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**Thursday
8 December 2016**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Thursday, 8 December 2016

Al-Qaeda: Alternative Name

[HLWS332]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My hon Friend the Minister of State for Security (Ben Wallace) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

We have today laid an order under section 3(6) of the Terrorism Act 2000 which, with effect from tomorrow, will specify “Jabhat Fatah al-Sham” as an alias of the proscribed organisation known as Al Qa’ida.

Jabhat Fatah as-Sham have previously operated under the name the Al Nusra Front. Al Qa’ida was proscribed in March 2001 and the Al Nusra Front was recognised as alias of the group by a name change order in July 2013.

We are clear that terrorist groups should not be able to claim a false legitimacy whilst continuing with their terrorist activities, by simply operating under an alternative name.

Despite the rebranding of the group, we continue to assess that Jabhat Fatah al-Sham is a violent terrorist organisation that retains strong links to AQ and promotes a global extremist ideology. We have no evidence to suggest that Jabhat Fatah al-Sham has changed its methods, aims or ideology.

The effect of this order is to put it beyond any doubt that being a member of or supporting any group operating under this name will be a criminal offence, contrary to sections 11 and 12 of the Terrorism Act.

Asylum Accommodation

[HLWS333]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Robert Goodwill) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

There has been considerable interest in the accommodation and support that is provided to asylum seekers. I am committed to ensuring that destitute asylum seekers are accommodated in safe, secure and suitable accommodation and that they are treated with dignity. I have listened carefully to Hon. Members and non-governmental organisations’ concerns about the arrangements, including their observations and criticisms of the current contractual arrangements.

The current contractual arrangements expire in 2017, with an option to extend them for a further two years. I have considered carefully whether to extend these contracts and weighed up a range of factors, including the value for money they offer the taxpayer and the improvements that have been made to the standard of accommodation when compared to those achieved under previous arrangements. I have decided to extend the contracts until 2019. However, I recognise that there are improvements that can be made. Therefore I have taken

this opportunity to make changes and additional investment to address the concerns that have been raised and improve the services that are provided. These changes will build upon the improvements that we have already made this year in response to the concerns of Hon. Members and others.

Firstly I have increased the amount of money that the Home Office pays for the provision of welfare officers and staff property management. This is in direct response to feedback that more attention is needed to ensure that asylum seekers receive the welfare support they need and are able to raise any concerns they have with the accommodation providers. It will also ensure that property standards continue to be closely managed and further improved; and that sufficient suitable property is available. The money will only be available for the employment of additional resources engaged directly on these customer focussed activities.

I have also agreed that the Department should work with providers on developing different contractual terms to ensure that there is sufficient Initial Accommodation available and thereby further reduce the need to use contingency arrangements, such as hotels, in the future. I am pleased to report that the use of contingency accommodation is already much reduced but these changes will add in resilience, further reduce the numbers and keep them down.

Finally I have introduced a new higher price band for any increases in the number of asylum seekers requiring accommodation, this will allow the providers to further increase their property portfolios if required and widen the areas in which they operate. This will reduce the need to continually increase the number of asylum seekers accommodated in certain communities. This follows work to increase the number of local authority areas that participate in the asylum dispersal scheme, which I am pleased to report has increased the number of participating areas by over one third in the past 18 months.

The Department will continue to monitor the providers closely to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the contract and work closely with non-Government Organisations and service users to respond to feedback and continue to improve the system.

My officials have started work on putting in place new arrangements for when these contracts expire in 2019. This work is at an early stage and we are engaging with a range of stakeholders to consider options for the future arrangements.

Contingent Liability

[HLWS336]

Lord Ashton of Hyde: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage (Tracey Crouch) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

A minute has been laid before Parliament regarding the funding for Olympic & Paralympic sport via UK Sport,

and specifically in relation to incurring a contingent liability.

UK Sport funds Olympic & Paralympic sports and athletes from a mixture of grant-in-aid and income from the National Lottery, and makes its decisions on which sports and which athletes to support at the beginning of each Olympic and Paralympic cycle. Uncertainty around the level of National Lottery income in future years means that the UK Sport may need to make decisions based on conservative assumptions of Lottery income. This could impact the number of sports and the number of athletes that could be supported between now and the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020.

