



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 16 September 2016 and the information is correct at the time of publication (03:41 P.M., 16 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

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ Business

Dr Paul Monaghan: [\[45593\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment the Government has made of the potential effect on UK business of the UK's decision to leave the EU.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The fundamentals of Britain's economy are strong. Leaving the EU provides an opportunity for even greater openness with international partners, including Europe. The Government remains committed to making Britain the best place in Europe to grow a business and to achieve this, we will support industry and encourage Foreign Direct Investment.

■ COST

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45383\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will discuss with Cabinet colleagues prioritising the UK's continuing membership of and participation in the COST network in negotiations to leave the EU.

Joseph Johnson:

UK membership of COST is independent from European Union membership and does not form part of the negotiations to leave the EU. COST is an intergovernmental framework with 36 member countries, including Iceland, Turkey and other countries that are not European Union member states. Our future membership of COST will be decided on the basis of its continuing value to the UK.

■ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Diana Johnson: [\[45725\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, (a) how much funding and (b) how many full-time equivalent staff will be transferred to his Department from the Department for Energy and Climate Change upon the conclusion of the process of merging that Department with his Department.

Joseph Johnson:

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) transferred its responsibilities and resources to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in full.

■ Industry

Dr Paul Monaghan:

[\[45498\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to prepare an industrial strategy as a result of the UK's decision to leave the EU.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The focus on a proper industrial strategy provides a once in generation chance to embrace the opportunities of our new global role and upgrade our economy so it works for everyone. We will work with the breadth of British industry, local leaders, innovators, employees and consumers to create the conditions for future success across the UK.

The economic recovery of recent years means that our economy is better able to withstand the challenges of exiting the European Union. Our industrial strategy will support and encourage companies to trade internationally, create a business environment that will attract overseas investors to locate for the long term and identify and maximise the opportunities from leaving the European Union.

■ Motor Vehicles: Telecommunications

Daniel Zeichner:

[\[45690\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what research his Department is undertaking on standards for short-range vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles is currently engaged in the second phase of a joint project with the British Standards Institute and the Transport Systems Catapult to map current standards, identify gaps, and determine how best to utilise standards in support of UK industry. This work encompasses vehicle connectivity such as short-range vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication and will report early next year.

■ Satellites

Daniel Zeichner:

[\[45496\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to encourage companies to capitalise on markets that make use of satellite data, such as maritime surveillance and satellite broadband.

Joseph Johnson:

The industry-led Space Innovation and Growth Strategy set out that space services and applications are likely to provide the majority of future growth in the sector. Maritime surveillance and satellite broadband were highlighted in this strategy as priority growth opportunities, and the UK Space Agency has been working with industry to remove barriers to growth and develop specific opportunities in these areas.

In 2013, Innovate UK established the Satellite Applications Catapult specifically to help UK industry to develop applications and services based on space data and grasp these

new opportunities. The UK Space Agency's Space for Smarter Government Programme works across Government to promote the intelligent use of space data. An outcome from that programme is the use of satellite broadband to support the NHS's mobile breast-cancer screening services.

■ Space Technology

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45521\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to encourage investment in British space and satellite companies.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government's intent to grow the UK's Space sector was set out most recently in our National Space Policy, which we published in 2015. The UK Space Agency deploys a broad range of mechanisms, working with other delivery partners such as Innovate UK, Local Economic Partnerships, the European Space Agency and the Satellite Applications Catapult, to encourage investment in British Space companies. These measures include working closely with industry to identify and remove regulatory barriers to growth, investing in innovative technology needed to enter new space markets and building the national facilities essential to develop the UK's future space products. We have also set up the structures needed to drive investment and growth, for example, the UK Space Gateway at Harwell in Oxfordshire. The UK Space Agency also works closely with the Department for International Trade to secure overseas inward investment and develop export opportunities for the space industry.

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45522\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether he plans for the proposed UK spaceport to have vertical launch capacity.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government is examining the case for commercial spaceflight and launching small satellites from both runway-based spaceports and a vertical launch spaceport. The UK Space Agency is working with the Department for Transport to draft legislation that will enable both horizontal, sub-orbital and vertical launch spaceflight operations from the UK as part of the Modern Transport Bill.

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45694\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will pursue an expanded national space programme alongside the UK's contribution to the European Space Agency.

Joseph Johnson:

The UK obtains excellent value from its investment as a member of the European Space Agency (ESA), allowing UK scientists to engage in world-class science in earth observation, space science, exploration, robotics and microgravity research, and providing significant commercial opportunities for UK industry.

The UK's investment in ESA enables our involvement in research programmes like the Rosetta-Philae mission (the first ever landing on a comet) and the GAIA mission (mapping the galaxy in an unprecedented level of detail).

In addition to our investments through ESA, the UK also funds a National Programme, whose budget has grown from around £20m p.a. when the Agency was established on 1st April 2011, to £88m p.a..

The Government protected funding for space in cash terms in the recent spending review, and both our investment in ESA, and our National Space Programme, support the development of the UK space sector, which is growing at a much faster rate than the economy as a whole.

CABINET OFFICE

■ Cabinet Office: Career Breaks

Tom Watson:

[\[46009\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many officials in his Department have applied for career breaks in the last 12 months.

Ben Gummer:

Records of applications for career breaks – approved and rejected – are not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs to determine.

I can confirm, however, that at 31st August 2016, 26 officials in my Department had commenced an approved career break in the last 12 months.

■ Cabinet Office: Heathrow Airport Limited

Zac Goldsmith:

[\[46249\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate he has made of the number of staff departing from (a) his Department and (b) the Prime Minister's Office who accepted jobs with Heathrow Airport Limited; and what estimate he has made of the number of staff arriving in (i) his Department and (ii) the Prime Minister's Office from Heathrow Airport Limited in each of the last five years.

Ben Gummer:

The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

■ Cabinet Office: Secondment

Tom Watson:

[\[46276\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many staff have been seconded into his Department from outside the Civil Service in the last 12 months.

Ben Gummer:

In the last 12 months, 15 individuals have been seconded into my Department from outside the Civil Service.

Secondments bring in external expertise and a fresh perspective across the department's responsibilities, and include secondees from the private, public and voluntary sector.

■ Civil Servants: Training

Diana Johnson: [\[45820\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 17 June 2016 to Question 40168, what proportion of Civil Service Fast Streamers undertook a regional placement in each fiscal year since 2009-10.

Ben Gummer:

The Fast Stream Scheme uses graduate years rather than fiscal years for the Fast Stream Cycle of 1 September – 31 August. The total number of Fast Streamers per graduate year that undertook regional placements based on our Fast Stream cycle is shown below.

All

YEAR	PROPORTION*	TOTAL*	COMMENT	POPULATION
1 st Sep 2013 – 31 Aug 2014	41%	111	Includes postings to secondment organisations and government departments	269
1 st Sep 2014 – 31 Aug 2015	35%	181		519
1 st Sep 2015 – 31 Aug 2016	34%	213		628

Notes

* The figures are for those on the Corporate Generalist Fast Stream Programme who have undertaken posts outside of London during that particular year

* The data was calculated on 12/09/2016

■ Government Departments: Scotland

Natalie McGarry: [\[45811\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will make it his policy that all Government departments undertake a cross-cutting review on the effect of their policies on (a) inequalities in health and (b) deprivation in (i) Glasgow and (ii) Scotland.

Ben Gummer:

All UK Government policies and legislation that extend to Scotland in reserved areas, as would be the case with Wales and Northern Ireland, are accompanied by the necessary economic and equality impact assessments, which are published.

■ Government Digital Service: Resignations

Tom Watson: [\[46017\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many staff in the Government Digital Service have left his Department since 13 July 2016.

Tom Watson: [\[46018\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many officials have left his Department since 13 July 2016.

Ben Gummer:

Between 13 July 2016 and 13 September 2016, 71 staff left my Department. The majority of these departures, 50 in total, were planned exits (loans and fixed-term appointments ending, retirements, transfers out to other Departments, and voluntary exits).

Of those staff who left the Department, six were employed in the Government Digital Service. Over the same period, 67 staff joined the Government Digital Service.

■ Honours: Males

Karl McCartney: [\[46010\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 12 September 2016 to Question 44840, on honours: males, if he will take steps to ensure that all future press releases on honours nominations include men when appealing for nominations of people who deserve an honour.

Ben Gummer:

Anyone can nominate anyone for an honour. The Cabinet Office outreach includes this message in all public communications, including press releases.

■ Infrastructure and Projects Authority

Tom Watson: [\[46274\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the current work priorities are of the Infrastructure and Projects Authority.

Ben Gummer:

The IPA was formed on 01 January 2016, merging the existing Cabinet Office Major Projects Authority and HM Treasury's Infrastructure UK. The IPA reports jointly to HMT and the Cabinet Office - and brings together the strengths of both departments - increasing co-operation and alignment in the centre of government on infrastructure and major projects.

The Authority's 6 key priorities are;

1. To set the right policy environment for projects to succeed
2. To give the market confidence to deliver
3. To ensure projects and programmes are set up for success from the outset

4. To ensure projects and programmes deliver their intended benefits
5. To promote the right operating environment for project delivery
6. To developing world-class project delivery & project finance capabilities across government

■ **Public Sector: Procurement**

Steve McCabe: [\[45594\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the large increase in public sector contracts going out to tender since the EU referendum.

Ben Gummer:

The overarching principle behind all public procurement policy is to award contracts on the basis of achieving the best value for money for the taxpayer.

It is the responsibility of the individual contracting authorities to decide whether, how and when to go to market for the procurement of goods and services.

Analysis by the Crown Commercial Service shows no significant variation in the number of above threshold opportunities advertised in the Official Journal of the EU. Analysis of opportunities over £10k advertised on Contracts Finder show a drop in the levels of procurement activity prior to the referendum, consistent with deferring advertisements during the Civil Service's period of "purdah", rather than a sudden increase in new activity since the referendum.

TREASURY

■ **PAYE**

Mr Nicholas Brown: [\[45478\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment his Department has made of the need to simplify the PAYE system; and whether the Government plans to take any steps to simplify that system.

Jane Ellison:

Between now and 2020, the Government's vision is to build a transparent and accessible UK tax system that is fit for the digital age and reduces the burden on taxpayers. HM Revenue and Customs has embarked on a major transformation programme – Making Tax Digital – to do this.

The successful introduction of PAYE Real Time Information (RTI) represented the biggest change to the UK payroll process since PAYE began in 1944. It provided an important step for the Government towards Making Tax Digital and the creation of digital accounts which will enable taxpayers to see and manage their tax affairs online in real time.

■ Revenue and Customs: Concentrix

Mr Graham Allen: [\[45797\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer to Question 44728, how many (a) amended and (b) cancelled tax credit claims account for the savings in annually managed expenditure identified.

Jane Ellison:

Since the contract with Concentrix began in November 2014, Concentrix have amended around 103,000 tax credit claims up to and including 11 September 2016. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Concentrix, acting on HMRC's behalf, do not separate out the number of awards that are either partially amended or stopped.

■ Soft Drinks: Taxation

Natalie McGarry: [\[45949\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what work his Department has done to assess the potential effect of the soft drinks industry levy on levels of obesity in children and teenagers.

Jane Ellison:

The Chief Medical Officer has said that reformulation and resizing are the key wins to tackle obesity.

The Soft Drinks Industry Levy has been specifically designed to encourage companies to reduce the amount of added sugar in their products and move consumers towards healthier choices, by promoting low-sugar brands and introducing smaller portion sizes for high-sugary drinks.

The government will monitor industry progress in reformulation over the coming years.

■ Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Mr Graham Allen: [\[45416\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, for what reasons there is a difference between the 30-day and the 42-day limit for HM Revenue and Customs and Concentrix to reply to mandatory reconsideration requests.

Mr Graham Allen: [\[45417\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many tax credit claims have been stopped as a result of checks by Concentrix since the beginning of its contract with his Department; and what the total saving was to the public purse resulting from the stopping of such claims.

Mr Graham Allen: [\[45418\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how long, on average, Concentrix has taken to conduct mandatory reconsiderations for tax credits; and how long the (a) shortest and (b) longest such mandatory reconsiderations took in each year since that company has been contracted by his Department.

Mr Graham Allen: [\[45419\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many applications for mandatory reconsideration of a tax credits decision have been made to Concentrix in each month since January 2016.

Mr Graham Allen: [\[45420\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many applications for mandatory reconsideration of a tax credits decision are awaiting determination by Concentrix.

Mr Graham Allen: [\[45421\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many independent tribunal cases have been brought to challenge mandatory reconsiderations of tax credits by Concentrix in each month since that company has been under contract with his Department.

Mr Graham Allen: [\[45467\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the Answer of 12 January 2016 to Question 21278, what differentiates the types of tax credit claim adjustment cases worked by Concentrix and by HM Revenue and Customs.

Jane Ellison:

Since the beginning of the contract between SYNEX-Concentrix and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), in November 2014, to 11 September 2016, Concentrix has adjusted around 103,000 cases. HMRC does not hold information on how many are full adjustments or partial adjustments. The total savings in Annually Managed Expenditure have been £284.1 million since commencement of the contract in November 2014.

As of 12th September 2016 there are currently 2197 applications for Mandatory Reconsiderations of a Concentrix tax credit decision awaiting determination.

