referendum result has no immediate effect on students abroad under the Erasmus scheme or applying for 2016/17. Payments will be made in the usual way. Access to the programme after we leave the EU is a matter for the forthcoming negotiations, and the potential effects could vary considerably. Since the referendum, I have met with stakeholders including representatives from:

- Edinburgh University
- Guild HE
- Independent Universities Group
- Independent HE
- Manchester University
- Million Plus
- National Union of Students
- Russell Group
- Surrey University
- Universities UK
- University Alliance
- University of Winchester
- The All-Party Parliamentary University Group
- Newcastle University
- Sheffield University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Lancaster University
- British and Irish Modern Music Institute
- Durham University
- Liverpool University
- Leeds University
- Salford University
- York University
- Aberdeen University
- Dundee University
- Universities Scotland
- Heriot-Watt
- University of the West of Scotland

- Stirling University
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Glasgow University
- Queen Mary University Edinburgh
- Strathclyde University

Officials have additionally met with or spoken to:

- the Learned Societies
- the Open University
- University and College Union
- Higher Education Academy

They have also received various representations.

■ Graduates: Employment

Philip Davies:

[43947]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effect of degree-level education on employment prospects.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government regularly publishes information on graduate employment trends through its 'Graduate Labour Market Statistics' publication, which can be found on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/graduate-labour-market-quarterly-statistics>

According to the latest data covering 2015, 87 per cent of graduates were in employment compared to 70 per cent of non-graduates. Graduates are also more likely to be employed in high-skilled employment with 66 per cent of graduates working in these types of occupation compared to 21 per cent of non-graduates.

HMG also regularly commissions research on the earnings premium graduates can expect from holding a degree. The latest research, which can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/229498/bis-13-899-the-impact-of-university-degrees-on-the-lifecycle-of-earnings-further-analysis.pdf, suggests that over a working life graduate returns average £170,000 for males and £250,000 for females. This takes into account the impact of loan repayments, national insurance and income tax payments.

The Government recognises, however, that there is variation in the returns students receive from undertaking a Higher Education. The Teaching Excellence Framework will put clear information in the hands of students about the teaching quality and outcomes they might expect to receive, as well as encouraging higher education institutions to focus on employability of their graduates.

■ Grammar Schools: Free School Meals

Lisa Nandy: [\[45674\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of grammar school entrants were eligible for free school meals in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15 and (c) 2015-16.

Nick Gibb:

[Holding answer 13 September 2016]: The number and proportion of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in selective state-funded secondary schools in England in each of these years is listed in the table below:

YEAR	NUMBER OF PUPILS	NUMBER OF PUPILS KNOWN TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AND CLAIMING FREE SCHOOL MEALS	PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS KNOWN TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AND CLAIMING FREE SCHOOL MEALS
2013-14 (data as at January 2014)	162,629	4,204	2.6%
2014-15 (data as at January 2015)	164,149	4,163	2.5%
2015-16 (data as at January 2016)	166,517	4,237	2.5%

1. Source: School Census
2. Includes sole and dual main registered pupils

■ Grammar Schools: Per Capita Costs

Lisa Nandy: [\[45672\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average annual spend per pupil was in grammar schools in each region in 2015-16.

Nick Gibb:

[Holding answer 13 September 2016]: Schools self-select their own admissions category on Edubase. 163 schools are identified as 'selective (grammar).'

The Department does not yet hold the income and expenditure data from 2015-16. The data will be available for those which are maintained by the local authority in December 2016, and for those which are academies in the summer of 2017.

The overall expenditure per pupil in grammar schools by each region for 2014-15 is listed in the following table:

REGION	NUMBER OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS	EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL (£)
East Midlands	15	5,195
East of England	8	5,644
London	19	5,683
North West	18	5,392
South East	55	5,332
South West	20	5,210
West Midlands	17	5,553
Yorkshire and the Humber	6	5,557
England Total	158*	5,404

*Note: There are 5 selective schools which converted to academies during 2014-15 and as such we do not have comparable financial data for them for this period. The expenditure per pupil takes into account expenditure from all income sources, including self-generated income.

■ Higher Education: Liverpool City Region

John Pugh:

[\[45287\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many school leavers in each of the local authorities of the Liverpool City Region who were (a) entitled and (b) not entitled to free school meals went to university in the last five years for which figures are available.

Edward Timpson:

Information is given on the number and percentage of students completing key stage 5 study (A level and other level 3 qualifications) in mainstream state-funded schools and colleges, and progressing to study at a UK Higher Education Institution for at least two terms the following year; in each of the last four years for which information is available. Free school meal eligibility is as recorded when students were in year 11.

The tables attached show figures for the six local authorities in the Liverpool City Region: a) Halton, b) Knowsley, c) Sefton, d) St Helen's, e) Wirral, and f) Liverpool. Comparable figures for g) the North West and h) England are given for context. Numbers of pupils are shown rounded to the nearest ten, as published. Percentages are calculated on unrounded figures.

Information on pupil destinations at local authority, regional and national level is published annually on gov.uk at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-destinations>

Attachments:

1. PQ_45287_Pupil_Destinations [PQ_45287_Pupil_Destinations.doc]

■ **Nurseries: Teachers**

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[45893\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure that more nurseries employ qualified early years teachers.

Caroline Dinenage:

The Government recognises that graduates are an important part of the early years workforce, and that is why in 2013 we introduced the early years initial teacher training programme which leads to the award of Early Years Teacher Status. We have made a significant investment in this programme by providing funding for course fees and bursaries to eligible trainees, and also funding for employers to support trainees.

The number of graduates in the workforce continues to rise, and between 2008 and 2013 the proportion of full day care staff with a degree or higher increased from 5% to 13%. The Government wants to see more trained graduates in the workforce in the future.

The early years workforce strategy is in development this year and will set out how government will help to remove barriers to attracting, retaining and developing staff. It will look at the barriers to growing the body of graduates in the workforce in England.

■ **Overseas Students: EU Nationals**

Daniel Zeichner: [\[44877\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make it her policy to include students from other EU countries in the eligibility criteria for student loans in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 admissions years.

Joseph Johnson:

The UK has a long-established higher education system that supports, and therefore attracts, the brightest minds, at all stages of their careers. Existing rules on EU and other EEA students remain in force. Future arrangements for EU students wishing to study in the UK will need to be considered as part of wider discussions about the UK's relationship with the EU.

■ **Pre-school Education: Males**

David Mackintosh: [\[45812\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the findings on the gender pay gap for early language

attainment at age five in Save the Children's report, entitled The Lost Boys: How boys are falling behind in early years, published in July 2016.

Caroline Dineneage:

The Save the Children report, The Lost Boys: How boys are falling behind in the early years, addresses the gender gap of boys falling behind in language and literacy in the early years. I would like to clarify to the Hon. Member that the report does not refer to pay. The answer to this parliamentary question therefore sets out what Government are doing to support disadvantaged children regardless of background or gender.

The Government recognises a key part of raising the standard of education for all children is to ensure they receive a good level of development in literacy and numeracy before they start school at age five. This is why in 2010 we extended the free entitlement to 15 hours for all three and four year olds, and in 2013 introduced the entitlement for two-year-olds which has increased early education take-up for children from the most disadvantaged families. We have also introduced an early years pupil premium to help providers support the learning and development of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework sets the prime areas of learning which early years providers must follow. This includes a focus on communication and language. The Early Years Foundation stage is published on gov.uk, available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335504/EYFS_framework_from_1_September_2014_with_clarification_note.pdf

The 2014-15 EYFS Profile results tell us that the proportion of children achieving a good level of development continues to increase – 66 % in 2015, compared to 60% in 2014 and 52% in 2013. The EYFS Profile results also show that more than 80% of children are reaching the expected communication and language skills by age five. A higher proportion of children eligible for free school meals are achieving a good level of development – 51% in 2015 compared to 45% in 2014. Although the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers is narrowing, we recognise there is still some way to go.

The quality of early education is improving, the numbers of qualified staff have risen, the numbers of graduates in the workforce continues to rise, and a record number of providers are rated good or outstanding, with 86% of providers currently on the Early Years Register judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at 31 March 2016.

Richard Burden:

[45816]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of boys aged under five who have not achieved expected standards of language and communication.

Caroline Dineneage:

The Government recognises a key part of raising the standard of education for all children, regardless of background or gender, is to ensure they receive a good level of development in literacy and numeracy before they start school at age five. To support

this we have introduced an early years pupil premium to help providers support the learning and development needs of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework sets the prime areas of learning that early years providers must follow. This includes a focus on communication and language. The Early Years Foundation stage is published on gov.uk and can be accessed through the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335504/EYFS_framework_from_1_September_2014_with_clarification_note.pdf

The EYFS makes clear that all children should be given opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations. It also requires practitioners to make sure that children have sufficient opportunities to learn and develop a good standard in English language so they are ready to begin year 1.

The 2014-15 EYFS Profile results tell us that the proportion of children achieving a good level of development continues to increase – 66% in 2015, compared to 60% in 2014 and 52% in 2013. The EYFS Profile results also show that more than 80% of children are reaching the expected communication and language skills by age five, but we will continue to work with the sector to make sure every child gets the high quality education they deserve.

The quality of early education is improving, the numbers of qualified staff have risen, the numbers of graduates in the workforce continues to rise, and a record number of providers are rated good or outstanding, with 86% of providers currently on the Early Years Register judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at 31 March 2016.

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[45894]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to close the gap in language and communication skills between boys aged five and under from disadvantaged backgrounds and those the same age from other backgrounds.

Caroline Dinenage:

The Government recognises a key part of raising the standard of education for all children, regardless of background, is to ensure they receive a good level of development in literacy and numeracy before they start school at age five. This is why in 2010 we extended the free entitlement to 15 hours for all three and four year olds, and in 2013 introduced the entitlement for two-year-olds, which has increased early education take-up for children from the most disadvantaged families. We have also introduced an early years pupil premium to help providers support the learning and development of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework sets the prime areas of learning that early years providers must follow. This includes a focus on communication and language. The Early Years Foundation stage is published on gov.uk and can be accessed through the following link;

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The 2014-15 EYFS Profile results tell us that the proportion of children achieving a good level of development continues to increase – 66% in 2015, compared to 60% in 2014 and 52% in 2013. The EYFS Profile results also show that more than 80% of children are reaching the expected communication and language skills by age five. A higher proportion of children eligible for free school meals are achieving a good level of development – 51% in 2015 compared to 45% in 2014. Although the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers is narrowing, we recognise there is still some way to go.

The quality of early education is improving, the numbers of qualified staff have risen, the numbers of graduates in the workforce continues to rise, and a record number of providers are rated good or outstanding, with 86% of providers currently on the Early Years Register judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at 31 March 2016.

■ Schools: Uniforms

Philip Davies: [\[45774\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effect on gender equality of school uniforms.

Philip Davies: [\[45994\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effect on the self-esteem of female pupils of having to wear a uniform.

Caroline Dineneage:

The department has published advisory guidance on school uniform policy. The guidance makes clear that it is for the governing body of a school to decide whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so what that should be. It also makes clear that, when deciding on uniform policy, a school will have to consider its obligations not to discriminate unlawfully, including on the basis of gender.

The guidance can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform.

■ Secondary Education: Per Capita Costs

Lisa Nandy: [\[45762\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average annual spend per pupil in secondary modern schools was in 2015-16 in (a) England and (b) each region.

Nick Gibb:

Schools self-select their own admissions category on Edubase. 120 schools are identified as 'secondary modern'.

The Department does not yet hold the income and expenditure data from 2015-16. The data will be available for those which are maintained by the local authority in December 2016, and for those which are academies in the summer of 2017.

The overall expenditure per pupil in secondary modern schools by each region for 2014-15 is listed in the following table:

REGION	NUMBER OF SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOLS	EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL (£)
East Midlands	13	6,388
East of England	1	5,738
London	13	6,228
North West	15	6,416
South East	54	5,703
South West	7	5,928
West Midlands	11	5,547
Yorkshire and the Humber	3	6,729
England Total	117*	5,921

*Note: There are 3 secondary modern schools for which we do not have comparable financial data for them for this period. One of these converted to an academy during 2014-15, and one was reported as part of a federation with another school. The remaining school did not submit data to the Department. The expenditure per pupil takes into account expenditure from all income sources, including self-generated income.

■ Sex and Relationship Education

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods:

[\[44772\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the recent reduction in the number of school nurses does not affect the standard of sex and relationship education in schools.

Edward Timpson:

The government believes that all children should have the opportunity to receive a high quality and appropriate sex and relationship education (SRE). SRE is compulsory in all maintained secondary schools, and many primary schools also teach it in an age-appropriate way. Academies do not have to teach SRE but many choose to do so as part of their statutory duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

Schools and teachers should decide what to teach based on their pupils' needs, and taking account of pupil and parent views. Teachers are encouraged to develop their practice with the support of specialist organisations and expert professionals, as they deem appropriate, and schools work with a number of partners to deliver SRE in schools.

Since April 2013, Local Authorities have been responsible for public health locally, including school nursing, and decisions should be based around local needs. According to NHS Digital there are 1,100 qualified school nurses (Specialist Community Public Health Nurses) in England and the workforce numbers have remained relatively stable over the last few years. More information can be found at:
<http://digital.nhs.uk/searchcatalogue?productid=21584&topics=0%2fWorkforce&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1#top>

■ Students: Fees and Charges

Philip Davies: [43949]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential trends in the cost of tuition fees to students over the next 10 years.

Joseph Johnson:

The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) will allow institutions offering high quality teaching to access tuition fees up to an RPI(X) inflation linked maximum fee cap.

Students on courses starting from August 2017 will be affected if the successful institutions choose to increase their fees towards the higher fee cap. These students will not be affected in real terms as tuition fees will not increase by more than inflation.

■ Students: Loans

Andrew Stephenson: [44085]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the total value of the repayments issued by the Student Loans Company to people who had overpaid their student loan was in each of the last five years.

Andrew Stephenson: [44086]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many people who have already repaid their student loan in full are having loan repayments deducted from their pay.

Joseph Johnson:

The Student Loans Company (SLC) administers student loans for each of the UK Government Administrations. It collected £1.79 billion in the 2015-16 financial year in repayments on loans made in England. Statistics covering English loan borrowers are published annually by the SLC in the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'Student Loans in England': <http://www.slc.co.uk/official-statistics/full-catalogue-of-official-statistics/student-loans-debt-and-repayment.aspx>

Information on the value of English loan over-repayments that have been refunded by the SLC in each financial year can be found in Table 1 of the SFR.

Latest management information (as at April 2016) from the SLC shows that, in the tax year 2014-15, there were 66,100 English domiciled borrowers who had over-repaid their loans through PAYE tax collection.

The SLC informs borrowers who are within two years of completing repaying their loans that they may opt to make loan repayments by direct debit, rather than through the tax system.

Borrowers who take up the option to repay by direct debit will not over-repay their loans. If borrowers choose not to repay by direct debit, it is possible that they may over repay, as the SLC receives details of repayments made by borrowers from HMRC on an annual basis. We would encourage more borrowers to take up the direct debit option when they are near to the end of their loans.

Where borrowers have over-repaid, the SLC will contact them to tell them that they have a refund due and make arrangements to pay the money back to them. Any borrower who has over repaid can also contact the SLC at any point to have the money refunded to them.

■ Teachers: Qualifications

Philip Davies: [46057]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many teachers in secondary schools are teaching subjects in which they do not have (a) a degree, (b) an A-Level and (c) an O-Level or GCSE at grade C or above for each subject taught.

