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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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

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

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# Written Statements

Monday, 10 October 2016

## CERT-UK: Transfer of Functions

[HLWS175]

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

Further to the Government's statement of March 2016, the transfer of CERT-UK (the Computer Emergency Response Team, UK) functions and staff to the new National Cyber Security Centre has now completed. CERT-UK has ceased operating and will be closed. The new Centre, which will open publicly over the coming months, is part of GCHQ and will be the UK's authority on cyber security. More information on the National Cyber Security Centre will be set out in the government's National Cyber Security Strategy which will be published later this year.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

WMS - Amended to right hon for Member [Transfer of CERT-UK.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-10-10/HLWS175/>

## Contingencies Fund Advance

[HLWS171]

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

The Home Office requires an advance to start recruitment of the Director General of the Office for Police Conduct. This advance is to cover recruitment costs only, as the successful candidate will take up their post following Royal Assent of the Policing and Crime Bill.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £15,000 for this new service will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Home Office. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £15,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

## Employment and Support Allowance

[HLWS176]

**Lord Freud:** My Right Honourable Friend The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (The Rt Hon Damian Green MP) has made the following Written Statement.

I would like to update hon. Members on the main item of business undertaken by my Department since the House rose for conference recess.

When people claim Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and/or Universal Credit (UC) due to a health condition or disability they are required to take part in Work Capability Assessments (WCA) on an ongoing basis to confirm their eligibility. This includes people with the most severe health conditions or disabilities, even though we already know from their initial WCA, and from healthcare professionals, that, short of medical advances, their condition is unlikely to improve.

On 1 October, I announced that that we will stop reassessing people with the most severe health conditions and disabilities. This change will apply to people who have already been placed in the ESA Support Group or UC Limited Capability for Work and Work Related Activity categories following a WCA and who have the most severe health conditions and disabilities (defined as claimants with severe, lifelong, often progressive and incurable conditions, with minimally fluctuating care needs, who are unlikely to ever be able to move closer to the labour market and into work). The IT changes needed are expected to be completed by the end of 2017. In the meantime, we will be working to ensure these people are not reassessed unnecessarily.

Over the coming months we will work with key stakeholders, including disabled people, disability charities, our health assessment provider, the Centre for Health and Disability Assessments, medical professionals and others to develop a set of criteria, set out in guidance, to switch off reassessments for those that are eligible.

## General Affairs Council: 20 September 2016

[HLWS174]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** My right honourable friend the Minister of State, the Department for Exiting the European Union (David Jones) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The General Affairs Council on 20 September was chaired by the Slovak Presidency and held in Brussels.

### *General Affairs Council*

The General Affairs Council on 20 September discussed the October European Council; follow up to the June European Council; mid-term Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework; and the European Commission's Annual Work Programme 2017.

A provisional report of the meeting and the Conclusions adopted can be found at: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/gac/2016/09/20/>

### *Preparation of the European Council (20-21 October)*

The Council was presented with the agenda for the October European Council. It is due to discuss migration, trade, and external relations with Russia. The Government made clear that while we remained a Member State of the

EU, the UK would continue to contribute fully in the preparation of the European Council and advance positions in line with our national interest.

#### *Follow-up to the June European Council*

The Council also discussed the Conclusions of the June European Council, focusing on migration, jobs, growth and investment, and external relations. Member States called for more practical ways to implement European Council Conclusions.

#### *Mid-Term Review / Revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework*

The Commission presented its proposal for the Mid-Term Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-20. The proposal is intended to increase flexibility in the EU budget, focusing on the economy, security and migration. The Presidency confirmed this will be a standing item on the General Affairs Council agenda until agreement is reached.

#### *Commission Annual Work Programme 2017*

The Commission presented the 2017 Letter of Intent. During an exchange of views the UK stated that the Commission should prioritise the single market, the digital single market and migration. We also made clear any proposals on defence issues would need careful scrutiny and should not duplicate NATO. The Presidency stated its intention to present the Commission with a letter outlining the overall views of Member States for it to consider when finalising the 2017 Commission Work Programme.

#### *Sir Julian King's appointment*

Sir Julian King has been appointed as European Commissioner for the Security Union. He secured the European Parliament's endorsement when it voted in favour of his appointment on Thursday 15 September. The Council of the European Union gave its approval at the General Affairs Council on Tuesday 20 September. Sir Julian replaces Lord Hill following his resignation in July this year.

### **International Monetary Fund: Bilateral Loan**

[HLWS173]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** My right honourable friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (David Gauke) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today, the UK completed the signing of a new bilateral loan commitment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), valued at 9,178.2 million SDRs, equivalent to £10,278m using exchange rates on 7 October 2016. This bilateral loan replaces one of the same value, which came into effect in February 2016 (HCWS542). UK lending to the IMF remains within the limit set by The International Monetary Fund (Limit on Lending) Order 2010, which came into force on 22 July 2010.

The new loan is part of a global initiative to ensure that the IMF is well-resourced. It is vital at this time that we have an IMF equipped to strengthen the resilience of the global economy against risks and uncertainty. The UK is

one of the first countries to sign a new bilateral loan with the IMF, maintaining its leading role within international institutions and in the world economy.

The SDR is the unit of account used by the IMF. Its value is calculated daily as a weighted average of the US dollar, euro, renminbi, yen, and pound sterling.

### **Lloyds Banking Group: Government Shares**

[HLWS170]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Philip Hammond) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Further to the statement provided to the House on 4 December 2015, today I can inform the House that the trading plan to sell the Government's shares in Lloyds Banking Group has been re-started. This is a further step in the Government's plan to return Lloyds to the private sector.

I received advice from UK Financial Investments (UKFI) that selling shares through the trading plan represents good value for money for the taxpayer. This sales method has been very successful previously, achieving over £9bn of sales between December 2014 and June 2016. In total, we have recovered over £16.9 billion for the taxpayer from Lloyds through sales and dividend payments.

The trading plan commenced on 7 October 2016 and will run for a year. Shares will not be sold below a floor price that HMT has determined delivers value for money for the taxpayer and ensures that the government will get back all of the £20.3 billion that taxpayers injected into Lloyds during the financial crisis. The actual number of shares sold under the trading plan will depend on market conditions.

I can also announce the withdrawal of the Lloyds retail offer. At the current share price, the retail offer would be extremely unlikely to recoup all the money the taxpayers put into the bank. Our plan will get back all the cash taxpayers invested in Lloyds during the financial crisis and leave the bank in a better place to continue the crucial role it plays in supporting individuals, families and businesses up and down the UK.

I will update Parliament with further details at the end of the trading plan.

### **Military Operations: European Convention on Human Rights Derogation**

[HLWS169]

**Earl Howe: Minister of State in the House of Lords,** **Earl Howe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Sir Michael Fallon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Over the past decade a series of court judgments have extended the reach of the European Convention on Human Rights to combat zones. This extra-territorial

jurisdiction was never envisaged by the Convention's authors.

While the Courts have been seeking to reconcile the Convention with the long established Law of Armed Conflict (or International Humanitarian Law), our military personnel have been engaged in operations overseas in support of the international community. They have had to do so in the face of growing legal uncertainty and an unprecedented level of litigation, much of it fuelled by a small number of law firms. In addition to the millions of pounds this litigation has been costing the taxpayer, the resulting uncertainties have been distressing to many current personnel and veterans, and military advice is that there is a risk of seriously undermining the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces.

It is for these reasons that the government through a range of measures is implementing the manifesto commitment to ensure our Armed Forces overseas are not subject to persistent legal claims that undermine their ability to do their job.

I am today informing the House that before embarking on significant future military operations, this government intends derogating from the European Convention on Human Rights, where this is appropriate in the precise circumstances of the operation in question. Any derogation would need to be justified and could only be made from certain Articles of the Convention.

In the event of such a derogation, our Armed Forces will continue to operate to the highest standards and be subject to the rule of law. They remain at all times subject to UK Service Law, which incorporates the criminal law of England and Wales, and International Humanitarian Law (the law of armed conflict including the Geneva Conventions) wherever in the world they are serving. Therefore any credible allegations of criminal wrongdoing by members of the Armed Forces will continue to be investigated, and prosecuted within the Service Justice System.

Meanwhile the government will continue to work tirelessly to uphold International Humanitarian Law in armed conflicts and to ensure that the appropriate, time-honoured balance between military necessity and humanitarian concerns – as enshrined in the Geneva Conventions – continues to govern armed conflicts throughout the world.

This announcement is an important part of our plan to deliver our manifesto pledge including limiting the length of time that claims can be brought against the government; strengthening the penalties for firms who engage in vexatious practices; and to reduce the financial incentive for law firms to pursue spurious claims.

### Overseas Electors

[HLWS168]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** My honorable friend the Minister for the Constitution (Chris Skidmore) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to publish the Government's plans setting out how we will deliver on our manifesto pledge to remove the current 15 year time limit on British citizens who live abroad registering as overseas electors.

Our proposals will give all British citizens who have lived in the UK a lifelong right to vote in parliamentary elections. They will ensure that all eligible overseas electors are able to register to vote and renew their registration in a convenient and timely fashion while maintaining the integrity of the electoral register and guarding against fraud. The policy will allow British citizens previously resident in the UK but who were not previously registered to vote, or had registered more than 15 year ago, to register as an overseas elector.

The publication of the policy will allow the expatriate community and those with technical electoral expertise to comment. Our aim is to have implemented the policy ahead of the next scheduled parliamentary elections.

The costs of implementing the policy are well within my department's spending review bid and funding will in due course be available for local authorities in line with the Government's new burdens doctrine.

This is one of a number of proposals to make sure our democracy works for everyone. The Government is also encouraging registration in under-registered areas, equalising constituencies, and looking at what can be done to improve access to anonymous registration for those escaping domestic violence.

I am placing a copy of the policy statement in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

WMS - Overseas Electors [Overseas Electors.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2016-10-10/HLWS168/>

### Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees: Triennial Review

[HLWS172]

**Earl Howe: The Minister of State in the House of Lords, Earl Howe :** My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans (Mr Mark Lancaster) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Ministry of Defence is required to review their Non Departmental Public Bodies at least once every three years to ensure that they have regular independent challenge.

I am today announcing the outcome of the Triennial review of the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPCs). The Review examined whether there is a continuing need for the function provided by the VAPCs and concluded in two stages. The first stage examined the key functions of the VAPCs and the second stage ensured that the body is operating in line with the recognised principles of good corporate governance.

The review concluded that the VAPCs continue to provide valuable impartial advice to both myself and Veterans UK, part of Defence Business Services. In addition, the VAPCs continue to play an important role in furthering the interests and needs of veterans, not least of which is the result of the establishment of forums under

the Armed Forces and Community Covenants, which continue to generate significant contribution from the public sector, local authorities and military units. Thus the VAPCs are able to sustain clear and relevant value for a range of stakeholders.



# Written Answers

*Monday, 10 October 2016*

## 10 Downing Street: Cats

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the costs of Larry the 10 Downing Street cat's veterinary treatment in July were met by donations from staff, and whether they plan to refund those staff. [[HL1605](#)]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** The costs were met by staff through voluntary staff donations due to their affection for Larry. There was no compulsion to donate and no refunds have been requested. The remaining funds will contribute towards the future upkeep of the Chief Mouser.

## A1: Nottinghamshire

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 14 June (HL500), whether they intend to publish in the Official Record a summary of the findings of the lessons learnt review of the 83 per cent escalation of costs for the recent improvements to the A1 road close to Gamston Airport, and what steps they have taken to reduce the risk of similar occurrences. [[HL1574](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The "Lessons Learned" workshop was completed on 8 June 2016 and is currently under review. There are some outstanding issues to be resolved regarding the possible requirement for permanent speed cameras, the agreement of alterations to a private access and the completion of road safety audit works, before it can be completed. Highways England intend to publish their findings on their website in due course.

To reduce the risks of similar occurrences, Highways England now has a greater focus on strategic planning with a five year plan of work. They are more able to ensure early contractor involvement more proactively in the development and construction of schemes. Highways England will take the lessons learned on the A1 Elkesley and ensure they are given due consideration in future schemes.

## A55

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many heavy goods vehicles were checked on the A55 in North Wales during 2015 for (1) weight offences, (2) drivers' hours offences, (3) mechanical condition offences, and (4) speeding; and of those, how many vehicles, or their drivers, received an immediate prohibition, and how many vehicles were registered outside the UK. [[HL1625](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** On the A55 in North Wales during 2015 the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) can confirm (1) 119 heavy goods vehicles in total were checked for weight offences, eight of these vehicles were registered within Great Britain (GB) and 111 were registered outside of GB. Out of 119, 74 were found to have weight offences and received immediate prohibitions, four of these were registered within GB and 70 were registered outside of GB.

(2) 1445 vehicles were checked for drivers hours offences, 186 were registered within GB and 1259 were registered outside of GB. Out of 1445 vehicles checked, 276 received Drivers Hours Prohibitions; these are all immediate prohibitions. Of the 276, 12 were registered within GB and 264 outside of GB.

(3) Vehicles are checked for mechanical condition and checks are recorded for Motor Vehicle and Trailer separately. For the motor vehicle part only, 779 vehicles were checked for mechanical condition offences, 108 of those were registered within GB and 671 were registered outside of GB. Of the 779 vehicles checked, 192 were found to have mechanical condition offences, 20 were registered in GB and 172 were outside of GB. Of the 192, 71 received immediate prohibitions. Of those 71, 15 were registered within GB and 56 outside of GB. For the trailer part of the vehicle, 647 trailers were checked for mechanical condition offences, 42 of these were registered within GB and 605 were registered outside of GB. Of the 647 trailers checked, 252 were found to have mechanical condition offences, 6 were registered within GB and 246 were registered outside of GB; 70 out of the 252 trailers, received immediate prohibitions, four of which were registered inside GB and 66 were outside of GB.

(4) DVSA cannot provide accurate data for how many vehicles were checked for speeding due to how the information is recorded.

## Abortion: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Northern Ireland Executive regarding the law with respect to abortion in Northern Ireland. [[HL1912](#)]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** Abortion law is a devolved matter with respect to Northern Ireland. It is therefore for the people of Northern Ireland and their elected representatives in Stormont to consider the need for any change.

## Adult Education

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, with reference to adults gaining qualifications under the Government-funded education and training budget in 2014–15, how many of the 86,700 gaining a "full level 3" obtained (1)

A levels, (2) applied academic awards such as BTEC diplomas, and (3) a full level 3 occupational or technical award. [HL1536]

**Lord Nash:** DfE do not currently classify all the categories asked for. The response provides a partial answer and we will place a fuller answer to the House of Lords Library in due course.

The table below shows the breakdown of full level 3 achievements in 2014/15 academic years by learning aim and reports the number of Full Level 3 achievements via obtaining 2 A-levels, Access to HE, and other Full Level 3 learning aims that include occupational or broad vocational aims.

*Adult (19+) Education and Training Achievement for Full Level 3 by aim type (in 2014/15) – Learner Volumes*

<i>Achievements</i>	<i>2014/15</i>
A-Level	300
Access to HE	22,900
Other Full Level 3	63,500
Total Full Level 3	86,700

Source: ILR 2014/15

Notes: 1. The learners are counted for each learning aim they achieved but only once in the Total Full Level 3 row.

2. The data are rounded to the nearest 100.

## Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are planning to take to honour the British soldiers who fought in Musa Qala in Afghanistan in the autumn of 2006. [HL1842]

**Earl Howe:** Service in Afghanistan is recognised by the Operational Service Medal. All those who deployed to Afghanistan will have been eligible to receive the medal if they met the qualifying criteria. There is a long-standing rule that decisions taken with regards to medallic recognition should not be revisited once five years have passed since the conclusion of a military operation. The 'five year' rule has been looked at by the Committee on the Grants of Honours, Decorations and Medals (HD Committee) on a number of occasions, and on each occasion it has concluded that the rule is sound and should not be changed.

## Afghanistan: Politics and Government

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the current security situation in Afghanistan and the stability of that country. [HL1823]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The security situation in Afghanistan remains challenging. It is the second year of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces'

(ANDSF) independent operations and their capability continues to gradually improve. The work of NATO's non-combat advisory mission, Resolute Support, remains critical to this effort. In 2016, ANDSF have faced particular pressure from the insurgency in Helmand and Kunduz. Where significant population centres have been threatened, government forces have repelled Taliban assaults.

At the Warsaw Summit in July 2016, NATO agreed to sustain Resolute Support's "Train, Advise and Assist" mission through 2017. Donors also pledged around \$4.5bn in funding to the ANDSF through to 2020 and reaffirmed NATO's Enduring Partnership with Afghanistan. This clear signal of international resolve demonstrates our collective commitment to safeguarding the gains made in Afghanistan and to supporting the Government of Afghanistan to deliver security for its citizens.

HMG Ministers will be discussing these issues, and related development issues, with partners at the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan on 4-5 October.

## Agricultural Products: Republic of Ireland

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the value of agricultural produce imported from the Republic of Ireland in the last year for which figures are available. [HL1889]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In 2015, according to the latest HMRC data, the UK imported approximately £4 billion of goods relating to food, animal feed and drinks, as detailed in the table below:

UK imports of food, feed and drink from Republic of Ireland, 2015.

<i>SITC</i>		
<i>Division</i>		
<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>£ million</i>
01	Meat	1 384
02	Dairy	648
03	Fish	38
04	Cereals	285
05	Fruit and Veg	250
06	Sugar	41
07	Coffee, tea, etc.	184
08	Animal feed	188
09	Misc.	653
11	Drink	273
22+S4	Oils	39
	Total	3 983



Defra's aggregate 'Food, Feed and Drink' is composed of the following divisions from the Standard International Trade Classification:

01 Meat: meat from cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, poultry, horses etc.

02 Dairy: includes milk, milk products, and all types of eggs.

03 Fish: All types of edible marine life excluding mammals.

04 Cereals: includes rice, wheat, barley, oats, maize etc.

05 Fruit and vegetables: includes fruit and vegetables, nuts (exc. groundnuts), juices, jams, marmalades etc.

06 Sugar: includes sugar and sugar confectionery (exc. chocolate or cocoa), honey and liquorice.

07 Coffee, tea, etc.: includes all types of coffee and tea, cocoa, chocolate and spices.

08 Animal feed: includes hay, fodder, bran, sharps, and all types of pet or animal food.

09 Miscellaneous: includes margarine, sauces, vinegar, soups, yeasts, cooked/stuffed pasta and baby food.

11 Drink: includes alcoholic drinks of all kinds and natural or artificial waters.

22+S4 Oils: includes animal/vegetable oils, fats and waxes; groundnuts (peanuts), soya beans and seeds.

Source: HMRC

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## Agriculture: Subsidies

*Asked by Lord Greaves*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to continue to include the current requirements for cross compliance within continuing farm payments up to 2020 following the UK leaving the EU including (1) the protection of watercourses and groundwater, (2) public rights of way and boundaries, (3) soil protection standards, (4) standards of animal husbandry and welfare, and (5) the use of plant protection products. [HL1552]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Delivering a successful and profitable farming industry and protecting the environment will continue to form an important part of our work. The Government will work closely with both industry and the public to determine the most effective way to deliver those objectives in future.

## Air Pollution

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent research findings that magnetite, derived from pollution, can damage the brain, what further research they are funding into the health risks of air pollution. [HL1647]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department's National Institute for Health Research is funding the Health Protection Research Unit in Health Impacts of Environmental Hazards, whose remit includes air pollution research. This unit is a partnership between King's College London and Public Health England in collaboration with Imperial College London.

The Research Councils, funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, invest in a range of research into the health impacts of air pollution exposure in the United Kingdom and internationally. They also support research into the sources and processes controlling air pollution and how it can be better monitored and mitigated to inform integrated policies across health, the natural and built environments, transport and energy.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the recently introduced air quality action plans will require local authorities to take into account the latest research showing that air pollution particles can enter the nervous system and the brain. [HL1648]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Air quality has improved significantly in recent decades and we are working at local, national and international levels to continue those improvements. The UK currently meets legal limits for almost all pollutants.

The national air quality plan for NO<sub>2</sub>, published in December last year, combines targeted local and national measures, forming part of a wider approach that exploits new and clean technologies, such as electric and ultra-low emission vehicles. As part of the national plan we are requiring five cities to implement Clean Air Zones. The relevant cities are Birmingham, Derby, Leeds, Nottingham and Southampton.

These measures will also reduce particulate matter concentrations.

Alongside national action, local authorities have opportunities to improve air quality for the protection of public health and the environment through their decisions on local land use planning, environmental health, roads, highways and local air quality management. Local authorities are also able to introduce Clean Air Zones voluntarily.

The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution provides independent evidence to Government on the impacts of air pollution on health. It regularly reviews latest research, and Defra reflects its guidance in its policy-making.