To avoid this the Department for Culture, Media and Sport intends to provide, from its available funds, an underwrite of UK Sport's expected National Lottery income so that should it fall below a certain level, the Department will provide additional funding to allow TeamGB and Paralympics GB to be properly supported in Tokyo.

This exceptional measure for the current Spending Review period acknowledges that UK Sport rely on future revenues to agree funding packages now, at the beginning of the next Olympic and Paralympic cycle, to allow the most talented athletes and sports men and women to achieve success at Tokyo.

The Treasury has approved the proposal and if the liability is called, provision for any payment will be sought through the normal Supply procedure. This will be funded from within existing DCMS control totals and only applies up to the end of the current Spending Review period in 2019-20. A full departmental Minute has been laid providing more detail on this contingent liability.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Departmental Minute [DeptMinute-olympic-paralympic-funding.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-12-08/HLWS336/>

December Agriculture Council

[HLWS337]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (George Eustice) has today made the following statement.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council will take place on 12-13 December in Brussels. I will represent the United Kingdom.

As the provisional agenda stands, the primary focus for Fisheries will be reaching Political Agreements on 2017 fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of stocks in EU waters, certain non-EU waters and the Black Sea.

On Agriculture, draft conclusions will be adopted on strengthening farmers' position in the food supply chain and tackling unfair trading practices. There will be an

exchange of views concerning agriculture and climate change, and a progress report on the proposed organics regulation.

There are currently 2 confirmed Any Other Business items labelled for this Council:

- Plant breeders' rights (tabled by the Presidency)
- Information on the application of new plant health regulation (tabled by the Commission).

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

[HLWS331]

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

The 2015-16 Annual Report and Accounts for the Gangmasters Licensing Authority are today being laid before the House and will be published on www.gov.uk. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office.

HMIC: PEEL Legitimacy and Leadership Report

[HLWS334]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Fire and Policing (Brandon Lewis) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published its Legitimacy and Leadership reports as part of the 2016/17 PEEL inspection programme. Today's report by the Inspectorate delivers, in general, a positive assessment of forces' ability to keep individuals safe and reduce crime whilst acting with legitimacy and in providing effective leadership.

The Legitimacy report includes the response to a commission by the Prime Minister, then Home Secretary, to examine the issue of police officers developing inappropriate relationships with victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable individuals. And in this area, its findings are shocking.

As the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, I wish to reiterate that the vast majority of police officers and police staff, including PCSOs, conduct themselves with the highest standards of integrity. The Inspectorate highlights a number of positive stories of best practice that have developed within some police forces to address the issues related to abuse of authority and inappropriate relationships.

However, HMIC's findings indicate that more is needed from the policing profession as a whole to demonstrate to the public, and to the perpetrators, that there is no place in policing for those who abuse their authority for sexual gain. Where these instances do occur it undermines justice, lets down the majority of decent, hardworking individuals serving in policing, and causes serious damage to the public's confidence in the police.

While some progress has been made in tackling this issue, decisive action is needed to improve how forces detect and respond to this type of abuse where it occurs. Today I have written to both the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing to set out the Government's expectations and commission the further work needed to address the short-comings HMIC has identified.

Code on Professional Boundaries and Personal Relationships

First, a clear message is required for all who serve in policing about the need for professional boundaries to be maintained and the importance of police officers and police staff not using their professional position to pursue inappropriate relationships with current or former victims, witnesses or suspects. There must be zero tolerance for those who overstep these boundaries and this change in culture is needed across all ranks and all aspects of policing.

The College of Policing are now looking at the feasibility of developing a new supplementary addendum to the Code of Ethics. The addendum would establish clear guidelines on Professional Boundaries and Personal Relationships to set out the expectations and requirements of all who serve in policing in maintaining appropriate relationships and responding to these issues where they occur. I have asked that the College further support this work by building this issue into training and other work on vulnerability.

National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) led work to produce a national strategy for dealing with corruption and abuse of authority for sexual gain

Secondly, there is need for the sector to be more consistent in how it identifies and responds to this wrongdoing, with a need for improved capability in many forces to proactively detect and deter police officers and staff acting in this way.