Nick Gibb:

The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department publishes statistics which show the proportion of teachers teaching subjects in which they have a relevant post-A Level qualification in state funded secondary schools in England. The latest statistics are provided in Table 12 of the statistical first release 'School Workforce in England, November 2015', which is available at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/school-workforce-in-england-november-2015>

■ University Technical Colleges

Richard Graham: [45988]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when she plans to publish updated guidance on opening a university technical college.

Richard Graham: [46159]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when the next application round for university technical colleges will open.

Robert Halfon:

Each University Technical College (UTC) application round opens with the publication of the 'University Technical Colleges How to Apply Guide', which sets out the application window for each round. The next How to Apply Guide will be published in due course.

Justin Tomlinson:

[46014]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many students attend university technical colleges.

Robert Halfon:

According to published census data (January 2016), 9,203 pupils were on roll in the University Technical Colleges (UTCs) open in the 2015/16 academic year.

Figures for the number of pupils enrolled in each UTC are available in the underlying data of the Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2016 statistics, which are available from here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2016>. For UTCs, the data is contained in the file SFR20_2016_Schools_Pupils_UD.csv. The type of establishment is given in column O and headcount figures can be found in column DW.

The figures for the numbers of pupils on roll in each UTC for the academic year 2016/17 are not yet available. We anticipate publishing this data in June 2017.

Justin Tomlinson:

[46015]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many university technical colleges are (a) open and (b) planned in England in the next five years.

Robert Halfon:

There are currently 47 open University Technical Colleges (UTCs). A further seven UTCs are in development, which plan to open from September 2017.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Environment Protection

Steve McCabe:

[46288]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what progress has been made on producing a 25-Year Plan for the environment.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The 25 Year Plan for the environment is a Conservative manifesto commitment and a priority for this government – ensuring a healthy environment and strong economy. Ours will be the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than when we found it.

The decision to leave the EU has meant the scope for the plan needed to be widened. We will now consider a long-term vision for our environment that is tailored to the needs of this country.

We will shortly be publishing an engagement framework which will provide everyone with the opportunity to contribute toward shaping our environment over the next few

years. We look forward to continuing to work with a wide range of interests to determine our approach and work together to deliver it.

■ **Natura 2000**

Helen Goodman: [\[46300\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Natura 2000 scheme will be continued.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Whilst we are still a member of the EU we will continue to implement the Habitats and Birds Directives, including management of the Natura 2000 network of European sites.

We are committed to protecting vulnerable species and habitats and to being the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than that in which we found it.

■ **Nature Conservation: EU Law**

Steve McCabe: [\[46287\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 5 September 2016 to Question 43316, which elements of the EU Nature Directive transposed into UK law her Department is considering for repeal.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Government is considering the impacts of the decision to leave the EU including for existing legislation.

■ **Poultry: Animal Welfare**

Caroline Lucas: [\[45992\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 12 September 2016 to Question 44023, on poultry: animal welfare, if she will make it her policy to extend the ban on unenriched battery cages for laying hens to quail egg production.

George Eustice:

The welfare of quail raised for egg production, is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which makes it an offence to fail to provide satisfactorily for welfare needs and by the general provisions of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007. We have no current plans to introduce new legislation specifically to ban unenriched cages for egg laying quail.

Once we leave the EU, we have an opportunity to make sure all our policies are delivering for the UK, including for animal welfare.

■ Sahaviriya Steel Industries UK: Redcar

Anna Turley:

[\[46152\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 15 July 2016 to Question 42347, what assessment she has made of the public health implications of slag and metal contaminants in surface and ground waters at the former SSI site; and if she will make an assessment of the (a) likely cost and (b) timetable for remediation of those contaminants.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Government Officials continue to work with the Official Receiver to maintain a 'safe state' position for the SSI site, including managing risks to human health and the water environment.

Government has committed to fund site assessments to understand the scale and complexity of the SSI site, which will help inform future decisions about the site.

■ Trees: Conservation

Helen Goodman:

[\[46301\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent steps she has taken to protect native tree species.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Defra is acting to protect native tree species from a range of threats. Current examples include:

- it is an offence to fell trees without a licence if an exemption does not apply;
- the particular value and irreplaceable nature of ancient woodlands and veteran trees is recognised in the National Planning Policy Framework;
- we use the UK Plant Health Risk Register to identify, assess and tackle tree pests and diseases at source (pre-border), at the border and inland, including several that threaten native trees;
- investing more than £37million into tree health research between 2012 and 2019;
- support for some landowners on specific tree diseases and measures to support squirrel control through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme;
- working with the Squirrel Accord to deliver the December 2014 grey squirrel action plan for England;
- funding the Deer Initiative to reduce the negative impact of deer in priority woodlands and support; and
- Forestry Commission advice on how native woodlands can be adapted to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**■ Conditions of Employment**

Hilary Benn: [\[45943\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, which social and workers' rights protected in existing EU treaties it is his policy to protect during negotiations on the UK leaving the EU.

Mr Robin Walker:

We are about to begin negotiations and at every step of these we will work to ensure the best possible outcome for British workers. We will speak to as many other firms, organisations and bodies as possible – research institutes, trade unions, regional and national groups and businesses up and down the country, to establish the priority issues and opportunities for the whole of the UK.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Staff

Rushanara Ali: [\[45799\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many of his Department's staff he plans to have working on environmental and climate change negotiations in each of the next three years.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Department for Exiting the EU now has over 200 staff, and is growing fast. The overall size and scope of the new Department, including staffing and budget, are regularly reviewed. We will ensure we are appropriately staffed to deal with all aspects of the forthcoming negotiation.

The Department has welcomed staff on secondment with relevant expertise, including on the environment, and it will continue to have a close working relationship with all relevant Departments, in particular Defra as the lead on environmental policy. I am committed to working closely with my Ministerial counterparts, and recently appeared at the Environmental Audit Committee alongside Therese Coffey, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Diana Johnson: [\[45821\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many staff his Department plans to employ by the end of the current financial year; and in which regions those staff will be employed.

Diana Johnson: [\[45845\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many staff are employed in his Department (a) in each region and (b) by gender; and in which Departments those staff were previously employed.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Department for Exiting the EU now has over 200 staff in London, plus the expertise of over 120 officials in Brussels, and we are still growing rapidly. The overall size and scope of the new department, including staffing and budget, are regularly reviewed. We will ensure we are appropriately staffed to deal with the task at hand.

As a new department we do not yet hold diversity data for all of our staff but we will be collecting this in line with standard Civil Service practice.

Diana Johnson:

[\[45844\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many trade negotiators his Department plans to employ by the end of the current fiscal year.

Mr Robin Walker:

Britain has been at the forefront of the free trade-supporting countries in the EU for the last 40 years. The Department for Exiting the EU now has over 200 staff plus the expertise of over 120 officials in Brussels, and is growing fast. The overall size and scope of the new Department, including staffing and budget, are regularly reviewed. We will ensure we are appropriately staffed to deal with all aspects of the forthcoming negotiation.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

■ Animal Welfare

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[\[45850\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to promote animal welfare in the Government's foreign policy.

Alok Sharma:

The Government has a manifesto commitment "to push for high animal welfare standards to be incorporated into international trade agreements" and we are working with colleagues across Whitehall and with the European Commission, who represents EU Member States in the associated negotiations, to deliver this.

■ China: Religious Freedom

Natalie McGarry:

[\[45890\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on reports of the persecution of Christians and other minorities living in China.

Alok Sharma:

The Government is concerned by restrictions placed on Christianity in China, such as the demolition of churches, the removal of crosses from buildings, and harassment or detention of individuals for their beliefs. The freedom to practise, change or share your faith or belief is a fundamental human right that all people should enjoy.

We are robust in raising religious freedoms with the Chinese authorities. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my noble Friend, the Rt Hon. the Baroness of Anelay of St Johns DBE, raised the destruction of churches and religious symbols with the Director of the National People's Congress Foreign Affairs Committee on 7 July 2016. I also raised the case of Ding Cuimei, who reportedly died while protesting the demolition of her church in Zhejiang province, with the Chinese Ambassador on 1 August.

■ Commonwealth: Capital Punishment

Mark Pritchard: [\[46282\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure more members of the Commonwealth abolish the death penalty.

Alok Sharma:

The Government supports a global moratorium on use of the death penalty as a step towards eventual abolition. Since 2010 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has funded a number of projects promoting reform of the death penalty in individual Commonwealth countries. We also continue to engage diplomatically and urge Commonwealth countries to support the United Nation's resolution on a global moratorium on the death penalty later this year.

■ Dogs: Meat

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[46043\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his global counterparts on cruelty in the global dog meat trade; and if he will make a statement.

Alok Sharma:

The consumption of dog meat is legal in many countries, and the United Kingdom has no grounds to intervene or take trade measures to prevent this. We continue to make our views known to the governments of those countries where this practice continues; most recently I raised this issue with the South Korean Ambassador ahead of the Westminster Hall Debate on 12 September. Our Ambassador in Seoul has also raised the dog meat trade with the South Korean authorities, most recently on 1 September, highlighting our concerns about the treatment and welfare of animals. As I stated in the Westminster Hall Debate, it is promising that in countries where dog meat is consumed, there are signs that attitudes are changing amongst the young and emerging middle classes. We encourage that change.

■ **Foreign and Commonwealth Office: EU Nationals**

Mr Chuka Umunna: [\[45900\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many citizens of other EU countries work in his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Aliens' Employment Act 1955 makes it an absolute requirement that all staff recruited to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on UK terms and conditions must be UK nationals. The FCO therefore employs UK-based staff who are UK Nationals, or dual nationals where one of those nationalities is the UK. Our executive agency, FCO Services, applies the same recruitment principles. Neither FCO nor FCO Services hold details of any additional nationality held by UK members of staff.

Other FCO agencies do not record the information centrally. However, our non departmental public bodies have a total of 10 EU nationals.

■ **Germany: Thalidomide**

Mr Nicholas Brown: [\[45858\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what progress has been made on the Government's discussions with the German government on (a) the proposed compensation scheme for UK thalidomide survivors and (b) proposals for UK Thalidomide Trust to submit collective compensation applications.

Sir Alan Duncan:

I refer the Hon. Member to my answer of 2 August 2016 (42407).

■ **Iran: Cheetahs**

Mark Pritchard: [\[46281\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will discuss with his counterpart at the (a) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and (b) Iranian government to assist the government of Iran in helping to halt the decline in the number of Asiatic cheetahs.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We are aware of the plight of Asiatic cheetahs in Iran and we welcome conservation efforts by Iran and the UN. My officials have held preliminary discussions with the Iranian Embassy in London on the issue.

■ **Iran: Nuclear Power**

Mr Nigel Dodds: [\[46118\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions his Department has had with the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iran's compliance with its obligations under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

As a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and a member of the Joint Commission established under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the UK continues to be in a close and continuous dialogue with the IAEA, Iran and our E3+3 partners concerning implementation of the JCPOA. The IAEA reports regularly on Iran's implementation of its commitments under the JCPOA. The next meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors will take place from 19 September 2016.

■ Iraq: Drugs**Jim Shannon:**[\[45872\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions the Government has had with the Iraqi government on steps to tackle drug abuse in Iraq.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We are aware of reports of drug abuse in Iraq but we have not had discussions with the Government of Iraq on this subject. We continue to support vulnerable communities through our humanitarian assistance. Since June 2014 the Department for International Development has committed £129.5 million to the humanitarian effort in Iraq. That assistance reaches hundreds of thousands of people across the country and includes essential medicine, emergency kits and psychological support.

■ Iraq: Internally Displaced People**Jim Shannon:**[\[45874\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if the Government will hold discussions with Greek Orthodox leaders in (a) Iraq and (b) Kurdistan on (i) support for internally displaced people from and (ii) returning internally displaced people to (A) Mosul and (b) Nineveh.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We are working with partners to ensure stabilisation efforts in liberated areas allow internally displaced persons to return to their homes safely. On 21 July, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), announced £10.5 million in additional UK funding for stabilisation in Iraq, this includes £1.75 million to support planning associated with the Mosul campaign. This announcement brings the UK's Iraq contributions on immediate stabilisation to £9.25 million, and on explosive hazards to £7.75 million.

Since summer 2014, the UK has pledged £129.5 million of humanitarian support. This includes £50 million of additional assistance announced on 20 July 2016. To date, we have provided cash assistance, access to clean water, food, medicines and other life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable – irrespective of race, religion or ethnicity.

■ Islamic State

Diana Johnson: [\[45961\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 11 July 2016 to Question 42107, on Islamic State, what factors would need to change for a referral to the International Criminal Court to be considered practical; what discussions the Government has had with (a) Russia, (b) China and (c) other permanent members of the UN Security Council on securing their vote for a referral; and what the Government's latest assessment is of (i) Russia's and (ii) China's policy on that issue.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We expect that any Security Council resolution at this time seeking to refer the situations in Iraq or Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC) would be blocked, as it was when efforts were made to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC in 2014. We continue to work with our international partners, including other permanent members of the UN Security Council, to look at every available option to assist the victims of Daesh and bring those responsible for crimes to justice.

■ Islamic State: Genocide

Diana Johnson: [\[45962\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many full-time equivalent staff his Department employs in the evidence gathering process of investigating acts of alleged genocide by Daesh in Iraq and Syria; and with which countries and international bodies such staff are liaising on that process.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff are not directly employed in the evidence gathering process. We support the activities of a range of actors, including non-governmental organisations, to gather and preserve evidence of alleged war crimes in Iraq and Syria. On 21 July, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) announced that the UK will work with our international partners to drive a global campaign to bring Daesh to justice.

Diana Johnson: [\[45963\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the relative viability of securing an investigation into alleged acts of genocide by Daesh by means of establishing an independent panel through the UN rather than the International Criminal Court.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We continue to look at every available option to bring Daesh to justice, and to work closely with our international partners and the UN on what can be done to assist the victims and to bring those responsible to justice.

Diana Johnson: [\[46024\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the likelihood that (a) Syria and (b) Iraq refer Daesh acts of genocide to the

International Criminal Court for an investigation without the need for UN Security Council approval; and what discussions his Department has had with representatives of each of those countries on that subject.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Neither Iraq nor Syria are State Parties to the Rome Statute. The International Criminal Court (ICC) therefore has no territorial jurisdiction over crimes committed on their soil. In order for Daesh's crimes to be investigated by the ICC, Iraq and/or Syria would have to declare their acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction. We have seen no indication that either intends to do so at this time.

■ Islamic State: Sexual Offences

Diana Johnson:

[\[46219\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 4 May 2016 to Question 35819, on Islamic State, how much funding the Government provided to (a) each of those projects listed in that Answer and (b) other projects to support survivors of sexual violence in each year since the conflicts in Syria and Iraq began.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

In the 2015/16 financial year, we provided £198,000 through the Human Rights and Democracy Fund for the project referenced in the answer to PQ 35819. Since June 2014 we have provided over £1.3million for projects that support gender equality and work to combat sexual violence. This includes funding this year to promote the use of the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict and to combat the stigma associated with sexual violence. The Department for International Development also funded two experts to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to improve coordination and information management of the gender based violence response. We continue to work to mainstream gender sensitivity effectively into all of our programmes in Iraq. Under the UK's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, its predecessor the Conflict Pool, and the Magna Carta Fund, the Government has provided £7 million in direct support to gender related projects in Syria since the start of the crisis. For financial year 2016/17, we are spending a further £1.9 million. And across the 2016 programme, all projects are gender sensitive and taking action to raise awareness of gender equality issues, promote the empowerment of women, and gather evidence and accountability for sexual and gender-based violence. The conflicts in Syria and Iraq have placed many women and girls at risk of violence, exploitation and insecurity. The UK has pledged over £2.3 billion in response to the Syria crisis and since June 2014, has committed £129.5 million in humanitarian assistance to the crisis in Iraq. UK support is enabling INGOs and UN agencies to provide specialist assistance to those affected by sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). This includes clinical care, case management and counselling, reproductive healthcare and cash assistance to particularly vulnerable households. We are working to ensure all humanitarian programmes follow good practice and are sensitive to SGBV, child protection and the importance of women's participation.