## Apprentices: Taxation

*Asked by Lord Aberdare*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish details of how the apprenticeship levy will affect employers in the devolved UK nations. [HL1663]

*Asked by Lord Aberdare*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when employers in the devolved UK nations will start to pay the apprenticeship levy; and how funds raised from that levy will be made available to promote apprenticeships in the devolved nations. [HL1664]

**Lord Nash:** On 12 August, we published proposals for how apprenticeships will be funded in England from May 2017; these include how apprentices living elsewhere in the UK, but employed in England, will be supported. Details are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/views-sought-on-plans-to-boost-apprenticeships>.

We are committed to publishing final funding rates and rules for England by the end of October. Discussions are taking place with devolved administrations to ensure that apprenticeship funding works for employers wherever they are in the UK, when the levy is introduced.

The apprenticeship levy will be payable at 0.5% of pay bill by employers across the whole of the UK. An allowance of £15,000 means that only employers with a pay bill of more than £3 million per year will pay the levy, less than 2% of employers. The levy will come into effect on 6 April 2017.

The UK government has made a commitment that the devolved administrations will receive a fair share of the levy, and discussions are ongoing to deliver this outcome. As skills policy is devolved it is for the devolved administrations to decide how they will fund apprenticeships in their nations.

## Armed Forces

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force each have the manpower to meet their current operational commitments; and what capacity each service has to meet additional commitments if required. [HL1678]

**Earl Howe:** The Armed Forces are meeting all of their current operational commitments. We routinely examine the implications of possible future activity for the Armed Forces and current deployments.

## Armed Forces: Deployment

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the qualifying criteria for servicemen to be considered as mobilised, and how mobilisation is recognised. [HL1744]

**Earl Howe:** The Reserve Forces are a valuable and highly valued component of the Armed Forces. Under the Reserve Forces Act 1996 the Secretary of State for

Defence can authorise the mobilisation of Reserve Forces if it appears to him that it is necessary or desirable to use them to contribute to the delivery of the nation's security. All reservists are liable for mobilisation. The maximum period for which a reservist may be mobilised is up to one year in a four year period.

We aim to provide at least 28 days notice of mobilisation. In selecting individuals for mobilisation we will, as far as practicable, take into account their personal circumstances, including employment. The flexibility in selecting individuals for mobilisation will depend on the scale, urgency and nature of the threat. Employers and reservists can appeal against a mobilisation.

When a reservist reports for military service, a medical inspection is carried out and their physical fitness is measured to ascertain their wellbeing and fitness to deploy. Training appropriate to the nature of the task will be given prior to deployment.

Once mobilised individuals are paid as regulars and receive relevant allowances. In addition, reservists and their employers are entitled to claim financial assistance which mitigates the financial impact of the mobilisation.

## Armed Forces: Railways

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to putting in place immediate arrangements for members of the armed forces to be trained in train driving, operating and management. [HL1841]

**Earl Howe:** Defence has no current plans in place to provide training in train driving, operating or management.

## Arms Trade: Exports

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what breaches of international humanitarian law in conflict situations constitute grounds for the revocation of arms export licences. [HL1676]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Risks around international humanitarian law violations are a key part of our assessment against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. A licence will not be issued for any country where we assess there is a clear risk that the items might be used in the commission of a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law.

Our export licensing system allows us to respond quickly to changed circumstances, with the option to revoke an export licence where we consider that there is a clear risk that the items being exported pursuant to that licence might be used in a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law.

**BBC: Royal Charters**

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the draft BBC Charter and Agreement will be laid before Parliament. [HL1745]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** The BBC's draft Charter and Framework Agreement published was published on Thursday 15th September.

**Belize: Homosexuality**

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for the Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean of the recent ruling from the Supreme Court in Belize that a law that criminalised homosexuality was unconstitutional. [HL1948]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Tolerance, respect, equality and non-discrimination are all important UK values. I therefore welcome the recent ruling from the Supreme Court in Belize and hope that, following the appeal made by the Belize Catholic Church, the decision will stand. I also hope countries across the Caribbean and the wider Commonwealth which continue to criminalise private consensual sexual conduct between adults of the same sex will consider this judgment carefully and be encouraged to make similar updates to their own legislation.

**Bilal Kayed**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking in response to the concern expressed by the UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance and Development Aid in the occupied Palestinian territory about the declining health of Bilal Kayid. [HL1639]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** According to an agreement made between Mr. Kayid and the Israeli Government, Mr. Kayid's administrative detention will not be renewed past 12 December. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises our concerns over the use of administrative detention with the Israeli authorities.

**Birmingham Airport**

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the growth potential of Birmingham International Airport. [HL1874]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The government recognises the important contribution that airports across the UK make. The government made clear in its Aviation Policy Framework, that regional airports make a vital contribution to the growth and recovery of regional and

local economies and their role in helping to accommodate wider forecast growth in demand for aviation in the UK. Birmingham Airport completed an extension to its runway in 2014 to encourage operation of larger aircraft flying to more long-haul destinations.

**Borders: Northern Ireland**

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations they have had with the government of the Republic of Ireland on a special arrangement for the land border between the EU and the UK as a result of Brexit. [HL1696]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** There has been a range of engagement with the Irish Government, including a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach in London on the 26 July and meetings between the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU and Irish Ministers in Dublin on 8 September. We have had a Common Travel Area between the UK and the Republic of Ireland many years before either country was a member of the European Union. There is a strong will in the UK Government, the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to preserve it, and it remains our intention to do so.

*Asked by Lord Eames*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, or intend to have, with the Confederation of British Industry on the consequences of any future alteration in the status of the land border between the UK and the EU. [HL1698]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union met with CBI NI as part of the inaugural meeting of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's business advisory group on 1 September. The group is a platform for businesses across Northern Ireland to provide high level advice to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and NIO ministers on critical business and economic issues.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking ahead of the EU General Affairs Council on 20 September to engage their EU counterparts on the issue of imposing restrictive measures on individuals in Bosnia and Herzegovina who oppose those who will administer or facilitate the referendum on 25 September. [HL1498]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government, together with international partners, is pressing political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to use domestic processes to find a constitutional solution to the issue of

the referendum on 25 September. The UK is also engaging with EU partners on how to respond if the referendum does take place on 25th September.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sovereignty**

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, ahead of the referendum in the entity of Republika Srpska on 25 September, what support they have given High Representative Valentin Inzko to enable him to exercise his mandate under the Dayton Peace Accord to uphold the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina. [HL1590]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As members of the Peace Implementation Council, the UK issued a statement on 30 August 2016 urging the Republika Srpska authorities not to hold the proposed referendum and making clear our support for the High Representative. The Government is in close contact with the High Representative and international partners about the proposed referendum and is committed to upholding the territorial integrity and structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) as a single, sovereign state comprising two entities.

### **Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control**

*Asked by Baroness Parminter*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the badger culls in Somerset and Gloucestershire after four years of operation. [HL1715]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government plans to publish a report on the fourth year of licensed badger control operations in parts of Somerset and Gloucestershire as it has done for the first three years. The Animal and Plant Health Agency continues to assess annually the incidence of tuberculosis in cattle in areas where badger control is licensed for the purposes of controlling the disease. The analysis after the first two years in Somerset and Gloucestershire is available on the gov.uk website.

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the progress of badger culls in England and the effects of those culls on the welfare of cattle. [HL1963]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government plans to publish a report on this year's licensed badger control operations as it has done for the first three years of the programme. The Animal and Plant Health Agency continues to assess annually the incidence of tuberculosis in cattle in areas where badger control is licensed for the purposes of controlling the disease. The analysis of the first two years impact is available on the GOV.UK website.

### **British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries**

*Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect the rights of British citizens living in the EU set out in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. [HL1653]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** There has been no change to the rights and status of British citizens in the EU, or EU citizens in the UK, as a result of the referendum.

The Prime Minister has been clear that during negotiations she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living here, and the only circumstances in which that would not be possible is if British citizens' rights in European member states were not protected in return.

### **British Nationals Abroad: Islamic State**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the latest figures of how many British Islamists who have fought in Iraq or Syria for Islamic State (1) are believed still to be in those countries, and (2) have returned to the UK; of those who are known to have returned how many (a) have been prosecuted, (b) have received "de-radicalisation" treatment, and (c) had no action taken against them. [HL1579]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Approximately 850 UK linked individuals of national security concern have travelled to engage with the Syrian conflict. We estimate that just under half have returned and approximately 15% are now dead. This number includes all those of national security concern, not just those affiliated with Daesh.

Data from the Crown Prosecution Service shows that they have successfully prosecuted 10 cases involving 14 defendants who have returned to the UK and are suspected of having fought in Syria and /or Iraq. In compiling this answer, we have learned that the data on this subject which was included in our answer to question HL8065 (11 May 2016) was incorrect, as it included all prosecutions related to Syria and / or Iraq, rather than those related only to people who had returned from Syria or Iraq.

All those who return from engaging in the conflict in Syria and Iraq can expect to be subject to investigation to determine if they have committed criminal offences abroad or represent a threat to our national security. Decisions to prosecute are taken, independently of Government, by the Crown Prosecution Service. Assessments are also made of the appropriateness of other forms of intervention, for example including referral to mental health services or to the Channel programme. For reasons of national security, we do not comment further on action taken with respect to returners from Syria.



*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide details of the de-radicalisation programmes used for British Jihadis returning from Iraq and Syria, including (1) how many have undergone such programmes, (2) who delivers those programmes, and (3) the content of those programmes. [HL1681]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** All those who return from engaging in the conflict in Syria and Iraq can expect to be subject to investigation to determine if they have committed criminal offences abroad or represent a threat to our national security. Decisions to prosecute are taken, independently of Government, by the Crown Prosecution Service. Assessments are also made of the appropriateness of other forms of intervention, including referral to mental health services or to the Channel programme, for example. For reasons of national security, we do not comment further on action taken with respect to returners from Syria.

## Broadband

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of people in the UK who do not have access to superfast broadband. [HL1707]

**Baroness Mobarik:** We want everyone to have access to high speed broadband as part of our commitment to building a stronger, more connected economy that works for all.

Through the Government's investment of over £780 million, superfast broadband is now available to 90% of homes and businesses in the UK, compared to less than half in 2010. By the end of 2017 it will be available to 95% of homes and businesses.

But we are determined to go further, and extra funding from clawback and efficiency savings in the local broadband contracts with BT will allow this coverage to be extended.

We are also committed to introducing a Universal Service Obligation for broadband through the Digital Economy Bill. Our ambition is to set the minimum speed at 10Mbps - enough to meet the needs of a typical family and many small businesses so no-one is left behind.

## Broadband: Finance

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many proposals they have received from prospective fund managers in response to the Infrastructure and Projects Authority competition for a commercial partner for its proposed Broadband Investment Fund, and when they plan to announce the successful bidder. [HL1870]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Infrastructure and Projects Authority has received seven proposals from prospective commercial partners for the proposed

Broadband Investment Fund. Officials are currently evaluating the proposals and carrying out due diligence. The government will announce a decision in due course.

## Burma: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State in Burma. [HL1853]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** According to UN OCHA Rakhine is one of the least developed areas in Burma and has the highest poverty rate in the country. Inter-communal violence in 2012 led to the displacement of approximately 145,000 people and as of June 2016 some 120,000 internally displaced people remain in 39 camps or camp-like settings across Rakhine State. Prolonged displacement and ongoing movement restrictions constrain access to essential services like formal education, healthcare and livelihoods, and continue to cause increased vulnerability and a high level of dependency on humanitarian aid. Despite positive progress on establishing the Kofi Annan-led Rakhine Commission, there has not yet been an improvement in the humanitarian situation in Rakhine. DFID and UK Government officials continue to keep close track of the humanitarian situation in Rakhine and visit the region frequently. DFID Ministers raised the plight of the Rakhine and the rights of the Muslim community in meeting with the Burmese government on the most recent visit.

## Burma: Peace Negotiations

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the progress of the peace process in Burma in the light of the recent Union Peace Conference, 21st Century Panglong. [HL1848]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We welcome State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi's peace initiative - the Union Peace Conference, 21st Century Panglong. It was the most inclusive peace conference to date and successfully brought most of the major players to the table. This was a significant achievement in its own right. The conference marks the beginning of a process, and there are now proposals to follow up at six-monthly intervals. We will continue to support this process as it moves forward to the next stage.

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to press the government of Burma to ensure that the Burmese army ceases attacks in Kachin State and engages in a genuine process of political dialogue. [HL1849]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned by reports of ongoing offensives in Kachin State. There is a

risk these operations could destabilise the peace process. The Kachin participated in State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi's recent peace initiative - the Union Peace Conference, 21st Century Panglong - which we welcome. The best prospect for peace in Kachin is for the follow-up to the Panglong conference to be successful. We will continue to support this.

## Burma: Politics and Government

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Burma about establishing a federal democracy to address the political needs of ethnic nationalities. [HL1852]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not held any discussions with the government of Burma on federal democracy in Burma. The political character of Burma's state is a sovereign matter for the people of Burma and their democratically elected leaders to decide. However the UK Government is supporting the peace initiative launched by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. We regard this as the best forum in which all parties can express their political grievances and enter into a dialogue about how to reconcile their differences.

## Burma: Rohingya

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Burma about restoring the citizenship rights of the Rohingya people. [HL1851]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have long advocated for action to tackle the problems of Rakhine for the benefit of all communities, and to end the mistreatment of the Muslim Rohingya minority. We therefore welcome the establishment of the new Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma), issued a statement to this effect on 25 August. On 14 September he also held a telephone conversation with Mr Annan in which he conveyed in person the UK's strong support for his appointment and mandate. We are clear that this is a Burmese conceived and led initiative, and that is as it should be. The UK is providing funding to support the work of the Kofi Annan Foundation. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) also discussed the Annan Commission on 12 September with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during her visit to the UK.

## Burma: World Food Programme

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to recent reports about cuts by the World Food

Programme in aid to internally displaced people in parts of Rakhine State and Kachin State, Burma. [HL1918]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** DFID funds significant food assistance for internally displaced people in Burma through a number of partners. We do not fund the World Food Programme (WFP) for such assistance, but we are informed of their programming decisions. DFID officials visit Rakhine and Kachin regularly to listen to affected communities. We ensure that WFP is made aware of any concerns raised about their assistance. DFID will monitor the impact of recent changes.

## Burundi: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contingency plans are in place to provide humanitarian aid in the event of a poor harvest in Burundi. [HL1693]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government is very concerned by the ongoing political unrest in Burundi and its humanitarian consequences. Burundi had high levels of food insecurity before the political crisis. However, the increase in market prices, the impact of late and heavy El-Nino rains, and the loss of livelihoods could result in further food insecurity and malnutrition.

DFID Ministers have already committed £3 million for humanitarian preparedness and early response within Burundi. We have further set aside contingency funds of up to £4 million should the situation deteriorate. DFID will monitor the humanitarian and food security situation and ensure appropriate support is provided if the situation warrants it.

## Business: Government Assistance

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to support all businesses in the UK to best take advantage of the opportunities presented by the EU referendum result. [HL1800]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We remain committed to making Britain the best place in Europe to start and grow a business and build an economy that works for all. The best way of supporting business is to ensure that the economic fundamentals are strong. Employment is at a record high, there are almost a million new businesses in our country since 2010, and the budget deficit has been reduced by almost two thirds.

The BEIS ministerial team have during the summer met businesses, investors, workers and local leaders in all four home nations, as well as travelling to India, China and Japan.

Furthermore, and for the first time, each local enterprise partnership area and each of the devolved Administrations will have a specific Minister in my Department assigned to them. Personal relationships matter in business, and that should start with the Business Department.



## Busking

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the contribution that busking makes to community life. [HL1709]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** The Government is clear that live music and street entertainment play an important role in community life and can generate a positive atmosphere that can be enjoyed by all. It can help in introducing performers to new audiences and contributes significantly in establishing and developing new talent.

## Cancer

*Asked by Baroness Redfern*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cancer referrals in England were not made within the two week waiting time target for each of the last three years. [HL1981]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** *The Handbook to the NHS Constitution*, which is attached, sets out the right for patients to be seen by a cancer specialist within a maximum of two weeks from general practitioner (GP) referral for urgent referrals where cancer is suspected. The operational standard is that 93% of patients should wait less than two weeks from GP urgent referral to first consultant appointment. This standard has been met in each of the last three years.

The information for how many patients waited more than two weeks from GP urgent referral to first consultant appointment is shown in the table below.

*Table: Two week wait from GP urgent referral to first consultant appointment, in England, 2013/14 to 2015/16*

Year	Number of patients that waited less than two weeks to be seen	Number of patients that waited more than two weeks to be seen	Total number of patients referred	Performance against the standard
2013/14	1,297,849	63,496	1,361,345	95.3%
2014/15	1,459,084	90,610	1,549,694	94.2%
2015/16	1,624,981	101,140	1,726,121	94.1%

Source: Cancer waiting times quarterly time series, NHS England

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NHS CONSTITUTION HANDBOOK  
[NHS\_Constitution\_Handbook\_v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-15/HL1981>

## Castes: Discrimination

*Asked by Lord Harries of Pentregarth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what form the consultation on section 9(5) of the Equality Act 2010 on caste-based discrimination will take; how they will formulate the questions to be addressed in the consultations; and whether that consultation will be on how section 9(5) can best be brought into effect or on whether it should be brought into effect. [HL1669]

**Lord Nash:** The Government has considered carefully the *Tirkey v Chandhok* judgment and its implications, including for the caste duty and the Equality Act, and has decided to issue a public consultation on this important and sensitive matter. The consultation will run for 12 weeks from its commencement date. One of the key aims of the consultation will be to obtain the views of stakeholders on the appropriate provision that should be made for caste in the Act.

We are especially keen to hear the public's views on whether, in light of the *Tirkey v Chandok* judgment, additional measures are needed to ensure victims of caste discrimination have appropriate legal protection and effective remedies under the 2010 Equality Act.

We will then consider the responses to the consultation very carefully before deciding what further action is most appropriate.

## Cats: Tagging

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the benefits of a compulsory microchipping scheme for cats. [HL1946]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** It is good practice for owners to have their cats microchipped with their name and address. However, it is not Government policy to make such microchipping compulsory. The case for compulsory dog microchipping does not apply in the case of cats. Stray cats do not present the same level of public nuisance as stray dogs, which are required to be kennelled by local authorities and charities at significant cost and to the detriment of their welfare.

## Cedars Pre-departure Accommodation Facility

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have commenced negotiations for the disposal of the Cedars family accommodation centre property. [HL1741]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** On 21 July 2016, the Government announced its decision to close the Cedars pre-departure accommodation facility. The Cedars property is held on a leasehold basis. We have not yet commenced formal discussions with the landlord over the future of the site.

## China: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the findings and recommendations in the report published in June by the Conservative Party Human Rights Commission, *The Darkest Moment: The Crackdown on Human Rights in China 2013–2016*. [HL1811]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My officials and I have read the report with interest. Although the Government was not asked to give evidence to it and the views stated within it do not reflect Government policy, there is much in the report with which we agree. We are already pursuing an approach consistent with many of the recommendations. For example my ministerial colleagues and I regularly raise concerns about the crackdown on human rights lawyers, repressive legislation, and challenges to freedom of religion or belief. Equally, there are parts of the report which require further investigation to substantiate the claims made, for instance about organ harvesting.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to conduct a comprehensive review of British foreign policy towards China, including consulting human rights NGOs, human rights lawyers, activists, religious communities and NGOs in China, exiled Chinese dissidents, journalists, academics and other experts, as recommended by the Conservative Party Human Rights Commission. [HL1812]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government's policy towards China is set by the National Security Council. We have a strong relationship with China, as described in the Global Partnership announced at the State Visit of President Xi to the UK in 2015, and reiterated by the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), during her recent visit to China. In addition to working with China to solve global challenges, and to develop strong trade, investment and people links, we also promote British values. To inform our policy, we maintain contact with a wide range of stakeholders, including human rights NGOs, journalists and academics. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma) met Chinese human rights activists when he visited China in August.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to engage in increased consultation with civil society and UK-based and international human rights NGOs around the UK–China Human Rights Dialogue, including increasing transparency and accountability. [HL1813]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Ministers and officials meet civil society representatives on a regular basis to hear their views and benefit from their expertise on the human rights situation in China. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Mr Sharma) met Chinese NGOs during his recent visit to China. He plans to host a round table with UK-based NGOs at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the near future.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the effectiveness of the UK–China Human Rights Dialogue and the EU–China Human Rights Dialogue, and whether they will establish specific benchmarks for progress in those dialogues. [HL1814]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK–China Human Rights Dialogue provides a platform to highlight a wide range of the Government's human rights concerns to relevant Chinese officials. It also provides an opportunity for frank, expert exchanges on policies as they are applied in the UK and China. In recent years workshop themes have included: judicial procedures; disability rights; and minority languages.