HMRC has received the following volume of Mandatory Reconsiderations relating to tax credit decisions made by Concentrix since January 2016:

JANUARY 2016	653
February 2016	571
March 2016	409
April 2016	1047
May 2016	77
June 2016	276
July 2016	426
August 2016	1205
Up to 12 th September 2016	464

The total number of Mandatory Reconsiderations received is about 1.6% of all Concentrix decisions made.

The number of independent tribunal cases that have been received challenging Mandatory Reconsiderations of tax credit decisions by Concentrix in each month since the contract began have been:

NOVEMBER 2014	0
December 2014	0
January 2015	0
February 2015	0
March 2015	3
April 2015	1
May 2015	5
June 2015	7
July 2015	3
August 2015	2
September 2015	22
October 2015	50
November 2015	40
December 2015	38
January 2016	71
February 2016	98
March 2016	46
April 2016	35
May 2016	57
June 2016	22
July 2016	32
August 2016	23
Up to 12 th September 2016	7

The total number of tribunal appeals received is about 0.08% of all decisions Concentrix made in the same period.

HMRC and Concentrix have the same target for processing Mandatory Reconsiderations. Both HMRC and Concentrix inform customers that they have 30 days to submit a Mandatory Reconsideration after receipt of their award notice. After receipt of the request for a Mandatory Reconsideration, HMRC and Concentrix aim to deal with them in 42 days. This time period includes any time that it takes to request and receive further information from the claimant.

Concentrix currently reviews a number of tax credit case types on HMRC's behalf. Specifically Concentrix looks at cases where there is a potential undeclared partner, or potential inaccuracies with work and hours and/or child care charges. HMRC staff carry out a wider range of checks based on a different set of parameters and risk factors.

Since the beginning of the contract, the average time taken by Concentrix to conduct Mandatory Reconsiderations for tax credits decisions is 23 days.

The shortest time for dealing with Mandatory Reconsiderations was 6 days in 2014/15, 1 day in 2015/16 and 5 days in 2016/17.

The longest time for dealing with Mandatory Reconsiderations was 261 days in 2014/15, 330 days in 2015/16, 122 days in 2016/17.

As discussed during the responses on the floor of the House on 14 September regarding this issue, HMRC is no longer passing new cases to Concentrix. Concentrix is instead working to improve the service it provides to claimants and to resolve outstanding cases.

■ World Expo

Andrew Gwynne: [\[45560\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential effect on regional trade growth in the UK of hosting the 2025 World Expo.

Mr David Gauke:

The government continues to promote regional trade growth across the UK, and has recently established the new Department for International Trade to promote the UK's exports and trade and drive inward investment. As ever, we remain open to opportunities to promote growth across the UK and encourage further international trade and investment.

■ World Expo: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: [\[45561\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions his Department (a) has had and (b) plans to have with representatives of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on Manchester's bid to host the World Expo in 2025.

Mr David Gauke:

HM Treasury officials have regular discussions with representatives of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on how the government can best support this region. The government continues to support Manchester's events industry through the Government's Events Industry Board and our £1m Events Support Programme.

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[45562\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the Government's policy is on providing support for Manchester's bid to host the World Expo in 2025.

Mr David Gauke:

The government is committed to supporting the Greater Manchester events industry, including through VisitBritain, the Government's Events Industry Board and our £1m Events Support Programme. As ever, the government is open to considering the full range of options for supporting this region.

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[45563\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with his ministerial colleagues on Manchester's bid to host the World Expo in 2025.

Mr David Gauke:

The government is committed to supporting the Greater Manchester events industry, including through VisitBritain, the Government's Events Industry Board and our £1m Events Support Programme. The Chancellor holds regular discussions with Ministerial colleagues on how we can best support growth in regions across the UK.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

■ Mobile Phones

Jeff Smith:

[\[45884\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the effect on consumers of the practice by certain mobile phone companies of enforcing a two-week wait before customers can receive their unlock codes in order to change provider.

Matt Hancock:

At Autumn Statement 2015, we challenged the mobile phone industry to improve their handset unlocking practices; since then operators have committed to unlocking many more of their customers' handsets for free, and as of this autumn, no major mobile provider will charge a customer to unlock their phone outside of an initial contract period.

During the Government assessment of handset unlocking practices in early 2016, the major mobile providers were challenged on their turnaround times for issuing unlock codes. Although many providers state that it can take up to 10 working days to issue an unlock code, this is only in the instance that the provider has to contact the handset

manufacturer to obtain the unlocking code. In the majority of cases, providers are able to issue unlock codes within 1-3 working days.

■ Tourism: Battles

Mr Geoffrey Cox: [\[45887\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will take steps to promote battlefield tourism in (a) England and (b) Northam in Torridge and West Devon constituency.

Tracey Crouch:

There are 46 Registered Battlefields in England, 22% of these are located in the South West. Through the recently published Tourism Action Plan and Discover England Fund this Government is encouraging visitors, both domestic and international, to venture beyond London, so that the benefits of growth can be felt across the whole of the UK.

■ Youth Services

Cat Smith: [\[45636\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of making the provision of youth services a statutory duty for councils.

Mr Rob Wilson:

Government does place an existing statutory duty on local authorities through the Education Act 2006 (Section 507B) to secure, as far as is practicable, sufficient services and activities to improve the wellbeing of young people. However, in fulfilling this responsibility government believes that local authorities should be empowered to decide how best to secure services that meet the needs of young people within the budget that is available to them.

Government is committed to ensuring all young people can reach their full potential and has recently announced an £80 million investment in the youth sector that is being delivered through the Youth Investment Fund and the #iwill Fund.

Cat Smith: [\[45647\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies and those of local authorities of the findings of the Unison report, A Future at Risk, published in August 2016, on the number of places in youth services that have been lost since 2010; and whether she plans to increase the number of such places.

Mr Rob Wilson:

It is the responsibility of local authorities to decide how to allocate funding for youth services, according to local need. There is an existing statutory duty on local authorities through Education Act 2006 (Section 507B) to secure, as far as is practicable, sufficient services and activities to improve the wellbeing of young people. Individual local authorities would be best placed to advise on whether there are plans to increase the number of places in youth services in their local area.

Government is committed to ensuring all young people have the best possible start in life. To demonstrate this, it has recently announced an £80million investment in the youth sector that is being delivered through the Youth Investment Fund and the #iwill Fund.

■ Youth Services: Closures

Cat Smith:

[\[45637\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what information her Department holds on the number of youth centres planned for closure in 2016-17.

Mr Rob Wilson:

It is the responsibility of local authorities to decide how to allocate funding for youth services, according to local need. Individual local authorities would be best placed to advise on any youth centres that are planned for closure in their local area in 2016-17.

DEFENCE

■ Aircraft Carriers

Douglas Chapman:

[\[45993\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what modifications are needed to the two Queen Elizabeth-class carriers in order for them to deploy Bell-Boeing MV-22 Osprey aircraft.

Harriett Baldwin:

The Bell-Boeing MV-22 is not part of the resourced plan to deliver the UK Carrier Strike capability. However, in aspiring to high levels of interoperability between UK and US carriers, the Ministry of Defence will continue to explore the options and implications of operating US aircraft from the Queen Elizabeth Class carriers, potentially including MV-22 on an opportunity basis.

■ Frigates

Douglas Chapman:

[\[46000\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when he expects the pre-concept phase activity for the General Purpose Frigate programme to conclude.

Harriett Baldwin:

It is too soon to say when the pre-concept phase will conclude.

■ Kurds: Military Aid

Jim Shannon:

[\[45867\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make it his policy to provide equipment and training support to the army of the Kurdistan regional government; and if he will make a statement.

Mike Penning:

Since 2014 UK Service personnel have been deployed to the Kurdish region to train and support the Peshmerga in their fight against Daesh. In addition, the UK has gifted some 50 tonnes of non-lethal support, 40 heavy machine guns and over a million rounds of ammunition, with the most recent shipment delivered in July 2016.

■ **Type 45 Destroyers****Jim Shannon:**[\[46180\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how much repairs to Type 45 ships will cost; and whether the cost will be borne out of existing funds or a new allocation.

Harriett Baldwin:

To reveal our current estimates of the cost of this upgrade would be prejudicial to the commercial interests of the Department. I can confirm, however, that funding for this improvement programme is to be contained within the budget allocated to Navy Command.

EDUCATION■ **Academies****Stephen Timms:**[\[45322\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many academies have been removed from their multi academy trust on the initiative of (a) Regional School Commissioner and (b) Minister in each of the last three years.

Edward Timpson:

[Holding answer 12 September 2016]: The following table shows the number of academies that have been removed from MATs in the last three academic years.

ACADEMIC YEAR	NUMBER OF ACADEMIES
2013/14	3
2014/15	38
2015/16	38

Academies and free schools removed from trusts in 2013/14, prior to the appointment of regional schools commissioners, would have had ministerial approval. Since September 2014, RSCs would have made this decision in the majority of cases.

■ **Adoption****Justin Tomlinson:**[\[44624\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the availability of social workers throughout the adoption process.

Edward Timpson:

We do not centrally collect the number of social workers who work on adoption in local authorities. The Ofsted social care annual report 2016 states that “The majority of local authorities deliver either good or outstanding adoption services, and this reflects a pattern that has been established for many years.” It further states that “Adoption remains the most positively judged area of social care practice in local authorities. Where practice is good, social workers are tenacious about finding and supporting the right family, with high quality and timely preparation and work with the courts.”

Basic Skills**Mr Roger Godsiff:**[\[45391\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if the Government will ensure that the current number of places in adult education classes on numeracy and literacy will be maintained following the projected merging of further education institutions.

Robert Halfon:

The post 16 area reviews are aimed at improving the quality and relevance of the teaching offer to learners as well as ensuring the long term financial viability of colleges. The reviews take account of the best available evidence including the demand for numeracy and literacy in the local area. 22 area reviews are underway and there is no evidence that access to learning, including access to adult education classes on numeracy and literacy, is being reduced as a result of the area reviews.

Department for Education: EU Nationals**Mr Chuka Umunna:**[\[45508\]](#)

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

Caroline Dinenage:

The Department does not keep records of whether its employees are citizens of other EU countries. Departmental staff includes Executive Agencies, but excludes Non-Departmental Public Bodies and all non-payroll staff as this information is not held centrally.

Education Funding Agency: Staff**Mr David Winnick:**[\[45240\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many staff at the Education Funding Agency assist with assessing applications to the Condition Improvement Fund; and how many staff assisted with such applications in each of the last three years.

Edward Timpson:

[Holding answer 12 September 2016]: Each CIF application was assessed twice independently. 9 EFA technical assessors worked on the assessment of CIF bids between January and February 2016 (alongside other duties). The EFA also contracted 2 external technical assessor suppliers to assess CIF applications. These suppliers assessed CIF bids

between January and February 2016. Each supplier utilised some 25-30 assessors in total through the period, reducing or increasing levels according to the progress they were making against the deadline for assessing bids. In addition 9 other EFA staff worked on the Condition Improvement Fund throughout the 2016-17 programme on matters like processing applications and managing assessors.

The resource approach to previous bidding rounds has been similarly based on the volume of applications received.

■ Further and Higher Education

Natalie McGarry: [45653]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential risks to further and higher education in (a) Scotland and (b) the UK of the UK leaving the EU.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government values students, educators and researchers from outside the UK who come to learn and work in the UK, including in its devolved nations. UK universities, further education (FE) colleges and providers are home both to world-class teaching and to world-leading research, and exiting the EU will not change this. Future arrangements for migration, higher education and FE student funding, and UK students studying abroad will need to be considered as part of wider discussions about the UK's relationship with the EU.

■ GCSE

Mr Pat McFadden: [45583]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of children receiving free school meals obtained five GCSEs, including English and mathematics in each local authority area in England in the latest year for which figures are available.

Edward Timpson:

The percentage of pupils who are eligible for free school meals and obtained five GCSEs, including English and mathematics, in each local authority area in England is published in table LA8 as part of the "GCSE and equivalent attainment by pupil characteristics 2015" statistical first release (SFR)[1].

[1] KS4 SFR 2014/15:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/493475/SFR01_2016_LA_Tables.xlsx (Table LA8)

Julian Sturdy: [45641]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps have been taken to ensure that teachers are able to identify the progress of students in (a) English language, (b) English literature and (c) mathematics who will be assessed using the new GCSE grading structure in the summer of 2017.

Nick Gibb:

The Department, together with Ofqual and Awarding Organisations, is working closely with schools to help them to understand and be ready for new GCSEs. Sample assessment materials, mark schemes and grade descriptors are all available and will help schools to understand what is required.

Assessment of pupils' progress is a matter for schools. School leaders and teachers should use their professional judgement to establish their own assessment systems that best support teaching.

From this year, Progress 8, which measures the progress that pupils make across 8 qualifications compared to other pupils nationally with similar prior attainment, will be reported for the first time. Progress in each of the subject elements of Progress 8, including English and maths, will also be published. This new accountability system is a fairer way of measuring school performance and will incentivise and reward the good teaching of all pupils.

■ Grammar Schools: Pupil Premium**Lisa Nandy:**[\[45764\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of grammar school entrants are in receipt of the pupil premium in (a) England and (b) each region.

Edward Timpson:

The proportion of grammar school pupils in receipt of the pupil premium in (a) England and (b) each region are given in the table.