■ Israel: Bedouin

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[\[45896\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to help promote and protect the human rights of the Bedouin community in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and compliance with international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). We have a regular dialogue with the Government of Israel with regard to the implementation of their obligations under international law, and regularly and robustly raise our serious concerns on issues relating to Israeli actions in the OPTs.

We have supported Bedouin communities and Palestinians in Area C facing demolition or eviction through support to Rabbis for Human Rights and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) legal aid programme. This helps individuals challenge decisions in the Israeli legal system. The NRC has successfully suspended demolitions and evictions so that Palestinians can remain in their homes in 97% of the cases they represent.

The treatment of the Bedouin within Green Line Israel is a separate matter. We have been encouraging the Israeli authorities and Bedouin communities to find a satisfactory solution to this issue, respecting the equality of all of Israel's citizens in a way which avoids forced relocations.

■ Israel: Housing

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[\[45895\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority on the expansion of Israeli settlements into (a) Susiya, (b) Umm al-Hiran and (c) other areas occupied by Palestinian Bedouins.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The increase in Israeli demolitions and illegal settlement expansion remains an area of serious concerns for the UK Government. On 7 September, during a meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Lieberman in London, I raised our concerns about settlements and demolitions. I also issued a statement on 2 September stating that the UK Government was deeply concerned by reports regarding over 450 new settlement units in the West Bank.

And as I told the House recently, our Embassy in Tel Aviv has repeatedly raised our opposition to demolitions with the Israeli authorities, including our specific concerns about Susiya, and urged them to provide a legal route for Palestinian construction. On 18 August officials from the British Consulate General in Jerusalem, along with an official from our Embassy in Tel Aviv, visited Susiya again to highlight our serious concern and demonstrate our continuing support for the village. Our officials most recently raised Susiya with Defence Minister Lieberman on 24 August.

Umm al-Hiran is in Israel. The UK has been encouraging the Israeli authorities and Bedouin communities to find a satisfactory solution to Umm al-Hiran, respecting the equality of all of Israel's citizens in a way which avoids forcible relocations.

■ **Kurds: Education**

Jim Shannon:

[\[45869\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what support the Government provides to the Kurdistan regional government related to the provision of education and language training in that region.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK is working with the Kurdistan Regional Government to promote education and language training, particularly through the work of the British Council. Working with institutions across the Kurdistan Region, the British Council is supporting projects to develop skills and build capacity in various sectors including in the vocational education sector. The British Council is also providing online English language opportunities for Kurdish learners and English training for educators. Some of this support is specifically targeted to assist refugees and host communities. We also support further education through our Chevening programme.

Since June 2014, the UK has committed £129.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraq. The UK is the largest contributor to the UN's Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund, which has funded education projects for the most vulnerable displaced Iraqi children, amongst other programmes.

■ **Kurds: Overseas Investment**

Jim Shannon:

[\[45871\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to promote private sector investment in Kurdistan.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

In recognition of the potential investment opportunities in Iraq as a whole, the Department for International Trade has recently finalised an ambitious five-year Business Plan. That plan seeks to underpin the promotion of British trade across Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), to deliver maximum export opportunities for UK companies and ensure that we take advantage of the opportunities that the KRI market offers.

■ **Kurds: Politics and Government**

Jim Shannon:

[\[45870\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Iraqi government on devolution of powers to the Kurdistan regional government.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The autonomy of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq remains enshrined in the 2003 Iraqi Constitution. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), our Ambassador to Baghdad, our Consul General in Erbil and I emphasise regularly with both the Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government the UK's aim to see a stable, democratic, prosperous and unified Iraq. We also work actively to ensure that both the Kurdistan Regional Government and Government of Iraq cooperate to resolve their differences. In that context we welcome the recent revenue sharing agreement over Kirkuk oil.

■ North Korea: Nuclear Weapons**Mr Nigel Dodds:**[\[46115\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the prospects of talks on North Korea under the Six Party talks format.

Alok Sharma:

The UK is not a member of the Six Party talks, but we maintain a close dialogue with all participants, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Through our bilateral engagement with DPRK we have made clear to the regime that their nuclear and ballistic missile programmes are in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions and that the DPRK should return to credible and authentic multilateral talks on denuclearisation. We assess that the resumption of Six Party talks is unlikely given the current situation and only if the DPRK agrees to discuss denuclearisation.

Mr Nigel Dodds:[\[46116\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the NATO Secretary General on North Korea's nuclear tests in 2016.

Alok Sharma:

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) has not discussed this issue directly with the NATO Secretary General. At the NATO Warsaw Summit in July 2016, Heads of Government called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) to immediately cease its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. The Secretary General issued a statement on 9 September condemning the DPRK's fifth nuclear test and called on it to fully respect its international obligations and commitments, including UN Security Council Resolutions.

Mr Nigel Dodds:[\[46117\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2270 (2016) on North Korea.

Alok Sharma:

Since the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2270 in March 2016, which the UK strongly supported, the Government has been focused on ensuring that the Resolution is implemented fully and effectively by all UN Member States. We continue to have discussions with partners in the region to ensure that UNSCR 2270 and all previous sanctions measures are enforced in order to limit the ability of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to fund its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. The UK operates one of the toughest export control and counter-proliferation systems in the world and looks to share British expertise on sanctions wherever possible. Following the DPRK's fifth nuclear test on 9 September, the UK is working with the UN Security Council and key partners to ensure there is a robust multilateral response to this violation of successive UN resolutions.

■ **Pakistan: Religious Freedom**

Natalie McGarry:

[\[45889\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on reports of the persecution of Christians and other minorities living in Pakistan.

Alok Sharma:

We are concerned about continuing reports of abuses against Christians and other religious minorities in Pakistan. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of innocent people based on their religion or beliefs. Our concerns are reflected in the latest update to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annual human rights report. We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of minority communities, including religious minorities, with the Pakistani Government at a senior level. In April, the previous Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Philip Hammond), raised the importance of safeguarding the rights of all minorities with Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs. It is encouraging that the Government of Pakistan has enacted legislation to protect religious minority groups. The United Kingdom continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities, and to uphold the rule of law.

■ **Territorial Waters: Security**

Mr Nigel Dodds:

[\[46134\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on co-operation with NATO over maritime security.

Sir Alan Duncan:

Cooperation between NATO and the EU in maritime security, as well as in other areas of security policy, is a key priority for HMG, and one which we raise regularly in discussions with EU and NATO counterparts.

The UK strongly supported the tasking from the NATO Warsaw Summit in July for improving such cooperation, where we believe NATO and the EU have complementary roles to play. In the current operations, this mean cooperation in the Aegean Sea, to tackle irregular migrant flows between Greece and Turkey, and co-ordination in respect of Operation Sophia in the Mediterranean Sea, and anti-piracy activities in the Indian Ocean.

■ Yemen: Military Intervention

Diana Johnson:

[\[46033\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to the Written Statement of 5 September 2016, Yemen Update, HCWS 128, whether the Government plans to raise (a) alleged breaches of international humanitarian law, (b) allegations that Saudi Arabia has used cluster munitions and (c) the need for other countries to increase humanitarian funding at the UN General Assembly meeting on Yemen to be hosted by the UK in September 2016.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK will host discussions on Yemen at the UN General Assembly later this month with key international partners. We have raised the use of cluster munitions with the Saudi Arabian authorities and, in line with our obligations on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, we continue to encourage Saudi Arabia, as a non-party to the Convention, to accede to it. We regularly raise the importance of compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) with the Saudi Arabian Government and other members of the military Coalition. We have raised our concerns with the Houthis on the importance of compliance with IHL.

Diana Johnson:

[\[46061\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to the Answer of 9 May 2016 to Question 36104, whether the Government (a) received a copy of Saudi Arabia's inquiry into alleged breaches of international humanitarian law in Yemen and (b) has encouraged Saudi Arabia to publish any findings of their investigations.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Saudi led Coalition Joint Investigations Assessment Team (JIAT) announced the outcome of eight investigations on 4 August. The outcome of these investigations are available to the public.

Diana Johnson:

[\[46158\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to the Answer of 9 May 2016 to Question 36103, whether the Government has requested access to any post-activity operational reports of air strikes by Saudi Arabia in Yemen.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

There are a small number of UK Liaison Officers based in the Saudi Air Operations Centre that have access to Coalition reporting data. These are fast jet post mission reporting data only. These liaison officers are not embedded personnel taking part in the

Saudi Arabian-led Coalition operations and are not involved in carrying out strikes, directing or conducting operations in Yemen or selecting targets and are not involved in the Saudi targeting decision-making process. All UK personnel remain under UK command and control.

HEALTH

■ Autism

Dr Lisa Cameron: [R] [[45776](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will put in place standardised data collection and reporting measures on autism better to address the clinical needs of people diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder.

Dr Lisa Cameron: [R] [[45777](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will take steps to ensure that regular health monitoring is in place to address the health care needs of people diagnosed with autism.

Dr Lisa Cameron: [R] [[45793](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the findings of the Westminster Commission on Autism, A Spectrum of Obstacles: an inquiry into access to healthcare for autistic people, published in July 2016, if he will take steps to ensure that autism awareness training is available for health professionals in the manner recommended in that report.

Dr Lisa Cameron: [R] [[45794](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the findings of the Westminster Commission on Autism, A Spectrum of Obstacles: an inquiry into access to healthcare for autistic people, published in July 2016, if he will put in place annual health checks for people diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder who find it difficult to communicate co-morbid physical health and mental health issues.

David Mowat:

NHS England has been working with NHS Digital to develop reporting from the new Mental Health Services Data Set. This mandatory data set includes provision for the diagnosis of autism to be recorded, and reporting on these data has been prioritised. Experimental data reports on the number of people diagnosed with autism are expected to be published by the end of 2016.

The National Health Service is taking action to increase the health checks and cancer screening programmes for people with learning disabilities, including those who also have autism. In 2015, NHS England commissioned the world's first Learning Disability Mortality Review Programme to support local areas to review deaths of people with learning disabilities and to use the information to improve service provision so that physical and mental health problems can be identified and addressed. Information from the programme will help with what more can be done to support regular health monitoring to address the health care needs of people diagnosed with autism.

In 2015, the Department reviewed and updated the autism statutory guidance for the NHS and local authorities in England. In line with this statutory guidance, local authorities and the NHS should be providing autism awareness training to all frontline staff in contact with adults with autism.

■ Average Earnings

Kevin Foster:

[\[45840\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make a comparative assessment of the average earnings for hospital and community health service doctors and the average earnings for workers in professional occupations in each age band.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The best available comparison for 2015 is shown in the table below. The figures are for doctors employed by the NHS Hospital and Community Health Service in England (HCHS) and are based on NHS Earnings Estimates published by NHS Digital. General practitioners (GPs) are not included. The All Professional Occupations figures represent all employees nationally in Professional Occupations, as published by the Office for National Statistics.

AGE RANGE	ALL PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS	HCHS DOCTORS
22-29	£28,958	£41,390
30-39	£36,456	£61,885
40-49	£40,603	£94,470
50-59	£40,138	£112,924
60+	£32,564	£96,629

Sources : All Professional Occupations earnings statistics published by the Office for National Statistics, from its 2015 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

HCHS Doctors earnings figures are based on statistics published by NHS Digital, from NHS Electronic Staff Record data, in NHS Staff Earnings Estimates to December 2015. The NHS Electronic Staff Record is the HR and Payroll system used by almost all National Health Service trusts and foundation trusts in England.

Both sets of figures are the estimated mean average total earnings in 2015 of employees who worked for the full year, regardless of their working hours (i.e. this includes both full-time and part-time workers). The figures do not include GPs.

Equivalent figures are not available for GPs, because most provide services through commissioning rather than direct employment.

The 'All Professional Occupations' group covers occupations whose main tasks require a high level of knowledge and experience in the natural sciences, engineering, life sciences, social sciences, humanities and related fields. The main tasks consist of the

practical application of an extensive body of theoretical knowledge, increasing the stock of knowledge by means of research and communicating such knowledge by teaching methods and other means.

Most occupations in this major group will require a degree or equivalent qualification, with some occupations requiring postgraduate qualifications and/or a formal period of experience-related.

■ Baby Care Units

Dr Alan Whitehead: [\[46137\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when he plans to publish the membership of the body which will oversee the proposed review of neonatal services in England; and whether that review will examine (a) admissions rates, (b) length of stay and (c) outcomes by (i) singleton and (ii) multiple pregnancies.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The NHS England Maternity Review, *Better Births* (published February 2016), made a number of recommendations including a review of neonatal critical care. NHS England's Women and Children's Programme of Care and its Neonatal Critical Care Clinical Reference Group (CRG) will take this work forward. The review will focus on a number of themes and variables including admission rates, length of stay, outcomes and pregnancy profiles.

NHS England's Women and Children's Programme of Care Board will oversee the review and will also report progress to the Maternity Transformation Programme. The membership of the team that will oversee the review is not yet finalised, but Dr Peter Wilson, the Clinical Co-Chair of the Women and Children's Programme of Care Board will be the Senior Responsible Officer.

Membership is also expected to include the Chair of the Neonatal Critical Care CRG Professor Neil Marlow, Lead Commissioner Natalie Hariram, and National Programme of Care Manager for Women and Children's Services, Mary Passant, who are currently working on the scope of the review. The review team will also involve all Neonatal Care Operational Delivery Network Managers.

The Maternity Transformation Programme has asked that the review report initial findings in December 2016.

■ Breastfeeding

Alison Thewliss: [\[46199\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to develop peer support networks for breastfeeding.

Alison Thewliss: [\[46200\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to promote breastfeeding.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Public Health England (PHE) works with local services to create breastfeeding friendly communities, with midwives and health visitors to promote best practice, and, through our Start4Life social marketing programme, to provide parents with trusted National Health Service advice.

PHE has developed an infant feeding commissioning resource in partnership with Unicef to support local authorities in the delivery of a comprehensive approach to the commissioning of services that protect, promote and support breastfeeding. PHE also shares innovative approaches for supporting breastfeeding.

■ Cancer**Thangam Debbonaire:**[\[46209\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent discussions he has had with NHS England on the future of the common cancer clinical reference groups.

David Mowat:

NHS England's National Clinical Director for Cancer, Professor Chris Harrison, has been working with the four common cancer 'clinical reference groups' to clarify their role within the system, especially in relation to the Clinical Reference Groups that provide advice and expertise to NHS England on the best ways that specialised services should be provided.

NHS England has decided to continue the common cancer groups as 'clinical expert groups' and to bring together their chairs to form a clinical steering group for the national programme, to support a pathway approach to care management and measurement.

■ Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients: Learning Disability**Hilary Benn:**[\[46292\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that people with learning disabilities who have been sectioned have accessible information about their rights.

David Mowat:

The Department commissioned some resources for people with learning disabilities to support the revised Mental Health Act Code of Practice to explain the Mental Health Act and people's rights within it. This included a number of easy read factsheets which stated the type of information that should be provided when someone is sectioned. This includes what health professionals should and should not do, and what a person's rights and choices are in this situation. The fact sheets are available at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/mental-health-services-explained/Pages/easy-read-mental-health-act.aspx>

■ Consultants: Pay

Kevin Foster: [\[45802\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will estimate how many consultants earn more than the Prime Minister.