The Dialogue is an addition to, rather than a replacement for discussions in other bilateral and multilateral fora. It is one part of our strategy to promote British values in China, and we do not have benchmarks to measure the Dialogue in isolation. We do measure progress against our overall strategy and we report on it in the FCO Annual Human Rights report.

The EU–China Human Rights dialogue functions in a similar way, and we engage closely with the organisers to share views and objectives. We are confident that the EU–China Human Rights Dialogue is coherent with UK objectives.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of the People's Republic of China about releasing all human rights lawyers detained since July 2015, ceasing the harassment of lawyers and activists, and upholding the rule of law. [HL1815]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Chinese authorities about the detention, arrest and disappearance of Chinese lawyers and human rights defenders. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Mr Sharma), raised their cases most recently with the Chinese Ambassador on 1 August. We urge the Chinese authorities to release the detained lawyers and ensure all detainees have access to legal counsel of their choice.

## China: Prisoners

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the evidence of the practice of forced organ harvesting in China set out in the report published in June by David Kilgour, David Matas and Ethan Gutmann, and in the film *The Bleeding Edge*. [[HL1816](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** As the former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) stated to the House of Commons on the 12 July 2016, we have raised concerns about reports of organ harvesting, as well as about the torture and mistreatment of detainees, during the annual UK-China human rights dialogue. We will do so again at the next round which is scheduled to take place in October. My officials most recently raised the issue with the Chinese authorities on 1 September 2016.

The Kilgour/Matas/Gutmann report is an important source of information about China's organ transplant system, which we take seriously, but we are unable to substantiate all the evidence presented in the report. We have not assessed any evidence from 'the Bleeding Edge', as we understand it to be a semi-fictional feature film. We encourage the Chinese authorities to provide more information about the sources of organs for transplant, and about the implementation of existing Chinese regulations in this area.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to work with other countries to seek the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of forced organ harvesting in China. [[HL1837](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have no plans to seek the establishment of an International Commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of forced organ harvesting in China.

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to ways to prohibit British citizens from travelling to China for the purpose of obtaining an organ transplant until the practice of forced organ harvesting ceases. [[HL1838](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer the Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Mr Sharma) gave on 14 September in response to Written Question 45143 from the Hon. Member for Strangford (Mr Jim Shannon), copied below for ease of reference:

"As My Rt Hon. Friend, the former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Hugo Swire, stated to the house on the 12 July 2016, we have raised

concerns about reports of organ harvesting, as well as about the torture and mistreatment of detainees, during the annual UK-China human rights dialogue. We will do so again at the next round. My officials also raised the issue with their Chinese counterparts on 1 September 2016. However, despite the fact that UK physicians always advise patients against, it is very difficult to prevent UK citizens travelling to less well-regulated countries to seek an organ transplant. Although numbers are not known, it is thought that very few patients in the UK choose to do so."

## Climate Change Convention

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking to ratify the Paris agreement on climate change. [[HL1689](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We will take the necessary Parliamentary steps for domestic approval to enable ratification shortly.

## Climate Change: Islands

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with international partners on tackling the difficulties being experienced by low-lying island states due to rises in sea levels and the increased frequency of tropical storms. [[HL1686](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government is engaged in regular discussions with partner Governments, other donors, the private sector and key stakeholders to help target support to build the resilience of communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, for example through coastal flooding and tropical storms. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2015 the UK led an initiative to focus attention on the vulnerability of Commonwealth small island states.

## Clinical Commissioning Groups

*Asked by Baroness Redfern*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to revise the boundaries of Clinical Commissioning Groups in the light of regional devolution deals. [[HL1979](#)]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** NHS England has no plans to revise the boundaries of clinical commissioning groups in light of regional devolution deals.

## Conditions of Employment

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the EU referendum result, what action they are taking to protect workers' rights. [[HL1801](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** There is already a range of protections for workers in UK law. It is important to get the right balance between the needs of employers and employees and that remains our position.

### **Construction: National Vocational Qualifications**

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many level 5 and level 6 Construction Industry Training Board Construction NVQ diplomas were awarded in (1) 2014, and (2) 2015. [[HL1598](#)]

**Lord Nash:** Final data for 2014/15 show that there were no Level 5 or Level 6 Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) NVQ diploma achievements in the construction, planning and the built environment sector subject area.

Data reported so far for August to April of the 2015/16 academic year also show that there were no Level 5 or Level 6 CITB NVQ diploma achievements in the construction sector subject area. The data for 2015/16 are subject to change as further data returns relating to the period are received later in the year.

### **Consumer Goods**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the London Fire Brigade's proposal for a single, publicly accessible UK register of product recalls. [[HL1704](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We want to ensure consumers have easy access to information on product recalls. We have already asked an industry led Recall Review Steering Group to explore how a single source of information on product recalls can be delivered for business and consumers. We will be discussing proposals on this with them shortly. The London Fire Brigade are represented on the Recall Review Steering Group by the Chief Fire Officers Association.

### **Consumer Protection Measures in the Ticket Resale Market Review**

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will respond to the Independent Review of Consumer Protection Measures concerning Online Secondary Ticketing Facilities published on 26 May. [[HL1901](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is considering Professor Waterson's Review and will publish its response in due course.

### **Consumers: Protection**

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to publish the responses to the call for evidence on improving the consumer landscape and quicker switching published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in May. [[HL1903](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Responses to the call for evidence on the consumer landscape and quicker switching are still being considered. The Government will publish a summary of the responses in due course.

### **Corruption**

*Asked by Lord Hughes of Woodside*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen on 12 September (HL Deb, col 1308), what are the remit and terms of appointment of the anti-corruption champion, and what staffing and financial support arrangements have been put in place to assist him in carrying out his duties. [[HL1957](#)]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** The Anti-Corruption Champion, Sir Eric Pickles, is a personal appointment of the Prime Minister. The main elements of the Champion's role were set out in the UK's Anti-Corruption Action Plan and include: scrutinising the performance of departments and agencies, as co-chair of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Anti-Corruption; responsibility, along with Home Office Ministers, for approval of the UK's Anti-Corruption Plan and for parliamentary and public accountability of the Government's performance against the Plan; responsibility, along with other Ministers, for leading the UK's push to strengthen the international response to corruption; and a mandate to engage with external stakeholders, including business and civil society organisations. The Champion is supported by the Joint Anti-Corruption Unit.

### **Council Tax**

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to remove restrictions on local authorities raising council tax to meet the needs of their communities. [[HL1798](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government is committed to working with local authorities to protect hard-working council tax payers from excessive increases. In the Spending Review, the Government announced a new adult social care precept worth 2 per cent for authorities with responsibility for adult social care for the remainder of the Parliament, subject to the approval of the House of Commons. This new precept was in addition to a 'core' council tax referendum principle of 2 per cent, which would be reviewed annually. The Government has set out its proposals for council tax referendum principles for 2017-18 in the



Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation, released on 15 September 2016.

*Asked by Lord Porter of Spalding*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the cost pressures on local authorities, and whether in the light of that assessment they have plans to give local authorities greater freedoms to raise income locally by removing the requirement to hold referendums before raising Council Tax above two per cent. [1] [HL1875]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** Councils account for around a quarter of all public spending and have an important role to play in tackling the deficit. The 2015 Spending Review looked across all local government spending and as a result the Government provided a £3.5 billion package to tackle the pressures of adult social care. This included giving councils the additional freedom to introduce an adult social care precept worth 2 per cent, which could raise nearly £2 billion by 2019-20. The Government remains committed to working with local authorities to keep council tax low for hard-working families and set out its proposals for council tax referendum principles for 2017-18 in the Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation, published on 15 September 2016.

## Counter-terrorism

*Asked by Baroness Warsi*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place in the Library of the House copies of all the end of year evaluation reports of projects and civil society organisations funded by the Home Office under the Prevent strategy for the years 2011 to 2016. [HL1969]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** For security reasons we do not publish detailed evaluation reports. Headline statistics on Prevent delivery are reported annually through the CONTEST Annual Report.

The most recent CONTEST Annual Report was published on 21 July 2016.

## Cycling: Road Traffic Offences

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cyclists were fined or issued with fixed penalty notices for (1) summary offences, or (2) more serious offences, in (1) 2010-11, (2) 2011-12, (3) 2012-13, (4) 2013-14, (5) 2014-15, and (6) 2015-16. [HL1651]

*Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce incidents of cyclists mounting and cycling on pavements. [HL1652]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Cycling on the pavement is an offence under Section 72 of the Highways Act 1835 and illegal cycling on pavements causes much concern especially to our most vulnerable pedestrians, such as elderly, disabled and visually impaired people.

The number of offenders sentenced to a fine at all courts for offences related to cycling, in England and Wales, from 2010/11 to the period from April to December 2015 can be viewed in the attached table on fines for cycling offences. Data for 2016, including finalised data for Quarter 1, is planned for publication in May 2017. It is not possible to establish whether or not an indictable offence involved a cyclist without checking case files at the courts concerned. This can only be done at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office collects data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for motoring offences only and these data are published by the Home Office in the annual 'Police Powers and Procedures' publication. Data on fixed penalty notices issued to cyclists are not held centrally.

This Government supports any action taken by the police to deter and reduce the number of cycling offences. The enforcement of the offence of cycling on the pavement is an operational matter for Chief Officers of police, as determined locally and based on local priorities.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PQ HL1651/HL1652 - Table [PQ HL1651 HL1652 table on fines for cycling offences.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-07/HL1651>

## Dairy Products: Origin Marking

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 12 May (HL8175), what steps they are taking to make country of origin labelling mandatory for all milk and dairy products. [HL1774]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** At present, most milk and dairy products are labelled with their origin on a voluntary basis.

We are continuing to work with the food industry to explore what more can be done to make it easier for consumers and food businesses to know when they are buying British.

## Debts: Young People

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help young people who are concerned about their debts from student loans and mortgages. [HL1634]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government recognises that there are those who face problem debt. The Money Advice Service (MAS) is responsible for the coordination of publically funded free to client debt advice and is financed by a levy on the financial services industry.

Mortgage lending is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The regulation of mortgage lending is based on the principle that mortgages should only be advanced where there is a reasonable expectation that borrowers can repay. All lenders must conduct a thorough affordability assessment in order to ensure any lending is responsible.

Graduates only have to start repaying their student loans when their earnings are above the repayment threshold of £21,000. Any outstanding debts are written off 30 years after graduation.

## Degrees

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Earl of Courtown on 3 August (HL1378), how many institutions applied to the Quality Assurance Agency's Advisory Committee on Degree Awarding Powers for degree-awarding powers between 2013 and 2016 inclusive; and what is the current status of each application. [HL1601]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** During this period, 24 institutions have applied for degree-awarding powers. Of those applications, 9 awards have been made and 13 applications are either currently undergoing scrutiny or awaiting final decision from the Privy Council following advice from the Quality Assurance Agency. There were also 2 applications that did not proceed to full scrutiny, as referred to in the earlier answer, HL 1378.

## Dentistry: Training

*Asked by Lord Colwyn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost per student to the public purse of providing bachelor-level education in dental surgery. [HL1482]

*Asked by Lord Colwyn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost to the public purse of providing a foundation training place for a dental graduate. [HL1483]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Information on the average cost to Health Education England (HEE) of providing Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) education and Dental Foundation Training (DFT) can be found in the tables A, B and C below.

*Table A*

*Cost to HEE of BDS education*

<i>BDS</i>	<i>Average tariff</i>	<i>Fee Contribution</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Total</i>
Year 1	£32,600	-	-	£32,600
Year 2	£32,600	-	-	£32,600
Year 3	£32,600	-	-	£32,600
Year 4	£32,600	-	-	£32,600
Year 5	£32,600	£9,000	£3,000	£44,600
Total	£163,000	£9,000	£3,000	£175,000

Notes:

- i) Average Tariff is the placement fee to cover the placement.
- ii) Fee contribution is the tuition fee payable in year 5.
- iii) Maintenance is the Bursary cost.
- iv) These figures represent the best estimate of average cost to HEE, there may be other costs to the public purse, for example to provide student loans that are not included in these estimates.

*Table B*

*Cost to HEE of providing dental foundation training in secondary care*

Placement support	£50,900
Salary/Maintenance	£34,100
Total	£85,000

Notes:

1. Training Placement Support cost is the cost of the dental practice providing training & facilities.
2. Trainee Salary/Maintenance cost is the contribution to the trainee salary and associated costs.

*Table C*

*Cost to HEE of providing dental foundation training in primary care*

Dental foundation training salary	£31,044
Dental foundation trainer grant	£9,324
Service costs	£64,164
Total	£104,532

Notes:

1. Training salary is the reimbursement of the salary paid to the dental trainee.
2. Trainer grant is the sum that represents the time spent in supervising a trainee.
3. Service costs is a sum that represents the service costs of employing a trainee.



## Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Written Questions

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask the Leader of the House, further to her Written Statement on 21 July (HLWS128), what discussion she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in the light of that Department's position as the Department having the worst record in answering Questions for Written Answer within 10 working days, and whether the Secretary of State intends to make a Written Statement to explain what steps have been taken within that Department to match the overall record of government departments in answering 93 per cent of Written Question within 10 working days. [HL1573]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** I take very seriously my responsibility as Leader of the House to encourage Ministers to be punctual in answering written questions. I recently published data on departmental performance in answering Questions for Written Answer for the 2015/16 session, where I was pleased to see that 93% of questions were answered within 10 working days. Nevertheless, we must always strive to do better. I have written to the three departments with the greatest proportion of late responses in the last session to make clear the House's expectations and to stress the importance of timely responses.

Though the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (formerly the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) received 475 Questions for Written Answer in 2015/16 - more than double the number received in the previous session - Ministers were nevertheless disappointed by the department's performance. In response the department has put in place a range of actions to improve performance, including strengthening internal deadlines and procedures. Baroness Neville-Rolfe, as the Lords Minister, has stressed to me how seriously the department takes its responsibilities to Parliament and is confident that performance will improve in this session.

My office continues to work with all departments to ensure prompt and comprehensive responses to all Questions for Written Answer. I will continue to publish data on an annual basis to allow analysis of performance over time. This practice is important in highlighting where improvements in timeliness could and should be made.

## Department for Education: Written Questions

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask the Leader of the House what explanation she has received from the Department for Education concerning its failure to answer by 9 September two Questions for Written Answer that were asked on 19 July (HL1338) and 21 July (HL1440). [HL1847]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** I regularly stress to departments the importance of giving timely answers to Questions for Written Answer. My office immediately approach departments who have not responded to questions after 10 working days, and remain in contact with them until the questions are answered. This process has been followed in both of the cases to which the noble Lord refers.

In the case of the Ministry of Justice question, I am informed that the delay related the process of transferring it to the right department for response. After discussion it was transferred to the Cabinet Office, who will provide a substantive answer by close of play this week. As regards the Department for Education questions, I am informed that the delay related to gathering complex data spanning a long period and the need to obtain clearance from across government. Both of the questions concerned have now been answered.

Regarding timely replies more generally, I have recently written to the three departments with the greatest proportion of late responses in the last session and I regularly set out the House's expectations as they apply to QWAs to my frontbench team. Notwithstanding the cases referenced above, I am pleased to say that the proportion of on-time responses from the Ministry of Justice rose from 74% of questions in 2014-15 to 87% in 2015-16; while the Department for Education answered well over 90% of questions on time in both sessions.

## Deportation: Families

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to put in place a specialist escort team to deal exclusively with family returns. [HL1740]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Specialist family escort teams were introduced in 2014 and are part of the family returns removal process.

## Detention Centres

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they propose to publish the Short Term Holding Facility Rules and the statutory guidance governing such facilities following the most recent consultation on those rules, which ended on 14 April. [HL1512]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Having considered the very detailed responses received to the consultation exercise, we intend to make the statutory rules governing the regulation and management of immigration short term holding facilities in due course.

## Developing Countries: Cancer

*Asked by Baroness Northover*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential contribution of

addressing childhood cancer to the third Sustainable Development Goal. [HL1714]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The third millennium development goal includes the intention to reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment by 2030: this includes all forms of cancer. Reporting will be based on data from country health information systems.

DFID's health focus is to improve the provision of basic health services for the poorest by strengthening health systems, improving health worker capacity and increasing access to essential medicines and equipment. Increasing coverage, access and quality will strengthen health services to address all health problems including childhood cancer. DFID also supports some specific efforts to tackle childhood cancer, such as a project through World Child Cancer in Burma, which seeks to improve the diagnosis, treatment and care for children with cancer.

### Developing Countries: Disability

*Asked by Lord Bruce of Bennachie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total value of their support to disabled people in developing countries. [HL1939]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK's global leadership and commitment to disability inclusive development has been increasing. Through the Sustainable Development Goals, the promise to Leave No One Behind, and DFID's Disability Framework, we have committed to promoting disability-inclusive international development through a twin-track approach. This means that, guided by our Framework, we aim to mainstream disability in all of our policies and programmes as well as supporting programmes that target disability specifically.

We do not currently track spend on disability inclusion, but a review of progress in December last year told us that we are doing more to support people with disabilities than ever before. Key disability-specific programming includes funding to important partners such as ADD International and the Disability Rights Fund, and Bridging the Gap - a research project to identify gaps between disability policy formulation and implementation. But people with disabilities also directly benefit from spending across our geographic and thematic portfolios. To make it increasingly possible to determine if programmes are reaching and successfully serving people with disabilities globally, the international development system must get better at disaggregating data by disability status. In response, DFID has produced guidance to inform programmes and policies.

### Developing Countries: Family Planning

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding the Department for International Development is making

available for family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights this year. [HL1654]

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding the Department for International Development will make available to family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights organisations this year. [HL1655]

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to accelerate the rate of progress toward the Family Planning 2020 goal of enabling an additional 120 million women and girls in the world's poorest countries to use modern methods of family planning by 2020. [HL1656]

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support women and girls around the world to access universal family planning and sexual and reproductive health services as agreed at the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015. [HL1657]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government is determined to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to modern family planning methods. We were instrumental in ensuring the Sustainable Development Goals included two targets covering universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and we are encouraging other countries to increase their commitments. Our investments in family planning aim to reach 24 million additional women and girls by 2020 and we are on track to meet this. In 2014, the most recent year for which figures are available, UK spending on family planning was £203 million, exceeding our 2012 London Summit commitment to double our yearly spend in this area.

We are currently developing our plans to 2020. As well as a large commitment to the United Nations Population Fund Supplies Programme (£356m until 2020), DFID also supports the Family Planning 2020 Secretariat, work on shaping reproductive health markets through the Clinton Health Access Initiative, and the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition.

### Developing Countries: Health Services

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what non-grant mechanisms the Department for International Development uses to finance sexual and reproductive health and family planning. [HL1879]

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much Official Development Assistance was disbursed via non-grant financing mechanisms for sexual and

reproductive health and family planning in (1) 2014–15, (2) 2013–14, (3) 2012–13. [HL1880]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** DFID primarily provides support in developing countries through grants to delivery partners. We work in the poorest countries, including fragile and conflict affected states, for whom non-grant options can pose more risk.

No DFID resources that are specifically disaggregated as supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights or family planning were provided via non-grant mechanisms during those periods. While we do support World Bank IDA, which is a non-grant source of finance, we believe it is important that countries establish their own priorities for spending these resources.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding mechanisms they use to disburse funding for sexual and reproductive health and family planning in fragile and conflict-affected states. [HL1881]

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of Official Development Assistance was allocated to sexual and reproductive health and family planning in fragile and conflict-affected states in the last year for which figures are available. [HL1882]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK aid strategy has committed that, from 2016, we spend 50% of our support in fragile states and regions. This will include our work on family planning and broader sexual and reproductive health and rights. In such settings, DFID uses multilateral mechanisms, for example United Nations Population Fund, and our bilateral programmes to disburse funding for sexual and reproductive health services. In addition the UK has made a commitment that in humanitarian crises, DFID calls for proposals will require that the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls to be considered.

DFID spent approximately £605m on sexual, reproductive, maternal and child health in fragile and conflict affected states and their neighbours in 2014; £606m in 2013 and £526m in 2012. This was approximately 6% of DFID ODA in 2012 and 2013 and 7% in 2012.

In 2015/16 our support to UNFPA totalled £112.5m and included work in fragile and conflict-affected states and humanitarian settings, including in Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen. In Syria, for example, DFID will be providing £18.5 million through UNFPA over three years to 2018. This is in addition to the UK's previous support to Syria, which has helped tackle gender-based violence and enabled access to reproductive health services for more than 260,000 girls and women.