Work is already underway within the NPCC to establish a national strategy for dealing with abuse of authority for sexual gain and associated corruption which should be ready by the end of March 2017. The Chair of the NPCC, Chief Constable Sara Thornton, will now ensure this strategy addresses the capability concerns that HMIC have identified, including systems and device monitoring, risk profiling and intelligence gathering to identify individuals who have used police databases or devices to seek out vulnerable people to establish sexual contact.

National Consistency in recording and reporting

HMIC's report indicates there is a shortcoming in how different forces define and report these offences leading to inconsistent understanding of the scale and handling of these matters.

Therefore as part of the national strategy, The NPCC will ensure this includes a consistent definition which clarifies how abuse of authority relates to corruption, and how policing should record and respond to these matters where they are identified.

Mandatory Referral to the Independent Police Complaints Commission

Finally, we must ensure that the legislative framework is clear in setting out how these matters should be handled.

Abuse of authority for sexual gain constitutes serious corruption and should be referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission for consideration. However, as HMIC's report makes clear, forces are not referring all such matters.

The Government therefore intends to bring forward changes to the Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 to put beyond doubt that these matters must be referred automatically to the IPCC.

I am confident that these concrete measures will build on the recent steps taken by police forces across England and Wales to address these issues. There must be no doubt that further action and stronger leadership across all ranks is needed to prevent, identify and respond to the harm caused by those who abuse their position of authority.

The message must be unequivocal that those who do abuse their power for sexual gain have no place in policing.

Implementing Geological Disposal: Annual Report

[HLWS330]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Today my honourable Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has made the following statement:

I am pleased to announce today the publication of the sixth annual report of the Government's Implementing Geological Disposal Programme. The programme is focused on implementing the geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste.

The UK Government remains firmly committed to geological disposal as the right policy for the long-term safe and secure management of higher-activity radioactive waste, and continues to favour an approach that is based on the willingness of local communities to participate in the siting process.

The publication of the Implementing Geological Disposal White Paper in July 2014 set out the policy framework for the future implementation of geological disposal in the UK. Government has been progressing the 'Initial Actions' set out in the White Paper, and formal discussions between interested communities and the developer will begin once the 'Initial Actions' are complete.

The sixth annual report can be found at: <http://www.gov.uk/beis>. I have also written to the Chairs of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee and the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, and I have made available copies in the Libraries of the House.

Offshore Patrol Vessels Names

[HLWS335]

Earl Howe: My hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Procurement (Harriett Baldwin) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce that the two additional Offshore Patrol Vessels that we committed to build in last year's Strategic Defence and Security Review will be named HMS TAMAR and HMS SPEY. The construction of the first, HMS TAMAR, formally began today.

These names follow the River Class nomenclature of the Royal Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel fleet and continue the tradition of recognising the service, history and Battle Honours of earlier ships of the name.

Since 1758, six ships have been named after the River Tamar in South West England, and Battle Honours were won for Burma 1824-25 and Ashantee 1873-74. Most recently, HMS TAMAR was the name of the Royal Navy's shore establishment in Hong Kong until 1997.

Since 1814, seven ships have been named after the River Spey in North East Scotland, and Battle Honours were won for the Atlantic 1940-43, North Africa 1942-43 and Burma 1944-45. The most recent ship, a minesweeper, left service in 1998.

These new 2,000 tonne ships, together with the three already in build, will deliver a more modern and capable fleet, supporting our destroyers and frigates in delivering their tasking, as well as enhancing our contribution to maritime security and fisheries protection.

Written Answers

Thursday, 8 December 2016

Afghanistan: Reserve Forces

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Earl Howe on 18 November (HLWS268) concerning the call-out of Reserve Forces for service in Afghanistan, what is the purpose of a continued British military presence in that country, and why it is necessary to use Reserve Forces rather than serving personnel. [HL3723]

Earl Howe: The UK continues to make a key contribution to NATO's Operation RESOLUTE SUPPORT; non-combat, train, advise and assist mission to build a secure and stable Afghanistan. Our forces are focussed on mentoring at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy and advising Ministers and officials in the Afghan Security Ministries. The UK also leads the Kabul Security Force, which coordinates security for NATO personnel in Kabul, holds the position of Deputy Commander Operation RESOLUTE SUPPORT and contributes three Puma helicopters to assist UK and NATO mobility.