Mr Philip Dunne:

It is estimated that 8,000 consultants earn more than £142,500. This figure relates to the earnings of consultants employed by the NHS Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) in England, and is based on NHS Earnings Estimates and Workforce Statistics published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC).

Sources: HCHS Consultants earnings figures based on statistics published by the HSCIC, from NHS Electronic Staff Record data, in NHS Staff Earnings Estimates to December 2015. The NHS Electronic Staff Record is the HR and Payroll system used by almost all National Health Service trusts and foundation trusts in England. HCHS Consultant numbers published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre in NHS Workforce Statistics.

■ Diabetes: Health Services

Keith Vaz: [\[45823\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what progress has been made on reducing required variations in the care provided to people with diabetes.

Keith Vaz: [\[45827\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans his Department has to make continuous glucose monitoring and insulin pump technology available to diabetics on the NHS.

Keith Vaz: [\[45828\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to ensure access to structured education for people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

Nicola Blackwood:

This Government is working hard to improve outcomes and quality of life for those already living with diabetes and those who will develop it in the coming years. One of our key goals in the mandate to the National Health Service is a measurable reduction in variation in the management and care of people with the condition within the lifetime of this Parliament. Funding has been secured through the spending review to help achieve this and NHS England is developing a programme to ensure that those clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) which need extra investment in this area, accompanied by sound plans for delivery, receive it.

In addition, the Clinical Commissioning Group Improvement and Assessment Framework will play a key role in delivering this as it contains two recognised evidence based measures of whether patients with diabetes are being supported to successfully manage their condition (achievement of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence treatment targets and participation in structured education programmes).

Using data from the NHS Atlas of Variation, NHS Right Care is also working with CCGs and other local partners to make improvements in diabetes care and reduce variation by providing hands on practical support.

Since 2009/10, there has been an almost 70% increase in the proportion of people newly diagnosed with diabetes recorded as being referred to structured education courses, designed to help them manage their condition in the long term. However, whilst we know that the data on take up needs improving, there is still much further to go in enabling people with diabetes to access these programmes.

The Department, NHS England and Diabetes UK are working on ways to improve the take up of structured education including exploring how more diversity of provision might be delivered through digital and web based approaches. The Department recently held a seminar with key stakeholders to identify actions that would facilitate improved access.

CCGs are primarily responsible for commissioning diabetes services to meet the requirements of their population. In doing so, CCGs need to ensure that the services they provide are fit for purpose, reflect the needs of the local population, are based on the available evidence, taking into account national guidelines. This should include consideration of access to continuous glucose monitoring for people with Type 1 diabetes who might benefit from it.

■ Diabetes: Nurses

Keith Vaz: [\[45825\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps the Government is taking to recruit more diabetes specialist nurses.

Keith Vaz: [\[45826\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many diabetes specialist nurses are employed by the NHS.

Mr Philip Dunne:

NHS Digital provides information on the number of nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff employed in the National Health Service in England but it does not separately identify diabetes specialist nurses.

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

■ Doctors: Pay

Kevin Foster: [\[45839\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make a comparative assessment of the earning distribution of hospital and community health service doctors to the earning distribution of workers in professional occupations.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The best available comparison, for 2015, is shown in the table below. The Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) Doctors figures relate to the earnings of doctors employed by the NHS Hospital and Community Health Service in England, and are based on NHS Earnings Estimates published by NHS Digital. General practitioners are not included. The All Professional Occupations figures represent the earnings of all employees nationally in Professional Occupations, as published by the Office for National Statistics.

PERCENTILE	ALL PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS	HCHS DOCTORS
10	£15,331	£45,000
20	£22,168	£52,500
30	£26,557	£61,500
40	£30,465	£73,500
Median	£34,076	£87,500
60	£37,467	£99,500
70	£41,675	£110,500
80	£47,506	£124,000
90	£59,320	£144,500

Sources : All Professional Occupations earnings statistics published by the Office for National Statistics, from its 2015 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

HCHS Doctors earnings figures based on statistics published by NHS Digital, from NHS Electronic Staff Record data, in NHS Staff Earnings Estimates to December 2015. The NHS Electronic Staff Record is the HR and Payroll system used by almost all National Health Service trusts and foundation trusts in England.

Both sets of figures are the estimated total earnings in 2015 of employees who worked for the full year, regardless of their working hours (i.e. this includes both full-time and part-time workers).

The All Professional Occupations group covers occupations whose main tasks require a high level of knowledge and experience in the natural sciences, engineering, life sciences, social sciences, humanities and related fields. The main tasks consist of the practical application of an extensive body of theoretical knowledge, increasing the stock of knowledge by means of research and communicating such knowledge by teaching methods and other means.

Most occupations in this major group will require a degree or equivalent qualification, with some occupations requiring postgraduate qualifications and/or a formal period of experience-related training.

■ Health Professions: Pay

Kevin Foster:

[\[45838\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of consultants earn above (a) £100,000, (b) £125,000, (c) £150,000 and (e) £175,000 per annum.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The figures for 2015 are shown below.

These relate to the earnings of consultants employed by the NHS Hospital and Community Health Service in England, and are based on NHS Earnings Estimates published by NHS Digital.

ANNUAL EARNINGS	PERCENTAGE EARNING MORE
£100,000	66%
£125,000	33%
£150,000	14%
£175,000	5%

Source : Consultants' earnings figures are based on statistics published by NHS Digital, from NHS Electronic Staff Record data, in NHS Staff Earnings Estimates to December 2015. The NHS Electronic Staff Record is the HR and Payroll system used by almost all National Health Service trusts and foundation trusts in England.

The figures are based on the total earnings in 2015 of consultants in the NHS hospital and community health services who worked for the full year, regardless of their working hours, i.e. includes both full-time and part-time workers. Equivalent figures are not available for general practitioners, because most provide services through commissioning rather than direct employment.

■ Health Professions: Working Hours

Kevin Foster:

[\[45804\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many guardians of safe working have been appointed to NHS organisations; and what the responsibilities will be of those roles.

Mr Philip Dunne:

177 out of 217 trusts had appointed Guardians of Safe Working Hours as at 4 September 2016, with interim arrangements in place in a further 14 trusts; meaning

88% have arrangements in place. NHS Improvement is aiming for appointments or interim arrangements to be in place for all 217 shortly.

The Guardian of Safe Working Hours will act as the champion of safe working hours for doctors in approved training programmes and ensure that action is taken to ensure that the working hours within the trust are safe. They will provide assurance to the trust board or equivalent body that doctors are safely rostered and are working hours that are safe and in compliance with the Terms and Conditions of Service (TCS). The Guardians will also record and monitor compliance with the restrictions on working hours stipulated in the TCS, through receipt and review of all exception reports in respect of safe working hours.

■ Health Services: Finance

Greg Mulholland: [46132]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to increase the transparency of NHS England's decision making process on the prioritisation of investment in specialised services.

David Mowat:

Each year, a significant number of proposals are put to NHS England for investment in new drugs, medical devices or interventions for use by specialised services in England. NHS England has to make difficult decisions on behalf of tax-payers about how to prioritise the funding that is available for those new investments each year. In considering policies placed before it, the Clinical Priorities Advisory Group follows the published procedure. The published procedure can be found at the following address:

https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/investment-decisions/supporting_documents/consultationguide.pdf

On 11 July 2016, for the first time, NHS England set out its provisional investment decisions for specialised services and the results of its annual process for deciding which new treatments and services it will make available to patients. This can be found here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2016/07/spec-services-investment/Background>

■ Health Services: Learning Disability

Hilary Benn: [46294]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will assess the quality of the implementation of the Quality Toolkit developed by NHS England to assess health services provided to people with learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement.

David Mowat:

NHS England is developing the Quality Checkers toolkits which ensure people with learning disabilities design and create the tools to measure the quality of the services they access. The first two toolkits for general practice and dentistry have been completed and are being piloted in four areas in England. There will be a full evaluation of their effectiveness when the pilot sites report in March 2017.

■ Health Services: Travel

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[46223]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance his Department issues to clinical commissioning groups and NHS trusts on recommended travel times to local health services.

Mr Philip Dunne:

It is for local commissioners to ensure services are provided in a manner that combines quality of provision with timeliness of access, taking into account local geography and other issues.

When considering service reconfiguration, NHS England has issued guidance on *Planning and Delivering Service Change for Patients*, and as part of this guidance specify that: 'Based on evidence and national clinical reference groups' advice, commissioners need to determine the appropriate range of providers and interplay of key access requirements such as travel time.'

The guidance can be found at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/plan-ass-deliv-serv-chge.pdf>

■ Hospitals: Discharges

Oliver Dowden:

[46121]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if the Government will consider setting up a system of Finnish-style care packages for elderly people leaving hospital and going into care homes.

Oliver Dowden:

[46122]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if the Government will consider reinstating clothing grants for care homes for elderly residents who have just arrived from hospital.

David Mowat:

Despite a welcome shift towards more care provision in community settings, our ageing population means a growing number of people require care in care and nursing homes, with an increasing level of acuity and complexity of need.

The Enhanced Health in Care Homes vanguards, implemented by NHS England, are beginning to show how addressing this inequity in access to services can reduce unnecessary, unplanned and avoidable admissions to hospital, shorten the length of hospital stays and improve peoples' quality of life, wellbeing and clinical outcomes.

NHS England is also leading the multi-agency Community Services and Hospital Discharge programme, which will deliver a series of interventions to transform community services and improve discharge of older people from hospital. These include initiatives such as "discharge to assess", which will increase the number of patients who are discharged quickly and safely to their usual place of residence.

The Department is not aware of a clothing grant for people who enter care homes and is therefore unable to consider reinstatement. Where a local authority arranges care and support to meet an adult's eligible needs, it may charge them. Where care is arranged in

a care home, a local authority must not, through charges, reduce the adult's income below the Personal Expenses Allowance of £24.90 per week.

The allowance means that local authority supported care home residents have money to spend as they wish on personal items, including clothing. It must not be spent on meeting their eligible care needs.

Local authorities have discretion to be more generous where they think this would be appropriate.

■ Hospitals: Reorganisation

Mr Barry Sheerman: [46224]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that clinical commissioning groups consider the effect of hospital reconfigurations on (a) other health services, (b) pharmacies, (c) GPs and (d) ambulance services.

David Mowat:

In November 2015, NHS England published a good practice guide for commissioners on the NHS England assurance process for major service changes and reconfigurations. This includes information about the involvement of patients and the public as well as other stakeholder engagement and consideration of the impact on other services.

The Government's four tests for service reconfiguration are: strong public and patient engagement; consistent with current and prospective need for patient choice; clear, clinical evidence base and support for proposals from commissioners.

A copy of the guide can be found at the following address:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/plan-ass-deliv-serv-chge.pdf>

■ Hospitals: Uniforms

Philip Davies: [45997]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effect on the self-esteem of female hospital staff of having to wear a uniform.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Department has not assessed the effect on the self-esteem of female hospital staff having to wear uniform.

There is advice available to hospitals on the NHS Employers website via the following links:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/plan/building-a-diverse-workforce/need-to-know/dress-codes-and-discrimination>

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/plan/building-a-diverse-workforce/need-to-know/wearing-face-veils-in-the-workplace>

■ Immigrants: Detainees

Angela Crawley: [\[45862\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps the Government takes to establish whether a woman is pregnant while in detention at an immigration removal centre.

Nicola Blackwood:

NHS England advise that disclosure of pregnancy of women in held in immigration removal centres (IRCs) in England is at the behest of the individual concerned. The health assessment carried out at reception screening would ask if pregnancy was a possibility and a subsequent pregnancy test would confirm this, provided that consent was given.

The Home Office is currently consulting on mandatory new guidelines for its operational staff, "Care and Management of Pregnant women in Detention". This will apply to staff operating in IRCs and other parts of the detention estate in England and is expected to be published this year.

■ Junior Doctors: Pay

Kevin Foster: [\[45803\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much basic pay will increase for each grade under the proposed new junior doctors' contract.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Pay for Foundation 1 doctors will be 15% higher than the current basic starting salary.

Pay for Foundation 2 doctors will be 8% higher than the current basic starting salary.

The new basic starting salary for Specialty Registrars at ST1 will be 19% higher than the current basic starting salary.

The salary for those at ST3 will be 32% higher than the current pay point for those progressing through training without delay.

The overall increase for all juniors is over 10%.

Kevin Foster: [\[45817\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make a comparative assessment of the level of proposed weekend pay under the new junior doctors' contract with weekend pay for (a) prison officers, (b) fire fighters, (c) police officers, (d) call centre workers, (e) consultants and (f) nurses, midwives and physios.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Junior doctors already work weekends, and they will continue to be fairly rewarded for work undertaken at the weekend using the weekend allowance proposed by the British Medical Association negotiators. Comparative rates are set out in the table below.

Because of the allowance based approach to weekend working, the effective hourly rate juniors are paid will vary depending on how many hours they work over how many weekends. In almost all cases junior doctors will receive weekend pay better than other National Health Service professional staff.

A typical rota for a junior doctor involves an average of 6.5 hours a week being worked at weekends. (i.e. they work two long shifts of 13 hours every four weekends). This is split evenly over Saturdays and Sundays and includes night work.

For working those weekend hours the percentage hourly supplement across all the hours worked for different groups of NHS staff would be

- 66% for a junior doctor (37% for night work plus an additional 7.5% weekend allowance set as a percentage of basic pay)
- 56% for a band 3 Health Care Assistant (37% for Saturday, 74% for Sunday)
- 45% for a nurse (30% for Saturday, 60% for Sunday)
- 33% for a consultant

	PAYMENT
Junior doctors	Weekend night shifts ending by 10am. Time plus 37%. Weekend allowance - + 10% 1in2 - + 7.5% - + 6% - + 4% - + 3% - No allowance
Consultants	4hour Programmed Activity is reduced to 3 hours, effectively Time + 33%
Nurses	Time + 30% Saturday time +60% Sunday
Prison officers *	Time + 17%
Firefighters *	Shift duty covers shifts 24 hours, 7 days. No premia
Police Officers *	Time plus 10% for nights only (8pm-6am)
Call centre workers *	Between Time + 5% and Time + 40%

*Income Data Services study

Kevin Foster:

[\[45818\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make a comparative assessment of the level of the proposed night time premium under the new junior doctors' contract with the night time premium for (a) airline pilots, (b) fire fighters, (c) police officers, (d) consultants and (e) nurses, midwives and physios.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Under the new contract the night time premium proposed for junior doctors means that they will be paid a higher supplement rate than consultants and nurses in the National Health Service and significantly more than other public sector employees.

	NIGHT WINDOW	PAYMENT
Junior doctors	9pm-7am or until the end of the night shift up to 10am	Time + 37%
Consultants	7pm-7am	4 hour Programmed Activity is reduced to 3 hours, effectively time + 33%
Nurses	8pm-6am	Time + 30%
Airline Pilots*	1am-7am	Time + 14-17% for captain
Police Officers*	8pm-6am	Time + 10%
Firefighters *	n/a	Shift duty covers shifts 24 hours, 7 days. No premia

*Income Data Services study

Kevin Foster:

[\[46140\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make a comparative estimate of the level of proposed average pay under the new junior doctor's contract for a junior doctor working (a) part-time, (b) full-time and (c) as a full-time trainee.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Under the new contract, which is based on the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and pay for hours worked, full time trainees working at the same level of responsibility will receive the same basic pay and will be paid the same unsocial hours and weekend allowances depending on how many they work. Less than full time trainees working at the same level of responsibility will receive equal pay to full timers pro-rated to the number of hours that they work. Weekend and on-call allowances are also pro-rated.