REGION	NUMBER OF GRAMMAR SCHOOLS	PROPORTION OF PUPILS RECEIVING PUPIL PREMIUM
East Midlands	15	12.5%
East of England	8	5.6%
London	19	7.6%
North West	19	6.9%
South East	57	8.1%
South West	20	9.2%
West Midlands	19	10.0%
Yorkshire and the Humber	6	7.4%
England Total	163	8.5%

■ Languages: GCE A-level**Steve McCabe:**[\[45591\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the potential effect of the decreasing uptake of languages at A-level on (a) the uptake of language courses at university and (b) the number of language graduates training to be language teachers.

Nick Gibb:

The decline in the study of modern foreign languages started in 2004 when the former Government removed the compulsory study of languages from the Key Stage 4 curriculum. By 2010 fewer than half – 43 per cent – of pupils took a GCSE in a modern foreign language, down from 76 per cent of pupils in 2000. The inclusion of a modern foreign or ancient language in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) increased the number of students studying at least one language at GCSE between 2010 and 2015. This has increased the pool of students able to progress to study languages at A level and beyond. The Government will publish their response to the EBacc consultation in due course and is already incentivising the take-up of language A levels in the 16-19 performance tables through the facilitating subject measure.

To support prospective students' choice of degree we are making improvements to the information they can access, particularly on the employment outcomes they can expect from their Higher Education (HE) studies. This should allow students to understand better the advantages of studying a language at university. Furthermore, provisions in the Higher Education and Reform Bill, currently before Parliament, will allow Government, in future, to instruct the HE regulator to incentivise or protect the supply of courses, such as language courses, which are economically and culturally important.

We are also encouraging the best language graduates to enter the teaching profession, through financial incentives such as a bursary of £25,000 for trainees with a first class or 2:1 degree in languages.

■ Pre-school Education: Finance**David Mackintosh:**[\[45680\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how she plans to ensure that the forthcoming review of fair funding for early years education will include measures to help close the attainment gap at age five.

Caroline Dinenage:

This Government is committed to narrowing the gap in attainment between the most disadvantaged children and their peers, including in the early years. We will be investing over £1 billion more per year by 2019-20 to fund our commitments on the early years entitlements – this includes £300 million per year from 2017-18 for a significant increase to the hourly rate paid for the two, three and four year old entitlements.

The 2014-15 Early Years Foundation Stage 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. Furthermore, 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.

We need to continue this improvement. This is why we propose an additional needs factor in our new early years national funding formula, in order to channel funding towards local authorities with a higher relative proportion of children with additional needs. Our consultation on early years funding reform is currently open, and I would encourage my Honourable Friend and his constituents to submit their views.

The Government already provides additional funding for the most disadvantaged three- and four-year olds through the Early Years Pupil Premium. This will continue as a separate funding stream, additional to the early years national funding formula.

■ Pupils: Gender Recognition

Richard Burden:

[45468]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that appropriate pastoral and other support is available in schools for people who identify as transgender.

Caroline Dinanage:

We are committed to building a society where transgender people feel safe and supported. While individual schools are best placed to decide what pastoral support to put in place, they do this in the framework set by the public sector equality duty.

The provisions of the duty are not intended to be burdensome but set some clear expectations. The Department's guidance on how the duty applies to schools can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>.

It sets out that the duty includes having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity for pupils with protected characteristics – including those who identify as transgender – and schools have to publish information on how they are complying.

The guidance also sets out that advancing equality of opportunity involves, in particular:

- (a) removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people which are connected to a particular characteristic they have;
- (b) taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular characteristic; and
- (c) encouraging people who have a particular characteristic to participate fully in any activities.

To further support LGB&T pupils we recently announced £4.4 million in funding over the next two years to support anti-bullying schemes. This includes £2.8 million for six projects tackling homophobic, transphobic and biphobic (HBT) bullying. Bullying is best tackled as part of a whole-school approach to create inclusive environments where

pupils get appropriate support and the HBT-focused projects will support schools with doing that.

■ Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr David Winnick:

[\[45241\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many applications were made for funding for substantial building repair work at (a) secondary and (b) primary schools in 2015-16; and how many such applications for such funding there were in 2016-17.

Edward Timpson:

[Holding answer 12 September 2016]: The Education Funding Agency (EFA) provides a Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) for eligible academies to access. The table below sets out the number of CIF applications made by primary and secondary schools for projects to address their building condition needs over the years specified:

CIF 2015-16 ROUND	PHASE OF EDUCATION	TOTAL OF APPLICATIONS
	Primary	1,244
	Secondary	1,383
	All-through	119
	Total	2,881
CIF 2016-17 ROUND	PHASE OF EDUCATION	TOTAL OF APPLICATIONS
	Primary	1,512
	Secondary	1,426
	All-through	155
	Total	3,212

■ Universities: International Cooperation

Daniel Zeichner:

[\[44879\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to promote closer links between UK and non-EU universities.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government recognises the important contribution that universities bring to the UK through engagement with their international peers.

The Government is promoting the international success of UK universities through bilateral engagement with overseas partners, the 'Britain is GREAT' marketing campaign,

which has an education pillar, and the Chevening and Commonwealth scholarship schemes.

Programmes such as the UK China Partners in Education programme and the UK India Education Research Initiative have brought long-term international collaboration.

Our international research is being enhanced through the Government's Newton Fund, a £735 million UK investment matched by partner countries, linking our universities with researchers in sixteen major emerging economies. Our £1.5 billion Global Challenge Research Fund and £1 billion Ross Fund support universities engaging in global challenges including health, agricultural technologies and water research.

British universities have a world-class reputation for both education and research. Globally, the UK has four universities in the top ten and nine in the top fifty in the QS rankings, has a 10% share of the international student recruitment market, and 15.9% of the world's most highly-cited research articles.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Fisheries

Zac Goldsmith: [\[45492\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Written Statement of 14 July 2016, HCWS89, on the June Agriculture and Fisheries Council, in what cases exceptions should be made to reaching Maximum Sustainable Yield targets.

George Eustice:

The Government supports setting EU Total Allowable Catches (TACs) at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) in 2017 wherever possible. In accordance with the provisions of Council Regulation 1380 / 2013 a delay in reaching MSY beyond 2017 would be allowed if a proposed TAC reduction would seriously jeopardise the social and economic sustainability of the fishing fleets involved. A decision may also be taken by the Council not to do so if it would merely increase the discarding of fish especially in a mixed fishery.

EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION

■ Europol

Diana Johnson: [\[45269\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what his policy is on future UK membership of Europol.

Diana Johnson: [\[45271\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what his policy is on future UK involvement in the European Arrest Warrant.

Diana Johnson:

[\[45272\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will make it his policy to continue UK access to the Schengen Information System for law enforcement purposes once the UK exits the EU.

Mr Robin Walker:

We are leaving the EU but co-operation on security with our European and global allies will be maintained. We will do what is necessary to keep our people safe - our aim will be to continue cooperation where it is in the national interest to protect the public. We are about to begin these negotiations and it would be wrong to set out unilateral positions in advance.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

■ Ilois: Resettlement

Dr Paul Monaghan:

[\[45523\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he plans to take in respect of the recommendations in paragraph 41 of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's concluding observations on the 21st to 23rd periodic report, published on 26 August 2016, on facilitating the resettlement of the Chagossians.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Government is aware of the recommendations of the Committee of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in respect to the resettlement of Chagossians. Ratification of the Convention has not been extended to the British Indian Ocean Territory and such questions remain outside the remit of the Committee. The Government remains committed to its review of current policy on resettlement and will continue to keep Parliament, Chagossians and their supporters closely informed of progress on the issue.

■ Kashmir: Violence

Gill Furniss:

[\[45719\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he has taken to encourage a de-escalation of violence in Kashmir in response to the recent unrest in that region.

Alok Sharma:

I remain very concerned by reports of violence and offer my condolences to the victims and their families. The UK abides by its commitments under international law and expects all countries to comply with their international legal obligations. Our High Commission in Delhi is monitoring the situation closely and we have updated our travel advice.

■ South Korea: Dogs

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[\[45849\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to the South Korean government on the dog meat trade.

Alok Sharma:

I spoke to the Republic of Korea (ROK) Ambassador on 12 September, ahead of a Westminster Hall Debate on the dog meat trade in ROK, to raise the issue of the dog meat trade and highlight the strength of feeling among the British public and Parliamentarians on this issue. As I stated in the Westminster Hall Debate, there is evidence that attitudes among the ROK public towards the dog meat trade and animal welfare are changing. We hope to encourage that change. The British Ambassador in RoK most recently raised the dog meat trade directly in Seoul on 1 September, highlighting our concerns about the treatment and welfare of animals. The UK has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and the British Government will continue to promote animal welfare with our international partners.

I have included a copy of the transcript of the 12 September Westminster Hall Debate with this answer.

Attachments:

1. Dogmeat debate, Westminster Hall, 12/9/2016 1630 [PQ45849 Dog Meat Debate Transcript.docx]

■ Uzbekistan: Politics and Government

Rehman Chishti:

[\[45377\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports he has received on the future leadership of Uzbekistan following the death of President Karimov.

Sir Alan Duncan:

On 8 September, a joint session of the Upper and Lower Chambers of the Uzbek Parliament appointed Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoev as Acting President of Uzbekistan and tasked the Central Electoral Commission to organise Presidential elections. The Central Electoral Commission has since announced that these will take place on 4 December.

HEALTH

■ Blood: Contamination

Diana Johnson:

[\[45710\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to his Department's publication, *Infected blood: Government Response to Consultation on Reform of Financial and Other Support*, published in July 2016, whether it is his policy that people with hepatitis C will continue to receive payments even if they clear the condition following successful treatment.

Nicola Blackwood:

It is the Department's policy that the registrants of existing payment support schemes, who were infected with hepatitis C through National Health Service-supplied blood or blood products and have subsequently cleared the virus through treatment, should receive continuing support in recognition of what has happened to them.

Diana Johnson: [\[45711\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether he plans that the new, single trust for people affected by contaminated blood will be a registered charity; whether he plans that that trust will have trustees representing (a) his Department, (b) the Haemophilia Society and (c) the infected community; and whether he plans that the registered beneficiaries of that trust will be contacted from the (i) wider beneficiary community registered with the MFET and Skipton Fund or (ii) narrower list of people registered with the Caxton Foundation, Eileen Trust or MacFarlane Trust.

Nicola Blackwood:

There will be a new scheme administrator combining the discretionary and annual payment functions of the existing five schemes into a single scheme going forward.

The new scheme administrator will become operational in the financial year 2017/18 and the current bodies will operate until the new scheme is operational.

The Department has initiated the pre-market engagement phase of the procurement process for identifying a new scheme administrator. At this stage, it is too early to comment on who will be successful in the procurement process and what their internal governance arrangements will be.

Diana Johnson: [\[45712\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, who his Department plans to consult before finalising details of the reformed discretionary support scheme for people affected by the contaminated blood scandal.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department already consulted on our proposals and have listened carefully to the consultation responses to frame our plans for reform of the discretionary support scheme.

Diana Johnson: [\[45713\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether enhanced payments for people infected with Stage 1 Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated blood will be backdated to April 2016 if their appeal through the special appeals mechanism after 2017-18 is successful.

Nicola Blackwood:

In 2017/18, we will introduce a special appeals mechanism for people currently at stage 1 of their hepatitis C infection, to apply for a higher level of payment, equivalent to the stage 2 annual payments of £15,500. Details of the appeals mechanism are still being developed. Any individual successful in their appeal when operational, will not have

these backdated to April 2016, but will be backdated from the point they submitted their application.

Diana Johnson: [\[45715\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether the new single trust to be set up in 2017-18 to support people affected by contaminated blood will redirect all postage, telephone calls and website visits to the addresses, telephone numbers and web addresses of the previous five trusts.

Nicola Blackwood:

The new single scheme administrator will be responsible for developing transitional plans with the current schemes to address this.

Diana Johnson: [\[45716\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether the special appeals process for people infected with Stage 1 Hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated blood will be managed by (a) his Department or (b) the new single trust which will be established from 2017-18.

Nicola Blackwood:

In 2017/18, we will introduce a special appeals mechanism for people currently at stage 1 of their hepatitis C infection, to apply for a higher level of payment, equivalent to the stage 2 annual payments of £15,500, details of which are still being considered. We envisage that the new single scheme administrator will administer and manage such a process.

Diana Johnson: [\[45717\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the total budget in each year of the Spending Review Period will be for the new support package for people affected by contaminated blood.

Nicola Blackwood:

The annual budget for the new support scheme will range between £46.2 million and £46.6 million for each year of the Spending Review period.

Diana Johnson: [\[45726\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to paragraph 4.4 of his Department's document, *Infected blood: Government Response to Consultation on Reform of Financial and Other Support*, published in July 2016, whether payments for people with stage 1 hepatitis C who obtain higher payments equivalent to stage 2 through the Special Appeals Mechanism will be uprated in line with the consumer prices index.

Nicola Blackwood:

All annual payments to beneficiaries of the support schemes will continue to be linked to the Consumer Price Index under the new arrangements from 2017/18.

Diana Johnson: [\[45731\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to paragraph 1.10 of his Department's paper, Infected blood: Government Response to Consultation on Reform of Financial and Other Support, published in July 2016, whether survey respondents were asked whether they were infected with both HIV and hepatitis C.