Reserve Forces make an essential contribution to delivering the nation's security and are a highly valued part of our Armed Forces. The Army 2020 structure sets out our whole force concept, and our Reserve Forces serve alongside their Regular counterparts on operations around the world, including the UK's current military contribution to NATO's Operation RESOLUTE SUPPORT in Afghanistan.

Apprentices: Standards

Asked by Lord Aberdare

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether an organisation has been approved to carry out the end-point assessment for apprenticeship standards; and if not, which organisation will be approved. [HL3513]

Lord Nash: All end-point assessments must be carried out by an independent assessment organisation on the Skills Funding Agency's Register of Apprentice Assessment Organisations to ensure they are high-quality. Each assessment organisation is approved to deliver the end-point assessment for a specific apprenticeship standard, rather than for all apprenticeship standards.

The assessment market has been adjusting rapidly for most new apprenticeship standards. 61% of all apprentice starts on standards have an end-point assessment organisation available to them, whether they are close to needing end-point assessment or not. This rises to 94% coverage of all apprentice starts, including those who are expected to approach their end-point assessment within the next 12 months, for which an organisation is about to be put on the register.

There are a small number of standards that already have starts, but for which an assessment organisation has not yet been confirmed. We are examining those lower-volume apprenticeships to resolve this and ensure there is always end-point assessment provision by the time apprentices complete their apprenticeship. This includes working with apprenticeship Trailblazer groups and potential assessment organisations to fill gaps in provision and put contingency plans in place.

Council Housing: Construction

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the new £18 million fund to accelerate house building will be used to build council houses. [I] [HL3536]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The £18 million fund is a 'capacity fund' to tackle planning issues that can cause delay and prevent builders from getting on site and starting work quickly.

It can be used to facilitate house building on all ownership and tenure models.

Council Tax: Valuation

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to undertake a revaluation of properties with a view to amending council tax bands. [HL3554]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The government has no plans to undertake a revaluation of properties.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will extend Disability Living Allowance to children under the age of three who suffer from severe medical conditions which require them to have bulky medical equipment with them at all times. [HL3763]

Lord Freud: Families with children under the age of three are able to claim the care component of Disability Living Allowance where the child's care needs are substantially in excess of the needs of a child of the same age without a disability.

From 9 April 2001, the age condition for entitlement to the higher rate mobility component was lowered from 5 years to 3 years. In deciding to set the lower age limit, the department considered views of medical advisors and independent research; while the development of walking ability varies from child to child, by age 3 it was felt that it is realistically possible in the majority of cases to make an informed decision as to whether an inability to walk is the result of disability.

We do however appreciate the difficulties that some families with severely disabled children aged under 3 face. We have met stakeholders at both Ministerial and

official level to hear their concerns first-hand and are continuing to consider the matter.

Exports

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to follow a policy of export substitution. [HL3478]

Lord Price: This Government is committed to promoting UK exports of goods and services, to support a growing economy that creates wealth for all, supports jobs and meets our wider national interests. The Department for International Trade is working to deliver the best international trading framework for the UK to maximise global trade and investment opportunities.

Female Genital Mutilation

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of progress in ensuring that all those involved in child protection are aware of, and take action to prevent, the procedure of female genital mutilation. [HL3531]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will commission research to ascertain attitudes towards female genital mutilation, including motivations for continuing to use the procedure and awareness of the law prohibiting it. [HL3533]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the female genital mutilation (FGM) unit will be given the remit, powers and budget to become the sole source for safeguarding girls at risk and eradicating FGM. [HL3535]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Government has taken a range of measures to support professionals, increase our understanding of FGM and co-ordinate activity across Government.

This includes:

- a mandatory reporting duty requiring regulated health and social care professionals and teachers to report known cases of FGM in under 18s to the police came into force on 31 October 2015.
- publishing new multi-agency guidance on 1 April for all frontline professionals, including the police, which is statutory, for the first time.
- over 70,000 professionals have completed our free FGM e-learning, which we have updated to include information on the recent changes to the law.