Those trainees working at ST4 and above will continue to be paid under the terms of the old contract, under transitional arrangements.

At the British Medical Association's request, it was agreed that there would be four levels of responsibility within the junior doctor training path for pay purposes.

■ Junior Doctors: Working Hours

Kevin Foster: [\[45805\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposed new junior doctors' contract on reducing rota gaps.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The new contract is part of the solution to rota gaps. It contains protections that mean that safe working hours will be enforced and light will be shone on rota gaps by the Guardian of Safe Working Hours reporting to the Board of each trust. Where action is not taken, this will be escalated to the Care Quality Commission, the General Medical Council and Health Education England. These protections simply do not exist in the current contract. In terms of covering rota gaps, no junior doctor can be asked to work more than an average of 48 hours a week and cannot work more than an average of 56 hours a week if they opt out from the Working Time Directive. The new contract rules for instance on rest periods and consecutive night shifts also apply to any additional work done.

Kevin Foster: [\[45806\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposed new junior doctors' contract on ensuring safe working hours.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The new contract includes stronger limits on working hours and patterns of work and a robust oversight mechanism to ensure that prompt action is taken if needed. This will be an integral part of how trusts meet their statutory obligations to keep staff and patients safe. Required action includes a review of work schedules to ensure safe working, payment for additional work done and fines where the limits in the contract are breached. There are no such protections under the current contract. For instance, at present, junior doctors can be asked to work up to 91 hours a week, up to seven night shifts in a row and every weekend under the current contract. The Guardian of Safe Working Hours will be tasked with ensuring that rotas reflect the hours that juniors work and they are within the new contractual limits.

These limits under the new contract are a maximum of 72 hours per week (compared to 91 currently), and the limit on average weekly hours will remain 48 hours (and be limited to 56 hours where a doctor opts out of the Working Time Regulations).

■ Kidneys: Transplant Surgery

Mrs Madeleine Moon: [\[46026\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the number of kidney transplants in (a) England, (b) Wales, (c) Northern Ireland in each year since 2011; and if he will make a statement.

Nicola Blackwood:

The information requested is as follows:

TRANSPLANTS PERFORMED INVOLVING KIDNEYS, 1 APRIL 2011 TO 31 MARCH 2016: BY NATION OF TRANSPLANT UNIT

Nation/donor type	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
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England

Deceased donor	1,494	1,649	1,825	1,796	1,914
Living Donor	866	907	941	886	863
Total	2,360	2,556	2,766	2,682	2,777

Northern Ireland

Deceased donor	27	26	40	44	50
Living donor	50	49	58	54	66
Total	77	75	98	98	116

Wales

Deceased donor	108	94	85	60	69
Living donor	38	43	37	36	29
Total	146	137	122	96	98

Source: NHS Blood and Transplant

TRANSPLANTS PERFORMED INVOLVING KIDNEYS, 1 APRIL 2011 TO 31 MARCH 2016: BY NATION OF PATIENT RESIDENCY

Nation/donor type	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
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England

TRANSPLANTS PERFORMED INVOLVING KIDNEYS, 1 APRIL 2011 TO 31 MARCH 2016: BY NATION OF PATIENT RESIDENCY

Deceased donor	1,463	1,623	1,796	1,774	1,881
Living Donor	830	877	895	842	822
Total	2,293	2,500	2,691	2,616	2,703

Northern Ireland

Deceased donor	30	33	42	48	56
Living donor	56	54	61	55	63
Total	86	87	103	103	119

Wales

Deceased donor	133	112	108	74	94
Living donor	50	52	49	44	46
Total	183	164	157	118	140

Source: NHS Blood and Transplant

A seven year United Kingdom-wide organ donation and transplantation strategy was jointly published by the four UK health ministers and NHS Blood and Transplant in July 2013. The strategy aims to increase donation and transplantation rates; to make the UK system comparable with the best of the world. 2015/16 saw the highest ever deceased donor rate in the UK with 1,364 deceased donors resulting in 3,529 transplants. We continue to support work to further increase donation and transplantation rates, particularly promoting collaborative working amongst organisations and raising awareness of donation in the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic population.

■ Learning Disability

Hilary Benn: [46252]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether it is his policy that community services for people with learning disabilities should employ people with learning disabilities to provide those services.

Hilary Benn: [46290]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many staff with learning difficulties are currently employed by each Transforming Care team.

Hilary Benn: [46291]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what his policy is on encouraging Transforming Care teams to employ people with learning disabilities to help deliver services.

Hilary Benn: [46293]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what data his Department holds on the number of people with learning disabilities who are employed in (a) day centres, (b) care homes and (c) schools and colleges.

David Mowat:

The Government is committed to increasing the number of people with learning disabilities employed across the full range of National Health Service organisations. NHS Employers and NHS England have a range of tools and guidance to support organisations to increase their recruitment of people with learning disabilities, including providing real examples of jobs currently being done. People with learning disabilities bring their own expertise, personal experience and knowledge to roles. As such, roles that can specifically draw on this experience should be considered.

Further information on the NHS Learning Disability Employment Programme is available on NHS England's website at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/gov/equality-hub/ld-emp-prog/>

■ Lyme Disease

Tim Farron: [45991]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many doctors have taken the Royal College of General Practitioners online awareness module on Lyme disease.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Department does not hold this information.

■ Medicine: Education

Kevin Foster: [45837]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the average earning rate is of graduates who studied medicine 10 years after graduation; and if he will make a comparative assessment of

that level of earning with the average earning rate of (a) all, (b) mathematics and computer science, (c) law, (d) economics and (e) nursing, midwifery and physiotherapy graduates.

Mr Philip Dunne:

A study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in April 2016 looked at graduate earnings 10 years after graduation.

Only economics and medicine graduates are outliers with much higher earnings than would be expected given A-level performance as compared with their peers in other subjects.

Selected graduate earnings (£000s) by subject of degree (includes those without earnings)

	FEMALE			MALE		
	Percentile			Percentile		
	20 th	50 th	90 th	20 th	50 th	90 th
Medicine	23.7	45.4	68.8	33.0	55.3	84.7
Maths and computer science	3.3	22.0	53.3	6.4	26.8	57.5
Law	4.8	26.2	62.8	3.5	30.1	79.5
Economics	20.3	38.2	93.9	6.6	42.0	121.4
Subjects allied to medicine	4.2	22.1	40.6	7.1	27.9	49.1

■ **Milk: Donors**

Alison Thewliss:

[\[46201\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to develop milk banks.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The United Kingdom Association for Milk Banking promote and support the accountable provision of safe, rigorously screened donor breastmilk for sick and premature babies. However they do not routinely supply milk for mother who through illness cannot breastfeed their babies even though they would consider providing the supply of breastmilk on a case by case basis.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommends that all donor milk administered in the National Health Service should be from milk banks that can

demonstrate adherence to the NICE guidelines on the operation of donor milk bank services.

It is up to the local NHS in each area to consider whether to introduce a milk bank for mothers attending maternity units. There are at present 14 milk banks in NHS trusts in England.

■ NHS 111

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[\[46221\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many calls NHS 111 has received in each of the last 12 months.

Mr Philip Dunne:

NHS England publishes national data on the numbers of calls received (which are referred to as “offered”) through the NHS 111 number each month. This information provided in the table below.

Number of calls offered through the NHS 111 number, August 2015 to July 2016

AUGUST 2015	1,033,643
September 2015	933,786
October 2015	1,062,248
November 2015	1,140,196
December 2015	1,329,398
January 2016	1,343,248
February 2016	1,194,928
March 2016	1,488,928
April 2016	1,169,311
May 2016	1,282,993
June 2016	1,105,485
July 2016	1,222,866

Source : NHS England, NHS 111 Minimum Data Set 2016-17

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[\[46222\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of NHS 111 on reducing the uptake of other NHS services.

Mr Philip Dunne:

NHS 111 providers are expected to conduct a patient survey every six months for each area they provide services for.

Considering the latest year for which survey results are available (April 2015 to September 2015 and October 2015 to March 2016 surveys), for 11.6% of triaged calls an ambulance was dispatched by the NHS 111 service and in 8.4% of calls the caller was advised to attend accident and emergency (A&E). However, 18% of patients who responded to the survey reported they would have called for an ambulance if NHS 111 had not been available, and 28.3% would have attended A&E.

For the full year period (April 2015 to March 2016), 11.3 million calls were triaged. From this we can estimate the impact of the 111 service. The differences mean that due to availability of the NHS 111 service, over 2.25 million people this year were directed away from using A&E and over 750,000 were directed away from calling an ambulance.

Data about the service to which patients are recommended during an NHS 111 call ("dispositions") are collected by NHS England and published on a monthly basis. Latest data are for July 2016 and can be found at the following website:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-111-minimum-data-set/nhs-111-minimum-data-set-2016-17/>

■ NHS: Buildings**Sir Nicholas Soames:****[46193]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what progress his Department is making on the rationalisation of the NHS estate.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The National Health Service estate represents both one of its largest assets, critical in supporting high quality services for patients, as well as one of its largest elements of its running costs.

As part of the Government's wider public sector land programme, the Department is committed releasing surplus NHS land sufficient for delivering 26,000 houses by 2020 and raising £2 billion in receipts. The Department and the NHS have made good progress so far, having released land with capacity for over 3,000 homes by June 2016.

The Department is also committed to driving improvements in the operational efficiency of the NHS estate. Lord Carter of Coles' report, *Operational Productivity and Performance in English NHS Acute Hospitals: Unwarranted Variations*, published in February 2016, sets out how acute trusts can improve productivity and achieve efficiency savings, including through reducing the proportion of the hospital estate that is made up of non-clinical services, and reducing under-utilisation. It highlighted that annual savings of up to £1 billion by 2020-21 were achievable by reducing current variations in estates and facilities management running costs.

The majority of the NHS estate is owned by individual NHS trusts and foundation trusts and it is for them to make decisions about their estate which best support their clinical

priorities, in discussion with the commissioners of NHS services. This is part of the current process through which local NHS footprints are developing sustainability and transformation plans (STPs).

The Department and other national health organisations are providing a range of support measures to the NHS in delivering on the surplus land ambition, in implementing Lord Carter's recommendations and in delivering high quality estates plans as part of the STP process.

In addition, the Department has commissioned Sir Robert Naylor to undertake an independent review of the NHS estate. He will produce a report in the autumn which will provide recommendations on how the NHS can achieve best value from NHS property, in alignment with the delivery of the vision set out in the NHS's Five Year Forward View.

■ NHS: Drugs

Sir Eric Pickles:

[\[46302\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will assess the additional costs to the NHS if Israeli-owned or Israeli-based companies were banned from supplying generic medicines to the NHS.

David Mowat:

We do not routinely collect information on where pharmaceutical manufacturers are based, or whether they have connections with particular countries. Any company with the necessary regulatory authorisations can supply medicines to the National Health Service. However, some 100 million prescription items for medicines used in the community in England are estimated to come from companies based in Israel. This includes some medicines where one of these companies will be the main supplier. Banning these supplies would most likely cause significant shortages of some medicines important for patient health and have a significant impact on competition and in all likelihood increase prices paid by the NHS.

■ NHS: Negligence

Paul Blomfield:

[\[46004\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when the Government plans to publish the pre-consultation report on proposals to introduce fixed recoverable costs for clinical negligence claims.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The pre-consultation process was a limited and informal exercise to inform the consultation, and therefore the Government does not plan to publish a report. The formal consultation on proposals to introduce fixed recoverable costs for clinical negligence claims is due to commence shortly. It will be followed by a Government response before the introduction of fixed recoverable costs for clinical negligence claims.

■ NHS: Standards

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[46204\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to improve NHS triage systems.

Mr Philip Dunne:

As part of NHS England's review of urgent and emergency care, the intention is to develop a clinical decision support system to enable patients to be directed to or connected with the right service to meet their needs, rather than being sent or taken to accident and emergency unless absolutely necessary.

Commissioners, clinicians and the wider governance of urgent and emergency care have requested a next generation system that builds on the success of NHS Pathways but recognises the needs of individuals on the basis of the language they use, links to patient records and crisis plans and has the potential to factor in phenotypic data from wearables and remote monitoring devices.

■ NHS: Sustainable Development

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[46187\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that the concerns of local populations are taken into account in decisions about NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans.

David Mowat:

NHS England released guidance to the local areas developing Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) entitled 'Engaging local people' in September 2016 which can be found on their website. This guidance from NHS England to the STP Footprints highlights the need for public engagement and suggests ways of doing this.

We expect that most areas will take a version of their STP to their organisation's public board meeting for discussion between late October and the end of the year. We would also expect that most areas will publish their plans, for more formal engagement, during this period. Every area will be working to a different timeframe, based on its own circumstances and how well-progressed its plan is.

Proposals are at a draft stage but we expect all local leaders to be talking to the public and stakeholders regularly. It is vital that people are able to shape the future of their local services.

No changes to the services people currently receive will be made without local engagement and, where required, consultation. There are longstanding assurance processes in place to make sure this happens.

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[46225\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions his Department has had with Huddersfield and Calderdale Clinical Commissioning Groups on NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans.

David Mowat:

This is a matter for the local National Health Service and key stakeholders.

Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) proposals are currently at a draft stage. No changes to the services people currently receive will be made without local engagement. If final plans propose service changes, formal consultation will follow in due course in line with good practice and legislative requirements. All STP areas will submit an updated plan to NHS England in October, with appropriate formal public engagement and consultation. Many areas are already publishing summaries as part of their engagement programme.

Mr Barry Sheerman:[\[46226\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans consider the overall health economy of a region including the effect on (a) GPs, (b) hospitals, (c) pharmacies, (d) ambulance services and (e) all other health services.

David Mowat:

For their Sustainability and Transformation Plan, local areas, including commissioners, providers and local authorities, have come together to decide how to improve services in the medium and long term. This is a unique exercise in collaboration, with local doctors, hospitals and councils working together to decide the way forward in consultation with local communities. This approach will ensure that all services within a local health economy are considered.

■ Obesity: Children**Dr Lisa Cameron:**[\[45796\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the Government's recently-published childhood obesity action plan, how he plans to work with the public health community to ensure that approaches to reduce child obesity are evidence-based.

Nicola Blackwood:

The policies in the plan are informed by the latest research and evidence, including from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition report Carbohydrates and Health, Public Health England's evidence package Sugar reduction: the evidence for action, other government departments, debates in this House and various reports from key stakeholders including the Health Select Committee.

In delivering the plan, we will continue to work with the public health community and other partners to ensure implementation is aligned to our proposals.

Copies of Carbohydrates and Health and Sugar reduction: the evidence for action are attached and are available at:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445503/SACN_Carbohydrates_and_Health.pdf

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/470179/Sugar_reduction_The_evidence_for_action.pdf

Attachments:

1. PHE Sugar reduction The evidence for action [PHE Sugar reduction The evidence for action.pdf]
2. SACN Carbohydrates and Health [SACN Carbohydrates and Health.pdf]

■ Patients: Complaints

Jon Trickett: [\[45880\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the time period is within which NHS England has to respond to patients' complaints.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 provide the legislative framework within which NHS complaints must be handled.

There is no set timescale, though the body receiving the complaint must have arrangements in place to ensure it is dealt with efficiently, and the complainant receives a timely response.