Diana Johnson: [\[45732\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to paragraph 1.10 of his Department's paper, Infected blood: Government Response to Consultation on Reform of Financial and Other Support, published in July 2016, whether survey respondents infected with hepatitis C were additionally asked whether they had stage 1 or stage 2 hepatitis C.

Nicola Blackwood:

Responses to the consultation were provided on a voluntary basis and none of the questions asked were compulsory. Consultation respondents were asked in separate questions to indicate if they had hepatitis C and/or HIV, from infected National Health Service supplied blood/blood products. Whilst respondents were not asked specifically whether they had stage 1 or stage 2 hepatitis C, many voluntarily offered this information.

■ Community Nurses

Ms Diane Abbott: [\[45499\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he plans to take to maintain or increase the number of district nurses; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Health Education England (HEE) operate an annual comprehensive planning process to ensure their investments meet the future needs of the population including the National Health Service requirement for district nurses. This process determines the education commissioning volumes for the following financial year and is published in the Workforce Plan for England.

Since 2013/14 HEE has increased district nursing education and training commissions by over 25%. In 2016/17 they have commissioned 505 district nurse training places in their Workforce Plan for England maintaining the levels of commissions from 2015/16. Workforce commissions for 2017/18 will be published in December 2016.

■ Department of Health: Finance

Diana Johnson: [\[45819\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether his Department's (a) £10 million payment to the Macfarlane Trust in 1987 and (b) £500,000 payment to the Eileen Trust in 1993 was allocated to his Department's capital budget or revenue budget.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department does not hold the information requested.

The Department only holds data for the last seven financial years, in accordance with departmental policy for retention of financial data, and the Finance Act 1998 - Schedule 18 Part III, Duty to keep and preserve records.

The government spending control regime has changed many times since the period referred to in the question, however generally payments to charities such as these would score as "grants". The treatment of a grant as "revenue" or "capital" is explained on page 31 of HM Treasury's Consolidated Budgeting Guidance 2016-17, which can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/503365/Consolidated_budgeting_guidance_2016-17.pdf

■ Doctors: Pensions

Andrea Jenkyns:

[45367]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the average lifetime allowance on retirement is for existing consultants and GPs; and what the average private sector pension pot is on retirement.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The National Association of Pension Funds Annual Survey 2013^[1] states that the average pension paid to scheme members of defined benefit schemes is around £8,100 a year. A pension of this amount at retirement is likely to be valued at between £160,000 and £200,000 for lifetime allowance purposes.

The average value of pension for lifetime allowance purposes is £920,000 for consultants and £1,012,000 for general medical practitioners.

The data underlying the average pension figures, that were supplied by the Government Actuary's Department above, are based on NHS Pension Scheme membership data as at 31 March 2015 and covers both 1995 and 2008 section members.

The average pension figures are taken from the active member data and based on average accrued pension for those aged 59 and over in 1995 scheme and 64 and over in 2008 scheme. Note that these are mostly 1995 section members so they will also qualify for a lump sum of three times their pension.

We are unable to identify consultants directly from the data, so the above figures are based on data for all officers earning over £76,001 (the lowest pay threshold for a consultant in 2016/17 on a 2003 contract). The results will therefore include some non-consultants, and the figure could potentially be skewed by inclusion of other higher earners, for example specialist nurses who have additional non-basic pensionable pay.

There could be potential skewing caused by recent trends of high earners opting out/retiring from the scheme (they would therefore not be in the underlying data used to derive the above pension amounts).

[1] <http://www.plsa.co.uk/PressCentre/news/0494-National-Association-of-Pension-Funds-Annual-Survey-2013-key-findings.aspx>

■ Health Professions: Training

Andrea Jenkyns: [45371]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the cost to the public purse is of training a (a) consultant, (b) junior doctor, (c) GP and (d) nurse.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Department does not hold information on the average cost to the taxpayer of training someone to become a consultant, junior doctor, general practitioner (GP) and nurse.

The Personal Social Services Research Unit at the University of Kent estimates within their report 'Unit Costs of Health and Social Care 2014', published in 2015, that the average cost in 2014/15 of training to become a consultant is £508,819, the cost to be a junior doctor is £380,850, the cost to be a GP is £385,523, and the training cost to be a nurse is £80,807.

These figures reflect the pre-registration costs of tuition, living expenses/lost production and clinical placements and the post-graduate costs of tuition and replacement costs not the average cost to the taxpayer.

■ Health Visitors

Ms Diane Abbott: [45506]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in the availability of health visiting services on patients receiving those services; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Government is committed to achieving good health outcomes for children and young people. Local authorities are responsible for commissioning appropriate services for 0-5 year olds in their areas, including health visiting. Public Health England monitors a range of outcomes for child health. This includes information provided by local authorities for health visiting services high impact actions such as reducing smoking in pregnancy and managing a healthy weight in 4-5 year olds. The majority of these show steady state of improvement[1].

The Health Visitor Programme, which concluded in 2015, introduced a new service model for the profession to help develop improved access, user experience and outcomes, as well as reducing health inequalities. The Health Visitor programme also saw the workforce increase considerably enabling more families to be reached. Professional groups indicate the service model has provided increased awareness of the service by users and a better structured delivery.

[1] Chimat Early Years Profiles

<http://atlas.chimat.org.uk/IAS/dataviews/report/fullpage?viewId=433&reportId=482&geoid=17&geoReportId=4494&select=EN>

■ Health: Children

Ms Diane Abbott:

[45504]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of changes in the availability of health visiting and school nursing services on health outcomes for children and young people; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The Government is committed to achieving good health outcomes for children and young people. Local authorities are responsible for commissioning appropriate services for 0-19 year olds in their areas, including health visiting and school nursing. Public Health England monitors a range of health outcomes for children, provided by Local authorities, including the health visiting services' high impact actions, such as reducing smoking in pregnancy and managing a healthy weight in 4-5 year olds. The majority of these show a steady state of improvement[1].

Whilst no similar collection of data is made for school nursing services, and therefore no assessment has been made, school nurses are key providers of both the National Child Measurement Programme and childhood immunisations, both of which show significant uptake rates[2].

Both the Health Visitor Programme and School Nurse Programme, which concluded in 2015, introduced new service models for both professions to help develop improved access, user experience and outcomes, as well as reducing health inequalities. The Health Visitor programme also saw the workforce increase considerably enabling more families to be reached. Both professional groups indicate the service models have provided increased awareness of the service by users and a better structured delivery.

[1] Chimat Early Years Profiles

<http://atlas.chimat.org.uk/IAS/dataviews/report/fullpage?viewId=433&reportId=482&geolId=17&geoReportId=4494&select=EN>

[2] National Child Measurement Programme <https://www.noo.org.uk/NCMP>

■ Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination

Mike Freer:

[45640]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, on what date HPV vaccinations were made available to men who have sex with men; and how many such men have received that vaccination since that date.

Nicola Blackwood:

A pilot programme offering human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to men who have sex with men up to the age of 45 who attend participating HIV and genitourinary medicine Mclinics started on 6 June 2016.

Information on the number of HPV vaccinations administered during the pilot is being collected and, as such, is not yet available. It is anticipated that initial validated data covering the period up to the end of September will be available in late November.

■ Huntington's Disease

Greg Mulholland: [\[45696\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what support his Department makes available to families who are supporting relatives with Huntington's disease.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Government published the UK Strategy for Rare Diseases in November 2013. The Strategy is signed up to by the four home countries of the United Kingdom. The Strategy contains 51 high level commitments which comprise a long term strategic vision for improving the lives of all those with rare diseases. The focus throughout is patients and their families.

The UK Strategy includes commitments to empower those affected by rare diseases including making sure that patients and their families have a say in decisions about treatment and in the planning, evaluation and monitoring of services.

The Strategy also recognises the important role played by patient organisations such as the Huntington's Disease Association in the provision of support, information and advice and helping patients and their families feel less isolated.

■ Huntington's Disease: Health Services

Greg Mulholland: [\[45765\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of help and support available to people with Huntington's disease.

Nicola Blackwood:

Adult specialised neuroscience services, including those for people with complex neurological issues, some of which will relate to Huntington's disease, are commissioned by NHS England's specialised commissioning teams. However, a large part of the care that Huntington's patients require will be accessed through local hospital and general practitioner (GP) services. These services are funded by local clinical commissioning groups and as such are not specialised services.

Patients with Huntington's disease have access to a range of services including their GP, associated health professionals neurology services, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and local mental health services. Additional resources, information and advice are available through patient organisations such as the Huntington's Disease Association.

■ Huntington's Disease: Medical Treatments

Greg Mulholland: [\[45766\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to encourage the development of treatments for Huntington's disease.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Government, through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), has established the Rare Diseases Translational Research Collaboration (TRC) with an initial investment of £20 million over four years. The Rare Disease TRC provides world-class National Health Service research infrastructure to support fundamental discoveries and translational research on rare diseases; increasing research collaboration to lead to improved diagnosis, treatment and care, and to support deep phenotyping of people with rare diseases.

The NIHR funds research infrastructure to translate developments in pre-clinical research in neurological conditions, including Huntington's disease, into benefits for patients including new treatments. This infrastructure includes the NIHR University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre.

■ **Junior Doctors****Andrea Jenkyns:**[\[45364\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many times he has met the Interim Chair of the Junior Doctors Committee since 7 July 2016.

Mr Philip Dunne:

My Rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made clear that he wishes to work with the British Medical Association to address Junior Doctors concerns. He has met with Dr Ellen McCourt, the interim Chair of the Junior Doctors' Committee, three times between her appointment and 31 August. The meetings were on 7 and 28 July and 30 August 2016.

■ **Junior Doctors and Teachers: Pensions****Andrea Jenkyns:**[\[45368\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the average employer pension contribution is for a (a) junior doctor and (b) teacher; and what the average private sector employer contribution is under the workforce pension.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The table below shows average employer contribution in terms of rates and cash amounts. When comparing the contribution rates payable for the public service schemes the different benefit structures of each scheme should be taken into account.

	AVERAGE PENSIONABLE PAY (£)	AVERAGE EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATE (%) ¹	AVERAGE EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PER MEMBER (£)
Junior doctors ²	37,000	14.3	5,300
Teachers ³	38,400	16.4	6,300
Civil servants ⁴	28,100	20.9	5,900
Firefighters ⁴	31,500	17.6	5,500

Police officers ⁴	37,600	22.1	8,300
Private sector (DB)		15.8 ⁶	4,110
Private sector (CARE)	26,000 ⁵	12.7	3,300
Private sector (DC)		2.9 ⁷	750

¹ The employer contribution rates quoted for the public sector schemes are taken from the latest published 2012 valuation reports National Health Service Pension Scheme, Teachers' Pension Scheme, Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, Firefighters' Pension Schemes and Police Pension Schemes and payable by employers from 1 April 2015 to 1 April 2019.

² The average pensionable pay figure here is for a junior doctor on the consultant training path, assuming an average total pay amount of £53,000 per annum of which £37,000 per annum is basic and thus pensionable. These figures are based on NHS Digital data as at June 2015.

³ The average pensionable pay figure for teachers is taken from the 2012 Teachers' Pension Scheme valuation report, by averaging the pensionable pay amounts for actives with Normal Pension Age (NPA) 60 and NPA 65.

⁴ The average pensionable pay figures for civil servants, firefighters and police officers are taken from the 2012 valuation report.

⁵ The average pensionable pay figure for the private sector is taken from table 6 of the Office of National Statistics – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2015. The survey refers to a single pay figure for members across all schemes, however in practice we would expect members of Defined Benefit (DB) schemes to be higher earners. It is also not clear how much of this pay figure is pensionable. Note the public and private sectors have workforces which are composed quite differently making comparison difficult.

⁶ The contribution rates for the private sector are taken from the Occupational Pension Schemes Survey: 2014. The average DB contribution rate also takes account of the contributions paid into Career Average Revalued Earning (CARE) schemes.

⁷ The average Defined Contribution (DC), contribution rate of 2.9% has fallen since previous analysis was performed, following the introduction of auto enrolment legislation. This may be due to a rise in the number of new members paying the minimum rates which will pull the average down. The minimum contribution rates required under auto enrolment will rise from 1% to 2% in April 2018 and 3% in April 2019. It should be noted that the 2.9% represents the average contribution rate actually paid by employers rather than the maximum rate employers may offer to pay (due to matching contribution structures).

■ Junior Doctors: Conditions of Employment

Andrea Jenkyns: [\[45369\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many negotiation meetings his Department and NHS Employers have had with the BMA on the junior doctors' contract since 2013.

Mr Philip Dunne:

There have been 51 formal negotiation meetings. There were 41 up to February 2016, when agreement could not be reached; and 10 ACAS negotiation meetings in May 2016, culminating in the agreement with the British Medical Association (BMA).

The parties also met eight times in early 2013 to agree Heads of Terms for the negotiations that began in 2013, and had five days of ACAS-facilitated discussions in November 2015 to agree a memorandum of understanding for the negotiations that began in December 2015 and ended without agreement. There were also a number of discussions following the May agreement to clarify some of the detail before the contract was published and put to BMA members for a vote.

■ Junior Doctors: Industrial Disputes

Andrea Jenkyns: [\[45365\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of five days' strike action by junior doctors each month until the end of 2016 on the training of junior doctors.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Health Education England's (HEE) primary concern is patient safety.

An initial census of HEE activity during the first strike period shows that significant numbers of education and training events involving senior clinicians may need to be re-arranged across England; Annual Reviews of Competence Progression, recruitment, teaching/ education events, Training Committees/Boards. This will affect trainees and senior clinicians as events will all need to be rearranged.