## Developing Countries: Hearing Impairment

*Asked by Lord Bruce of Bennachie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what specific support they provide to deaf children in developing countries. [HL1937]

*Asked by Lord Bruce of Bennachie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they provide to deaf people in developing countries. [HL1938]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** People with disabilities are the largest minority group globally. An estimated one billion people have a disability globally, 80% of whom live in developing countries. People with disabilities are often the poorest in their community and many face considerable levels of stigma, discrimination and persecution.

DFID follows a 'twin-track' approach to disability inclusion. This means we aim to attach priority to disability in all our policies and programmes as well as supporting disability-targeted programmes.

Over the last two years, DFID has strengthened our capacity to work on disability inclusion, including by appointing a director-level champion, employing three full-time staff to work solely on disability, and developing a group of Internal Disability Expert Advisers from across our organisation.

DFID's efforts to date have included:

- Furnishing schools with equipment and training teachers so children with disabilities can get a quality education.
- Providing grants to local Disabled People Organisations, allowing people with disabilities to come together and lobby governments on the issues which affect them.
- Collecting data on disability so we can fully understand the scale of impact and how best to support those people it affects.

For example, two projects in the UK's flagship Girls Education Challenge are exclusively focused on addressing the issue that girls with disabilities are less likely to access education. Specific interventions include provision of assistive devices and scholastic materials for girls with hearing impairments and improvement of teacher skills to enable them to communicate in sign language, which has encouraged parents to enrol their children in schools.

## Developing Countries: Tobacco

*Asked by Baroness Northover*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of tobacco use on international development as well as on public health. [HL1828]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government recognises the significant impact of tobacco use on international development.

Tobacco use is the world's single most preventable cause of disease. If current patterns of use persist, tobacco will kill about 1 billion people in the 21st century. Evidence indicates that by 2030, over 80% of the world's tobacco-related mortality will be in low and middle income countries.

Tobacco use is also a major barrier to sustainable development. A major driver of social inequities, tobacco use imposes significant social, economic and environmental harm on individuals, families and national economies.

*Asked by Baroness Northover*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to share the UK's experience in implementing tobacco control policies with low- and middle-income countries. [[HL1829](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The United Kingdom regularly supports other countries to develop tobacco control policies, sharing our expertise and experience. Most recently, the UK has provided support to other countries looking to implement standardised packaging.

In addition, the UK Government is funding a project to strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, using official development assistance funds. Through this project, we will share the UK's experience in tobacco control, thereby supporting low- and middle-income countries to save lives by putting effective measures in place to stop people using tobacco.

### Doctors: Migrant Workers

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the letter to the Times of 17 August by doctors of the Federation of Specialist Hospitals suggesting that some EU doctors will leave the UK, and the statement on the same day by the Royal College of Surgeons that EU doctors are three times more likely than other foreign doctors to face disciplinary action for inadequate command of English and that patients' lives are being put at risk, what plans they have to advertise for doctors in Canada, Australia and New Zealand and other fluent English speaking countries. [[HL1576](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** It is not for the Government to become involved in the advertising and employment of clinical and healthcare staff. Local healthcare organisations, with their knowledge of the people they serve, are best placed to plan and employ a workforce based on clinical need and sound evidence.

It is vital for patient safety that all doctors and dentists practising in the United Kingdom have the necessary English language skills.

Under the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive (MRPQ) regulatory healthcare bodies, including the General Medical Council and the General Dental Council, are required to recognise primary and specialist medical qualifications gained in an European Economic Area (EEA) doctor's home member state.

National Health Service employers are expected to carry out local checks, which are compliant with European Union Law, to ensure that EEA applicants have the right skills needed to carry out their job, including the appropriate level of English language. The revision to the MRPQ Directive states that language controls must be proportionate to the activity to be pursued.

### Domestic Appliances

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require manufacturers of household appliances to make publicly available the risk assessments they carry out on their appliances. [[HL1705](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We have no plans to do so.

### Domestic Appliances: Fires

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for requiring manufacturers of all domestic white goods to put fire-proof markings on them, including the manufacturer, model and serial number, so that they can be identified more easily if they are damaged after causing a fire. [[HL1780](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Under existing legislation, electrical products must be labelled with the manufacturer's name and address, and a serial number or other identification mark.

The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances and the London Fire Brigade are in discussion over whether there is any further requirement for fire-proof markings.

### Dover Port: Channel Ferries

*Asked by Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce queuing by motor vehicles for Dover ferries in summer peak periods. [[HL1476](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There are a number of measures currently in place to manage traffic on its approach to Dover port. These include a recently opened extended area within the port that can hold up to 300 lorries, along with the TAP (Traffic Assessment Project) traffic management system that allows port-bound lorries to be held outside the town on the A20 at traffic lights until space at the Port becomes available and to prevent queuing in central Dover during busy periods. The



Government also has use of Manston airport as a contingency should the need arise.

A consultation regarding the building of a lorry park next to the M20 at Stanford West started on 12 August and will run until 23 September 2016. Up to £250 million has been committed to this scheme.

The lorry park at Stanford West, on the M20 close to junction 11, was selected as the preferred site last month following a separate consultation between December 2015 and January 2016.

This Government wants to have a country that works for everyone, and we are committed to keeping drivers in Kent moving.

### **Driving: Licensing**

*Asked by Lord Aberdare*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the finding of the recent British Red Cross research report Are prehospital deaths from trauma and accidental injury preventable? that up to 59 per cent of pre-hospital deaths from injury, many of them occurring on UK's roads, could have been prevented with basic first aid, whether they are considering making attendance at a first aid course mandatory in order to acquire a driving licence in the UK. [HL1929]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There are no plans to make attendance at a first aid course mandatory to acquire a driving licence. It would restrict people's mobility and access to jobs and education that a driving licence often unlocks.

Driver's knowledge of first aid is already tested as part of the driver theory test and many professional drivers take first aid training. The Department is providing support for a not-for-profit training programme for drivers in administering first aid.

### **East Anglia Rail Franchise**

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in setting up an action group to develop schemes for journey time improvements with the new East Anglia franchise operator, as recommended by the West Anglia Taskforce in order to support growth along that route. [HL1858]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The first meeting of the West Anglia Main Line Action Group took place on 13 September, with representatives of the rail industry and stakeholders along the line. Good progress was made on how the group will work together going forward in order to support growth along the route.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of which specific rail service improvements

the new East Anglia rail franchises would deliver for (1) Stansted Airport, and (2) Cambridge. [HL1860]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Under the new franchise agreement passengers travelling to and from Stansted Airport will benefit from new trains with free Wi-Fi from February 2019, and a minimum 12.5% reduction in anytime return fares and anytime single fares on the Stansted Express by early 2017. Almost all hourly services between Norwich and Cambridge are to be extended to provide a direct service to and from Stansted Airport.

Cambridge Station will similarly benefit from new trains with free Wi-Fi from February 2019. Additional train services are an earlier first service from Cambridge to Norwich and an additional evening service from Norwich to Cambridge.

Cambridge Station will be provided with a significant refurbishment. This will include construction of a pavilion to include a customer waiting area, train information displays and ticketing offices and ticket vending machines at the entrance to the station. Cambridge will also be provided with 1000 additional secure cycle spaces.

### **East Coast Railway Line**

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 17 June (HL515), what progress has been made in assessing the detailed implications for the timetable and train performance on the East Coast Main Line of the decision to run 7.5 long distance trains per hour from 2021. [HL1609]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Network Rail and the relevant train operators will continue to develop the detail and performance implications of the 2021 timetable in line with the industry's normal timetable development process, under the oversight of the Office of Rail and Road.

With regard to the operation of the Thameslink central core, this is a matter for Network Rail and the relevant train operators, under the oversight of the Office of Rail and Road. The industry is continuing to develop plans for integrating the 24 trains per hour proposed to run on the Thameslink route at peak times from December 2018 with other services on the East Coast Main Line, including the implications for punctuality and reliability.

After consulting with Network Rail we have established that there were five 'unplanned closures', on various sections of the line, on five separate days in August, two of which were infrastructure related and three as a result of passenger action.

Network Rail have defined days with 'unplanned closures' of the East Coast Main Line as days where there are more than five cancellation events. A cancellation event covers any service suffering one or more of the below events:

- Full Cancellation
- Part Cancellation
- Diversion
- Fail to stop
- Change of Origin

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 17 June (HL516), what assessment they have made of the levels of punctuality and reliability of trains on the East Coast Main Line required to facilitate a proposal to integrate 24 trains per hour through the central core of Thameslink via Blackfriars. [HL1610]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Network Rail and the relevant train operators will continue to develop the detail and performance implications of the 2021 timetable in line with the industry's normal timetable development process, under the oversight of the Office of Rail and Road.

With regard to the operation of the Thameslink central core, this is a matter for Network Rail and the relevant train operators, under the oversight of the Office of Rail and Road. The industry is continuing to develop plans for integrating the 24 trains per hour proposed to run on the Thameslink route at peak times from December 2018 with other services on the East Coast Main Line, including the implications for punctuality and reliability.

After consulting with Network Rail we have established that there were five 'unplanned closures', on various sections of the line, on five separate days in August, two of which were infrastructure related and three as a result of passenger action.

Network Rail have defined days with 'unplanned closures' of the East Coast Main Line as days where there are more than five cancellation events. A cancellation event covers any service suffering one or more of the below events:

- Full Cancellation
- Part Cancellation
- Diversion
- Fail to stop
- Change of Origin

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 17 June (HL518), how many unplanned closures of the East Coast Main Line there were in August. [HL1611]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Network Rail and the relevant train operators will continue to develop the detail and performance implications of the 2021 timetable in line with the industry's normal timetable development process, under the oversight of the Office of Rail and Road.

With regard to the operation of the Thameslink central core, this is a matter for Network Rail and the relevant train operators, under the oversight of the Office of Rail and Road. The industry is continuing to develop plans for integrating the 24 trains per hour proposed to run on the Thameslink route at peak times from December 2018 with other services on the East Coast Main Line, including the implications for punctuality and reliability.

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- Full Cancellation
- Part Cancellation
- Diversion
- Fail to stop
- Change of Origin

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 17 June (HL402), when they expect to complete their estimate of the financial impact that the decision by the Office of Road and Rail to allow competition on the East Coast Main Line will have on the existing Virgin Trains East Coast franchise. [HL1612]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government has estimated the financial impact of the Office of Rail and Roads decision on the franchise. However, in light of the potential impact on the franchisee, this information is considered to be commercially sensitive.

## Egypt: Foreign Relations

*Asked by Lord Stone of Blackheath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to strengthen ties, and build a partnership, with Egypt to fight terrorism and promote peace and British interests in the region. [HL1629]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is building ties with Egypt both at the political level and through cooperation and assistance in a number of areas including through work on security, the economy, governance and education. The former Prime Minister (The Right Hon. David Cameron), invited President Sisi to London in November 2015 and the Prime Minister spoke to President Sisi on 3rd of August to discuss future cooperation.

The UK plans to spend £50m from 2016 to 2020 inclusive to support the country's continued stability, protect ordinary Egyptians, tackle radicalisation and



safeguard tourists and British nationals. UK cooperation includes supporting scientific innovation through the seven year £25m Newton Mosharafa fund, funding which will be matched by the Egyptian government. We are also fostering interfaith understanding through the UK – Al Azhar Religious Studies Scholarship which provides opportunities for future religious leaders to undertake doctoral studies in the UK. And we are working closely with the Egyptian authorities to provide technical assistance on financial reform.

The UK and Egypt have a shared interest in the fight against terrorism, and we are committed to working together in a number of areas to combat the terrorist threat. These include aviation security and the protection of tourist resorts. The UK armed forces have also provided their Egyptian counterparts with counter-IED and close protection training. The former Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) and Foreign Minister Shoukry signed a Memorandum of Understanding during President Sisi's visit to the UK in November 2015. This committed the Home Office and Egyptian Ministry of Interior to a regular high-level dialogue to increase cooperation across a wide range of areas, including counter-terrorism, illegal migration and organised crime.

### **Egypt: Terrorism**

*Asked by Lord Stone of Blackheath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the Egyptian economy and tourism industry of their continued advice against all but essential travel by air to or from Sharm el Sheikh. [HL1630]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Prior to the downing of Metrojet 9268, tourism accounted for around 12% of Egypt's GDP.

The Egyptian Tourist Minister stated in November that flight suspensions following the Metrojet attack have resulted in direct losses estimated at upwards of \$280m a month. This figure includes the impact of flight suspensions by a number of countries including Russia, which has suspended flights to the whole of Egypt. 865,000 British nationals visited Egypt in 2015 accounting for around 1% of Egypt's GDP. British tourists continue to visit Egypt, for example popular resorts such as Hurghada. We expect that our current suspension of direct UK flights to and from Sharm el Sheikh will mean that the overall numbers are significantly lower this year. We are cooperating closely with the Egyptian government on Aviation Security and have agreed a Joint Action Plan to resume flights between the UK and Sharm el-Sheikh.

### **Electric Vehicles**

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further measures they plan to take to encourage the take-up of electric or hybrid vehicles and to deter the use of petrol and diesel powered vehicles. [HL1688]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK package of support for the uptake and manufacture of ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs) is already one of the most comprehensive in the world. This Government is investing over £600 million this Parliament, including a tax regime favourable towards less polluting vehicles, to ensure that almost all cars and vans are zero emission vehicles by 2050. We expect to make further announcements on this agenda in due course.

### **Electrical Safety**

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for reviewing the legislation concerning the safe use of electrical products at home. [HL1706]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government takes consumer safety extremely seriously. This country has some of the most robust product safety legislation in the world. We cannot be complacent. We have the legislation in place to protect consumers, but we do sometimes see unsafe products on the market. That is why in November 2014 the Government announced an Independent Review of the Product Recall System.

Following this review we invited a team of industry experts to form a Steering Group to consider how the review's recommendations might be implemented. The Steering Group has set itself a timeframe of 2 years in which to complete its work.

### **Employment**

*Asked by Baroness McGregor-Smith*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the annual black and minority ethnic employment rate has been for (1) men, (2) women, and (3) overall, in each year since 1979, and how that contrasts with both (a) the general population employment rate, and (b) employment rates by gender in the general population, in each year since 1979. [HL1923]

**Lord Freud:** This table shows the annual averaged employment rates, from 1993 – 2015, for BME groups and the whole population. This is also split by gender.

	<i>All BME Groups %</i>	<i>BME – men %</i>	<i>BME – Women Population %</i>	<i>Whole Population %</i>	<i>All men %</i>	<i>All women %</i>
1993	51.9	59.9	44.1	68.7	75.3	62.1
1994	51.6	59.1	44.6	69.2	75.9	62.5
1995	52.5	61.0	44.5	69.8	76.6	63.1
1996	52.8	60.7	45.2	70.2	76.8	63.7
1997	55.4	64.5	46.7	71.2	78.0	64.4
1998	56.0	65.0	47.5	71.7	78.5	64.9
1999	56.7	66.6	47.5	72.2	79.0	65.6
2000	57.0	66.4	48.2	72.7	79.4	66.1
2001	*	*	*	*	*	*
2002	57.6	66.6	48.8	72.8	79.2	66.6
2003	57.8	66.5	49.6	73.0	79.4	66.7
2004	59.0	68.2	50.1	73.2	79.5	66.9
2005	58.6	67.4	50.3	73.1	79.3	67.0
2006	60.2	70.2	50.7	73.0	79.0	67.0
2007	60.1	69.6	51.0	72.8	79.0	66.7
2008	60.4	70.2	51.1	72.8	78.7	66.9
2009	59.1	68.0	50.6	71.1	76.2	66.1
2010	59.6	68.4	51.2	70.6	75.6	65.6
2011	59.1	67.9	50.6	70.4	75.4	65.5
2012	59.5	68.9	50.5	71.1	76.2	66.0
2013	59.8	68.1	51.7	71.7	76.6	66.8
2014	61.4	70.0	53.1	73.0	78.0	68.1
2015	62.8	70.8	55.3	73.9	78.7	69.0

\* Data suppressed due to change in ethnicity question on LFS.

#### NOTES

- There is no data for years prior to 1993.
- The data is sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which is released quarterly. The LFS is a survey of households living at private addresses in the UK, conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- The data shows figures for the labour market status of people aged 16 and over, covering annual averages (January to December) between 1993 and 2015 (excluding 2001).
- All data is for Great Britain.
- In spring 2001, Labour Force Survey ethnicity variables were adjusted in line with the Census definitions of ethnicity. The ethnicity variable being replaced was still used in January and February 2001, and the new ethnicity variable was brought in from April 2001. In March 2001 however, there was no recording of ethnicity, therefore figures from 2001 are not presented in this data. In addition to this, the ethnicity question was not asked throughout the entire United Kingdom prior to 2001. Due to these changes in ethnicity recording, it is not recommended that direct comparisons are made across this affected period.

## Enterprise Zones: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received proposals from the Northern Ireland Executive for the establishment of an Enterprise Zone in Northern Ireland, and if so, where such a zone would be located. [HL1931]

*Asked by Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they received their most recent communication from the Northern Ireland Executive concerning the establishment of an Enterprise Zone in Northern Ireland. [HL1932]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The establishment of an enterprise zone in Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive.

In the 2013 economic pact between the UK government and the Northern Ireland Executive, 'Building a Prosperous and United Community', we agreed to consider designating a range of sites within any Northern Ireland Enterprise Zone as designated areas for Enhanced Capital Allowances, should the Executive propose them.

This year, we delivered the necessary legislation to provide for Enhanced Capital Allowances in the Executive's pilot Coleraine Enterprise Zone.

## Equal Pay

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies that has identified an 18 per cent gap between men's and women's earnings. [HL1632]

**Lord Nash:** The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) research notes that the differential in average earnings between women and men remains substantial. The Office for National Statistics figures show that the gender pay gap has been virtually eliminated for women under 40 years of age working full-time, and has decreased for all women over 40 years of age working full-time, but we know that there is more to do. New regulations requiring large employers to be more transparent will take us one step closer to eliminating the gender pay gap within a generation.

The IFS research also highlighted that the gender pay gap widens once women start a family. We have extended the right to request flexible working to all employees; introduced a new system of shared parental leave; and committed to providing 30 hours of free childcare a week for working families.

## Ethiopia: Political Prisoners

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of

Ethiopia about the treatment of political detainees in that country. [[HL1675](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have regularly raised with the Ethiopian Government at the highest levels our concerns about respect for civil and political rights as well as political prisoners. During his visit to Ethiopia in June the former Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), impressed upon Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn the need for more space for civil society and political dissent. Following the protests which have taken place in Ethiopia and the recent numbers of arrests of political opposition figures, we have raised with the Ethiopian Government the need for people currently detained who are facing criminal charges, to be allowed access to legal representation in order to defend themselves in a court of law. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) has raised the protests in his conversations with Ethiopian counterparts.

### EU Grants and Loans

*Asked by Baroness Janke*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the remarks by the Minister for Universities and Science that it would be "business as usual" for EU funding committees until the UK leaves the EU, why there have been delays in communicating the outcomes of funding decisions since the referendum; and what steps they are taking to ensure that there are sufficient staff and resources available promptly to process and decide on applications for EU funding to ensure that those funds reach projects. [[HL1499](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government is not aware of such delays. However, we remain vigilant and open to evidence of problems in this area, and have set up a mailbox where specific instances should be sent. The mailbox address is [research@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:research@bis.gsi.gov.uk). If the noble Baroness was able to provide more information, we would be happy to look into it.

*Asked by Baroness Janke*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the remarks by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that "structural and investment funds projects signed before the Autumn Statement and Horizon research funding granted before we leave the EU will be guaranteed by the Treasury after we leave", what steps they are taking to ensure that there will be adequate staff resources in government departments to handle EU funding applications promptly in the months up to that Statement. [[HL1500](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Departments will continue to have the resource available to sign all projects in the ordinary course of business prior to the Autumn Statement, as detailed by the Chief Secretary in his letter

of 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

*Asked by Baroness Janke*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that "structural and investment funds projects signed before the Autumn Statement and Horizon research funding granted before we leave the EU will be guaranteed by the Treasury after we leave", whether they intend to publish the number and value of contracts signed for each funding stream approved between the Chancellor's announcement and the Autumn Statement. [[HL1501](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Treasury does not hold information about individual EU funded projects, so the detailed information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Information about EU funded projects in the UK is in the public domain, e.g. a list of European Structural and Investment Funds beneficiaries is available on Gov.uk.

In line with the Chief Secretary's letter of 12<sup>th</sup> August, a copy of which has been deposited in the Libraries of the House, further details will be provided ahead of the Autumn Statement.

### European Investment Bank

*Asked by Baroness Scott of Needham Market*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the EU referendum result, what is the status of applications made to the European Investment Bank by housing associations and local authorities. [[HL1792](#)]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The UK is and continues to be a shareholder of the European Investment Bank and the EIB has publicly stated that its engagement in the UK is unchanged. All existing loan contracts signed between UK promoters and the EIB remain in force, and the EIB has continued to sign and approve new projects since the referendum.