■ Pinderfields Hospital

Jon Trickett: [\[45897\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the Care Quality Commission report of December 2015, on Pinderfields Hospital; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Philip Dunne:

These are matters for the local National Health Service. It is the responsibility of the Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust Board, its commissioners and regulators, and of the clinicians who work at the Trust, to ensure that the expected standards of care quality are being met.

Patients at Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust deserve the highest quality care and there is no excuse for services to fall short of the standards. The Trust must take the necessary steps to improve its safety and leadership with the support of NHS Improvement.

■ Pinderfields Hospital: Staff

Jon Trickett: [\[45881\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of the numbers of staff at Pinderfields Hospital; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This is a matter for Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust, which operates Pinderfields Hospital. Staffing levels are the responsibility of trust boards.

■ Pregnancy: Alcoholic Drinks

Alison Thewliss: [\[46202\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to discourage pregnant mothers from consuming alcohol during pregnancy.

Nicola Blackwood:

We want women to make decisions about their health based on the best possible information.

The new United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers' low risk drinking guidelines provide clear advice for women across the UK that for those who are pregnant, or could become pregnant, the safest approach is not to drink alcohol at all. This is to keep any risk to the baby to a minimum.

Public Health England is working with relevant professional organisations in England to help midwives and health visitors educate and inform women about avoiding alcohol while pregnant.

■ Uveitis: Medical Treatments

Greg Mulholland: [\[46114\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what treatment options are available to adults with uveitis to access anti-TNF treatment therapy who do not meet the exceptionality criteria of the individual funding request process.

David Mowat:

Due to a lack of clinical evidence anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF) to treat uveitis in adults is not currently routinely commissioned by the National Health Service. Therefore patients can only access the treatment through the individual funding request process.

Greg Mulholland: [\[46131\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many adult patients with uveitis have had access to treatment with anti-TNF therapy through the individual funding request process since July 2015.

David Mowat:

Between 1 July 2015 and 31 July 2016, fewer than 10 patients accessed anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF) therapy through the individual funding request process.

Greg Mulholland: [\[46138\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the statement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Life Sciences of 9 December 2015, Official Report, column 389-90WH, if NHS England will develop a commissioning policy on the use of anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy for adults with uveitis.

David Mowat:

In November 2015 NHS England undertook to review the current adult policy for uveitis once the study, known as VISUAL II, was fully published in a peer reviewed journal. The results of this study were published in August 2016.

NHS England will be reviewing the clinical evidence as reported in VISUAL II and make a judgement on whether an interim policy should be published prior to the anticipated National Institute of Health and Care Excellence Guidance on treating uveitis expected in July 2017.

■ West Cumberland Hospital: Maternity Services**Mr Jamie Reed:**[\[46153\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential effect on the safety of patients of the withdrawal of 24-hour consultant-led maternity services at West Cumberland Hospital.

Mr Philip Dunne:

No such assessment has been made. Decisions on maternity services at West Cumberland Hospital are matters for the local National Health Service.

Maternity provision in Cumbria is being assessed as part of the Success Regime work in progress with the local NHS and support from NHS England and NHS Improvement.

■ WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**Philip Davies:**[\[46141\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answers of 7 July 2016 to Questions 41448 and 41439, what his Department's priorities are for the 7th Conference of the Parties to the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to be held in November 2016.

Philip Davies:[\[46210\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, who will represent his Department at the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in India in November 2016.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department is still giving consideration to the United Kingdom's priorities for the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The composition of the UK's delegation is also still under consideration.

HOME OFFICE**■ Breast Ironing**

Catherine West: [\[46230\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent the practice of breast ironing.

Catherine West: [\[46231\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of breast ironing have been recorded in each of the last five years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

This Government is clear that political or cultural sensitivities must not get in the way of preventing and uncovering so-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) in all its forms, including 'breast ironing'. No one should suffer because of who they are or which community they are born into.

As set out in the Government's new Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, we will continue to challenge the cultural attitudes that may underpin harmful practices, and ensure that professionals have the confidence to confront these issues to safeguard victims and bring perpetrators to justice.

Figures on 'breast ironing' are not collated centrally. Where 'breast ironing' is practised on girls it is child abuse and a crime, and should be treated as such by all frontline professionals. Statutory guidance for local authorities and others on how to safeguard children can be found in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf

■ Deportation

Dawn Butler: [\[45630\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people without criminal records have been deported under Operation Nexus.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Operation Nexus involves joint working between Immigration Enforcement and police forces.

All cases that have been identified from this partnership would have come into contact with the police and subsequently brought to our attention. Our records system however is only designed to record immigration related data and therefore any data regarding criminal records is not aggregated in national reporting systems.

This means the question could only be answered through a disproportionately expensive manual case search to collate the data.

■ Home Office: Consultants

Margaret Hodge: [\[44353\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times her Department has used the services of (a) PwC, (b) Deloitte, (c) Ernst and Young, (d) KPMG and (e) other consulting firms in the last three financial years; and what (i) work was undertaken and (ii) the cost to the public purse was on each such occasion.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Home Department has approved the engagement of consultancy services over the last three Financial Years as detailed in the table below;

**CONSULTANCY
SERVICES**

FINANCIAL YEARS

	2013-2014	2014-2014	2015-2016
PwC	0	0	0
Deloitte	0	3	1
Ernst and Young	0	1	4
KPMG	1	1	0
Other Consulting Firms	6	7	13

The table below details the work commissioned and the approved value in each case;

FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/14

KPMG	1-	Provision of in support of the development of a Strategic Intent & Target Operating Model	£120,000
	Other Consulting Firms	1-	Provision of Services to support complex evaluation models for the Emergency Services Mobile Communications programme
			£20,000

FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/14

2-	Consultancy Support for College of Policing Organisational Design Programme	£20,000
3-	Consultancy Support insight into Postal & Freight - Border Force Transformation	£216,875
4-	Consultancy Support Intelligence Capability - Border Force Transformation	£97,447
	Consultancy Support to improve National Processes - Border Force Transformation	£433,710
5-	Consultancy Support for the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme to help co-ordinate standardisation efforts on the Push to Talk (PTT) application	£20,000
6-	Consultancy support for Project Calais - Improving flow and passenger tracking at the maritime port at Calais	£195,000

FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15

Deloitte	1-	Consultancy support to the DGIE Strategic Reform - High Value	£146.744
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FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15

		Workstreams	
2-	Consultancy support to the DGIE Strategic Reform - Relationships and Leveraging	£99,950	
3-	Consultancy support to the DGIE Strategic Reform - Enablers and Infrastructure	£190,000	
Ernst & Young	1- Provision of Organisational Design Consultancy	£131,750	
KPMG	1- Consultancy Support for Police Pensions Scheme Advisory Board	£13,397	
	Other Consulting Firms	1- Technical Consultancy Support for the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme	£1,9947,300
2-	The Provision of Consultancy for The Review of the National Referral Mechanism	£27,300	
3-	Provision of Consultancy Specialist Support on Diversifying The Night Time Economy	£64,980	
4-	Provision of Consultancy Specialist Support on	£18,200	

FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/15

	Diversifying The Night Time Economy	
5-	Provision of Financial Support and Advice for the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme	£150,000
6-	Multi Specialism Programme Delivery Consultancy for the Independent Police Complaints Commission Change Programme	£450,000
7-	ICT Consultancy for the Independent Police Complaints Commission Change Programme	£150,000

■ Immigration**Keith Vaz:**[\[41782\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are subject to immigration reporting restrictions; what the nature of those restrictions are; and what the rate of compliance with those restrictions is.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

We do not hold data in a format that allows us to report on the restriction type.

Alison Thewliss:[\[46203\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average processing time is for cases handled by the Complex Casework Directorate.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The information requested on average processing time for cases handled by Complex Casework is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Immigration Controls

Stella Creasy: [45251]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many passenger interviews were undertaken with people of each (a) ethnicity, (b) religion and (c) nationality by UK Border Agency officials at each UK airport in the last five years; and whether each of those passengers was permitted to continue their journey after that interview.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

[Holding answer 12 September 2016]: Data on the number of interviews carried out at port is not available centrally. However, there is information already in the public domain on those who are subject to an intervention at the border and refused entry ie not permitted.

This information can found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016/list-of-tables>

■ Khat

Thangam Debbonaire: [45860]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment the Government has made of the effect of the ban on khat.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Khat was controlled as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in 2014.

The 2015/16 Crime Survey England and Wales found that 0.06% of adults aged 16 to 59 in the general population had used khat in the last year, equivalent to around 20,000 people. This is similar to 2014/15 (0.05%) but a statistically significant fall compared with 0.2% in the previous two survey years when khat was measured (2010/11 and 2011/12).

We will continue to monitor the situation in relation to khat as appropriate, including through recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. Our approach to drugs remains clear: we must prevent drug use in our communities and help dependent individuals to recover, while ensuring our drugs laws are enforced.

■ Police: Uniforms

Philip Davies: [45996]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on the self-esteem of female police officers of having to wear a uniform.

Brandon Lewis:

Decisions on uniform requirements for different roles within their force are for Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

The police remain operationally independent and it is for Chief Constables and PCCs locally to decide how to best equip their staff.

David T. C. Davies: [\[46012\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy to allow police officers to cover their faces for religious purposes.

David T. C. Davies: [\[46013\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has the ability to overrule chief constables on decisions about uniform policy.

Brandon Lewis:

Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are best placed to decide the uniform requirements for different roles within their force.

The police remain operationally independent and it is for local leadership to ensure that officers can perform their duties effectively whilst taking officer safety, appropriate risk assessments and effective engagement with the public into consideration.

■ Radicalism: Northern Ireland

Mr Nigel Dodds: [\[46119\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on tackling radicalisation of young people by Islamist extremists.

Mr Ben Wallace:

Tackling the radicalisation of young people is a key priority for this Government. Prevent is a key part of our counter – terrorism strategy (CONTEST). It safeguards vulnerable individuals by building resilience to extremist ideologies, countering the ideology that terrorists espouse, and removing access to terrorist propaganda online.

Many of the issues dealt with under the CONTEST strategy and the principles it sets out are relevant to the threat in Northern Ireland. We work closely with the Northern Ireland Executive, the PSNI and other partners as they respond to those who would seek to undermine peace and prosperity.

■ Refugees: Syria

Mr Nigel Dodds: [\[46189\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the devolved administrations on the implementation of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Officials from the UK Government's Resettlement Programme are in regular dialogue with the devolved administrations in relation to the delivery of the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement scheme.

■ Temporary Exclusion Orders

Diana Johnson: [\[46023\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the process is for considering whether to withhold sensitive material from courts to aid their consideration of (a) whether to impose Temporary Exclusion Orders (TEOs), (b) whether a TEO already imposed should be revoked and (c) whether the conditions imposed on those subject to TEOs are fair.

Mr Ben Wallace:

The Court Rules for Temporary Exclusion Orders provide for the disclosure of open material, the use of private hearings, and the withholding of closed material (the disclosure of which would be contrary to the public interest). The Home Office cannot determine which information is closed and must submit an application to the court for permission not to disclose certain information. Under the closed material procedure, the TEO subject and his legal representatives would attend 'open' court proceedings but would not be present at 'closed' proceedings. Special advocates appointed by the Attorney General would represent the interests of the excluded party in relation to closed evidence. The use of closed material proceedings is designed to ensure that the court has sight of sensitive material whilst protecting it from wider disclosure.

■ Temporary Exclusion Orders: Middle East

Diana Johnson: [\[45965\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has (a) made any arrangements and (b) had any discussions with the governments of each country in the Middle East on the application of Temporary Exclusion Orders in those countries.

Mr Ben Wallace:

The Government has engaged with a number of international partners on the implementation of the Temporary Exclusion Order power. The Government made clear throughout the passage of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill that the operation of the TEO power would depend on the circumstances of each case and on the country from which an individual is seeking to travel to the UK. We will not comment on individual cases.

■ Terrorism: Australia and Indonesia

Rehman Chishti: [\[45378\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential effectiveness of the regional approach adopted by Australia and Indonesia on tackling terrorist financing announced in August 2016.

Mr Ben Wallace:

The UK Government welcomes the Nusa Dua statement and considers the approach being taken by Australia, Indonesia and their regional partners to be a positive one.

The UK was a founding member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which sets the global standards to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The UK continues

to cooperate closely with our international partners to ensure that the FATF standards are implemented effectively and engages bilaterally and in other fora with partners on operational issues.

■ **Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre**

Kate Osamor: [\[46133\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women detained in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre have children who are British citizens.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Department does not hold the data in the form requested.

Kate Osamor: [\[46156\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many detainees were threatened with the Kingfisher Isolation Unit as a result of peaceful protest activities in conjunction with the demonstration outside Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre on 10 September 2016.

Kate Osamor: [\[46157\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre detainees were held in the Kingfisher Isolation Unit on the weekend of 10 September 2016.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Kingfisher Unit at Yarl's Wood is managed by Serco, the service provider, in accordance with Rules 40 (removal from association) and 42 (temporary confinement) of the Detention Centre Rules 2001. Detainees may only be separated from others for reasons of safety, either their own or for others, for security reasons or when an individual is being refractory or violent. There is no provision in the Rules for separation to be used as punishment.

Provisional management information from Serco shows that no detainees were re-located to Kingfisher Unit on either 10 or 11 September. There is no record of any complaints having been made by detainees alleging that they have been threatened with placement on Kingfisher Unit in connection with the demonstration on 10 September.

Detainee Custody Officers must not threaten detainees in order to manage their behaviour but may advise detainees that they may be separated if their behaviour is judged to risk compromising the safety and security of the centre, themselves or others.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

■ Iraq: Armed Conflict

Stuart C. McDonald:[\[46166\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what discussions she has had with the Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the potential for a mass civilian evacuation from Mosul.

Rory Stewart:

DFID is working closely with officials across Government, and with the Government of Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government, the United Nations, and the international community to support an effective Iraqi-led humanitarian response in Mosul. My officials are in contact with Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence colleagues on a regular basis.

DFID recently announced an extra £50 million of humanitarian funding to Iraq, taking our total humanitarian commitment to £129.5 million since June 2014. This will address existing humanitarian needs and support preparations for the humanitarian response in and around Mosul. The UK has also committed £20 million to help stabilise areas in Iraq liberated from Daesh.

■ Islamic State: Genocide

Diana Johnson:[\[46227\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what funding has been provided to the (a) Kurdistan Regional Government Peshmerga, (b) Kurdish government in Northern Syria and (c) Yazidi community to (i) gather evidence of alleged acts of genocide and (ii) support displaced persons in refugee camps.

James Wharton:

Since June 2014, DFID has committed £129.5 million in humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable internally displaced people in Iraq, including Yazidis and those living in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. To date, the UK has pledged over £2.3 billion in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and the region. Our support is reaching vulnerable and displaced Syrians, including those living in areas controlled by Kurdish groups.

On 21 July the Foreign Secretary announced that the UK will lead a global campaign to hold Daesh to account for its crimes. In Iraq, the Foreign Office has funded projects to support the documentation of Daesh crimes and preservation of evidence. In Syria, UK funding supports a range of NGO partners to compile case files of evidence of atrocities approximating to International Criminal Court (ICC) standards.

DFID has not provided funding to the Peshmerga, or to the governing authorities in Kurdish-dominated parts of Syria.

■ Kurds: Internally Displaced People

Jim Shannon:

[\[45873\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what support the Government is providing to the Kurdistan regional government related to internally displaced people in that region.