Recruitment may need to be re-arranged in the following specialties; Anaesthesia, Combined Infection Training, Clinical Genetics, Gastroenterology, Geriatric Medicine, General Practice, Plastic Surgery, Rheumatology, Gynaecological Oncology (Sub specialty). Due to time elapsed the national recruitment timetable may need to be amended, which would impact all specialties.

On an individual basis, General Medical Council guidance states that if a trainee misses more than two weeks (when a trainee would normally be at work), over and above annual leave, the satisfactory training progression of a trainee should be reviewed at their next Annual Review of Competence Progression. For trainees on the Foundation Programme, the trigger point is 20 days.

Andrea Jenkyns: [\[45366\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the potential financial loss incurred by a junior doctor would be for each week of strike action.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The loss in earnings faced by individual striking doctors depends on their normal level of earnings and the extent to which their working patterns for the week falls within the periods of strike action. However, based on average earnings, a Junior Doctor taking part in five full days of strike action can be estimated to lose around £675 in gross earnings.

■ **Junior Doctors: Pensions**

Andrea Jenkyns: [\[45370\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the expected pension benefits at normal pension age are for a junior doctor commencing training in August 2016 if they become a (a) consultant and (b) GP.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The expected pension benefit for a junior doctor commencing training in August 2016 (on the new contract terms) will be £67,200 per annum if they become a consultant and £68,800 per annum if they become a general practitioner.

■ **Maternity Pay**

Andrea Jenkyns: [\[45372\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what maternity pay is received by (a) junior doctors, (b) teachers, (c) police officers and (d) firefighters.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Some employers provide occupational maternity pay (OMP), with payments offset against any statutory maternity pay (SMP) or maternity allowance payable during the relevant periods.

For junior doctors, SMP is 90% of average weekly earnings (before tax) for the first six weeks and £139.58 or 90% of average weekly earnings (whichever is lower) for the next 33 weeks. OMP is eight weeks at full pay and 18 weeks at half pay. Eligibility requirements include 12 months continuous service.

The "Conditions of Service for Schoolteachers in England and Wales" provide for maternity pay that includes: four weeks at full pay; two weeks at 90% pay; and 12 weeks at half pay without deductions. Eligibility requirements include one year's continuous employment.

For police officers, OMP is 18 weeks at full pay; or officers can elect for 13 weeks at full pay and 10 weeks at half pay. Eligibility requirements include 63 weeks continuous service.

For firefighters, maternity pay includes: six weeks at 90% pay and 12 weeks at half pay. Eligibility requirements include a year's continuous service.

■ Multiple Births

Dr Alan Whitehead: [\[45631\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether NICE has assessed the potential merits of producing guidance for managing delivery and birth in twin pregnancies; and if he will make a statement.

Nicola Blackwood:

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has advised that it recognises that there is a gap in its existing guidelines with regards to intrapartum care for multiple pregnancies and is considering the most appropriate approach as part of a wider review of all of its pregnancy guidelines.

■ Nurses: Training

Ms Diane Abbott: [\[45500\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department will take to monitor the number of UCAS applications for nursing courses in the next two years; and what contingency planning his Department has undertaken to address any reduction in the number of such applications in that period.

Ms Diane Abbott: [\[45505\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will take steps to ensure that changes to the funding of nursing education will (a) increase the number and (b) improve the quality of clinical placements for students.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The changes to healthcare education funding from August 2017 means that we can move away from centrally imposed controls on numbers of nurses being trained and financial limitations, enabling universities to increase nurse training places by the end of the parliament, 2020.

As now, ensuring that all students have access to high quality placements and receive an outstanding placement experience is a key priority.

Having a stable placement commissioning system is important for workforce supply and for Higher Education Institutes; therefore Health Education England (HEE) will retain responsibility for commissioning the minimum number of placements for 2017/18. Universities will be free to create additional places on top of these in partnership with their local trusts and will have their HEE-funded placements maintained at existing levels.

The Government is committed to monitoring data regarding, for example, application rates, diversity statistics and workforce supply.

The first part of the government response to the consultation included a revised Economic Impact Assessment, page 16 sets out the Monitoring and Evaluation plan, the link is:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changing-how-healthcare-education-is-funded>

■ Sickle Cell Diseases

Shabana Mahmood: [\[45638\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have sickle cell disease in the UK; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision to improve the quality of life and life expectancy of people with that disease.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia screening programme is a linked antenatal and newborn screening programme which is offered to all pregnant women and their babies. It is also offered to fathers to be, where antenatal screening shows that the mother is a genetic carrier.

Table 1 shows the number of screen positive babies detected in England since the establishment of Public Health England (PHE) in 2013.

TABLE 1. SICKLE CELL DISEASE (SCD) SCREEN POSITIVE BABIES: ENGLAND

Year	Screen Positive Babies	Total Screened	Rate per 1000	1 in x
2013/14	319	668,117	0.48	2,094
2014/15	278	661,432	0.42	2,379
Total for whole period	3,003	6,056,663	0.50	2,017

Data source: PHE Screening

Although NHS England does not routinely collect the information requested on the provision to improve quality of life and life expectancy of people with the disease, it is working to ensure excellent services for people identified with Sickle Cell disease.

NHS England has included treatment services for haemoglobinopathies within the prescribed specialised services commissioned centrally by NHS England and set up a Clinical Reference Group of sickle cell and thalassaemia experts and patient representatives specifically to advise NHS England on commissioning services for haemoglobinopathies.

NHS England is also developing a commissioning policy for the management of iron overload in sickle cell and thalassaemia patients. It is also about to under-take a national review of haemoglobinopathy services, commencing in 2016-17.

■ Sickle Cell Diseases: Research

Shabana Mahmood: [\[45639\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of research into sickle cell disease in meeting the needs of people with that disease.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Department has made no specific assessment of this.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is investing £15.1 million in four Blood and Transplant Research Units (BTRUs) that support the future needs of donors, patients and NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). Each BTRU is a partnership between a university and NHSBT. One BTRU is based at the University of Bristol and is carrying out research to aid the development of new blood products for treatment of patients with rare blood types and those needing regular transfusions including patients with sickle cell disease (SCD).

The NIHR has also recently funded a £0.3 million study on improvement of pain and quality of life in patients with SCD with nocturnal oxygen therapy or auto-adjusting continuous positive airways pressure. A current £0.5 million NIHR study is examining young adult patients' experiences of transitions from paediatric to adult services for SCD, and the NIHR is currently seeking to commission research on whether haematopoietic stem cell transplantation in adults with severe SCD is cost effective and improves quality of life.

The Department's NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including SCD. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality.

HOME OFFICE**■ Assaults on Police**

Holly Lynch: [\[46125\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to (a) encourage police officers and police community support officers (PCSO) to report assaults sustained in the line of duty, (b) standardise the procedure for reporting assaults across the 48 police forces and (c) standardise the procedures for investigating and responding to an alleged assault on an officer or PCSO.

Holly Lynch: [\[46126\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the severity of sentencing on deterring assaults of police officers; and if she will take steps to ensure that people who assault police officers receive the toughest possible sentences.

Brandon Lewis:

I want to be clear that an assault of any kind on a police officer or police community support officers is wholly unacceptable. Chief Constables, working with directly elected police and crime commissioners, have a duty to manage and support the police workforce effectively, ensuring the welfare of all officers and staff.

The College of Policing develops standards and guidance for policing and works with forces to manage and prevent assaults.

Last year we published figures on assaults on police officers for the first time since 2009/10 and developed this further in 2016. We continue to work with forces to improve the data.

Sentencing guidelines already provide for assault on a police officer to be treated more severely in appropriate cases. The courts need to be able to take into account all the circumstances of each case.

■ Asylum: Religious Freedom

Mr Nigel Dodds:

[\[46190\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of training of assessors for asylum applications where religious persecution is the reason for the application.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Home Office carefully considers all asylum claims on their individual merits, including claims based on religious persecution. We grant protection to those who genuinely need it in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Published guidance on the interviewing and consideration of asylum claims is regularly reviewed and takes into consideration the views of stakeholders, including religious groups. The current training and support available for asylum caseworkers includes a the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees endorsed Foundation Training Programme. This, and follow-on courses, covers all aspects of the asylum interview and decision making process, including the assessment of credibility and country information in religious based claims. Real-life case studies and role-play are used throughout the training programme to reinforce knowledge and understanding of the issues.

We are carefully considering the report and recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief published in June 2016 and will provide a response in due course.

■ Police

Holly Lynch:

[\[46127\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the number of response officers (a) working as a single crew and (b) responding to 999 calls alone.

Holly Lynch:

[\[46128\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure the protection of single crew police officers.

Brandon Lewis:

Individual chief constables are best placed to assess the risks to their force and decisions about patrol policy must remain with them. Chief Constables, working with directly elected police and crime commissioners, have a duty to manage and support the police workforce effectively, ensuring the welfare of all officers and staff. Chief constables keep their patrol policies under regular review and decide how best to respond to their local circumstances.

Police: Dogs**Holly Lynch:**[\[46124\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment has been made of the availability of police dogs nationally; and what estimate she has made of the number of police forces that have introduced the recommended ratio of dogs to officers.

Holly Lynch:[\[46130\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police dogs are available at any given time to the West Yorkshire Police Force; and how such police dogs are geographically deployed.

Brandon Lewis:

Operational decisions on the availability and deployment of dogs are made on a force by force basis and are a matter for chief constables, working with their Police and Crime Commissioners.

Police: Helicopters**Holly Lynch:**[\[46123\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance has been issued on the criteria used for deployment of police air support when a vehicle has failed to stop.

Brandon Lewis:

The College of Policing has issued Authorised Professional Practice on the management of vehicle pursuits which includes guidance on the use of air support. Deployment of police air support is an operational matter. Since October 2012, the provision of air support to the forces of England and Wales has been the responsibility of the National Police Air Service.

Radicalism: Northern Ireland**Mr Nigel Dodds:**[\[46120\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the counter extremism strategy.

Sarah Newton:

The Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland agreed prior to publication of the Counter-Extremism Strategy (October 2015) that the strategy would not extend to Northern Ireland at this stage.

Home Office officials have engaged colleagues in the Northern Ireland Executive and Northern Ireland Office, including during visits to Belfast. We remain keen to maintain this engagement to share ideas and discuss all aspects of the strategy.

■ Security Guards: Licensing

Jessica Morden: [\[45917\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provisions the Security Industry Authority (SIA) has in place to compensate individuals who have lost their job as a result of delays of problems in SIA licence applications or renewals.

Brandon Lewis:

[Holding answer 15 September 2016]: Applicants for Security Industry Authority licences who have been unable to work while waiting for their licence to be renewed, and who request reimbursement for loss of earnings, can contact the Security Industry Authority to provide evidence of the loss suffered. Payment of compensation will then be considered, based on the evidence provided and a review of all the circumstances of the application.

■ Security Industry Authority: Standards

Jessica Morden: [\[45916\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to process applications and renewals by the Security Industry Authority in each month since January 2016.

Brandon Lewis:

The average time taken to process 80% of applications (including renewals) within 25 working days is unavailable in the format requested.

The Security Industry Authority's (SIA's) new IT system (introduced in July 2016) enables more detailed performance analysis. The system shows that the average number of days for processing applications (including renewals) was 38 days in July and 30 days in August.

Once fully embedded, the SIA expect that the processing time for applications will be quicker than under the old system.

Jessica Morden: [\[45918\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time taken was to respond to email enquiries by the Security Industry Authority in each month since January 2016.

Brandon Lewis:

The average time taken to respond to electronic (e-mail or online) enquiries is unavailable in the format requested prior to July 2016.

From July 2016, the Security Industry Authority began using a new IT system, which has enabled it to produce a range of metrics. The average time taken to respond to

electronic enquiries in July and August was 7 days against their service standard of 10 days.

Jessica Morden:

[\[45919\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Security Industry Authority has met its performance target of 80 per cent of applications being processed within 25 days in each month since January 2016.

Brandon Lewis:

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) have an annual performance target to process 80% of applications (including renewals) within 25 working days. The SIA met this annual target in the 2015/16 financial year. Performance for 2016/17 to date is shown in the table below.

	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG
Percentage processed in 25 working days	86%	81%	80%	46%	72%

■ Spit Guards

Holly Lynch:

[\[46129\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of spit hoods and the extent of their use by police forces.

Brandon Lewis:

The use of 'spit hoods', as with any other use of restraint or force, is an operational matter for Chief Officers. Accordingly, the Home Office has not conducted any assessments on their use or the extent of use by police forces in England and Wales. However, the Home Office is clear that all uses of force or restraint must be necessary and proportionate.

In recognition of the importance of ensuring transparency in how police forces use various means of restraint, the former Home Secretary asked Chief Constable David Shaw to review what data should be collected and published. The review recommended that forces record a range of data in all instances when significant force is used, including restraint techniques and the use of spit hoods. The data to be collected includes the age, gender, ethnicity and sex of the subject, the type of force used, reason for the use of force, and the outcome of the incident. The new data collection system is currently being piloted in a number of forces before it is implemented nationwide. We expect all use of force records to be published by forces, and a subset of the data will be part of the mandatory requirement for the 2017/18 Annual Data Requirement (ADR).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT■ **Developing Countries: Education****Julian Sturdy:**[\[46289\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that all children complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education by 2020.