### European Parliament: Elections

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy that the UK should send a new delegation to the European Parliament in June 2019 if Brexit has not been completed, or whether as part of their negotiations they will seek to extend the term of the present delegation. [[HL1781](#)]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** Until the UK ceases to be a member of the EU, the Government intends to continue to play its full role, observing the obligations and abiding by the procedures that membership brings.

## European Union: Diplomatic Relations

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to have an ambassador and diplomatic presence direct to the EU after the UK implements Brexit, in addition to individual diplomatic missions to the remaining EU member states. [HL1782]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government would expect to retain diplomatic representation both to the EU and to its member states after the UK has left.

## Euston Station

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the station to be built at Euston in accordance with Additional Provision 3 to the High Speed Rail (London–West Midlands) Bill will be designed in such a way that Regulation 3 of the Fire Precautions (Sub-surface Railway Stations) (England) Regulations 2009 applies. [HL1474]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Regulation 3, of The Fire Precautions (Sub-surface Railway Stations) (England) Regulations 2009, provides a definition for whether a railway station is classified as a sub-surface railway station. The definition is based on the extent of enclosed/below ground platforms and tracks within a public railway station. When the definition is met the Regulations apply.

The high speed station at Euston is defined as a sub-surface railway station (as per Regulation 3). The Regulations are applied to the design of the high speed station, and the existing LU Station.

The Regulations have not been applied to the existing conventional station, which is not currently classified as a sub-surface railway station.

## Families: Disadvantaged

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received an evaluation of the Troubled Families programme from the consultancy firm Ecorys; when they received that evaluation; whether they plan to publish it; and if so when. [HL1467]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** I can confirm we have received a draft evaluation of the original Troubled Families Programme from Ecorys. The original draft report was received last autumn. The evaluation comprises several different strands. The evaluation is not yet ready to publish as there have been methodological issues with one of the strands. We expect the contractors to complete the reports shortly and in line with protocol, the Government will publish them soon after.

## Female Genital Mutilation

*Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications have been made for legal aid that relate to female genital mutilation. [HL1749]

**Baroness Mobarik:** Up to 31 March 2016, 50 applications had been made for legal aid that can be identified as relating to female genital mutilation. This includes all applications for civil legal representation in proceedings concerning Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders. There may be other legally-aided cases involving issues related to female genital mutilation that cannot be identified from the information recorded by the Legal Aid Agency.

*Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether new guidance has been issued to the police on female genital mutilation following the Serious Crime Act 2015, and if so, when. [HL1751]

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

On 1 April we published multi-agency guidance on FGM for all professionals which we have put on a statutory footing for the first time. The guidance outlines the new measures to tackle FGM introduced by the Serious Crime Act 2015, and includes information specific to the police.

The College of Policing published Authorised Professional Practice (APP) for the police on investigating FGM in March 2015. The APP includes guidance on how officers can spot the signs of FGM, the reasons why it is practised, how it is carried out and the role of the police in tackling it.

*Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken under the national Female Genital Mutilation Prevention Programme. [HL1752]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Department's Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prevention Programme was launched in 2014 to improve the way in which the National Health Service responds to the health needs of girls and women who have had FGM, and to actively support prevention. As part of the FGM Prevention Programme, working in partnership with NHS England, we have delivered a comprehensive change programme, with practical guidance and materials to support professionals and NHS organisations to understand how best they can tackle FGM. The programme outputs have:

- Introduced the first ever FGM data collection across the NHS, now published quarterly by NHS Digital as an official statistic;



- Published specialist FGM safeguarding guidance to help health professionals protect against FGM;
- Published specialist guidance to help health professionals commission appropriate FGM services;
- Commenced the early adopter phase for a new national safeguarding system linked to a child's electronic health record;
- Awareness-raising roadshows and outreach work across the country have directly reached over 3500 professionals;
- Published educational films about FGM and updated content on the NHS Choices website.
- Delivered a patient and public facing FGM prevention advertising campaign using African satellite television, radio and Facebook. This has generated over 650,000 views on social media since its launch in July 2016;
- Launched comprehensive e-learning on FGM, free of charge to all NHS staff. This was developed by Health Education England, with more than 4000 staff having used this to date;
- Supported a number of projects with health partners including Royal Colleges, delivering a range of practical measures to improve clinical skills, awareness and preparedness to treat and safeguard women and girls with FGM;
- Sent all GPs, approximately 8,000 practices, FGM information packs containing resources to enable them to support patients living with FGM; and
- Worked with the York Health Economics Consortium to cost FGM treatment in the NHS and consider tariff implications. This work is nearing completion.

In this next phase of the Programme we have launched an ambition to make sure FGM survivors are aware of and have access to the right mental health support. We are also focusing on embedding recent developments across NHS systems.

## Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders

*Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders have been (1) applied for, and (2) granted, since the Serious Crime Act 2015 came into force. [[HL1750](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Statistics on Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders are available on gov.uk. Up to 31 March 2016, 60 applications had been submitted, and 46 Orders had been made.

## Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

*Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions for female genital mutilation have been taken, or are pending, under the Female Genital

Mutilation Act 2003 in each year from 2005 to date. [[HL1747](#)]

**Baroness Mobarik:** There has been one prosecution under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 since it came into force.

The Crown Prosecution Service is unable to report data on pre-charge decisions by offence, because the applicable offence(s) are only confirmed when a defendant is charged and the case proceeds to a first hearing in court.

*Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 have been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service in each year from 2005 to date. [[HL1748](#)]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** While the Crown Prosecution Service and the police work with each other at an early stage on Female Genital Mutilation cases to ensure all avenues of enquiry can be pursued, the CPS only records data on the Case Management System following a positive decision to charge a case.

The Casework Management System records that one FGM case was charged in 2014 and resulted in an acquittal in 2015.

## Financial Services: Islam

*Asked by **Lord Pearson of Rannoch***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 7 April (HL7296), whether alcohol can be sold or consumed on the premises of Richmond House, Wellington House and 22–26 Whitehall. [[HL1511](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** There is no legal prohibition on consuming alcohol on the premises of Richmond House, Wellington House and 22–26 Whitehall. However, the residing departments do not have alcohol licences and cannot, therefore, sell alcohol on the premises.

## Fires

*Asked by **Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) domestic fires, and (2) fires in industrial and commercial buildings, were recorded in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, and (c) 2015; and what estimate they have made of the direct and indirect economic and environmental costs of those fires. [[HL1492](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Data from the Fire Incident Recording System are published by financial year.

(1) Fire and rescue services attended 31,899, 31,329 and 31,333 dwelling fires in England in financial years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

Dwelling fires are fires in properties that are a place of residence i.e. places occupied by households such as houses and flats, excluding hotels/hostels, residential institutions such as student halls of residence and care homes for children and elderly people. Dwellings also includes non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as houseboats and caravans.

(2) Fire and rescue services attended 2,385, 2,280 and 2,129 fires in industrial premises in England in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. There were 6,132, 5,821 and 5,819 fires in commercial buildings in England in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

The latest figures were published in August in the Fire Statistics Monitor, which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-statistics-monitor-april-2015-to-march-2016> while detailed tables can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables>.

We have not estimated the economic and environmental costs of these fires.

### First Aid: Education

*Asked by Lord Aberdare*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the finding of the recent British Red Cross research report Are prehospital deaths from trauma and accidental injury preventable? that up to 59 per cent of pre-hospital deaths from injury could have been prevented with basic first aid, what steps they are taking to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to learn life-saving skills at school. [HL1927]

**Lord Nash:** We want to provide all young people with a curriculum that prepares them for success in adult life. High-quality personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) teaching has a vital role to play in this, helping young people understand the world around them, building resilience and helping them to make good choices and stay safe.

The national curriculum sets the expectation that pupils study PSHE education in maintained schools, and academies are encouraged to teach it as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

Schools and teachers should decide what to teach based on their pupils' needs, and taking account of pupil and parent views, when planning health education as part of PSHE.

Where schools decide to teach first aid they are free to draw on expert advice and resources for teaching, as provided by organisations such as the British Red Cross, when planning their curriculum.

*Asked by Lord Aberdare*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the finding of the recent British Red Cross research report Are prehospital deaths from trauma and accidental injury preventable? that up to 59 per cent of pre-

hospital deaths from injury could have been prevented with basic first aid, what they are doing to ensure that first aid education features within public health strategies. [HL1928]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** The Government recognises that the timely application of first aid can help minimise the impact of injuries, as well as health conditions such as heart attacks and strokes, and contribute to avoiding preventable deaths.

The NHS Choices website contains information for the public on first aid responses to various injuries and health incidents including burns, bleeding, choking, drowning, fractures, heart attacks, strokes and poisoning; the possible symptoms to note; how to respond to them; and how to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation. A copy of the relevant NHS Choices web page is attached.

In addition, the Government is making available another £1 million to make public access defibrillators and coronary pulmonary resuscitation training more widely available in communities across England. This builds on last year's funding of £1 million, which provided almost 700 more publicly accessible defibrillators in communities across England and increased the numbers of people trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The national *Act Fast* campaign also aims to raise awareness of the symptoms of stroke, teach people what to look out for in themselves and others, and encourage those who notice the symptoms to call 999. Since *Act Fast* launched in 2009, it is estimated that an additional 47,000 people reached hospital within the vital three-hour window and over 5,000 fewer people became disabled as a result of a stroke.

Local authorities in England have the lead responsibility for identifying and meeting needs for local interventions to improve the health of their populations, including steps to reduce preventable deaths.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

First aid information NHS choices website [First aid information from NHS Choices website.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-14/HL1928>

### Flags of Convenience

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of ships sailing under flags of convenience, and of the impact of that practice on the British maritime industry. [HL1778]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport analysis of IHS Global data on ship characteristics as at 31 Dec 2015 shows 19,661 vessels registered on open flag registers.

An analysis of the impact of these registers on the UK maritime industry has not been conducted. However, the



Maritime Growth Study (2015) did note that while the volume of tonnage on open registers is significant the amount managed or owned by companies located in these countries is far less substantial.

The UK is a leading global maritime centre. Government is committed to supporting the UK maritime sector and ensuring growth in UK Ship Register through a greater commercial focus while retaining its reputation for quality.

### Floods: Agriculture

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will pay the outstanding payments to farmers affected by storms Eva and Desmond last December. [HL1723]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** More than 1,000 applications for funding under the Farming Recovery Fund have been approved by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA).

Farmers have until the end of December 2016 to carry out the restoration work and then submit a claim for payment to us. RPA aims to process and make payments within a month of receiving a fully completed claim.

To date the RPA has received 358 claims for payment and 268 of these have been paid.

RPA is waiting for the remaining 750 claims to be submitted, the majority of which are expected in October and November.

### Food: Labelling

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they are having with UK supermarkets about the case for supermarkets regularly to check imported products to ensure that those products are properly labelled. [HL1770]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Under the Food Information for Consumers Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 Food business operators are responsible for ensuring that labelling does not mislead the consumer. The rules are enforced by local authorities.

Imported products of animal origin are usually inspected at EU border inspection posts by Port Health Authorities.

As there are well established systems already in place, the Government is not having any specific discussions with UK supermarkets about this issue at this time, but government will continue to monitor this.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of a report from the Institute of Global Food Security that 25 per cent of samples of oregano tested are contaminated, what discussions they are having with food retailers to

ensure that the public can have confidence in the labelling of food products. [HL1771]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Food labelling rules require that information provided about food must not mislead the consumer. Food business operators are responsible for ensuring that labelling complies with the law. The law is enforced by local authorities which set their own policies.

The Food Standards Agency is aware of the oregano sampling exercise earlier this year, which revealed that of seventy-eight samples, nineteen were also found to contain olive or myrtle leaves. Levels ranged between 21% and 69%.

Guidance on the Authenticity of Herbs and Spices, an industry best practice guide developed by representatives from the British Retail Consortium, the Food and Drink Federation, the Seasoning and Spice Association, and the FSA was published on 7 June.

The guidance represents the culmination of a strand of work the FSA undertook together with industry after the recall of a number of products early in 2015 following the discovery of undeclared almond protein in cumin and paprika. The FSA provides advice on supply chain verification and understanding vulnerabilities, as well as on sampling, inspection and testing.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there are sufficient obligations on local authorities to inspect food production companies, and on retailers, to ensure that no food crime or mislabelling is occurring. [HL1772]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Food labelling rules are set at European Union level and provide a framework for mandatory information to be provided on food labels as well as ensuring that food information is not misleading. This Government has pressed for better information for consumers during negotiations relating to food labelling in Europe.

Food businesses are responsible for ensuring their products are safe and accurately labelled. The Government backs this up with risk-based checks carried out by local authorities. In addition, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs develops validated testing methods under its Food Authenticity programme to check for mis-description and fraud. These methods are used by public analysts and local authorities to support food law enforcement.

The majority of food law enforcement is delegated to local authorities throughout the United Kingdom who carry out checks of food businesses in their area to ensure compliance with food safety, traceability and labelling requirements. To support this, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) makes funding available to UK Enforcement Authorities for sampling and surveillance of food to help ensure risk-based, targeted checks on food products throughout the food chain.

The Government has set up the National Food Crime Unit to increase the capacity to identify, disrupt and prevent food crime. It does this in part by developing intelligence packages and passing these either to the police service or to a local authority to take forward the investigation.

Measures to co-ordinate food standards enforcement across Local Authorities are kept under continual review by the FSA to improve effectiveness of delivery, working with local authorities and trading standards professional bodies.

### **Food: Waste**

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 3 April (HL7210), how much surplus food is now being redistributed from supermarkets; and what action they are taking to increase the proportion of food redistributed to charities. [[HL1773](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) published its Food Surplus and Waste Quantification report in May this year. This estimates that 5,000 tonnes of surplus food was redistributed by the UK retail sector last year.

WRAP has established a Redistribution Working Group under Courtauld 2025 to share best practice and help identify and overcome barriers to redistributing food. This Working Group met for the first time in July this year. All of the major retailers are carrying out initiatives aimed at increasing store-level redistribution, or looking at how to maximise distribution from distribution centres or make it easier for their suppliers to redistribute surplus food.

### **Forced Marriage**

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made towards ending child marriage in the UK. [[HL1878](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is committed to tackling the practice of forced marriage, including child marriage, and providing the best protection possible to victims. We made forced marriage a criminal offence in 2014 to better protect victims and send a clear message that this abhorrent practice is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the UK. The offence relates to where a UK resident or national forces a child into marriage overseas as well as in the UK.

Our dedicated Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leads efforts to combat forced marriage both at home and abroad. Where cases involve a minor in the UK, the FMU work with the relevant statutory agencies to provide advice and expertise to ensure that appropriate safeguarding measures are taken.

Where a case involves a minor overseas, the FMU work with consular officers overseas and statutory agencies in

the UK to ensure safeguarding obligations are fulfilled and appropriate action is taken where necessary. Last year the FMU provided advice or support in 1,220 cases. The FMU also carries out a range of activity, including delivery of a comprehensive programme of outreach, provision of an e-learning tool and guidelines for professionals to help them recognise the warning signs and ensure the right action is taken to protect those at risk.

### **Foreign and Commonwealth Office: UK Withdrawal from EU**

*Asked by **Lord Blencathra***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are putting in place any additional positive vetting and security measures to ensure that the Government's Brexit strategy and tactics are not leaked by FCO civil servants to the EU or other European governments; and if so, what those measures are. [[HL1767](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Under the HMG Security Policy Framework all government departments are required to ensure that their staff have the appropriate level of security clearance for the work they are doing. The FCO is working closely with the Department for Exiting the European Union, which leads on our withdrawal negotiations with the EU. Both departments have ensured that all relevant staff are properly security-vetted. Both departments have reminded their staff of the need to deal with all sensitive information on restricted channels of distribution, and at the appropriate levels of security.

### **Foreign Relations: Republic of Ireland**

*Asked by **Lord Mawhinney***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they envisage any form of public consultation before they decide their negotiating position, once Article 50 has been invoked, on those relationships with Ireland that fall outside EU competence. [[HL1935](#)]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Department for Exiting the EU will be conducting the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union in support of the Prime Minister. We will be working closely with Parliament, devolved administrations, and a wide range of other interested parties.

Our relationship with Ireland is unique and we have already engaged extensively with Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach met in London on 26 July and the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU visited both Belfast and Dublin in early September to engage with government and business stakeholders.

We look forward to working closely with the Irish Government and other key stakeholders as we develop our approach, and to make the most of the opportunities for both countries.

## Fossil Fuels

*Asked by **Baroness McGregor-Smith***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the UK's energy supply was produced from fossil fuels in each year between 1997 and 2015. [HL1921]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The proportion of the UK's energy supply produced from fossil fuels in each year between 1997 and 2015 is shown in the table.

Year	Proportion (%)
1997	88.1
1998	88.3
1999	88.6
2000	89.9
2001	89.6
2002	89.5
2003	89.8
2004	90.2
2005	89.9
2006	90.1
2007	91.2
2008	91.2
2009	88.9
2010	89.5
2011	87.3
2012	87.1
2013	85.8
2014	84.3
2015	82.0

Data are published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2016, table 1.1.1.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

DUKES 2016 Chapter 1: Energy [DUKES 2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-14/HL1921>

## Foundation Degrees

*Asked by **Baroness Wolf of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students (1) completed, and (2) commenced, a foundation degree in (a) 2013–14, and (b) 2014–15. [HL1538]

*Asked by **Baroness Wolf of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the students who commenced a foundation degree in 2013–14 did so at (1) a university, (2) a further education college, or (3) an alternative provider. [HL1539]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** Information prepared by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on entry to Foundation Degrees at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Further Education Colleges (FECs) in England in the academic years 2013/14 and 2014/15 is given in the table below.

Statistics for entry to Foundation Degrees at Alternative Providers (AP) of Higher Education have been available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) from the academic year 2014/15. There were 130 entrants to Foundation Degrees at the 63 reporting providers. Information on completions can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

*Full-person equivalent students commencing a foundation degree*

*HEIs and FECs in England*

*Academic Years 2013/14 and 2014/15*

	Registering institution type	Academic Year
	2013/14	2014/15
Higher Education Institutions	21,170	19,065
Further Education Colleges	14,925	14,510
Total	36,095	33,575

Source: Information is derived from the HESA student return and the Skills Funding Agency individualised learner record (ILR) F05 return

Prepared by: Analytical Services Directorate, HEFCE, 7 September 2016

Coverage:

- Includes students registered with HEIs but taught at FECs or APs under franchised arrangements.
- Students registered at FECs are only included if they are studying a prescribed course of HE.
- Includes all modes of higher education study and distance learners.
- Full-person equivalents (FPEs) have been rounded to the nearest 5.

## Further Education

*Asked by **Baroness Wolf of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government in (1) 2011–12, (2) 2012–13, (3) 2013–14, and (4) 2014–15, how many of the "level 4+" qualifications (a) started, and (b) achieved, by adults participating in Government-funded adult further education and listed in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills statistical first releases on further education and skills were at (i) level 4, (ii) level 5, and (iii) level 6+. [HL1535]

**Lord Nash:** The table below shows the breakdown of Level 4+ participations and achievements between 2011/12 and 2014/15 academic years.

*Adult (19+) FE and Skills Participation and Achievements by Level (2011/12 to 2014/15) – Learner Volumes*

*Participation*

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Level 4	35,600	41,700	26,200	25,600
Level 5	3,300	8,200	10,100	18,000
Level 6	700	500	100	100
Total Level 4+	39,200	50,000	36,400	43,500

*Achievements*

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Level 4	20,300	22,800	11,700	8,800
Level 5	1,000	1,200	1,100	2,700
Level 6	300	200	0	-
Total Level 4+	21,500	24,200	12,900	11,400

Source: ILR data

Notes: 1. Data in the table above are rounded to the nearest 100 therefore the totals may not add up.

2. Learners participating in more than one level in academic years are counted for each level and once in the total.

## Further Education: Higher Education

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students, broken down by region of domicile, were enrolled for higher education qualifications at further education colleges in England in the academic year 2014–15. [HL1534]

**Lord Nash:** Information prepared by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on participation in Higher Education at Further Education Colleges (FECs) in England in the academic year 2014/15 has been provided in the table.