Rory Stewart:

Since June 2014, the UK has committed £129.5 million in humanitarian assistance to the crisis in Iraq. This includes cash assistance, access to clean water, food, medicines and other life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable people, including internally displaced people in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Given the importance of a coordinated response, we have provided £1 million of funding to UNDP to support the Kurdistan Regional Government's Joint Crisis Centre (JCC), and its equivalent for the Government of Iraq, the Joint Crisis and Monitoring Centre (JCMC). The JCC is leading humanitarian efforts for the Kurdistan Regional Government.

■ Palestinian Authority

Ian Austin:

[\[45929\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether her Department has made a recent assessment of the level of adherence by the Palestinian National Authority to the principle of non-violence set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between her Department and that authority; and if she will make a statement.

James Wharton:

The UK deplores incitement to violence on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and takes the issue of incitement extremely seriously. When incidents of incitement to violence do occur, we do not hesitate to raise and condemn these with the Palestinian Authority. The UK raises the issue of incitement as part of the FCO-led UK-Palestinian strategic dialogue, most recently in February this year. HMG's assessment is that the Palestinian Authority is not in breach of the Memorandum of Understanding. The UK continues to encourage the leaderships of both the PA and Israel to re-engage in the Trilateral Committee on Anti-Incitement.

Ian Austin:

[\[45930\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, when her Department last made a formal assessment of the Palestinian National Authority's adherence to its commitment to ensure that the human rights of all citizens are respected without exception as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between her Department and that authority; and if she will make a statement.

James Wharton:

The last formal assessment of the Palestinian Authority's (PA) commitment to the Partnership Principles, including the PA's commitment to respecting human rights, was

carried out in May 2016. Our assessment is that the PA continues to deliver on the Partnership Principles, even under increasingly fragile and volatile conditions.

■ Yemen: Armed Conflict

Alison Thewliss: [\[46236\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent steps she has taken to raise the profile of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

Rory Stewart:

Despite being one of the most serious and complex humanitarian crises in the world, Yemen is the world's most serious forgotten crisis. The Secretary of State is co-hosting an international event on the Yemen crisis at the UN General Assembly on 21 September to shine a spotlight on the crisis and call for a step change in humanitarian delivery on the ground.

■ Yemen: Internally Displaced People

Alison Thewliss: [\[46197\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment her Department has made of the number of people who have been displaced in Yemen in the last five months.

James Wharton:

According to the United Nations, there were 2.2million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Yemen in July 2016. This is an increase of 200,000 since April 2016. Yemen also hosts around 280,000 refugees, mainly from the Horn of Africa.

■ Yemen: Overseas Aid

Alison Thewliss: [\[46232\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much the Government donated to the UN Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan in 2015-16; and how much the Government plans to donate to that Plan in 2016-17.

Alison Thewliss: [\[46233\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much humanitarian funding the Government gave to Yemen in 2015-16; and how much the Government plans to give to that country in 2016-17.

Rory Stewart:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I provided on 15 September to Question number 45832.

Alison Thewliss: [\[46235\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to (a) support the Yemen economy and (b) ensure that there is an adequate supply of food and oil imports.

Rory Stewart:

We are deeply concerned about the economic crisis in Yemen and are working closely with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, United Nations, Government of Yemen and other key countries to look at measures to stabilise the Yemeni economy.

We are also providing £1.4 million to support the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) to facilitate the flow of commercial shipping, which is crucial to ensuring adequate supplies of food and fuel.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE**■ Arms Trade: Exports****Diana Johnson:**[\[46058\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, if he will make it his policy that the UK leaving the EU will not (a) affect the UK's position as a signatory to the EU's Code of Conduct on Arms Exports and (b) require any amendment of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

Mark Garnier:

Until we leave the EU, the UK will remain a full member, with all of the rights and obligations. This includes those relating to export licencing policy.

The assessment framework provided by the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, as set out in the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 March 2014, remains in force.

■ Business**David Mackintosh:**[\[45644\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps he plans to take to ensure that local businesses in (a) the UK and (b) Northampton have appropriate information to enable them better to access global markets.

Mark Garnier:

The Department for International Trade (DIT) runs the Exporting is GREAT campaign, designed to significantly increase exports by inspiring and supporting UK companies to take advantage of the global appetite for UK products, skills and expertise in markets around the world. The Department's export hub roadshow travels throughout the UK providing face to face export advice and guidance to businesses; indeed it visited Northamptonshire in April and 17 companies attended.

This Department also provides digital services for all businesses including access to live Export Opportunities around the globe and webinars on exporting, both accessible through the Exporting is GREAT website, exportingisgreat.gov.uk/. Businesses also have access to DIT's sector and market focussed campaigns and tailored advice and support through the Department's network of international trade advisors. They will have the

opportunity to promote their products on the new Export Directory which DIT is launching in November, alongside other new digital services.

Northamptonshire companies have also benefitted from recent events being held on how to access global markets such as China, India and Iran. Seminars in Northamptonshire have informed companies on issues such as managing agents and distributors, e-commerce and international web optimisation, amongst others.

This information is not only accessible in England but also in the rest of the UK through DIT working closely with the devolved administrations' own export promotion organisations.

■ **Department for International Trade: Aventa Capital Partners**

David T. C. Davies: [\[46047\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what factors Ministers in his Department took into account when signing a memorandum of understanding with Aventa Capital in 2014.

David T. C. Davies: [\[46048\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how many companies have signed memoranda of understanding with the Regeneration Investment Organisation.

David T. C. Davies: [\[46049\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether his Department has made an assessment of the adequacy of the memorandum of understanding signed between the Regeneration Investment Organisation and Aventa Capital.

Greg Hands:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a high-level arrangement, which is not legally binding, and enables the participants to work together toward a desired outcome. Between the period April 2014 to October 2015, the Regeneration Investment Organisation (RIO) negotiated MoUs with seven companies. Only one of those MoUs remains in place.

Aventa is a regeneration investor and comprises a regulated asset management company and a vehicle for managing early stage development and construction risk. The Regeneration Investment Organisation and Aventa Capital MoU was developed in October 2014 to support Aventa's work in seeking to develop a regeneration fund and thereby encourage institutional investment into UK regeneration projects. The Department felt the proposal covered by the MoU was viable given Aventa's sector and management experience.

There was no commitment on the part of RIO to provide any capital or resource in connection with the agreement. In addition, any recommendation from Aventa would have been reviewed and subjected to due diligence by the developer as a commercial partner. The MoU was concluded, by mutual agreement, following meetings with officials during December 2014.

■ **Department for International Trade: EU Nationals**

Mr Chuka Umunna: [\[45901\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how many citizens of other EU countries work in his Department.

Greg Hands:

Following her appointment on 13 July 2016 the Prime Minister established the Department for International Trade (DIT). The DIT aggregates UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), UK Export and Finance (UKEF), Trade Policy Units from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), as well as some new hires.

Until such time as a transfer of functions order establishes the Secretary of State as a corporation sole, DIT remains a unified Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) department for accounting purposes.

As DIT is currently being formed, details of the staff that the Department employs is being finalised, whilst employee transfers and recruitment are taking place.

■ **Department for International Trade: Hotels**

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[46208\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how much his Department has spent on overnight accommodation since it was created.

Greg Hands:

Following her appointment on 13 July 2016 the Prime Minister established the Department for International Trade (DIT). The DIT aggregates UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), UK Export and Finance (UKEF), Trade Policy Units from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Until such time as a transfer of functions order establishes the Secretary of State as a corporation sole, DIT remains a unified Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) department for accounting purposes.

As DIT is currently being formed, accurate data for overnight accommodation spend is unavailable.

■ **Department for International Trade: Research**

Natalie McGarry: [\[45906\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, which reports commissioned by his Department from external bodies between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2016 have not yet been published; when each report was commissioned for research; what the nature of the research commissioned was; from which external body or individual person the research was commissioned; what the value was of each such piece of research commissioned; on what

date each report was received by his Department; for what reasons the research has not yet been published; and when he plans to publish each report.

Greg Hands:

Between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2016 the Department for International Trade (former UK Trade and Investment, Business, Innovation and Skills Trade Policy Group and UK Export Finance) commissioned 21 studies to external organisations which have not yet been published. The table attached contains the details. Information with regards to the value of the project cannot be disclosed until the projects are completed.

Attachments:

1. Studies to external organisations [Final answer to 22669 - table.docx]

■ **Department for International Trade: Travel**

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[46207\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how many international flights have been taken by (a) Ministers, (b) civil servants and (c) special advisers in his Department in an official capacity since his Department was created.

Greg Hands:

Following her appointment on 13 July 2016 the Prime Minister established the Department for International Trade (DIT).

Until such time as a transfer of functions order establishes the Secretary of State as a corporation sole, the Department for International Trade remains a unified Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) department for accounting purposes.

As the Department for International Trade is being formed, accurate data for overseas flights is unavailable.

■ **Drugs: Japan**

Andrew Gwynne: [\[46042\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether his Department has had discussions with representatives from Japan on arrangements for Japanese pharmaceutical companies in the UK.

Greg Hands:

The Department for International Trade (DIT) works with new investors from Japan as well as Japanese companies across many sectors that have a UK presence. The Life Sciences Organisation (LSO) in this Department as well as the overseas market team in Japan have been engaging directly with Japanese pharmaceutical companies in Japan and those with a UK footprint. We welcome engagement from Japan and senior officials will continue to engage in a structured way on all levels.

■ Foreign Investment in UK

Andrew Rosindell:

[\[41877\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps he is taking in response to the outcome of the EU referendum to encourage foreign investment in the UK.

Greg Hands:

My Ministerial colleagues and I, as well as officials from the Department for International Trade, the Department for Exiting the EU and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, are engaging with a wide range of businesses including current and prospective investors.

Prior to my appointment, BIS Ministers were communicating to these businesses through phone calls, letters, speeches and participation in roundtables and this work continues. We are engaging with businesses and speaking to investors, both in the UK and overseas, to reassure them that Britain is very much open for business.

We are also working with colleagues in the Cabinet Office, HM Treasury and other key departments to ensure a fully coordinated approach to this work and will continue with our marketing activities to promote Britain as a GREAT place in which to invest and with which to trade.

■ Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

Diana Johnson:

[\[45958\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to the Answer of 17 March 2016 to Question 30754 and the Written Ministerial Statement of 21 July 2016, HCWS 125, whether Saudi Arabia remains fully compliant with the UK's export license criteria.

Mark Garnier:

The Government takes its arms export responsibilities very seriously. The test applied to an export licence application is whether the proposed export complies with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. We carefully assess each licence application against these Criteria and will not grant a licence if to do so would breach the Criteria.

Diana Johnson:

[\[45959\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to the Answer of 17 March 2016 to Question 30754, how many arms export licenses to Saudi Arabia have been revoked in each year since 2009-10.

Mark Garnier:

Data relating to export licences issued, refused or revoked for all destinations is published as official statistics on the GOV.UK website.

■ Trade Agreements

Jonathan Edwards: [\[42776\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with how many countries the EU has trade agreements in place; and how many countries the UK plans to negotiate trade agreements with as a result of the outcome of the EU referendum.

Greg Hands:

The EU has trade agreements in place with over 50 countries. The Prime Minister has established the Department for International Trade for promoting British trade across the world and ensuring the UK takes advantage of the huge opportunities open to us. She has also established a Department for Exiting the European Union for overseeing negotiations to leave the EU and establishing the future relationship between the UK and EU. We are exploring a range of options to maximise the opportunities for the UK's future trading relations.

JUSTICE

■ Bail

Philip Davies: [\[46056\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many offenders in each offence category were released on post-conviction bail by Crown Courts in each of the last three years; and (a) how many and (b) in what proportion of such cases the offender received a custodial sentence.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Robust and reliable information on post-conviction remand status of offenders convicted at the Crown Court is not centrally held, and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

■ Breast Ironing: Prosecutions

Catherine West: [\[46229\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many successful prosecutions have been made for cases involving breast ironing in each of the last five years.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The information is not available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Prison Service: Uniforms

Philip Davies: [\[45995\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment she has made of the effect on the self-esteem of female prison officers of having to wear a uniform.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

All prison officers working in public sector prisons and young offender institutions are required to wear uniform as part of their conditions of service. Uniform is provided

partly as a security measure to aid the immediate identification of staff. There has been no assessment of the self-esteem of either female or male officers in being required to wear uniform.

■ Prisons: Education

Mark Pritchard: [\[46278\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps she is taking to expand education in prisons to reduce reoffending rates and improve life chances for offenders returning to their communities.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Prisons should be places of safety and reform. I am determined to make sure that we achieve better outcomes for prisoners in employment, education and health. Fewer than half the people entering prisons have basic standards of English and Maths and around a third have identified learning difficulties or disabilities. This is a huge problem because we know that low levels of education can prevent people from securing jobs on release and leading law abiding lives.

On 15 September the Prime Minister announced the transfer of adult prison education in England to the Ministry of Justice from the Department for Education from 1 October. I would like to see governors having more responsibility for delivering education and being held to account for the outcomes prisoners achieve.

■ Probation

Philip Davies: [\[46050\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of offenders who breached a Supervision Default Order were (i) sent to prison and (ii) not sent to prison since the introduction of such Orders.

Philip Davies: [\[46051\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of offenders who have been taken to court for breaching their post sentence supervision were (i) fined, (ii) given a Supervision Default Order, (iii) committed to prison and (iv) had no action taken against them since the introduction of such supervision.

Philip Davies: [\[46052\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of offenders who breached their post sentence supervision have been taken to court since the introduction of such supervision.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014, which introduced post sentence supervision for those serving short custodial sentences, applies to offences committed on or after 1 February 2015. Statistics on the number of offenders starting post sentence supervision and the number of offenders committed to custody for breach of post sentence supervision conditions is available at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/541247/probation-q1-2016.xlsx.

■ Remand in Custody: Domestic Violence

Philip Davies: [46054]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of (i) men and (ii) women were refused bail and remanded in custody when the alleged offence related to an incident involving domestic violence in the latest period for which figures are available.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ Immigration Controls: Ireland

Stuart C. McDonald: [46165]

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of UK withdrawal from the EU Customs Union on the policy that there should be no border checks between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

James Brokenshire:

The Government will consider the advantages and disadvantages of remaining in a Customs Union carefully. There are a number of options, and we have made clear that we will pursue one that works for the unique circumstances of the UK.

The open border for people and businesses has served us well and no-one wants to see a return to the borders of the past. It is a high priority for the Government that we do not see border controls coming into place. There is a very strong commitment from the Irish government as well as ourselves to see that that does not happen. We must now work closely together to ensure that as the UK leaves the EU we find shared solutions to the challenges and maximise the opportunities for both the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

TRANSPORT

■ Aircraft: Temperature

Mark Pritchard: [46279]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will introduce a statutory maximum temperature on (a) stationary aircraft and (b) aircraft in flight.

Mr John Hayes:

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has requirements in the aircraft certification specifications regarding the ventilation requirements of aircraft cabin, but

no maximum temperature has been identified. It would be for EASA to introduce any changes to these safety requirements, based on robust evidence base.

■ **Amazon: Unmanned Air Vehicles**

Andy McDonald: [\[46270\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether Amazon's testing of parcel delivery by drone has begun; and what arrangements have been agreed for safety, insurance and data protection during this trial.

Mr John Hayes:

Amazon is currently testing a developmental drone delivery system in the UK, within a defined and contained test site area on private land. Trials involving customers are not part of this testing. Prior to the current trials starting, an operational safety case was assessed and approved by the Civil Aviation Authority, which took into consideration the risk and mitigation of damage to other aircraft and infrastructure in the test area. The trial is designed in compliance with all regulatory and legal requirements.