James Wharton:

The UK Government is committed to ensuring all children are able to complete a full cycle of quality education. Between 2011 and 2015 DFID supported over 11 million children into primary and lower secondary school (7.5 million children in countries considered fragile), and training 380,000 teachers through our multilateral partners. In 2015, the UK again committed to support a further 11 million children in the poorest countries to gain a decent education by 2020.

DFID is also supporting up to one million of the world's poorest girls through DFID's Girls Education Challenge (GEC). In July, DFID co-hosted the first, hugely successful Girls' Education Forum in London and announced a further £100 million through the GEC to continue this support and help an additional 175,000 of the poorest, most marginalised adolescent girls in the world to get a decent education.

■ **Yemen: Armed Conflict****Keith Vaz:**[\[45822\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment her Department has made of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

Rory Stewart:

Yemen is one of the most serious and complex humanitarian crises in the world. The United Nations (UN) estimates that 21.2 million people in Yemen require humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs for food, water, sanitation, and healthcare, or protect their fundamental rights. Yemen is also experiencing an economic crisis, which has driven up food and other prices, and reduced people's purchasing power.

Ultimately, only an end to the conflict will address the humanitarian crisis. The UK is working closely with other countries to de-escalate the conflict and is providing significant support to UN-led peace talks. The UK is also working with the UN and other countries to improve commercial and humanitarian access to and within Yemen. We are providing desperately needed humanitarian aid to Yemen and have so far committed to spending £72 million in Yemen this year.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

■ Department for International Trade: Visits Abroad

Tom Brake: [\[45359\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, who has accompanied him on each of his foreign visits in his official ministerial capacity since the establishment of his Department.

Greg Hands:

My rt hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade has been accompanied by departmental officials on all foreign visits.

■ Investment and Trade

Natalie McGarry: [\[45652\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential risks to (a) trade and (b) investment of the UK leaving the EU for (i) Glasgow, (ii) Scotland and (iii) the UK.

Greg Hands:

Recent figures on jobs and growth have shown we enter this period of adjustment from a position of economic strength. We have the tools we need to address the challenges ahead and mitigate risks, especially with the creation of the new Department for Exiting the European Union. We are confident we will get the best possible trade and investment deals for all parts of the United Kingdom as we leave the EU. We will also continue to work closely with the Scottish Government, giving them every opportunity to have their say as we form our negotiating strategy and we will look at any suggestions they put forward.

JUSTICE

■ Administration of Justice: Audio Recordings

Hilary Benn: [\[45390\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether litigants in person have a right to receive copies of audio recordings of cases they have been involved in; and whether any charge is levied for such copies.

Sir Oliver Heald:

Litigants in person have the same rights to information as legal representatives.

There is no automatic right for any party to either listen to or receive copies of audio recordings made by the court in cases they are involved in. Litigants in person, like legal representatives, can make a general application to the judge hearing the proceedings for permission to access relevant audio recordings provided they have first obtained an official transcript.

Any application for access will be considered by the judge on its merits.

■ Community Rehabilitation Companies

Jo Stevens: [\[45556\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment she has made of the ability of Working Links to provide a good quality service at Wales, Avon Bristol and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and Dorset Community Rehabilitation Centres since the acquisition of that company by Aurelius; and what contingency plans her Department has for ownership of those services being acquired by companies unsuited to delivering them.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Working Links Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) are continuing to provide services in accordance with their contracts and are being robustly managed by our contract management teams to make sure they fulfil their contractual obligations in relation to service delivery, reducing reoffending, protecting the public and providing value for money to the taxpayer. Nothing in the department's contracts with the CRCs owned by Working Links has changed as a result of the sale.

Due diligence investigations were carried out prior to the sale to make sure services will continue to be satisfactorily provided.

■ Courts: Greater London

Philip Davies: [\[45698\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether officials of her Department have discussed with non-governmental bodies proposals for further court closures in Greater London in the next 10 years; and if she will make a statement.

Sir Oliver Heald:

HM Courts & Tribunals Service keeps its operational estate under review to make sure that it aligns with the delivery of reformed court and tribunal services.

On 15 September the Government published a consultation on the future of Camberwell Green and Hammersmith Magistrates' Courts. Any further proposals will be subject to public consultation.

■ First Offenders: Prison Sentences

Philip Davies: [\[45424\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of (i) male and (ii) female offenders by offence type were sent to prison for their first offence in each year since 2012.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The information requested is available on gov.uk.

■ First Offenders: Sentencing

Philip Davies:

[\[45525\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) men and (b) women were sentenced for a first offence of wounding with intent in each of the last 10 years; what the sentence was in each such case; and what the average sentence was by sex for that offence in each such year.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Sentencing is a matter for our independent courts, taking into account all the circumstances of the offence and the offender. Courts must follow sentencing guidelines and there will be many factors which will account for different sentencing outcomes, including the nature and seriousness of the offence committed, and whether there was a guilty plea.

The number of men and women sentenced for a first offence of wounding with intent in each of the last 10 years from year ending March 2007, the sentence imposed, and the average custodial sentence length is shown in the tables below.

Number of offenders sentenced for their first wounding with intent offence, by gender and sentencing outcome, England and Wales, annually from year ending March 2007.

Numbers

Sentencing Outcome	Year Ending March									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
All Offenders¹	3,240	2,611	2,533	2,868	3,046	2,946	2,641	2,275	1,763	1,594
Absolute Discharge	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Conditional Discharge	13	9	3	5	9	5	3	1	2	1
Fine	11	8	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	3
Community Sentence	388	196	130	142	228	170	91	84	59	46
Suspended Sentence	387	267	242	319	393	290	313	312	110	63
Immediate Custody	2,325	2,014	2,047	2,284	2,281	2,341	2,126	1,787	1,506	1,405
Other Disposal	116	115	108	117	131	137	107	87	83	76

Male Offenders	2,926	2,370	2,290	2,584	2,709	2,631	2,355	2,048	1,631	1,476
Absolute Discharge	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Conditional Discharge	12	8	1	3	6	5	3	1	1	1
Fine	10	8	3	1	3	2	1	3	2	2
Community Sentence	298	165	97	104	185	116	68	69	49	40
Suspended Sentence	304	206	185	233	300	217	223	229	86	53
Immediate Custody	2,205	1,889	1,910	2,139	2,097	2,173	1,971	1,670	1,421	1,317
Other Disposal	97	92	94	104	117	117	89	76	71	63
Female Offenders	312	240	242	283	335	311	283	225	129	114
Absolute Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Conditional Discharge	1	1	2	2	3	0	0	0	1	0
Fine	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Community Sentence	89	31	33	37	42	52	23	15	10	6
Suspended Sentence	82	61	57	86	92	73	90	82	24	10
Immediate Custody	120	124	136	145	184	166	152	116	82	85
Other Disposal	19	23	14	13	14	20	18	11	12	12

Source: Ministry of Justices extract of the Police National Computer

1. All offenders includes cases where gender is unknown.

2. All data have been taken from the MoJ extract of the Police National Computer. This includes details of all convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings given for recordable offences (see www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2000/1139/schedule/made for definition). It is therefore possible that some offenders presented in the table above have previously also received convictions for offences not recorded on the PNC.

Average custodial sentence lengths¹ for offender's first wounding with intent offence by gender, England and Wales, annually from year ending March 2007.

Gender	Year Ending March										Average custodial sentence lengths (months)
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
All offenders ²	36.8	38.2	43.9	43.2	43.5	50.4	56.8	59.1	72.5	76.4	
Males offenders	37.2	38.7	44.2	43.9	44.5	50.9	57.5	59.8	73.7	77.3	
Females offenders	29.2	31.9	38.7	32.9	32.6	44.8	48.3	48.5	53.9	62.7	

Source: Ministry of Justices extract of the Police National Computer

1. Excludes life sentences or where sentence length is unknown.

2. All offenders includes cases where gender is unknown.

3. All data have been taken from the MoJ extract of the Police National Computer. This includes details of all convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings given for recordable offences (see www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2000/1139/schedule/made for definition). It is therefore possible that some offenders presented in the table above have previously also received convictions for offences not recorded on the PNC.

■ **Forensic Science: Evidence**

Philip Davies:

[\[45431\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment she has made of the effect of current timescales for the return of forensic evidence on the length of time court cases are taking to progress.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The timetabling of necessary pre-trial preparation and the giving of appropriate directions for an effective trial listing is a judicial matter. The parties will advise the court

at a preliminary hearing of any issues affecting readiness for trial, including the availability of required forensic evidence, and it rests with the court to make appropriate decisions about the trial date.

■ Immigration: Appeals

Caroline Lucas: [\[45651\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when her Department plans to issue its response to the consultation on proposals for fees for the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber); and if she will make a statement.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The response to this consultation was published on gov.uk on 15 September.

■ Mental Capacity

Mr Nicholas Brown: [\[45473\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when her Department plans to publish the Government's review of Section 44 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The Ministry of Justice plan to publish a report on the use of section 44 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in due course.

■ Prison Sentences

Philip Davies: [\[45423\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of (i) male and (ii) female offenders were sent to prison by (A) offence type and (B) number of previous convictions at the time of sentence in each of the last five years.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The number of men and women who entered prison, by offence type, in each of the last five years is available on gov.uk. The figures relating to the number of previous convictions received by those individuals could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Prisoners: Females

Philip Davies: [\[45724\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of women were categorised as on a basic regime in prison in each of the last three years.

Dr Phillip Lee:

Prisoners' status under the Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme will move during the course of their imprisonment to reflect their pattern of behaviour and engagement with their rehabilitation, so that some may have been on the basic level on multiple occasions in each period, and sentence length and the duration of time spent

on basic will vary for each prisoner and each instance. That is why we publish figures based on snapshots of a moment in time to give the sense of what proportion of prisoners are typically on each IEP level in any given day.

Statistics for the gender split of the IEP levels for 2014/15 are published at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479968/offender-equalities-report-tables.xlsx

IEP statistics for 2015/16 without gender splits are published in the Annual NOMS Digest at the following link, and the gender splits of IEP statistics to March 2016 are due for publication on 24 November 2016:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-performance-statistics-2015-to-2016>.

There is no data for 2013/14.

■ Prisoners: Homosexuality

Philip Davies: [45428]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate she has made of the (a) number and (b) proportion of (i) male prisoners who are homosexual and (ii) female prisoners who are lesbian.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The National Offender Management Service Annual Offender Equalities Report will for the first time include prisoner declaration data in relation to sexual orientation.

■ Prisoners: Radicalism

Jo Stevens: [45633]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what training her Department plans to provide for prison officers working in extremism segregation units; and how much such training will cost.

Jo Stevens: [45634]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what plans her Department has for the provision of education programmes for prisoners held in extremism segregation units.

Jo Stevens: [45635]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what criteria her Department has used to determine which prisoners are to be placed in extremism segregation units; and if she will make a statement.

Jo Stevens: [45648]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, which prisons she has chosen to pilot extremism segregation units.

Jo Stevens:

[\[45654\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate her Department has made of how much it will cost per head to retain prisoners in extremism segregation units; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The government is committed to tackling all forms of extremism. Keeping the most dangerous extremists away from other prisoners is essential to the safe running of our prisons and fundamental to public protection. Planning is under way to create specialist units in the high security estate to allow greater separation and specialised management of the most dangerous and subversive individuals who pose the highest risk to other prisoners.

We are reviewing extremism prevention training for all new prison staff as well as prison based training for existing staff. Courses will be combined into a single, improved programme before the end of this year. Prisons with special separation units will aim to provide education opportunities equivalent to those available to the general prison population. As the Secretary of State has said, details of the costs of these units are operationally sensitive.

■ Prisons: Civil Disorder

Jo Stevens:

[\[45566\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) on how many occasions, (b) in which prisons and (c) for what incidents the (i) Tornado Team was called, (ii) Gold Command was opened and (iii) National Tactical Response Group was called in each month since January 2016.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Gold Command arrangements provide for strategic and operational oversight to the management of prison incidents. All incidents are regarded as potentially serious at the point of the Gold suite being opened. The Gold Command Suite has been opened to oversee the management of a range of incidents during 2016 as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1 – Gold Command Suite Openings by Establishment/Incident Type and Month in 2016

PRISON/INCIDENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Bristol								
Hostage			1					
Brixton								
Hostage		1						
Cookham								
Wood								

PRISON/INCIDENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Hostage							1	
Doncaster								
Hostage			1					
Elmley								
Hostage	1							
Erlestone								
Concerted Indiscipline						1		
Featherstone								
Barricade								1
Gartree								
Hostage						1		
Glen Parva								
Hostage			1					
Haverigg								
Barricade					1			
Concerted Indiscipline							1	1
High Down								
Concerted Indiscipline						1		
High Point								
Hostage					1			
Highpoint								
Barricade						1		
Hostage			1					
Holme House								
Hostage		1						

PRISON/INCIDENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Nat Strike/ Pot IA					1			
Humber								
Hostage					1			
Isis								
Hostage				1				
Leicester								
Hostage			1					
Incident at Height					1			1
Liverpool								
Hostage					1			
Lowdham Grange								
Barricade								1
Maidstone								
Barricade							1	
National								
Nat Strike/ Pot IA							1	
Norwich								
Hostage								1
Nottingham								
Hostage	2	1			1			
Oakwood								
Hostage					1			
Portland								
Concerted			1					

PRISON/INCIDENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Indiscipline								
Rochester								
Incident at Height			1					
Stoke Heath								
Hostage			1					
Swinfen Hall								
Hostage		1						
Nat Strike/ Pot IA						1		
The Mount								
Incident at Height					1			
Wandsworth								
Hostage							1	
Wayland								
Concerted Indiscipline				1				
Hostage					1			
Wetherby								
Nat Strike/ Pot IA		1			2			
Wormwood Scrubs								
Nat Strike/ Pot IA					1			
Grand Total	3	5	8	2	13	5	5	5

(Nat Strike/Pot IA refers to incidents of industrial action)

Tornado teams consist of prison officers in prisons who are trained in an advanced level of control and restraint techniques. NOMS has over 2000 such trained staff across the country. They have been deployed to establishments as detailed in Table 2.