*Full-person equivalent students registered for a HE qualification by region of domicile*

*Further Education Colleges in England*

*Academic Year 2014/15*

<i>Region of Domicile</i>	<i>Academic Year 2014/15</i>
North East	6,040
North West	14,690
Yorkshire and the Humber	12,595
East Midlands	5,945
West Midlands	5,150
East of England	3,755
Greater London	6,695

*Region of Domicile* *Academic Year 2014/15*

South East	7,640
South West	4,555
Wales	570
Scotland	315
Northern Ireland	195
England (unknown)	3,715
United Kingdom (unknown)	25
EU	565
Rest of the world	2,160
Total (all domiciles)	74,610

Source: Information is derived from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student return and the Skills Funding Agency individualised learner record (ILR) F05 return

Prepared by: Analytical Services Directorate, HEFCE, 7 September 2016

*Coverage:*

- Students registered at FECs are only included if they are studying a prescribed course of HE.
- Includes students across all years of study, at all levels and modes of higher education and distance learners.
- Numbers are based on where the student was domiciled rather than where they student studied.
- Full-person equivalents (FPEs) have been rounded to the nearest 5.

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Higher National Certificates were awarded for courses funded from the Skills Funding Agency's further education and skills budget in (1) 2013–14, and (2) 2014–15; and how many of those certificates were in construction and the built environment. [HL1599]

**Lord Nash:** Table 1 shows the number of Higher National Certificate achievements in 2013/14 and 2014/15 academic years.

*Table 1. Higher National Certificate Achievements, 2013/14 to 2014/15*

	2013/14	2014/15
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	30	30
Total HNC Achievements	360	520

Source: ILR data

Note: Data in the table above are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Higher National Diplomas were awarded for courses funded from the Skills Funding Agency's further education and



skills budget in (1) 2013–14, and (2) 2014–15. [[HL1600](#)]

**Lord Nash:** Table 1 shows the number of Higher National Diploma achievements for courses funded by the Skills Funding Agency in 2013/14 and 2014/15 academic years.

*Table 1. Higher National Diploma Achievements, 2013/14 to 2014/15*

	2013/14	2014/15
Total HND achievements	110	160

Source: ILR data

Note 1: Data in the table above are rounded to the nearest 10.

### **Gabriella Ratcliffe**

*Asked by Lord Bruce of Bennachie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to secure the return of the passport of British citizen Gabriella Ratcliffe which is currently being held by the government of Iran. [[HL1953](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have been providing consular support to the family of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe since we were notified of her arrest and remain in regular contact with them. We remain ready to facilitate Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's daughter's return to the UK if requested.

### **Gaza: Humanitarian Aid**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take in the light of the call by the UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities for international support to improve the living conditions of those living in Gaza and to lift the blockade. [[HL1641](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK remains deeply concerned by the situation in Gaza. As my hon friend the Minister of State Rory Stewart is new to his role, he is conducting a full examination of our work in the OPTs, including our support to Gaza. UK aid helps to provide basic services and support economic development in Gaza. The UK government continues to press for a sustainable political solution which will address Israel's legitimate security concerns whilst opening up movement and access.

### **Gaza: Israel**

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for ending the siege of Gaza in the light of the new data released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs confirming that Israel's blockade on the Gaza Strip

tightened during July and the warning from the UN that Gaza will be uninhabitable by 2020. [[HL1640](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not made any assessment on this specific issue, we remain deeply concerned by the situation in Gaza. We continue to press for urgent measures to relieve the humanitarian suffering of those in Gaza and urge donors to disburse their Gaza pledges.

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

*Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the replenishment target of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is met at the Pledging Conference in Montreal on 16 September. [[HL1920](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** My Right Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development, announced an investment of £1.1 billion in the Global Fund, including a commitment to double private sector contributions for tackling malaria, up to a maximum of £200 million, and £90 million tied to successful delivery against a performance agreement.

The UK's investment will fund 40 million bednets to tackle malaria; provide enough lifesaving anti-retroviral therapy for 1.3 million people with HIV; and support the treatment of 800,000 people with tuberculosis.

### **Global Positioning System**

*Asked by Lord Tanlaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to identify accurately the GPS Prime Meridian with a corresponding marker at the correct location in Greenwich Park. [[HL1525](#)]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** As the reference frame for the Global Positioning System (GPS) is established through a mathematical interpretation of satellite radio signals, rather than a physical meridian, it is not conceptually appropriate to represent it in the same way as other meridians have historically been marked at Greenwich.

### **Government Departments: Cats**

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have put in place to ensure that there is proper routine and emergency veterinary treatment for government cats, and any other officially owned animals in government service. [[HL1843](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Individuals in each government department are responsible for the care of cats and any other animals residing in their buildings. We are mindful of our duties under the Animal Welfare Act, and this includes the provision of routine and emergency

veterinary treatment. While no care or food costs for any animals in government buildings are funded by the public purse, these animals are supported and cared for thanks to voluntary fundraising.

I also refer my noble friend to the answer to him of 16 September 2016 to Question 1605.

### Government Digital Service

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations took place before the Government Digital Service changed its style guide to exclude the use of words such as eg, ie and etc. [HL1769]

**Baroness Mobarik:** Contrary to some reports in the media, the use of Latin has not been banned on GOV.UK.

Rather, the Government Digital Service style guide champions plain English, but also considers how the GOV.UK website can be more accessible to those with disabilities.

As an illustration, researchers have observed that screen reading software used by some people with visual impairments reads 'eg' aloud as 'egg'. Consequently, the guidance suggests alternative words such as 'for example' or 'such as' - depending on the specific context.

If I may re-assure the noble peer: *Caesar non supra grammaticos*.

### Graduates: Pay

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the figures released by the Office for National Statistics showing that 29 per cent of graduates earn less per hour than an average non-graduate who has completed an apprenticeship. [HL1863]

**Lord Nash:** The evidence consistently points to good returns both for graduates and for those who have completed an apprenticeship. According to the same statistical release from the Office for National Statistics, median gross hourly pay for graduate employees is £15.38, compared to £11.02 for non-graduates who have completed an apprenticeship.

The Government recognises, however, that the benefits of further and higher education will differ between individuals, and between subjects and institutions chosen. It is important for young people to consider the available information and select a route through education that is right for them; whether that be an apprenticeship, higher education study or further education. They may also consider factors other than salary, when selecting their courses of study.

That is why the Government is introducing policies such as a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) that will provide clear information to students on where the best outcomes from higher education provision can be found.

The Department for Education will also continue to release information through websites such as Unistats and other channels to help young people make the right choices when considering whether to enter further or higher education. This includes taking advantage of the Longitudinal Education Outcomes dataset to provide better information on the potential returns from different education routes.

### Greenwich Mean Time

*Asked by Lord Tanlaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to change the meaning of the acronym GMT from Greenwich Mean Time to Greenwich Meridian Time. [HL1524]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** We consider that any attempt to change the meaning of the acronym GMT is likely to result in confusion.

### Health Education

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking to increase access to information about health and health care for both members of the public and health workers globally. [HL1817]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK government is working with many global partners to increase access to information about health and about health care. A number of our partners are service providers who work directly with patients, providing information as well as services; others are engaged in social marketing and improve understanding about health prevention, protection and care seeking. We also invest in global partnerships, such as the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the STOP TB Partnership whose members include patient organisations that seek to increase access to information.

### Healthcare Information for All

*Asked by Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the work of Health Information for All. [HL1818]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** DFID research and evidence programmes, in particular, invest in outputs that increase knowledge about health and health care provision and one of the programmes (TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases) is a member of Health Information for All.

### Hepatitis

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients were treated for hepatitis C and what were the

actual or estimated costs of such treatment in each of the years 2014–15, 2015–16, and 2016–17. [HL1568]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Comprehensive data on all hepatitis C treatment in the United Kingdom is presented in the Public Health England annual report on Hepatitis C in the UK. The latest version published in July 2016 is called *Hepatitis C in the UK 2016 report: Working towards its elimination as a major public health threat*, and reported that treatment rates increased by around 40% in the calendar year 2015, up to 8,970 from an average of 6,400 in previous years. A copy of the report is attached. The report also presented preliminary figures to show that deaths in the UK from hepatitis C-related end stage liver disease and liver cancer fell for the first time in 2015, suggesting that access to new oral treatment via the early access schemes for patients with decompensated cirrhosis and cirrhosis may be having a positive impact.

In April 2014, NHS England announced an interim commissioning policy to make these new highly effective oral treatments available to patients with liver failure. In June 2014, NHS England implemented a second Interim Commissioning Policy, extending access to patients with cirrhosis.

Hepatitis C drugs are subject to commercially confidential discounts and rebate agreements. Releasing estimated or actual spend data includes the impact of these confidential prices which if released would inhibit the ability of companies to do business with the Department in the future. The Department has a duty to ensure that they adhere to the terms of confidentiality agreements when considering the release of information under the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme or other Commercial Medicines Unit drug framework agreements.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hepatitis C in the UK Report [HL 1568]  
Hepatitis\_C\_in\_the\_UK\_2016\_report.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-05/HL1568>

## High Speed 2 Railway Line

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether consultants working for HS2 Ltd will be prevented from participating in any tender for main contractor roles in the design and delivery of HS2 in order to avoid any conflict of interest and to ensure a fair tender process. [HL1473]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** HS2 Ltd has a Conflicts of Interest Panel that considers actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interest on a case-by-case basis. This Panel is chaired by HS2 Ltd's General Counsel. This Panel is supported by an in-house Compliance team.

## High Speed Two: Public Appointments

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to appoint a new Chief Executive of HS2 Ltd. [HL1872]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The process of identifying and appointing a successor Chief Executive will begin immediately.

## High Speed Two: Resignations

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the impact of the resignation of Mr Simon Kirby as Chief Executive of HS2 Ltd on the delivery of phase 1 of the HS2 project on time and to budget. [HL1873]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is committed to delivering HS2 which remains absolutely on track with strong cross-Party support. There are no plans to change the project. HS2 is on time and on budget and construction will start next year.

## Higher Education: Admissions

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students were registered to take Higher National Diplomas or Higher National Certificates in universities in (1) 2013–14, (2) 2014–15, and (3) 2015–16. [HL1971]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** Information prepared by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on registration to Higher National Diplomas or Higher National Certificates at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Further Education Colleges (FECs) in England in the academic years 2013/14 and 2014/15 has been provided in the table below.

Figures for the academic year 2015/16 are not currently available, but will be available early next year.

*Students enrolled on a Higher National Diploma or Higher National Certificate at Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges in England in the academic years 2013/14 and 2014/15*

Registering institution type	Level of study	Academic Years	
		2013/2014	2014/2015
Higher Education Institutions	Higher National Diploma	4,685	3,715
	Higher National Certificate	4,470	4,895

Further Education Colleges	Higher National Diploma	10,100	11,010
	Higher National Certificate	10,935	13,785
Total	Higher National Diploma	14,780	14,725
	Higher National Certificate	15,405	18,680

Source: Information is derived from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student return and the Skills Funding Agency individualised learner record (ILR) F05 return

Prepared by: Analytical Services Directorate, HEFCE, 19 September 2016

Coverage:

- Includes students registered with HEIs or FECs but taught at APs under sub-contractual arrangements
- Students registered at HEIs but taught at FECs under sub-contractual arrangements are counted within the HEI registered numbers
- Students registered at FECs are only included if they are studying a prescribed course of HE
- Includes all modes of higher education study and distance learners
- Full-person equivalents (FPEs) have been rounded to the nearest 5

## Hinkley Point C Power Station

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will announce a decision on whether they plan to proceed with Hinkley Point C nuclear power station. [HL1687]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** As announced on 15 September, the Government has decided to proceed with the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station subject to acceptance by the developer of the additional protections detailed in the announcement.

## HIV Infection

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent on specialist HIV treatment and care in England for each year from 2010–11 to 2014–15. [HL1951]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** Data provided by NHS England shows the estimated expenditure in relation to HIV treatment and care services from 2010 – 2013/14 which are the latest figures available.

Data for financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13 are from National Health Service programme budgeting estimates. Data for financial year 2013/14 are a combination of programme budgeting estimates and NHS England expenditure data on specialised services. Data between these years are not comparable, as responsibility for the commissioning of some services relating to HIV and AIDS and related public health services transferred from

primary care trusts to local authorities on 1 April 2013, and are therefore excluded from NHS figures from this date forward.

2010-11 - £571 million

2011-12 - £642 million

2012-13 - £630 million

2013-14 - £570 million

## Hospitals: Waiting Lists

*Asked by Baroness Redfern*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which five clinical procedures have the highest average waiting time in England. [HL1980]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** Patients have a legal right, set out in the NHS Constitution, to start consultant-led treatment within a maximum of 18 weeks from referral for non-urgent conditions. The NHS Constitution for England is attached, as is the Handbook to the Constitution, which provides a further level of detail regarding the rights and pledges. Performance is measured against an operational standard that 92% of patients who have not yet started treatment should have been waiting less than 18 weeks from referral at the end of each month. These referral to treatment waiting times are collected for 18 treatment functions (e.g. trauma and orthopaedics), but not for individual conditions or procedures. They are different from the data derived from hospital episode statistics, which show only the waiting time from decision to admit to admission, and not the waiting time from referral to start of treatment.

Table: The five treatment functions that had the highest average waiting time from referral to treatment in July 2016, in England

Treatment Function	Average (median) waiting time (in weeks)
Neurosurgery	8.4
Oral Surgery	7.3
Neurology	7.0
Trauma and Orthopaedics	7.0
Cardiothoracic Surgery	7.0

*Source:* Consultant-led referral to treatment waiting times, NHS England

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NHS CONSTITUTION [The NHS Constitution for England.pdf]

NHS CONSTITUTION HANDBOOK  
[NHS\_Constitution\_Handbook\_v2.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-15/HL1980>



## House of Lords: Recess

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask the Leader of the House why there are half-term recesses for the House of Lords. [HL1797]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** The business of the House is scheduled in a way which allows for periodic adjournments, including at half-term. This is the case because many of its members have family or other outside commitments away from the House, in many cases away from London. The House of Commons has a similar pattern of adjournments.

## Housing: Rodents

*Asked by Lord Selsdon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether, and to what extent, subterranean development is increasing incidents across England of mice and other rodents migrating to adjacent properties; and what steps they are taking to address any such increase. [HL1793]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Department has not carried out such an assessment.

## Ilmi Umerov

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of the Russian Federation about the medical condition and official treatment of Mr Ilmi Umerov and his family; and what response, if any, they have received. [HL1700]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have made very clear – both publicly and in representations to the Russian Government – our grave concern over the treatment of Mr Ilmi Umerov. This particular case is one example of the way in which the overall human rights situation in Crimea has deteriorated significantly since Russia's illegal annexation. The UK Government will continue to press the Russian Government to allow immediate, unfettered access to Crimea for all international human rights monitoring bodies.

## Immigrants: Children

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that children subject to immigration control are not separated from their family or guardian during the process unless there are safeguarding or welfare concerns. [HL1738]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** For immigration purposes children may only be separated from their parents where it is necessary and proportionate to do so and after having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the children's welfare.

Decisions on family separations are taken in line with published guidance in the Home Office Enforcement Instructions and Guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/removal-actions>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Family Separation - Guidance. [Family-separation\_v2\_0.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-09/HL1738>

## Immigration

*Asked by Lord Hamilton of Epsom*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 5 September (HL Deb, col 849–50), what assessment they have made of the impact of immigration on wage rates and productivity in the UK. [HL1619]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** As noted in the 2012 report by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), the empirical literature suggests that the impact of migration on productivity may be mixed and heavily dependent on the type of migrant coming to the UK. Migrants may increase productivity either through a simple 'batting average' effect if they work in higher productivity roles relative to the average for non-migrants, or through increasing the productivity of UK workers through greater specialisation and knowledge transfer. In this report, the MAC established the key role played by skilled migrants in raising productivity. Further, the 2014 MAC report, 'Migrants in low-skilled work', found low skilled migrants have a neutral impact on UK-born employment rates, GDP per head and productivity. The impact of immigration on wage rates is also mixed, although a 2015 working paper by the Bank of England found an increase in the immigrant to native ratio has a small negative impact on average British wages.

## Immigration Controls: Heathrow Airport

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the target length of time for Border Force to process (1) non-European Economic Area passengers, and (2) European Union passengers, at each terminal in Heathrow; and how often that target has been missed in the past six months. [HL1825]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The service level agreement for passengers arriving at Heathrow for Non-EEA nationals is 95% of queue measures to be less than 45 minutes and for EU/EEA nationals this is 95% of queue measures to be less than 25 minutes.

The data on the Border Force performance against the targets at Heathrow can be found at:

[www.heathrow.com/company/company-news-and-information/performance/airport-operations/border-force](http://www.heathrow.com/company/company-news-and-information/performance/airport-operations/border-force)

## India: Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Bruce of Bennachie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual contribution in Official Development Assistance provided by the UK to India in the last year for which figures are available. [HL1940]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Total UK Official Development Assistance to India appears in the official statistics on International Development. The latest available figures are for 2014 when the total UK ODA Bilateral spent in India was £279,060,026. Official ODA statistics for 2015 will be available in November.

DFID financial aid to India ceased in December 2015. As of 2016 DFID has committed to spend £30 million through technical assistance and £40 million through returnable capital investment.

*Asked by Lord Bruce of Bennachie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the total contribution in the form of Official Development Assistance that the UK plans to provide to India for (1) the current financial year, and (2) each of the following three years. [HL1941]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** For the current financial year, DFID has committed to spend £30 million through technical assistance and £40 million through returnable capital investment. Figures for ODA to India from other Government Departments will be available at the end of the period. UK ODA to India for outer years has not yet been agreed by Ministers.

*Asked by Lord Bruce of Bennachie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Official Development Assistance contribution to India will fulfil the objectives set out by the Secretary of State for International Development on 15 August following her visit to India. [HL1942]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The economic and development objectives set out by the Secretary of State on 15 August are underpinned by technical assistance and development capital investment. Objectives for the use of Official Development Assistance in India are agreed by the National Security Council.

## Indonesia: Capital Punishment

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Indonesia concerning the death penalty. [HL1913]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. We raise our concerns at the highest level and will continue to do so. The former Prime Minister (the Right Hon. Mr David Cameron) reiterated our position to Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo in April.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Mr Sharma) has expressed his concerns about the executions that took place in July.

## Industry

*Asked by Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the trend for input prices for industry since the EU Referendum. [HL1763]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** On a monthly basis, total input prices rose by 0.2% in August 2016, after rising by 3.1% in July 2016 and by 1.7% in June 2016.

On a monthly basis, core input prices rose by 0.2% in August 2016, after a rise of 4.2% in July 2016 and 0.7% in June 2016.

The latest ONS producer price inflation data can be found in the following release (also attached): <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/producerpriceinflation/august2016#input-prices-summary>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UK producer price inflation August 2016 [HL1763 - UK producer price inflation August 2016.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-12/HL1763>

## International Monetary Fund

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report published on 8 July by the Independent Evaluation Office of the International Monetary Fund, The IMF and the crises in Greece, Ireland, and Portugal. [HL1682]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The IMF Executive Board discussed the report entitled *The IMF and the crises in Greece, Ireland, and Portugal* on 19 July 2016. The UK plays an active part in such dialogues. While we welcome the report, board discussions remain confidential until the minutes are made accessible three years after the meeting. The Chairman's summing up, and the statement by the IMF Managing Director offering a response to the report's recommendations, offer more information. They can be found on the Independent Evaluation Office's (IEO) website.

As the body which provides objective and independent evaluation on IMF issues, the work of the IEO is important in improving transparency, oversight and enhancing the learning culture at the Fund.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the criticisms in the report published on 8 July by the Independent Evaluation Office of the International

Monetary Fund (IMF), The IMF and the Crises in Greece, Ireland, and Portugal, what value they now place on the IMF's forecasts and policy statements. [HL1765]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The government continues to value the IMF's forecasts and other analytical outputs, which are supported by high quality technical analysis and data-gathering. This is used alongside the government's own analysis, and the work of other institutions. We do not believe that the International Evaluation Office's (IEO) report entitled *The IMF and the Crises in Greece, Ireland and Portugal* provides compelling evidence to alter this practice.

The government values the work of the IEO, which is important in improving transparency, oversight and enhancing the learning culture at the Fund.

### International Rescue Committee

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the four points for urgent action in the International Rescue Committee situational brief of 5 September. [HL1884]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The IRC report outlines four areas for action. The Government response to each is as follows.

On point one in the report, the Government has been clear that the UK will not be part of the European Union relocation scheme. We remain of the view that relocation schemes within Europe risk creating perverse incentives for people to put their lives into the hands of traffickers. The Government is supporting efforts at hotspots through the deployment of resources to Italy and Greece through the European Asylum Support Office. We are fully committed to the efficient and timely operation of the Dublin Regulation and we are working closely with the Greek authorities, to identify, assess and transfer those with family connections to the UK under the Dublin family reunion process.

On point two, through our £70 million contribution to the Mediterranean Migration Crisis response, we are funding the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organisation for Migration, and other agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations, and have strongly encouraged them to ensure close coordination with the authorities, to together achieve improved accommodation for refugees and migrants. Our funds are also helping to provide alternative shelter options for vulnerable migrants.