- the Department of Health's £4 million FGM Prevention Programme which is improving the NHS response

- Department for Education have funded the Barnardo's and Local Government Association's National FGM Centre which is working to strengthen the social care response.

The Government also recognises the importance of gathering and disseminating information on the prevalence of, and attitudes to, FGM. In addition, we are part-funding a 2015 prevalence study and we have also introduced the recording and publication of FGM patient data across the NHS in England. We will not stop FGM until we have changed attitudes within communities. In July 2016, the Department of Health delivered a targeted patient and public facing FGM prevention advertising campaign based on our understanding of the motivations for FGM which has generated over 650,000 views on social media.

We continue to work closely with community organisations, faith groups and survivors to better understand the motivations behind FGM. The FGM role and function is to coordinate work across Government and carry out outreach work. However, we are clear that all agencies have a role to play in tackling FGM.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the Home Office FGM unit has formed operational links with police forces and Border Force airside operations to provide them with intelligence and guidance on high risk countries in relation to female genital mutilation. [HL3608]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish regular reports from the Home Office FGM unit showing high level results, progress in police investigations and examples of best practice; and whether these will then be disseminated to all professionals with a mandatory duty to report female genital mutilation. [HL3609]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in relation to female genital mutilation, they are taking steps to investigate additional legislative measures to ensure that more prosecutions are secured. [HL3610]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Home Office's FGM Unit works closely with Border Force, who play a vital role in helping to identify and protect potential victims of FGM travelling to and from the UK. Border Force officers work in close partnership with other agencies, including social services and non government organisations. Between June and

September, a number of operations took place at airports targeting inbound and outbound flights to and from countries with a high prevalence of FGM, forced marriage and human trafficking.

Information on live police investigations is sensitive and there is therefore a limit to how much information can be shared externally. To help encourage the sharing of best practice, we have recently published statutory multi-agency guidance providing information on this in relation to FGM. The FGM Unit has also recently visited all forces in England and Wales to understand their response to these issues and identify and collate examples of best practice.

We have significantly strengthened the law on FGM, through the Serious Crime Act 2015, to improve protection for victims and those at risk and to break down barriers to prosecution identified by the police and Crown Prosecution Service. Our focus is now on embedding the new legislative measures and we are working with the police, College of Policing, CPS and others to drive progress, including as part of work following HMIC's review into so-called 'honour-based' violence. The Government will however keep the legal framework under constant review.

Housing: Construction

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the time period for the spending of the £7.2 billion on housing announced in the Autumn Statement. [I] [[HL3539](#)]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The government's announcement of £7.2 billion to support the construction of new homes at the Autumn Statement is part of the new National Productivity Investment Fund. The Fund will add £23 billion in high-value investment from 2017/18 to 2021/22.

Within the £7.2 billion envelope, the government will provide an additional £1.4 billion to deliver an additional 40,000 affordable housing starts by 2020/21. The Autumn Statement envelope also includes borrowing by housing associations from private sector sources as a result of the additional investment. The government will also invest £1.7 billion by 2020/21 to speed up house building on public sector land. Finally, the government announced a new Housing Infrastructure Fund of £2.3 billion by 2020/21 which will deliver up to 100,000 new homes. Further details on how this fund will be allocated to local authorities will be set out in due course.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Freud on 24 June 2015 (HL542), how many individual members of Jobcentre Plus staff have undergone training on human trafficking. [[HL3733](#)]

Lord Freud: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) policy is to develop its staff in the skills and knowledge required to support a range of claimants sensitively and to respect their individual needs. The DWP aim is to identify and direct victims of human trafficking at the earliest opportunity to agencies able to support them.

The training for DWP staff is contained within an overarching "Vulnerability" session. The number of Jobcentre Plus staff who have undergone the training since publication in January 2016 is 10,156.