Table 2 – Operation Tornado responses by receiving prison in 2016

PRISON	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
Doncaster							1	
Haverigg					1		1	
High Down						1		
Erlestoke						1		
Portland			1					
Grand Total			1		1	2	2	

The National Tactical Response Group (NTRG) provides additional support staff or resources to prisons to help them deal with a variety of incidents. The overwhelming majority of call outs are for non-violent incidents, including where they attended as a precaution and when the situation was resolved locally. NTRG deployments are detailed in Table 3.

Table 3 – NTRG deployment by receiving prison and incident type in 2016

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Altcourse								
WAH - Internal		1						1
Aylesbury								
WAH - External								1
WAH - Internal				1				
Bedford								
WAH - External					1			
WAH - Internal			1		1		1	
Belmarsh								
WAH - Internal	1						1	
Birmingham								
WAH - Internal			2		1		1	1
Brinsford								
WAH - Internal					1			
Bristol								
Hostage - Prisoner			1					
WAH - Internal			1					
Brixton								
Hostage - Prisoner		1						
WAH - External								1
WAH - Internal					1			
Brook House								
WAH - Internal						1		
Buckley Hall								
WAH - External				1	1	1	1	
WAH - Internal		1	1					1

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Bullington								
WAH - Internal			1					
Campsfield								
Barricade								1
Cardiff								
WAH - Internal					2			
Channings Wood								
Barricade						1		1
WAH - External			1		1			
Chelmsford								
Barricade			1					
WAH - Internal				1				
Coldingley								
WAH - External					1			
Cookham Wood								
Concerted Indiscipline							1	
Hostage - Prisoner							1	
WAH - Internal			3					
Doncaster								
Concerted Indiscipline							1	
Hostage - Prisoner			1					
WAH - Internal							1	
Dovegate								
WAH - Internal					1			
Durham								

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Barricade		1						
Concerted Indiscipline								1
WAH - External				1				
WAH - Internal		1		1		1	3	1
Elmley								
Hostage - Prisoner 1								
Erlestoke								
Concerted Indiscipline						2		
WAH - External	1		1	1		1		
Exeter								
Concerted Indiscipline	1							
WAH - Internal		1			1	3		
Featherstone								
Barricade								1
WAH - Internal		1						
Feltham								
Barricade	1							
Garth								
Barricade						1		
WAH - External				1				
WAH - Internal						2		
Gartree								
Hostage - Prisoner			1			1	1	
WAH - External				1				
Glen Parva								

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
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Hostage - Prisoner			1					
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WAH - Internal								1
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Guys Marsh

Barricade		1						
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WAH - External		1	1	1	4			
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WAH - Internal					1		1	1
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Haverigg

Concerted Indiscipline					1		1	2
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Hostage - Prisoner							1	
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WAH - External		1	1		1		3	4
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WAH - Internal	1						1	1
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Prisoner in Crisis					1			
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Hewell

Concerted Indiscipline					1			1
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WAH - Internal		1				2		2
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High Down

Concerted Indiscipline						1		
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WAH - External				1				
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Highpoint

Barricade						1		1
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Hostage - Prisoner			1		1		1	
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WAH - External				1			1	
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Hostage - Staff					1			
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Hindley

WAH - External				1				
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Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
WAH - Internal			2				1	
Holme House								
WAH - Internal			1					2
Humber								
Barricade						1		
Hostage - Prisoner					1			1
WAH - External					1			
WAH - Internal			2	1	2	1	1	
Hostage - Staff					1			
Isis								
Hostage - Prisoner				1				
WAH - Internal	2				1		1	1
Isle of Wight								
WAH - External								1
WAH - Internal							2	
Lancaster Farms								
Hostage - Prisoner		1						
WAH - Internal		1				1	1	
Leeds								
Hostage - Prisoner		1						
WAH - Internal	1	3	1		2	1		1
Leicester								
Hostage - Prisoner			1					
WAH - External					1			1
WAH - Internal		1			1			
Lewes								
Concerted				1				

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Indiscipline								
WAH - External								1
WAH - Internal		1			2		1	
Lincoln								
WAH - External		1					1	
WAH - Internal		2				1		1
Lindholme								
Barricade	1	1						
Concerted Indiscipline						2		
WAH - External		1	2	1	1			1
WAH - Internal	1	1		2	1	3	1	1
Littlehey								
WAH - Internal				1	1			
Liverpool								
WAH - External								1
WAH - Internal	2	1	3	2	1			3
Long Lartin								
WAH - Internal				1				
Lowdham Grange								
Barricade								1
Concerted Indiscipline								
WAH - Internal	2	2	4			2	1	3
Maidstone								
Barricade							1	
Manchester								

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
WAH - Internal				2		1	1	1
Moorland								
Hostage - Prisoner					1			1
WAH - External	1							1
WAH - Internal			1	3			1	3
Morton Hal								
WAH - External		1						
Northumberland								
WAH - Internal		1		1				
Norwich								
Barricade								1
WAH - Internal							2	
Nottingham								
Barricade						1		
Hostage - Prisoner				1	1			1
WAH - Internal	2	3	2	1	1	2	4	1
Oakwood								
Barricade								1
Hostage - Prisoner					1			
WAH - Internal	1		2	3	1		2	1
Onley								
WAH - Internal			1					
Parc								
Hostage - Prisoner						1		
WAH - Internal		1	2				1	
Pentonville								
WAH - Internal		1	1				2	1

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
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Portland

WAH - External						1		
WAH - Internal			2			1		

Ranby

Barricade				2				
WAH - Internal					2	2		

Risley

Hostage - Prisoner				1				
WAH - Internal		1	1	2				

Rochester

WAH - External			1		1			
WAH - Internal						1		

Rye Hill

WAH - Internal	1		1		1	1		2
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Stocken

Barricade							1	
Concerted Indiscipline								
WAH - Internal	1							1

Stoke Heath

Barricade	1							
Hostage - Prisoner			1					
WAH - External			1					1
WAH - Internal			2		1			

Styal

WAH - Internal							2	
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Swaleside

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
WAH - Internal	1				1			
Swansea								
WAH - External				1				
WAH - Internal								2
Swinfen Hall								
Hostage - Prisoner		1						
WAH - External						1	1	
WAH - Internal								
Thameside								
WAH - Internal			1					
The Mount								
Barricade	1							
Hostage - Prisoner						1		1
WAH - External		1			3	3		
WAH - Internal		1			1			
The Verne								
WAH - Internal					1			
Wandsworth								
Hostage - Prisoner							1	
WAH - Internal				1	1	1	1	
Wayland								
Barricade				1				
Hostage - Prisoner					1			
WAH - External				2				
WAH - Internal	2	1						2
Wealstun								
Barricade				1				

Prison	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
WAH - External						1		
WAH - Internal			1					
Werrington								
WAH - Internal					1			1
Wetherby								
WAH - External							1	
WAH - Internal					1			
Whatton								
WAH - Internal								1
Whitemoor								
WAH - Internal			1			1		
Winchester								
WAH - External						1		
WAH - Internal					2	2	2	
Woodhill								
WAH - External			1		1	1		
WAH - Internal					2			1
Wormwood Scrubs								
WAH - Internal					3	1		
Wymott								
Barricade			1					
Hostage - Prisoner		1						
WAH - Internal		1	1			3		
Grand Total	28	42	59	44	67	57	54	66

(WAH = Working at Height)

■ Probation

Jo Stevens: [\[45532\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when her Department plans to publish the findings of the Probation Service Review.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

As is usual with any major transition of public services, we continually evaluate and review how those changes are operating, to support the achievement of our objectives. This is internal evaluation and there are no plans to publish this work.

■ Reoffenders

Jo Stevens: [\[45558\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many serious further offences were committed between (a) June 2015 and June 2016 and (b) June 2013 and June 2014.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Between 1 June 2013 and 31 May 2014, 497 offenders subject to probation supervision were charged with a serious further offence (SFO).

Between 1 June 2015 and 31 May 2016, 581 offenders subject to probation supervision were charged with a SFO.

These two sets of data are not directly comparable due to the impact of the Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) 2014. Prior to the enactment of ORA 2014, any offenders sentenced to under 12 months imprisonment would not have fallen within scope, as they would not have been subject to probation supervision.

It is important to note that not all offenders charged will result in the conviction for a SFO.

David Mackintosh: [\[45681\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that re-offending rates are reduced.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

We want to ensure that prisons are places of safety and rehabilitation. The key to this is achieving better outcomes for prisoners in employment, education and health, in order to reduce reoffending and protect the public. We will do this by giving governors increased responsibility on the front line and by putting sharper accountability in place, and will announce proposals for reform in autumn.

We have already reformed the way adult offenders are managed in the community.

Almost all adult offenders now receive targeted support on release, getting the help they need to turn away from crime and keep communities safer. For young offenders, Charlie Taylor has conducted a review of the youth justice system. This has been submitted to ministers and will be published in the autumn.

SCOTLAND

■ Employment: Glasgow East

Natalie McGarry: [\[45891\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what steps his Department has taken to encourage investment and growth in the number of jobs in Glasgow East constituency.

David Mundell:

The UK Government is investing £500 million in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal, part of £1 billion of public investment that is being taken forward in partnership with the Scottish Government.

The Deal will deliver 3 labour market projects including a £9 million employment scheme that will work with 4000 people in receipt of Employment Support Allowance and assist at least 600 in to sustained work. A £15 million integrated employment programme will work with 15,000 young people (aged 16-24) over the next three years, helping 5,000 in to sustained work.

A new centre for Business Incubation and Development has been established in Glasgow with £4 million of City Deal funding and this is now providing support for growing small to medium sized enterprises.

TRANSPORT

■ Aviation: North of England

Philip Davies: [\[45770\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many passengers from airports across northern England travelled to (a) Heathrow, (b) Gatwick and (c) Schiphol Airport in 2015.

Mr John Hayes:

The table below shows the number of passengers at airports in northern England flying to/from Heathrow, Gatwick or Schiphol in 2015.

	HEATHROW	GATWICK	AMSTERDAM SCHIPHOL
Passengers (arrivals and departures)	1,430,000	29,000	1,939,000

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

■ Aviation: Yorkshire and the Humber**Philip Davies:**[\[45735\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many annual flight movements between airports in Yorkshire and the Humber and (a) Heathrow and (b) Gatwick Airport took place in each year between 2000 and 2015.

Mr John Hayes:

The table below shows air transport movements between airports in Yorkshire and the Humber and Heathrow and Gatwick in 2000 to 2015.

AIR TRANSPORT MOVEMENTS (ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES)		
	Heathrow	Gatwick
2000	2,730	-
2001	2,530	330
2002	2,500	1,900
2003	2,610	450
2004	2,530	-
2005	2,520	-
2006	2,560	-
2007	2,880	-
2008	2,590	10
2009	600	870
2010	-	1,610
2011	-	390
2012	160	10
2013	2,130	10
2014	1,860	10
2015	1,900	10

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10

Almost all these flights were to/from Leeds Bradford airport.

■ Driverless Vehicles: Taxis

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45692\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what his policy is on the development of fully autonomous taxis.

Mr John Hayes:

Automated vehicles offer many potential benefits including improved safety, network efficiency, and mobility. There is also a significant industrial prize that the UK is well positioned to take advantage of. There are many potential routes for these technologies to come to market. Fully automated taxis are one such application of the technology. At this stage there are no plans to specify the route to market.

■ Driving: Licensing

Sir Desmond Swayne: [\[45649\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the average processing time is for claims for the return of driving licences withdrawn on medical grounds; and if he will make a statement.

Andrew Jones:

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) deals with more than 600,000 medical driver licensing applications annually. The length of time taken to deal with an application depends on the medical condition and whether further information is required from medical professionals.

Between April 2016 and the end of August 2016, the average time taken for a licensing decision to be made was 38 working days. The average time for the period April 2015 to March 2016 was 53 working days.

■ Highways England: Assets

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45703\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to page 21 of the Annual Report and Accounts of Highways England, published in August 2016, HC 529, what forecast he has made of when the better asset data system will be fully tested and brought online.

Mr John Hayes:

The Highways England initiative to deploy a better asset system is being delivered under a programme termed the Integrated Asset Management Information System (IAMIS) in accordance with their Asset Management Strategy. This is being delivered as a rolling programme of development and delivery that is enhancing Highways England's capability over time.

The programme has already seen the delivery of a number of core maintenance management modules in seven of Highways England's twelve regions, as well as a foundation national network model that was delivered in March 2016. The remaining parts of the system are currently in development and will be tested and brought on line

incrementally, with the latest forecast showing programme completion during the financial year 2019/20.