On point three, DFID is delivering a £10 million Refugee Children's Fund for Europe which prioritises unaccompanied and separated children. The fund provides safe places for at risk children, data management to trace children to their families, and services such as counselling and legal advice. A new Women and Girls' Fund for Europe will provide specialised protection services,

responding to the risk of exploitation, violence and trafficking, including for children.

On point four, the Government believes that resettlement programmes are best operated at the national level. Under the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme, we have committed to resettle 20,000 Syrians by the end of this Parliament. In addition to this through the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme we will resettle 3,000 individuals from the Middle East and North Africa region over the same period, focusing on children at risk.

### Investment

*Asked by Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the trend of investment in the British economy since the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. [HL1478]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Before the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, the UK government published short-term and long-term assessments of the likely impact on the economy of the UK leaving the EU. HM Government is monitoring economic developments closely and the independent Office for Budget Responsibility will produce an updated economic forecast alongside Autumn Statement 2016.

### Iran: Political Prisoners

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 6 September (HL Deb, col 936), and in the light of the release of the Montazeri audiotape regarding the massacres in Iran in 1988, whether it is still their position that there is little corroborated evidence of such a massacre taking place. [HL1674]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government opposes the use of the death penalty in all circumstances and takes any allegations of extrajudicial killings seriously. The Iranian Government has repeatedly denied that a mass execution took place, though we know that between July 1988 and January 1989 executions did take place. However, even with the recording and media reporting on the incident, we have no confirmation of the numbers involved.

### Iraq: Kurds

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the Kurdistan Region Government about the proposed closing of schools and institutions linked to the Gülen Movement, as a result of discussions between the government of Turkey and that government. [HL1885]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of reports that all Gulen schools in the Kurdistan Region will come under the management of the Kurdistan Regional Government's Ministry of Education, although we do not yet fully understand the rationale behind this decision. Officials at our Consulate General in Erbil will discuss this issue with representatives of the Kurdistan Regional Government at the earliest opportunity. Delivering a quality education remains an ongoing challenge for the government of Iraq. Reports suggest that almost one in five schools across Iraq is out of use due to conflict, which has left millions of Iraqi children of school-age outside of the education system. We continue to work with the government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to promote education, particularly through the work of the British Council and our Chevening programme.

### Islamic State

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Goldie on 13 September (HL Deb, col 1394), what plans are in place, once cities such as Mosul and Raqqa have been liberated from ISIS, to ensure the restoration of property, homes and businesses to their rightful owners, the re-establishment of diverse communities, and the creation of a legal framework to bring to trial those who have been responsible for genocide and ethnic cleansing. [HL1898]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our goal is to liberate Mosul, and eventually Raqqa, in a way that minimises the humanitarian impact, and supports political reconciliation and the return of local communities. We are engaging with the Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government, our Coalition partners, the UN and other international organisations to ensure comprehensive plans are in place which do this. On 21 July, the Foreign Secretary announced that the UK will lead a global campaign to bring Daesh to justice, including putting in place processes to assemble evidence for future legal proceedings.

### Islamic State: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in conjunction with UK allies, they plan to increase the level of military activity against British jihadis fighting for ISIL in Iraq and Syria; and whether their objective is to kill such individuals on the battlefield before they return to the UK as potential terrorists. [HL1766]

**Earl Howe:** UK military action in Syria and Iraq is against Daesh targets, regardless of nationality, as December's Parliamentary motion made clear. As part of the global coalition, the UK is making a substantial air contribution to the campaign to defeat Daesh in both countries and providing training to Iraqi (including

Kurdish) security forces taking the fight to Daesh on the ground. The Secretary of State for Defence (Michael Fallon) announced in June that we would deploy up to 250 personnel to the Al Asad Air Base in Iraq to increase our training contribution.

### Israel: Construction

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the data collected by the Coalition Against Construction Accidents, about the rates at which Palestinians, Israeli Arabs or foreign nationals have died on Israeli construction sites in the past five years. [HL1807]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not raised this issue with the Israeli authorities.

### Israel: Golan Heights

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take following the demolition of a home in Majdal Shams in the occupied Syrian Golan by the Israeli authorities on 7 September. [HL1804]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government is concerned that there has been a large increase in demolitions since the start of 2016, compared with the monthly average in 2015.

On 7 September, during a meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Lieberman in London, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) raised our concerns about demolitions.

### Israel: Palestinians

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent the continued demolition of Palestinian homes. [HL1638]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We continue to raise our serious concerns over this issue with the Israeli Government at all levels. On 07 September, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) emphasised our concerns about demolitions with Israeli Defence Minister Lieberman during their meeting.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the government of Israel in the light of the concern expressed by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine about the death of a refugee and the high number of civilian injuries from



live ammunition on 16 August during an Israeli military incursion into Fawwar refugee camp. [HL1642]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not made specific representations to the Israeli authorities over this issue, we have regularly raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities about the Israel Defence Forces' (IDF) use of live fire, urging robust and transparent investigations where appropriate. We understand the IDF is currently investigating the circumstances of the death.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the government of Israel following reports that Israeli forces prevented an ambulance from taking an injured person from Fawwar refugee camp on 16 August. [HL1643]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not made representations to the Israeli authorities over this specific issue.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding (1) night raids of Palestinian refugee camps in Area A of the West Bank, (2) the number of injuries to the youth in that camp as a result of those raids, and (3) reports that the Israeli commander responsible for the Dheisheh area threatened to disable the Palestinian youth living there. [HL1805]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have not made specific representations to the Israeli authorities over these issues.

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they plan to make to the government of Israel concerning reports that on 29 August Israeli forces at Salaymeh checkpoint in Hebron fired tear gas at school-children attempting to make their way home. [HL1808]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** While we have not made specific representations on this issue, we have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities about the Israel Defence Forces' use of force.

### Italy: Passports

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consular offices remain in Italy at which UK citizens can renew their passports, and what plans they have for those that still provide this service. [HL1756]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** British nationals cannot renew full validity passports at consular offices in Italy. Passport applications are made online and documentation is sent to Her Majesty's Passport Office in the UK. British

nationals can get an Emergency Travel Document at the British Embassy in Rome or at the British Consulate General in Milan when they have an urgent need to travel and meet the necessary criteria.

### Ivory: Sales

*Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the extent of (1) legal, and (2) illegal, sales of ivory in the UK. [HL1614]

*Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to secure a total ban on ivory sales, and what discussions they have had with other countries about implementing such a ban. [HL1615]

*Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to close the domestic ivory market, including the market in ivory products, and what assessment they have made of the potential economic impact of that closure. [HL1616]

*Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has had with the government of the USA relating to the ban on commercial trade in African elephant ivory that came into effect in that country on 6 July. [HL1617]

*Asked by Lord Hague of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made to implement the Elephant Protection Initiative since it was launched at the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in 2014. [HL1618]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government has conducted informal discussions with representatives of the arts and antique sector on the scale of legal trade in ivory currently taking place. An accurate assessment is challenging as records for antiques may not necessarily record an item as containing ivory where this is only a small component of a larger item. Extrapolation from available data indicates that sales of items containing ivory may be worth in the order of several tens of millions of pounds per annum.

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring organisation, has recently published its report: "A Rapid Survey of the UK ivory market". Although not an exact comparison with a survey conducted in 2004, TRAFFIC's survey found the number of market stalls offering ivory for sale had declined by approximately two-thirds and the number of items offered for sale had halved. No new or raw ivory was seen in any of the physical market outlets or online platforms; only one ivory item seen for sale was reportedly from after the legal cut-off (1947) for antique ivory being sold without Convention on International

Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) documentation within the EU. Ivory is a key UK wildlife crime priority with an enforcement action plan in place to tackle risk. For example, UK Border Force through Operation Quiver has in particular successfully targeted ivory sent through postal systems.

We are actively exploring options with interested parties and other Government Departments about how to implement the UK Government's manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales. The UK has successfully lobbied for the EU-wide adoption of the existing UK ban on trade in raw ivory tusks, which was agreed through European Council Conclusions on an EU Action Plan on Wildlife Trafficking adopted in June. Trade in such tusks presents the greatest risk of poached ivory entering the legal market. In addition, these conclusions urged EU Member States to consider further measures to put a halt to commercial trade in ivory from elephants.

A substantial number of proposals on elephant and ivory related issues will be discussed at the Conference of Parties to CITES to be held in South Africa between 24 September and 5 October 2016. This will include discussions on the existing global ban on the trade in ivory, which the UK is committed to maintaining, and the role of domestic ivory markets in illegal trade. The UK is, and will continue to, play a full role in these discussions.

In relation to the confirmation by the USA Government to limit commercial trade in African elephant ivory to items more than 100 years old, with some exemptions, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs, Rory Stewart, discussed this issue with the USA Government during a trip earlier this year. In addition officials in Defra are in regular contact with their US counterparts and have discussed the US measures on a number of occasions.

Finally on the Elephant Protection Initiative, this has grown from 5 to 14 members since the London Conference in February 2014. A Ministerial-level meeting of members to agree governance arrangements took place in Addis Ababa in September 2015. Range states have been supported to develop their National Elephant Action Plans and through these a number of priority conservation projects have been funded.

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with other EU governments regarding the position the EU plans to take at the forthcoming CITES conference regarding bans on domestic ivory markets. [HL1974]

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps to close the domestic ivory market, including the market in ivory products. [HL1975]

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role the legal domestic ivory market in the UK has in facilitating illegal trade in ivory. [HL1976]

*Asked by Lord Clement-Jones*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with other governments about the closure of domestic ivory markets. [HL1977]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** A number of proposals on elephant and ivory related issues will be discussed at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to be held in South Africa between 24 September 2016 and 5 October 2016. This will include discussions on the existing global ban on the trade in ivory, which the UK is committed to maintaining, and the role of domestic ivory markets in illegal trade. Officials have engaged in substantial discussions with counterparts from other EU Member States on these and other issues over several months in formulating the EU and Member State position at the CITES Conference. The UK will continue to play a full role in these discussions.

The then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs, Rory Stewart, discussed the issue of the closure of domestic ivory markets with the Government of the United States (US) during a trip earlier this year. In addition officials in Defra are in regular contact with their US counterparts and have discussed the US measures on a number of occasions.

The Government has been actively exploring options with relevant parties about how to implement the UK Government's manifesto commitment to press for a total ban on ivory sales and the steps to be taken in respect of the UK's ivory market. On 21 September 2016 the Secretary of State announced plans for a ban on sales of items containing ivory dated between 1947 and the present day, putting UK rules on ivory sales among the world's toughest.

The Government will consult on plans for the ban early next year, seeking views from conservationists, traders and other relevant parties to ensure clear rules and guidance for those operating within the law, while cracking down on illegal sales. This will complement the existing UK ban on trade in raw ivory tusks. Trade in raw tusks presents the greatest risk of poached ivory entering the legal market.

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring organisation, has recently published its independent report – A Rapid Survey of the UK ivory market. Although not an exact comparison with a survey conducted in 2004, TRAFFIC's survey found the number of market stalls offering ivory for sale had declined by approximately two-thirds and the number of items offered for sale had halved. No new or raw ivory was seen in any of the physical market outlets or online platforms— only one ivory item seen for sale

was reportedly from after the legal cut-off (1947) for antique ivory being sold without CITES documentation within the EU. Ivory is a key UK wildlife crime priority with an enforcement action plan in place to tackle risk. For example, UK Border Force through Operation Quiver has in particular successfully targeted ivory sent through postal systems.

### **Kashmir**

*Asked by Lord Ahmed*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether any military equipment exported from the UK to India is being used against the civilians of Kashmir. [HL1452]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned to see reports of excessive violence against protesters in Kashmir.

The UK Government takes its arms export responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world.

In light of media reports on the situation in Indian Administered Kashmir (IaK), we have undertaken checks regarding shotguns being licensed to the Indian Security Forces (ISF) in IaK covering the last 10 years. We are confident from these checks undertaken that no such weapon has been licensed to this specific force in IaK.

All export licence applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking account of all relevant information available at the time of the application. A licence will not be issued, for any country, including India, if to do so would be inconsistent with any provision of the mandatory Criteria, including where we assess there is a clear risk that the items might be used to facilitate internal repression.

The Government is confident in our case by case assessment and routinely keeps factors relevant to the licensing of arms exports under active review. Ministers are consulted as necessary in the event of any significant changes in the circumstances relating to UK-licensed exports.

Our export licensing system allows us to respond quickly to changed circumstances, with the option to suspend or revoke any licence where we consider this a necessary step.

### **Kielder Forest: Lynx**

*Asked by Baroness Quin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to undertake a consultation with farmers and farmers' organisations on any proposal to release lynx into Kielder Forest in Northumberland. [HL1559]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** In accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Natural England, as

the licensing authority, considers any application for the reintroduction of former native species in England.

No application has been received to reintroduce lynx into England. If a licence application is received Natural England would consider it carefully in accordance with appropriate international guidelines, taking account of socio-economic impacts and the impact on the welfare of the animals themselves.

### **Koi Herpesvirus**

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to use further interventions to prevent the spread of Koi herpesvirus disease which kills common and ornamental carp. [HL1724]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government recognises the importance of protecting the UK from fish diseases including koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease which can have serious effects on our native fish population, angling waters and aquaculture industry.

We have strong control measures in place to identify and constrain outbreaks of KHV. This includes an annual surveillance programme in fish farms; the prohibition of the movement of live fish from KHV infected sites, both farm and fishery; and, restrictions on angling in affected waters during disease outbreaks. We will continue to apply these control measures robustly to prevent spread of the disease. In addition we support research into KHV transmission routes and will review our options for interventions as new scientific information becomes available.

KHV is most likely transmitted through the movement of live fish and it has also been demonstrated that angling equipment such as keep nets may spread infection. Defra has been working closely with the Angling Trust on the Check, Clean, Dry campaign to support good practice in the angling community, and with the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association to highlight the importance of not releasing pet fish into the environment.

Last year we published the aquatic animal health strategy for England setting out our approach and activities to protect and improve aquatic animal health over the next five years. This includes looking at the use of new technologies to improve disease surveillance.

### **Large Goods Vehicles**

*Asked by Earl Attlee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy that the Secretary of State for Transport shall decline to grant a Vehicle Special Order under section 44 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, for the purpose of carrying crane ballast weights, to an operator which does not have a green Operator Compliance Risk Score from the DVSA; and if not, whether they will review that policy. [HL1832]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The DVSA's Operator Compliance Risk Score (OCRS) is a scheme that supports DVSA's compliance monitoring for operators. In contrast Vehicle Special Orders in relation to the Special Types General Order (STGO) for abnormal loads are granted by the Secretary of State for Transport through Highways England.

These two schemes are not connected or interdependent. The Compliance Risk Score does not form any part of the process for granting an application for a Vehicle Special Order. Both schemes are designed with specific requirements. We have no plans to change the process to make either scheme conditional on the other.

### Libya: Islamic State

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to assist with the formulation of a regional strategy and regional co-ordination to prevent IS fighters relocating from Libya to Tunisia and Egypt following the military operation in Libya to recapture Sirte. [HL1680]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have been clear, as has the UN Security Council, that Daesh represent a threat to international peace and security. The UK has a shared interest with Libya and her neighbouring countries in the fight against terrorism, and we are committed to working together with them in a number of areas to combat the terrorist threat, including the risk that some Daesh fighters may seek to relocate from Sirte. Egypt is a vital partner in bringing peace and stability to Libya. As well as cooperating on counter-terrorism, we hold regular discussions on tackling the terrorist threat emanating from Libya, and are sharing expertise on border security. We are working with the Tunisian Government, in concert with other international partners, to secure the Libyan-Tunisian border. This includes the development of a border strategy with the government of Tunisia, targeted training of the border authorities, and provision of equipment to enhance their ability to police the border.

### Lions: Conservation

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposal for all African lion populations to be transferred to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix I at the forthcoming CITES Convention in Johannesburg. [HL1945]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government's current assessment of the lion uplisting proposal against the biological and other listing criteria under CITES is that the entire lion population of Africa does not meet the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I. This is notably the case for Southern African lion populations, which have an

increasing population trend. Assessment and discussions are ongoing in advance of the CITES Conference, which is to be held in Johannesburg from 24 September to 5 October 2016.

### Literacy

*Asked by Baroness Rebuck*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the finding in the House of Commons Business, Innovation and Skills Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2014–15 that the ability to gain literacy and numeracy skills is a fundamental right of all adults, what steps they are taking to ensure that the one in six of the population with poor literacy skills have opportunities to gain at least entry level literacy skills. [HL1754]

**Lord Nash:** This Government understands the importance of strong literacy skills and makes English provision a priority for support within the adult skills system. We fully fund, through a statutory entitlement, all adults to achieve their first English GCSE at grade C or above as well as other qualifications which help them get to that level. We also support English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision, in addition to DCLG's community-based programmes and investment in Syrian refugees' English Language training through the Syrian resettlement programme.

This provision is available for a wide range of learners including:

- Prisoners, through the Offender Learning and Skills Service;
- Learners in the community, including through Family English, Maths and Language;
- People who need ESOL;
- Trainees as part of their traineeship;
- Apprentices as part of their apprenticeship;
- Jobseekers.

To enable these learners to improve their literacy skills, we have embedded English at the heart of all our major programmes. This means:

- Learners who did not achieve a good GCSE pass in English by the age of 16 are now required to continue to study the subject post-16;
- Since 2014/15, the English requirement for Intermediate Apprenticeships has been stronger, with all apprentices who have already achieved level 1 English having to work towards level 2;
- Since 2014/15, young people undertaking a traineeship have been required to study English unless they already have level 2 qualifications in the subjects;

We have reformed GCSEs to ensure they are more stretching and provide greater assurance of core literacy skills than the old GCSEs. In line with the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee recommendation, we recognise that some people are not ready to take GCSE so we are also improving the rigour and relevance of English



Functional Skills qualifications, which are taken by many students and apprentices aged 16 and over. We have commissioned the Education and Training Foundation to revise the National Literacy (and Numeracy) Standards and reform Functional Skills with the new qualifications being delivered from September 2018.

To ensure high quality provision is delivered, we have invested over £30m over the past 3 years to improve the quality of the English (and maths) workforce in further education, driving forward improvements in governance and leadership.

To ensure prisoners have the opportunity to improve their literacy skills, Government accepted in principle the recommendations of the review led by Dame Sally Coates on prison education which will include developing a new curriculum for the teaching of basic literacy in prisons.

Lastly, we are undertaking a range of research to better understand where Government investment in English has the greatest impact and delivers value for money. As recommended by the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee in their 14/15 report, Government is using behavioural insights to identify how to motivate adults to improve their English and encourage learners to keep studying once enrolled on a course. I am pleased to report that very positive trial results will be published shortly by the Behavioural Insights Team. This report includes trial findings working with the Army as a significant provider of workplace literacy training.

## Litter

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 4 April (HL7211), what progress they have made on the National Litter Strategy for England; and when they expect it to be completed. [HL1775]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** We have made good progress on the Litter Strategy for England. We are working with the Department for Communities and Local Government and industry to develop an ambitious Strategy. Our goal is to deliver a substantial reduction in litter and littering in England, ensuring that all our communities, natural landscape, roads and highways are free of litter. The Litter Strategy will focus on three key themes: education and awareness; improving enforcement; and better cleansing and litter infrastructure. These will be backed up by specific actions under each objective.

To help us shape the Strategy, we have established a Litter Advisory Group, which includes representatives from local government, campaign groups and independent experts, as well as representatives from the packaging and fast-food industries. The Strategy will be published shortly, after the publication of Defra's 25 year Environment Plan framework.

## Livestock: Antibiotics

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 20 April (HL7511), and in the light of the outcome of the EU referendum, whether they will now consider bringing forward legislation to ban the routine use on farms of antibiotics classified by the WHO as critically important for treating bacterial infections in humans, rather than waiting until the EU negotiations on the relevant legislation are completed in late 2017. [HL1725]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government does not support the routine preventative use of antibiotics in animals, including those classified as critically important.

We will be restricting the use of the most important critically important antibiotics (CIAs) through measures already underway to remove indications for preventive treatment of groups of livestock from medicines containing the most important CIAs. This will not require legislative change.

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the final report and recommendations of the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance published on 19 May, what actions they are taking to reduce to agreed target levels the use in the UK of antibiotics in livestock and fish farming by 2018. [HL1959]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government published its response to the final report and recommendations of the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance on 16 September 2016.

In response to the Review, we have committed to work closely with different individual sectors to ensure that appropriate sector specific reduction targets are agreed by 2017 so that future reductions are greatest where there is most scope, and that they are underpinned by improvements which focus on encouraging best practice and responsible use of antibiotics.

This work aligns with the actions already set out in the Government's Five-Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy, including improving the stewardship of existing antibiotics, improving infection prevention and control and optimising prescribing practice.