Occupational Pensions

Asked by Lord Moonie

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much time they expect it will take self-employed and small businesses to complete the administration associated with the new statutory pension scheme; and whether they will recompense small businesses for their time if all their employees opt-out. [[HL3670](#)]

Lord Freud: The Government is committed to helping people achieve financial security in later life and is reforming the pension system as part of its efforts to encourage a culture of saving. Automatic enrolment was introduced to enable most people in work to save for later life. It has been a great success to date with over 6.8 million eligible workers enrolled by more than 290,000 employers since it began in 2012 and it is important we recognise the contribution employers have made to this achievement.

Automatic enrolment is currently being extended to small and micro employers. While the self-employed are not eligible for automatic enrolment, they will have legal duties to enrol any eligible workers in their employ. The Government understands that these employers may find complying with automatic enrolment challenging and we are doing all we can to make automatic enrolment as straightforward as possible for this group. The Department and The Pensions Regulator (TPR) are focussed on making compliance with automatic enrolment duties as clear as possible, as well as simplifying the language regarding automatic enrolment.

As part of this work, TPR has launched an interactive "Step by Step" guide on their website. This simplified guide to meeting AE duties is designed to meet the specific needs of employers who may not have pensions experience, including those with just one or two staff. The guide includes a duties checker so that employers can easily find out what they will need to do to comply and when. Using the duties checker also means employers will receive tailored communications relevant to their circumstances.

What an employer pays and the amount of time they spend on setting up automatic enrolment will depend on various factors, including how they use business advisers, how they run their payroll and which pension scheme they choose.

From research it has conducted, TPR estimates that small employers with between one and four staff members usually spend a total of about 10 hours overall carrying out all their automatic enrolment tasks, over a 12 month period before their staging date. This research has also shown that average costs associated with outsourced payroll are less than £200 while average pension scheme set up costs are under £500.

Automatic enrolment is a legal duty for employers, just like paying the National Living Wage, tax and National Insurance. There are no plans to reimburse employers for time or costs should their employees choose to opt-out. However, less than one in ten people are choosing to opt-out which is much lower than originally estimated. We have also seen around 5% of people not eligible for automatic enrolment choosing to opt-in to their employer's pension scheme.

Peru: Indigenous Peoples

*Asked by **Baroness Royall of Blaisdon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the implementation of the Peruvian Law on the Right of Consultation of Indigenous Peoples 2011. [\[HL3550\]](#)

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: This law was a notable step forward in protecting the rights of indigenous peoples in Peru.

Our Ambassador to Peru discussed the issue with the Peruvian Minister for Culture on 11 August. The Minister confirmed his intention to strengthen the Indigenous People's Department in his ministry to facilitate implementation of the law. We will continue to work with the Peruvian Government on this important area of activity.

Peru: Rain Forests

*Asked by **Baroness Royall of Blaisdon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of oil spills on the environment and the livelihoods of indigenous populations in the Peruvian Amazon; and what contact the UK Ambassador to Peru has had with those communities. [\[HL3548\]](#)

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Our Ambassador to Peru discussed this with the Peruvian Environment Minister on 15 August and the Energy Minister on 2 September. The Peruvian Ministry of Environment believe affected areas will take a year to recover, whereas independent scientists are of the opinion that this will take much longer and damage may be irreversible, with a direct impact on livelihoods and local economies.

The Ambassador last met indigenous communities during an official visit to Iquitos in late 2015.

Police: Biometrics

*Asked by **Lord Scriven***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many of the 19 million custody images that are being stored on the Police National Database would have to be removed if the same retention rules that apply to DNA and fingerprints were put into place. [\[HL3551\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Police National Database does not link custody images to individual crime records. Therefore this information could only be obtained through a costly and time-consuming review of all images held by forces.

Ports

*Asked by **Lord Berkeley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Docks and Harbours Act 1966 and the Harbour (Loans) Act 1972 continue to have any legislative effect; and if not, whether they have any plans to repeal those Acts. [\[HL3800\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I can confirm that certain provisions of these Acts are still extant and that the Government has no plans to repeal these Acts.

Prisoners' Transfers: Northern Ireland

*Asked by **Lord Browne of Belmont***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many offenders were transferred from prisons in England and Wales to prisons in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [\[HL3521\]](#)

*Asked by **Lord Browne of Belmont***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prisoners sentenced in Northern Ireland have been transferred to prisons in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [\[HL3522\]](#)

Lord Henley: The table below gives the number of prisoners transferred from prisons in England and Wales to Northern Ireland and from prisons in Northern Ireland to England and Wales in the last 3 calendar years.