■ **Large Goods Vehicle Drivers: Vacancies**

David Simpson:

[\[45714\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with representatives of the haulage industry on the reported shortage of HGV drivers.

Mr John Hayes:

Departmental Ministers meet representatives of the haulage industry on a regular basis to discuss issues affecting the sector including the driver shortage. In response to these discussions the government has taken action to increase the supply of vocational driving tests, improved processing times for licences and discussed the availability of facilities for drivers.

In addition, Ministerial colleagues have met industry representatives to discuss the development and funding of apprenticeships and providing targeted support for jobseekers.

■ **Leeds-Bradford Airport: BRIC Countries**

Philip Davies:

[\[45737\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many passengers from Leeds Bradford Airport travelled to (a) Brazil, (b) Russia, (c) India and (d) China via Heathrow Airport in 2015.

Mr John Hayes:

It is estimated that fewer than 10,000 passengers flew between Leeds Bradford airport and the countries listed via Heathrow in 2015.

■ **Leeds-Bradford Airport: Transport**

Philip Davies:

[\[45733\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the lack of a direct route between Leeds Bradford Airport and Heathrow Airport on Yorkshire's economy until that link was restored in 2012.

Mr John Hayes:

No such assessment has been made.

■ **London Airports: Investment**

Philip Davies:

[\[45722\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much private funding (a) Heathrow Airport and (b) Gatwick Airport declared to the Government would be invested as part of its expansion plans.

Mr John Hayes:

The Airports Commission shortlisted three airport expansion schemes, two at Heathrow and one at Gatwick. The Airports Commission considered that all three of the shortlisted schemes were commercially viable and privately financeable.

The Government is carefully considering all the evidence set out, including that on costs and financing, before making a decision on additional runway capacity.

■ **London Airports: Yorkshire and the Humber**

Philip Davies: [\[45738\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of airport expansion at (a) Heathrow and (b) Gatwick Airport on job creation in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Mr John Hayes:

Our global connections are crucial for British business and benefit the whole country. The economic benefits to the UK as a whole, not just London and the South East, will be taken into consideration when making a decision on a preferred scheme for airport expansion, alongside a range of other relevant evidence.

■ **Members: Correspondence**

Mr David Winnick: [\[45354\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 8 August 2016 on homes and the adoption of private roads.

Andrew Jones:

I sent a response to the hon. Member for Walsall North on this issue on 13th September 2016.

■ **Parking Offences**

Mr Nicholas Brown: [\[45472\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what powers are available to local authorities and what enforcement action can local authorities take to prevent cars parking at public bus stops.

Andrew Jones:

English local authorities have a wide range of powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to prohibit or restrict parking throughout the day or at specific times and by specific types of vehicles on any length of the highway, including bus stops. These powers enable local authorities to create bus stop clearways prohibiting all vehicles, other than buses, from stopping at bus stops. Over 90% of English local authorities have the power under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 to enforce bus stop prohibitions/restrictions.

■ Public Transport: Disability

Kate Green:

[\[45936\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to improve access to public transport for disabled people.

Andrew Jones:

The Government recognises how important improving access to public transport is for disabled people and is committed to making transport more inclusive.

Since its launch in 2006, the £390m Access for All rail programme (which was further extended with £160m in 2014) has delivered accessible routes at over 150 stations. There are also 68 further projects at various stages of construction or development.

We also recognise that positive interactions with bus drivers can make a big difference to disabled people's experience of 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.

In addition, 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.

The Government intends to publish an Accessibility Action Plan by the end of the year which will present its ambition for further progress on this important agenda.

■ Railways: Fares

Steve McCabe:

[\[45695\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent representations he has made to rail franchises on above inflation rail increases.

Paul Maynard:

The Government regulates the existence and price of certain rail fares. We protect passengers by setting the maximum amount regulated fares can increase year-on-year. In general the fares that are regulated include commuter fares (in major cities), some weekly, monthly or annual season tickets, day singles and returns (Oyster Pay As You Go in London) as well as some protected fares like long-distance off-peak return fares (formerly Saver Returns). We have capped the rail fares we regulate at inflation (Retail Price Index) for four years running, and will continue to do so for the life of this parliament. This means those fares we regulate will rise by no more than 1.9% in 2017.

Other fares are unregulated, and train operators are permitted to set these on a commercial basis, taking account of competition from other transport modes and the need to attract business in order to grow their revenue. Unregulated fares include the lower cost Advance purchase fares which have been introduced by a number of operators. This has helped to make some leisure travel services significantly cheaper for

passengers who are able to book ahead and commit themselves to travelling on a specific departure, and has also helped to fill emptier trains. While there is a wide range of fares available advance fares are a key rail success of recent years where we have seen huge growth. Unregulated advance tickets have increased from 8% of revenue in 2007/08 to 14% of revenue in 2015/16.

The fares that passengers pay are supporting the biggest modernisation programme on Britain's railways for over a century. In the five years to 2019, Network Rail is spending more than £38 billion to maintain and improve the network.

■ Roads: Noise

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45682\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to page 12 of Highways England's annual report, published in August 2016, whether Highways England is on track to meet its target of mitigating at least 1,150 noise important areas by 2020.

Mr John Hayes:

Highways England is on track to meet its target of mitigating at least 1,150 Noise Important Areas (NIA) by the end of this first Road Period as stated in Highways England's annual report, published August 2016. It is currently planned that the majority of NIA's will be mitigated in the latter part of Roads Period 1.

■ Transport: Capital Investment

Diana Johnson: [\[46021\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many business cases for projects were submitted to his Department in the 2015-16 financial year in each region; and what the value was of (a) public and (b) private investment requested at stage two of each of those submissions in each such region.

Diana Johnson: [\[46060\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many large-scale business cases submitted by his Department to the Infrastructure and Projects Authority were accepted in the 2015-16 financial year in each region; and what the value of (a) public and (b) private sector funding committed was for each of those projects in each such region.

Mr John Hayes:

The Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) provides expertise, practical help and independent assurance of major projects, working with all partners in infrastructure and major projects (government departments, project teams, HMT, Cabinet Office, and the private sector). The remit of the IPA does not include providing formal approval and as such departments do not submit business cases to the IPA for approval.

The IPA publish an annual comprehensive forward-looking assessment of the current and planned investment in UK economic infrastructure across both the public and private sectors (The National Infrastructure Pipeline). This document contains financial information of the level of public and private infrastructure investment broken down by

region currently in development and planned to 2021 and beyond. The Spring 2016 update can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-pipeline-2016>.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

■ Civil Partnerships and Marriage

Philip Davies:

[45544]

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, how many (a) civil partnerships, (b) conversions of civil partnerships into marriages and (c) same sex marriages have taken place since 10 December 2014.

Caroline Dinéage:

According to the latest data from the Office for National Statistics:

(a) In 2015, a total of 861 civil partnerships were formed in England and Wales.

(b) 7,732 couples in England and Wales converted their existing civil partnership into a marriage between 10 December 2014 and 30 June 2015.

(c) A total of 7,366 marriages were formed in England and Wales between same sex couples between 29 March 2014 (when the legislation came into effect) and 30 June 2015.

This information is available online at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages>.

■ Gender Recognition

Richard Burden:

[45470]

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps the Government is taking to (a) ensure that support services for transgender people are made more accessible and localised and (b) enhance existing transgender support services.

Caroline Dinéage:

The Government is dedicated to improving the lives of transgender people and ensuring that barriers to their success are removed from society.

This is reflected in the Government response to the Women and Equality Select Committee inquiry into transgender equality, where we set out a range of initiatives to improve the lives of transgender people. This includes improving the way people are supported by gender identity services through new training of NHS staff. The Government response can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transgender-equality-report-government-response>.

This is not the only work we have delivered. In November 2015, the Government issued 'Providing services for transgender customers: a guide', which set out advice for all

service providers to ensure that transgender people are welcomed, included and valued as customers, clients, users or members, and that they are treated fairly and appropriately. This can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/providing-services-for-transgender-customers-a-guide>.

Alongside those initiatives, the Government will continue to push forward action to tackle transgender inequality and improve services for transgender people.

■ Government Equalities Office: Breastfeeding

Mr Mark Hendrick: [45284]

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what activities (a) she and (b) officials of the Government Equalities Office have undertaken to promote breastfeeding during World Breastfeeding Week 2016.

Caroline Dinenage:

The Government Equalities Office fully supports the work of the Department of Health, which leads Government work to promote breastfeeding.

- The Department of Health encourages exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life because of the health benefits to mothers and babies. We recognise that infant feeding choices are complex and based on individual and family circumstances and that not all mothers choose to or are able to breastfeed.
- The Government is committed to supporting breastfeeding through the Healthy Child Programme. Breastfeeding is also included in the Public Health Outcomes Framework so that the improvements can be tracked, and action taken as needed.
- Support and information is currently available to health professionals and parents through NHS Choices, the National Breastfeeding Helpline, UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative and local peer support programmes.

■ Government Equalities Office: Females

Mr Mark Hendrick: [45283]

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to implement the actions identified for it in the Government's Ending Violence against Women and Girls 2016-2020, published in March 2016; and when a member of staff from the Government Equalities Office last attended a Violence against Women and Girls Stakeholder Meeting chaired by the Home Office.

Caroline Dinenage:

The Government is committed to delivering the Strategy published in March. The table below shows the progress made in delivering the actions allocated to the Government Equalities Office (GEO).

REF	ACTION	PROGRESS
1	Develop new guidance in consultation with teachers for PHSE lessons specifically about gender equality (Apr 2016).	GEO has been working with the PSHE Association to consult teachers on how best to deliver this commitment.
2	Fund the Freedom Charity to expand the 'Train the Trainers' project.... (Apr 2016).	GEO funded the Freedom Charity to expand their 'Train the Trainers' project to reach a greater number of communities and empower teachers to deal with the topic of forced marriage sensitively and confidently. This funding enabled an additional 3,620 students and 1,230 staff to learn about forced marriage with Freedom.
5	Launch the second phase of the national prevention campaign to challenge abuse in teenage relationships and promote understanding of health relationships and consent – including among LGB&T teenagers (Feb 2016).	GEO, in partnership with the Home Office, launched <i>Disrespect Nobody</i> , the second phase of the national prevention campaign to challenge abuse in teenage relationships. This included a TV advert, along with a dedicated website, blogs and guidance for teachers.
8	Update Media Smart resources (with the Advertising Association) to help teachers and parents improve primary school children's understanding of how gender is represented in the media and their resilience to negative content (Sep 2016).	GEO commissioned the charity Media Smart to develop a new resource to help teachers and parents improve primary school children's understanding of how gender is represented in the media and their resilience to negative content. The resource was published in August 2016 and will be disseminated to schools this term.
10	Conduct or commission mapping of the evidence base and initiatives that engage men,	GEO is currently mapping the evidence base and initiatives that engage men, boys and

REF	ACTION	PROGRESS
	boys and bystanders in VAWG prevention to identify how Government can build on these initiatives to further social change (Apr 2017).	bystanders in VAWG prevention, as well as meeting with stakeholders working in this area.
28	Establish an official Government working group to map out current issues, prevalence, initiatives and barriers to addressing gendered online abuse to improve understanding and coordinate the response to online manifestations of VAWG (Dec 2016).	In partnership with the Home Office, GEO has established an official Government working group to do this. This work is ongoing.
30	Continue to ensure victims of revenge pornography have access to bespoke support and advice about their right to have the images removed from websites (review Apr 2017).	GEO has funded the Revenge Porn Helpline for a further year to continue its important work supporting victims of revenge porn and working to have such images removed from websites.

GEO officials attend the Home Office-chaired cross-government working group on VAWG, the last of which took place on 23 June 2016. In addition, GEO officials have attended a number of Home Office-led consultation meetings with VAWG stakeholders, the last of which was in February 2016. Such discussions run alongside inter-ministerial meetings, the most recent of which I attended in June.

■ LGBT People

Thangam Debbonaire:

[\[45657\]](#)

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with reference to page eight of the Government's response to the First Report of the Women and Equalities Committee of Session 2015-16, on Transgender Equality, HC 390, by what date the Government plans to publish an update report on both the existing Transgender Action Plan and the 2011 LGBT Action Plan which includes LGB as well as transgender commitments.

Caroline Dineneage:

On 7 July 2016, the Government responded to the Women and Equalities Select Committee inquiry on transgender equality. In this, we committed to publishing an update on progress against "Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

Equality: Moving Forward (2011)"; and "Advancing transgender equality: a plan for action (2011)".

The Government will publish both of these documents in due course.

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

■ Exports

Philip Davies: [\[45721\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what the value was of exports to non-EU destinations from (a) the Port of Felixstowe, (b) the Port of Southampton, (c) Gatwick Airport and (d) Heathrow Airport in 2015.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 15 September 2016. The correct answer should have been:

Greg Hands:

The value of the exports to non –EU destinations from the requested ports are provided in the table below [source: HMRC ports data].

EXPORTS OF GOODS TO THE NON-EU BY PORT	VALUE (£)
Felixstowe	10,291,216,996
Southampton	23,740,381,743
London Gatwick	307,063,268
London Heathrow	67,303,983,493

[2015 calendar year]

To note, data collection will be affected by the definitions used at the time of data collection. Please see the **attached** annex for more detail.

Attachments:

1. [Annex - 45721.docx](#)