■ **Aviation: Mobile Phones**

Jim Shannon: [\[45876\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the Government has issued guidance to the Aviation Authority on fire risks related to the Samsung Galaxy Note 7.

Mr John Hayes:

The Civil Aviation Authority issued guidance on 9 September advising air travel passengers to ensure their Samsung Galaxy Note 7 mobile phones remain switched off for the duration of their flight.

The guidance has also been drawn to the attention of aircraft operators.

■ **Bus Services: Disability**

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[45879\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to increase the number of talking buses in the UK.

Andrew Jones:

Clear, accessible information can be very useful to a range of passengers when travelling by bus. Tourists, people new to a given route and those who are disabled may all feel more confident in the knowledge that they will know when to alight when the time comes.

The Bus Services Bill will specifically allow enhanced partnership schemes to require all buses within a local area to provide such information. Authorities using the new franchising powers will be able to place similar requirements on affected operators. The Government has also agreed to consider amendments on this issue which were tabled during the Bill's committee stage in the House of Lords.

■ Department for Transport: EU Nationals

Mr Chuka Umunna: [\[45902\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many citizens of other EU countries work in (a) his Department and (b) agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible.

Mr John Hayes:

The Department does not hold information on the citizenship status of all its staff. Staff are invited to self-declare their nationality on the staff system.

■ Department for Transport: Heathrow Airport Limited

Zac Goldsmith: [\[46248\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate he has made of the number of staff (a) departing from his Department who accepted jobs with Heathrow Airport Limited and (b) arriving in his Department from Heathrow Airport Limited in each of the last five years.

Mr John Hayes:

The Department does not hold any information on the destination of employees, or their previous work history so is unable to provide an estimation or confirm numbers of staff.

■ Department for Transport: Research

Natalie McGarry: [\[45907\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, which reports commissioned by his Department from external bodies between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2016 have not yet been published; when each report was commissioned for research; what the nature of the research commissioned was; from which external body or individual person the research was commissioned; what the value was of each such piece of research commissioned; on what date each report was received by his Department; for what reasons the research has not yet been published; and when he plans to publish each report.

Mr John Hayes:

The Department commissions a wide range of research to support its objectives. The general presumption is that research results used in the course of the Department's business should be made available to broaden knowledge and better inform discussion. In a few circumstances (for instance, where the research relates to security matters or where the Department does not hold the necessary rights to publish) such information is not published; but such circumstances are exceptional. Information on publication of the outputs of this research is not collected centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Highways England: Standards

Mark Pritchard:

[\[46280\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will introduce stronger key performance indicators to evaluate the performance of Highways England.

Mr John Hayes:

The Government will review Highways England's existing performance indicators and targets when setting the next Road Investment Strategy. As part of this process the Government will consider whether existing indicators and targets should be strengthened, and whether new indicators should be introduced.

■ Invalid Vehicles: Vehicle Number Plates

Kevin Foster:

[\[46139\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will make plans to introduce number plates for all mobility scooters to ensure that such scooters could be traced in the event of a collision with a pedestrian.

Andrew Jones:

Mobility scooters have to comply with the prescribed conditions and requirements set out in the 'Use of Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988' which divides them into two main categories.

The Class 2 type can travel at 4mph and is primarily intended for use on the footway or footpath. 4 mph is considered appropriate for pavement use as it is akin to a brisk walking pace.

The Class 3 type can travel on the road at up to 8 mph, but must have the facility via a limiter to be driven at no more than 4 mph when used on the footpath.

Users of new or second hand Class 3 vehicles are required to register their vehicles with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) for use on public roads. However, there is currently no requirement to display the vehicle registration number on the scooter and I have no plans to change this.

■ Motorway Service Areas

Paul Blomfield:

[\[45957\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will implement the proposal set out on page 326 of the OECD Policy Roundtable on Competition in Road Fuel to introduce road signs displaying the price of petrol and diesel at motorway service stations in order to improve transparency and consumer choice.

Mr John Hayes:

This Government knows the public is concerned about the price of petrol and diesel at Motorway Service Areas. Highways England is, on behalf of the Government, delivering an 18 month trial of four fuel comparison price signs on the M5 between Bristol and Exeter.

The trial consists of four new electronic signs displaying real-time price information of petrol and diesel for the next three service areas along the route and commenced in Spring 2016. Monitoring and evaluation of the trial will determine the effectiveness of the new fuel comparison price signs in providing useful information to road users and in understanding the impact of improving fuel price transparency on driver behaviour and fuel prices at Motorway Service Areas.

■ **Passengers: EU Law**

Angela Crawley: [\[45864\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on the protection of passenger rights in the UK.

Andrew Jones:

The Government is considering carefully all the potential implications arising from the UK's exit from the EU, including the implications for passenger rights. Until we leave, EU law still applies, so EU rules on passenger rights will continue to apply in the UK, alongside national rules.

■ **Public Transport: Disability**

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[45878\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to ensure that public transport is adequately equipped for people with sensory loss.

Andrew Jones:

The Government recognises how important improving access to public transport is for people with visual impairments and is committed to making transport more inclusive.

Buses and coaches subject to the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) must incorporate a range of features to make bus travel more accessible for visually impaired people, including priority seating, colour-contrasting hand-holds and step edges, and destination blinds using clear typefaces. PSVAR applies to single-deck buses already, and double-deck buses must comply from 1st January 2017.

The Bus Services Bill will specifically allow enhanced partnership schemes to require all buses within a local area to provide audible and visual next stop information. Authorities using the new franchising powers will be able to place similar requirements on affected operators. The Government has also agreed to consider amendments on this issue which were tabled during the Bill's committee stage in the House of Lords.

We are also aware that positive interactions with bus drivers can make a big difference to the experience of visually impaired people taking the bus. We are working with the bus industry and disabled people to design best practice guidance in delivering disability awareness training which, we hope, will help to give bus drivers the skills and knowledge to assist every disabled passenger.

The Government also intends to publish an Accessibility Action Plan for consultation by the end of the year which will present its ambition for further progress on this agenda.

■ Railway Stations: Wales

Chris Elmore: [\[46251\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to encourage the construction of new railway stations along the England-Wales border.

Paul Maynard:

We launched the second round of our New Stations Fund on 26 August, with up to £20 million available to promoters of new stations throughout England and Wales.

Successful bids may be awarded up to 75% towards the capital expenditure on the station.

■ Railways: Compensation

Will Quince: [\[46113\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of those provisions in the Consumer Rights Act 2015 which relate to rail passengers claiming compensation.

Paul Maynard:

We want to strengthen the rights of rail passengers to get compensation for poor service. The Consumer Rights Act will allow rail passengers to challenge compensation amounts awarded for delays and cancellations where the train operator is at fault.

Train operators' existing compensation schemes will continue to provide the main means of redress for passengers after 1 October 2016, when the Act comes into force for all transport providers. We will continue to work with train operators to improve their compensation schemes.

■ Roads: South East

Mr Andrew Turner: [\[46154\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions his Department has had with (a) local authorities and (b) other organisations on which (i) key net roads and (ii) highway responsibilities could be devolved to the proposed Solent combined authority.

Mr John Hayes:

DfT officials have had some early conversations with local authorities about the possibilities for coordinating/improving transport delivery across the Solent area as part of potential combined authority proposals. Discussions across Government are still ongoing.

■ Taxis: Disability

Kate Green: [\[45937\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to increase the number of accessible taxis in the UK.

Andrew Jones:

Government is committed to giving disabled people the same access to transport services as other members of society. It also recognises the particularly significant role played by taxis and private hire vehicle (PHV) operators for many disabled people, in helping them to remain active and independent.

It is for local authorities to specify a number of accessible vehicles to be within their licensed taxi and private hire vehicle fleet, and to take account of their public sector equality duties when doing so.

■ Tintwistle, Hollingworth and Mottram Bypass**Jonathan Reynolds:**[\[45885\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will provide an update on his Department's preparations for the Mottram by-pass.

Mr John Hayes:

Highways England is currently identifying and assessing options for the Trans Pennine Routes which includes the Mottram by-pass. A public consultation on the Preferred Route is currently planned to take place in early 2017. There will also be two public awareness events in October 2016 which will provide an opportunity for people in the local communities to meet the project team, receive an update on progress and provide feedback which can then be used in the development of the scheme.

Planning permission for this scheme will require an application for a Development Consent Order and start of works is planned by March 2020 in line with the Highways England's Delivery Plan 2015 – 2020.

■ Unmanned Air Vehicles**Andy McDonald:**[\[46266\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 15 June 2016 to Question 40016, on unmanned air vehicles, if he will place in the Library a copy of the memorandum of understanding between his Department, the Home Office, the Civil Aviation Authority and the police.

Mr John Hayes:

A copy of the memorandum of understanding will be placed in the House library.

Attachments:

1. Memorandum of understanding [160915 MOU between DfT, CAA, HO, Police.pdf]

Andy McDonald:[\[46267\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what permissions have been sought by (a) NATO, (b) the US and (c) any other country to fly remotely piloted aircraft systems in UK airspace in the last two years.

Mr John Hayes:

The Secretary of State for Transport has not received any requests for such permissions in the last two years.

Andy McDonald:

[46269]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will publish the report of the public dialogue on remotely piloted aircraft systems and small drones in UK airspace.

Mr John Hayes:

The department will aim to publish its report of the public dialogue on remotely piloted aircraft systems and small drones in the UK later this year.

■ Unmanned Air Vehicles: Mobile Phones

Andy McDonald:

[46268]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what trials his Department have (a) proposed and (b) undertaken on the use of drones to provide mobile data coverage in remote areas.

Mr John Hayes:

The Government encourages and welcomes innovative proposals and solutions from industry which seek to safely unlock services and benefits delivered by drones. This could include improving mobile data coverage for difficult to reach and remote areas in the UK and other countries. However, there are no current discussions or proposals with industry to provide such a service.

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Children: Maintenance

Angela Crawley:

[45863]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many recipients of child maintenance have received an exemption from the application fee on the grounds of domestic abuse since June 2014.

Caroline Nokes:

This information is only available from December 2014, and is routinely published in the Child Maintenance 2012 Scheme – Experimental Statistics. The latest publication includes information up to May 2016, and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-the-2012-statutory-child-maintenance-scheme>

■ Department for Work and Pensions: Research

Natalie McGarry:

[45909]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, which reports commissioned by his Department from external bodies between 1 January 2015 and 31 August 2016 have not yet been published; when each report was commissioned for research; what the nature of the research commissioned was; from which external body or individual person the research was

commissioned; what the value was of each such piece of research commissioned; on what date each report was received by his Department; for what reasons the research has not yet been published; and when he plans to publish each report.

Caroline Nokes:

During this period the Department has commissioned a significant number of research reports. Of these, most are either still in progress, or have been completed and published on GOV.UK in line with our standard process. Two publications are currently with the Department awaiting publication. Both comply with the Department's research publication protocol in accordance with Government Social Research Service guidance. To collate the requested information on all reports commissioned during this period that are yet to be published would incur disproportionate cost.

■ **Refugees: Syria**

Stuart C. McDonald:

[\[46164\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the finding in the report by the National Audit Office, The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme, published in September 2016, that lack of access by resettled Syrians to personal independence payments and carer's allowance may cause difficulties to some refugees and have a negative impact on their experiences.

Penny Mordaunt:

The UK is a world leader in supporting vulnerable people fleeing conflicts around the world and, as such, we have established an effective system to accommodate and shelter resettled people.

Refugees and those who have humanitarian protection status, such as persons resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme, are entitled to work and have access to some benefits upon arrival.

DWP has decided that the application of the Past Presence Test (PPT) should not apply to refugees for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and are currently considering how best to implement that change, including the impact to other benefits which use a similar PPT.

■ **Sahaviriya Steel Industries UK: Redcar**

Anna Turley:

[\[46135\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, by what date his Department plans to complete its longitudinal study into former employees of SSI UK; what the likely outcome of that study will be; and if he will make a statement.

Damian Hinds:

The study has been commissioned. The timing and content are being considered. The honourable member for Redcar and other members of the SSI taskforce will be informed when more information is available.

■ **Working Conditions: Temperature**

Mark Pritchard:

[\[46283\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make it his policy to introduce a statutory workplace maximum temperature.

Penny Mordaunt:

The Government has no plans to introduce a statutory workplace maximum temperature. For information on the existing law and guidance on workplace temperature, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 09 September 2016 to Question UIN [44106](#).

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

DEFENCE

■ Kurds: Military Aid

Jim Shannon:

[45868]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what discussions he has had with the Kurdistan regional government on support for its army in tackling Daesh.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 19 September 2016.

The correct answer should have been:

Mike Penning:

The British Defence Attaché in Baghdad and Defence Advisor in Erbil regularly discuss these issues with representatives of the Kurdistan Regional Government and Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs. ~~I will discuss these issues with the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish Regional Government during my forthcoming visit to the region.~~

The UK is steadfastly supporting the Kurdish Peshmerga as they fight, alongside other Iraqi forces, to defeat Daesh in Iraq. The UK has trained more than 6,000 Kurdish Peshmerga in infantry fighting skills, gifted 1,000 Vallon counter-IED detectors, provided more than 50 tonnes of non-lethal support, 40 heavy machine guns, nearly half a million rounds of ammunition and £600,000 worth of military equipment. We have also delivered over 300 tonnes of weapons and ammunition on behalf of other Coalition nations. In addition, the Kurdish Peshmerga benefit from RAF intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance capability and airstrikes - Tornado, Typhoon and Reaper have flown more than 3,000 missions in Iraq, carrying out over 1,000 successful strikes against Daesh targets, and in support of Iraqi forces.

HEALTH

■ Junior Doctors: Pay

Kevin Foster:

[45817]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make a comparative assessment of the level of proposed weekend pay under the new junior doctors' contract with weekend pay for (a) prison officers, (b) fire fighters, (c) police officers, (d) call centre workers, (e) consultants and (f) nurses, midwives and physios.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 19 September 2016.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Philip Dunne:

Junior doctors already work weekends, and they will continue to be fairly rewarded for work undertaken at the weekend using the weekend allowance proposed by the British

Medical Association negotiators. Comparative rates are set out in the **attached** table **below**.

Because of the allowance based approach to weekend working, the effective hourly rate juniors are paid will vary depending on how many hours they work over how many weekends. In almost all cases junior doctors will receive weekend pay better than other National Health Service professional staff.

A typical rota for a junior doctor involves an average of 6.5 hours a week being worked at weekends. (i.e. they work two long shifts of 13 hours every four weekends). This is split evenly over Saturdays and Sundays and includes night work.

For working those weekend hours the percentage hourly supplement across all the hours worked for different groups of NHS staff would be

- 66% for a junior doctor (37% for night work plus an additional 7.5% weekend allowance set as a percentage of basic pay)
- 56% for a band 3 Health Care Assistant (37% for Saturday, 74% for Sunday)
- 45% for a nurse (30% for Saturday, 60% for Sunday)
- 33% for a consultant

	PAYMENT
Junior doctors	Weekend night shifts ending by 10am. Time plus 37%. Weekend allowance + 10% 1in2 + 7.5% + 6% + 4% + 3% No allowance
Consultants	4hour Programmed Activity is reduced to 3 hours, effectively Time + 33%
Nurses	Time + 30% Saturday time +60% Sunday
Prison officers *	Time + 17%
Firefighters *	Shift duty covers shifts 24 hours, 7 days. No premia
Police Officers *	Time plus 10% for nights only (8pm-6am)
Call centre workers *	Between Time + 5% and Time + 40%

~~*Income Data Services study~~

Attachments:

1. **Comparative weekend pay rates PQ45817.docx**