Year	From England and Wales to Northern Ireland	From Northern Ireland to England and Wales
2013	11	2
2014	6	3
2015	12	3

The transfer of prisoners between UK jurisdictions is governed by the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997. Prisoners are able to apply to serve their sentences in their own jurisdiction close to home if they wish to do so. Few prisoners do so.

Refugees: Children

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are proposing to resettle in the UK a proportion of the estimated 85,000 unaccompanied child refugees who have made asylum applications in other EU member countries. [HL3544]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, the Government committed to relocating a specified number of unaccompanied child refugees from Europe. The specified number will be announced in due course.

Under the family reunion provisions of the Dublin III Regulation, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who have family already in the UK can be transferred to the UK for consideration of their asylum claim. Between 1 January 2016 and 1 October 2016, over 140 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Europe have been accepted for transfer to the UK under the family reunion provisions of the Dublin Regulation, compared to fewer than 20 in 2015.

Since 10 October, we have transferred over 300 unaccompanied children to the UK from France. This includes over 80 girls, many of whom were identified as being at a high risk of sexual exploitation; and more than 200 children with close family links to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation. The Home Secretary told Parliament on 24 October that several hundred more children and young people will be brought to the UK in the coming days and weeks.

Tajikistan: Uzbekistan

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have conveyed a message to the governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to congratulate them on the agreement to restore air and rail links between those two countries; and if not, whether they will consider doing so. [HL3685]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The restoration of air and rail links between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is indicative of an improvement in the relationship between the two countries in our recent months, something which the UK has welcomed in regular dialogues with both governments.

Teachers: Re-employment

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many teachers have taken early retirement and then subsequently taken up temporary teaching posts in each of the last three years. [HL3523]

Lord Nash: The number of teachers who take early retirement (from state-funded schools in England) in each year from 2012-13 to 2014-15 is provided in the following table:

Actuarially Reduced and Premature [1] [2]

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men and Women</i>
<i>Financial year (1 April to 31 March)</i>			
2012-13[3]	2,460	5,400	7,870
2013-143	2,260	4,950	7,220
2014-153	2,160	4,790	6,950

Source: Pensioner Statistical System (PENSTATS).

The annual School Workforce Census records temporary staff on a contract of less than one month, but it is not possible with the data available in the current form to link retirements to temporary contracts.

[1] Excludes sixth form colleges.

[2] Includes phased retirements and in these cases the teachers may remain in service.

[3] Provisional figures which continue to be subject to slight revision due to the addition of retrospective awards.

Transport: Lancashire

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals are set out in the Autumn Statement for increased spending on transport schemes in Lancashire; and whether they include improvements to the railway between Preston and Colne such as the construction of a passing loop on the 11-mile single-track siding between Gannow Junction and Colne. [HL3528]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Autumn Statement provided an additional £2.3 billion for transport including: £1.1 billion for the local road network and £220 million to relieve congestion on the strategic road network; £150m for flood resilience activity; £80m to accelerate the rollout of Smart Ticketing; £390m for future transport technologies such as low emission and connected autonomous vehicles; and £450 million to trial digital signalling technology on the rail network to help improve reliability. We will announce in due course how this money will be spent, but it is likely to include investment in Lancashire.

There were no specific provisions in the Autumn Statement for improvements to the railway between Preston and Colne. However, as part of our commitment to transport investment to build the Northern Powerhouse, passengers travelling on that line will get a full hourly Sunday service – twice as many trains on Sunday compared to now, and with the entire Northern fleet being refurbished, passengers will notice rolling stock improvements across the franchise. Beyond that there is a franchise wide, £38m investment in bringing stations up to standard, with benefits for many stations including new

platform seating, replacement shelters, new waiting rooms and toilets, and customer information screens.

Next year the Government will set out its priorities for investment in railway services and infrastructure in the

next railway Control Period (2019-2024). This will be informed by advice from the industry, Transport for the North and other stakeholders.

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