## Local Broadcasting: Television

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking to support local television services. [HL1708]

**Baroness Mobarik:** A total of 21 local television services have launched since November 2013 with a further 13 local services due come on air next year. The development of local television has been supported by up to £40m of ring-fenced funding under arrangements

agreed with the BBC in 2011. Under these arrangements, the BBC will provide up to £25 million to cover the capital costs of building the local television transmission network and up to £15m for content funding from the BBC for each station's first three years on air.

The draft Charter agreement published on 15 September included an extension to the content funding arrangements. This would ensure that all local television stations launching by 31 July 2017 and that wish to receive BBC support for their first three years on air will be able to receive funding under these arrangements until March 2020.

In addition to BBC funding, local television also benefits from having prominence on electronic programme guides (EPG) on Freeview and on other platforms and from certain exemptions to requirements in broadcasting legislation, such as having to source a proportion of their content from independent producers.

### London Airports

*Asked by Lord Mawhinney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what timeframe is envisaged by the ministerial use of the word "shortly" when Parliament seeks to determine when a decision will be (1) taken, and (2) announced, on a new runway at an airport in the South of England. [HL1936]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government remains fully committed to delivering the important infrastructure projects it has set out, including delivering runway capacity on the timetable set out by Sir Howard Davies.

In the coming weeks the Government will carefully consider all of the evidence and should be in a position to announce a preferred scheme in the autumn.

### Lord Chancellor

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the new Lord Chancellor meets the criteria for appointment laid down in the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. [HL1379]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** Appointments of Government Ministers and the Lord Chancellor are for the Prime Minister to recommend to Her Majesty. I would note that Section 2 of the 2005 Act explicitly states that the Prime Minister may take into account experience as a Minister of the Crown and as a member of either House of Parliament when deciding whether a person is qualified by experience to be Lord Chancellor.

I would also refer the noble peer to the speech by the Lord Chief Justice at the swearing in of the Lord Chancellor, which provides background on the Lord Chancellor's experience, but also the historical context of those who have had custody of the Great Seal of the Realm, including its first female keeper back in 1253.

<https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/lcj-speech-swearing-in-lord-chancellor-july2016.pdf>

### Lyme Disease

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new cases of Lyme disease have been diagnosed in each year since 2010; whether those figures are higher than the official forecasts of such cases; and if so, what action they are taking to raise awareness of Lyme disease. [HL1677]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public Health England (PHE) produces figures for England and Wales based on the number of laboratory confirmed Lyme disease cases. They do not include cases that are diagnosed based on clinical symptoms alone e.g. the presence of a bull's-eye rash. Confirmed figures from the United Kingdom Zoonoses report is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Laboratory diagnosed Lyme disease cases, 2010-2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
England and Wales	905	959	1,040	878	730
UK	1,213	1,189	1,249	1,060	955

Source: UK Zoonoses Report, 2015

PHE does not produce official forecasts of the number of new Lyme disease cases that might be expected annually in England.

PHE produces public information leaflets on how people can protect themselves against tick bites, and what to do after a tick bite. These are available on the Government's website and copies of these are attached. Advice for patients suspecting they may have Lyme disease is available on the NHS Choices website and a copy of the relevant webpage is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Lyme Disease Signs & Symptoms  
[LymeDisease\_SignsAndSymptoms.pdf]

NHS Choices Lyme Disease  
[NHSChoices\_Lyme\_Disease\_pages.pdf]

Ticks and your health  
[Ticksandyourhealthinfoabouttickbites.pdf0.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-07/HL1677>

### M4

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the widening of the M4 motorway between junctions 3 and 12 will commence, when it is likely to be completed, and what measures they will put in place to avoid

delays to traffic during the construction period. [[HL1893](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Highways England's latest Delivery Plan states that the start of works for the M4 Junction 3-12 scheme is the fourth quarter of 2016/2017 and it will open to traffic in 2021/22.

Measures to avoid delays to traffic during the construction period include:

- Maintaining three lanes of traffic in each direction during peak periods
- Using average speed camera equipment to smooth flows and improve safety and journey time reliability
- Installing a CCTV system to identify vehicles in need of recovery and other incidents, with free recovery of broken down vehicles to remove obstructions and keep traffic flowing
- Minimising traffic management during Bank Holiday periods and working with major events to coordinate traffic management
- Timing overnight lane closures and full carriageway closures at less sensitive times.

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the safety of users of the M4 motorway following the removal of the hard shoulders, and what arrangements will be made for the emergency services to have urgent and easy access to the motorway in the event of accidents and other incidents. [[HL1894](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The M4 Junctions 3 to 12 smart motorway scheme incorporates the following features to ensure safety is maintained:

- 100% CCTV coverage to monitor traffic conditions including during incidents
- Enforcement cameras to improve speed limit compliance which contributes to reducing the risk and severity of incidents
- Emergency Refuge Areas at an average spacing of 1¼ miles as it is likely that the majority of all breakdowns will be able to reach one
- Overhead variable message signs for instructions and information to drivers

This allows Highways England to create an emergency lane or lanes on any lane on the motorway, with signs and signals to provide access for the emergency services or traffic officers.

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the accident rate on the M4 motorway between junctions 10 and 12 is equivalent to the average rate for all motorways; and how many accidents in the last year on that part of the motorway involved heavy lorries. [[HL1895](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The accident rate for 2012-2014 on the M4 between junctions 10 and 12 is below the average rate for all motorways. There were 7 personal injury accidents in 2014 involving heavy lorries on this section of the motorway.

This is based on the latest validated accident data Highways England holds for the Road Network for 2014, with the 2015 data due to be released in October 2016.

## Marine Conservation Zones

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, when designating the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones, whether they will take into account the Wildlife and Countryside Link's Marine Charter, and in particular its call to address current gaps in Marine Protected Areas, stem the decline in marine habitats, and recover those that are damaged. [[HL1649](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The Government remains committed to putting in place a well-managed Blue Belt to protect precious marine habitats and species. We are aiming for the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones to be comprehensive and complete our contribution to the ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas in the North East Atlantic. This network plays an important part in helping stem the decline of marine habitats and species and in aiding their recovery. The Government has also committed to doubling the size of protected ocean around the UK Overseas Territories to four million square kilometres. This commitment included the immediate formal designation of Marine Protected Areas around the Pitcairn Islands and St Helena which will help protect the Territories' important endemic marine species.

## Mental Health Services: Children

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the additional £1.25 billion made available in the March 2015 budget for child and adolescent mental health services (1) was actually spent, and (2) was spent in addition to 2014-15 spending levels. [[HL1569](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** £143 million of additional funding was allocated in 2015-2016 for child and adolescent mental health services. Of this £143 million, £126.2 million was spent. The Government has committed to making available the full £1.25 billion announced in the March 2015 budget to transform children and young people's mental health services over the lifetime of this Parliament. From 2016-2017, NHS England are establishing a baseline spend for specific programme areas such as children and young people's mental health and will be able to track increase in spend on an annual basis.

## Mental Health Services: Essex

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group has diverted finance intended for mental health services to reduce financial shortfalls in the acute sector. [HL1570]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No such assessment has been made. NHS England allocates funding to clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to commission health services, including mental health services, to meet the needs of local communities. CCGs are responsible for decisions about how their allocation is used, taking account of local priorities, and are committed to increasing spending on mental health each year in line with the increases in overall National Health Service funding allocations. NHS England advises that, in line with Basildon and Brentwood CCG's move towards parity of esteem, the CCG has increased investment into mental health services in 2016/17.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons for the Basildon Clinical Commissioning Group spending less than the national average on mental health services, according to NHS Benchmarking figures. [HL1571]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No such assessment has been made by this Department. NHS England advises that the National Health Service benchmarking data for 2014/15 (the latest data available) shows that, compared to a demographically similar cluster of clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), Basildon and Brentwood CCG spends slightly more than the cluster average on mental health services (£13,499,988 per 100,000 population against £13,080,187) and is therefore not considered an outlier. This analysis of the benchmarking data is used because within the CCG cluster the prevalence of mental health conditions, and therefore the appropriate spending, is likely to be comparable.

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the performance of Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group in ensuring that mental health services are adequately funded. [HL1572]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** No such assessment has been made by this Department. NHS England advises that Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group is focused on achieving the best outcomes for its patients within the available funding. It continues to work towards parity of esteem for mental health, focussing on the implementation of the national strategy, *The Five Year Forward View for Mental Health*, while endeavouring to ensure that all services it commissions for individuals with mental health needs are based on local intelligence

supported by the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. A copy of *The Five Year Forward View for Mental Health* is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

MH FIVE YEAR FORWARD VIEW [HL1572 enclosure - Mental-Health-Taskforce-FYFV-final.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-05/HL1572>

## Metals: Theft

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to combat metal theft. [HL1777]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Through the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, the Government created a robust licensing regime to support legitimate dealers whilst providing local authorities and the police with the powers needed to tackle rogue dealers and reduce metal theft. The legislation is supported by co-ordinated enforcement action by police, local authorities and other partners. Latest available statistics for 2014/15 show that 27,512 metal theft offences were recorded by police compared with 62,348 offences in 2012/13.

## Metropolitan Police: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the disclosure by Equal Justice of details of six new discrimination claims involving race, sex and gender against the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), what action they are taking to ensure that MPS black and ethnic minority groups are able to work in an environment that is safe and free from abuse. [HL1803]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government takes allegations of unlawful discrimination in the police very seriously and is firmly committed to ensuring the highest possible standards in policing. Such allegations must be investigated thoroughly and, when and where required, perpetrators must be dealt with robustly.

We are reforming the police disciplinary system to ensure it delivers greater transparency and accountability. We are implementing the recommendations of the Chapman Review to make the police disciplinary system less adversarial with a greater focus on rehabilitation, development and improvement where possible, whilst ensuring the most serious matters are dealt with appropriately and robustly through the police conduct system.

It is essential that the actions and behaviour of racist police officers are not allowed to undermine public confidence in the police's ability to respond to, investigate and fight crime, or to tarnish the reputation of the police and the majority of officers who work closely and effectively with people from all communities.



The public must also have trust that the police represent the communities they serve, and the proportion of police officers who are from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds has now risen to its highest level ever with forces taking important steps to attract staff from a diverse range of backgrounds.

### Microplastics

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the proposed ban on microbeads in cosmetics, whether they are considering an outright ban on their use in all other domestic products. [[HL1650](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** On 3 September 2016 the Government announced plans to ban the sale and manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing microbeads which cause harm to the marine environment. Our plans will be informed by a formal consultation later this year. At the same time, evidence will be gathered on the extent of the environmental impacts of microbeads found in other products, including those for domestic use, before considering what more can be done in future to tackle other plastics which affect the marine environment.

### Middle East: Conflict Resolution

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money they have allocated this financial year towards peace-building and reconciliation initiatives and towards the restoration of plurality and diversity in Iraq and post-war Syria; and how much has been allocated for each of the next five years. [[HL1950](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** For the 2016/17 financial year the UK Government allocated £3.7 million from the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) towards promoting reconciliation in Iraq. These funds contribute to addressing the long-term factors that led to Daesh's rise. In Iraq the funding supports efforts to encourage political reform and reconciliation through the passage and implementation of legislation, building the capacity of decision makers to craft a strategic vision for reconciliation, and creating a space for dialogue between the government and all of Iraq's communities. In Syria, we have committed over £7 million from the CSSF for the 2016/17 financial year towards the promotion of reconciliation, specifically in supporting local councils, moderate voices and civil society groups who work to increase community engagement in local conflicts. We are also supporting Track II political dialogue and peace building work, through education, interfaith coexistence and reconciliation training.

For financial year 2017/18, and subsequent years, the final allocation of funding for promoting reconciliation in both Iraq and Syria is yet to be decided. However, this will remain a critical area for our programme funding.

### Middle East: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding is given annually by the UK to assist refugee projects in the Middle East. [[HL1517](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Department for International Development is providing support to refugees in a number of countries in the Middle East including in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Yemen and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In financial year 2015/16 our support totalled more than £204 million.

### Ministry of Justice: Written Questions

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask the Leader of the House what explanation she has received from the Ministry of Justice concerning its failure to answer by 9 September a Question for Written Answer that was asked on 20 July (HL1379). [[HL1846](#)]

**Baroness Evans of Bowes Park:** I regularly stress to departments the importance of giving timely answers to Questions for Written Answer. My office immediately approach departments who have not responded to questions after 10 working days, and remain in contact with them until the questions are answered. This process has been followed in both of the cases to which the noble Lord refers.

In the case of the Ministry of Justice question, I am informed that the delay related the process of transferring it to the right department for response. After discussion it was transferred to the Cabinet Office, who will provide a substantive answer by close of play this week. As regards the Department for Education questions, I am informed that the delay related to gathering complex data spanning a long period and the need to obtain clearance from across government. Both of the questions concerned have now been answered.

Regarding timely replies more generally, I have recently written to the three departments with the greatest proportion of late responses in the last session and I regularly set out the House's expectations as they apply to QWAs to my frontbench team. Notwithstanding the cases referenced above, I am pleased to say that the proportion of on-time responses from the Ministry of Justice rose from 74% of questions in 2014-15 to 87% in 2015-16; while the Department for Education answered well over 90% of questions on time in both sessions.

### Mobile Phones: Proof of Identity

*Asked by Viscount Waverley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential benefits to the police and intelligence agencies in combatting terrorism and crime of making it mandatory for purchasers of pay-as-you-go SIM cards to produce appropriate forms of identification. [[HL1720](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This issue was considered in detail by an expert group comprising representatives of law enforcement, the security and intelligence agencies and communication service providers following the terrorist attacks in London in July 2005. The experts' findings remain valid. They concluded that the registration of ownership of mobile telephones would not deliver any significant new benefits to the investigatory process.

Mobile phones are not the only devices capable of making calls or sending messages. Many laptops, computers, popular MP3 players and games consoles also support the sending of messages and phone calls. These devices are increasingly being used for communications. It would be necessary to include these other devices in any mandatory registration scheme.

Separately, the person who buys the device is not necessarily the person who will use it. Mobile phones are often sold or given to family members or friends which would mean that such information would quickly become out of date.

Furthermore, those who were keen to avoid providing details would still find ways to circumvent the scheme, such as purchasing or registering phones under false identities.

### **Morocco: EU External Trade**

*Asked by Lord Trefgarne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the nature of the agreement between Morocco and the EU; and in particular whether Morocco has access to the European single market. [[HL1636](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Morocco's relationship with the EU is framed through the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Their relationship covers political and economic cooperation as well as trade and technical assistance. Morocco does not have full access to the European Single Market, but a free trade area established in the 2002 EU-Morocco Association Agreement allows for easier trade in goods between Morocco and the EU.

### **Motorways: Speed Limits**

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the total mileage of each UK motorway is subject to speed restrictions lower than 70 mph. [[HL1845](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The number of miles of a motorway subject to speed restrictions varies on a daily basis, depending on planned roadworks as well as temporary restrictions that need to be imposed due to incidents. There also are some sections, such as motorway to motorway junctions, which have speed restrictions due to the road geometry or for other safety considerations. Every effort is made to keep such restrictions to a minimum.

### **Museums and Galleries: Fees and Charges**

*Asked by Lord Temple-Morris*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow publicly owned museums and art galleries to impose charges for entry. [[HL1830](#)]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** The Government is committed to maintaining free admission to the permanent collections of major museums and galleries, as set out in the 2015 manifesto, and government funding to national museums is provided with this condition. DCMS-sponsored museums can and do charge for temporary exhibitions and special events. Charging at other publicly owned museums is the responsibility of the organisations that operate them, for example local councils.

### **Natasha Devon**

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take in the light of the publication in the Guardian on 10 September of Department for Education emails and claims that departmental staff sought to undermine and bring about the departure of Natasha Devon from the role of schools mental health champion. [[HL1810](#)]

**Lord Nash:** No further action is required as the appropriate action was taken at the time.

### **National Infrastructure Commission**

*Asked by Lord Allen of Kensington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to bring forward legislation to provide a statutory basis for the independent National Infrastructure Commission. [[HL1871](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The National Infrastructure Commission has a crucial role to play in setting out the country's infrastructure priorities. Since being set up, it has produced three challenging and authoritative reports on smart power, London transport and a long-term strategy for transport in the North, and has recently consulted on its approach to the first National Infrastructure Assessment.

The government remains fully committed to the Commission and we are considering how it can best support the government's new industrial strategy.

*Asked by Lord Sharkey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the absence of proposals in the Neighbourhood Planning Bill, whether they still plan to put the National Infrastructure Commission on a statutory basis; if so, when, and if not, why not. [[HL1926](#)]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** To allow the Neighbourhood Planning Bill to focus on essential planning measures,

legislation for the National Infrastructure Commission has not be included at this time.

The Commission is an important part of the government's overall approach on infrastructure and has already made a significant impact through its first three reports.

We remain fully committed to the Commission which has a crucial role to play in setting out the country's infrastructure priorities. We are considering how it can best support the government's new industrial strategy.

### **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Iran seeking the return of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her daughter to the UK. [HL1824]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** I am deeply concerned by recent reports that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe has been sentenced without confirmation of the charges against her. On 11 September our Acting Ambassador raised our concerns with the Iranian Government and pressed for urgent confirmation of the charges and sentencing against her. We continue to raise our strong concerns about British prisoners in Iran, including Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, at the highest levels in both London and Tehran. The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), did so in her introductory call with Iranian President Rouhani on 9 August and again on 20 September at the UN General Assembly in New York. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), similarly raised this case in his introductory call with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif on 4 August, and followed up in writing on 29 August. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) met Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family on 8 September to reassure them that we will continue to do all we can and that we remain ready to help them bring Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's daughter back to the UK if requested.

*Asked by Lord Bruce of Bennachie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to secure the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe following her five-year prison sentence in Iran; and what priority they assign to reuniting Nazanin and her daughter with her husband in the UK. [HL1952]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government continues to raise its strong concerns about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's five year sentence. Iran does not recognise dual nationality for Iranian nationals and therefore has not provided any information to us about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case or the charges against her. On 11 September our Acting Ambassador to Tehran raised our concerns with the Iranian Government and pressed for urgent confirmation of the charges. The Prime Minister,

my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), raised our strong concerns for Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe with Iranian President Rouhani on 9 August. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), similarly raised her case with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif on 4 August, and followed up in writing on 29 August. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) met Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's family on 8 September to reassure them that we will continue to raise her case with the Iranian authorities at the highest levels at every available opportunity.

### **NHS: Finance**

*Asked by Lord Mawhinney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many provider NHS trusts achieved an improvement in operating efficiency of four per cent or more without aggravating their debt position in the last financial year. [HL1934]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** There is no nationally agreed metric for operating efficiency. However, an annual efficiency requirement is built into the tariff uplift calculation that is used by commissioners in their contract negotiation with providers. In 2015-16 this efficiency requirement was 3.5% over 2014-15. Therefore, we can assume that organisations are delivering this efficiency if they improve their financial position based on these efficiency adjusted prices.

In February 2016, the Department published Lord Carter's *Operational productivity and performance in English NHS acute hospitals: Unwarranted variations* report, a review of efficiency in hospitals which provided details of how operational savings can be achieved. A copy of the report is attached. This programme, along with additional funding provided by the government, will help reduce deficits in this year and bring the sector back into financial balance in future years.

The National Health Service will receive additional funding of £10 billion per year by the end of the current Spending Review period, with £3.8 billion provided in 2016-17 alone. From this £3.8 billion, we have created a £2.1 billion Sustainability and Transformation Fund that will help providers move to a sustainable financial footing.

NHS Improvement's 2016-17 quarter 1 performance report confirmed that things are improving in this year, with lower levels of deficit, fewer trusts reporting a deficit and savings on agency staff.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Lord Carter Report [Operational\_productivity\_A.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-14/HL1934>

*Asked by **Baroness Redfern***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the relationship between those NHS Trusts in the greatest level of deficit and those with the highest proportion of private finance initiative income. [HL1978]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** In 2012, the Department identified a small cohort of major acute trusts where the private finance initiative schemes were one of the factors affecting financial sustainability. These trusts have been given access to a £1.5 billion support fund over a period of 25 years which has been available since 2013/14.

It is the role now of NHS Improvement to ensure that National Health Service trusts and NHS foundation trusts assess the impact of different expenditure items at NHS trusts to ensure that NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts have arrangements in place to secure financial health. NHS Improvement's focus is then on supporting that individual provider to fix its financial problems, for example through interim financial support or longer term solutions in that health economy.

### **NHS: Staff**

*Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are employed full-time and part-time by NHS England as (1) audiologists, (2) cardiac physiologists, (3) gastro-intestinal physiologists, (4) neurophysiologists, (5) respiratory physiologists, and (6) sleep physiologists. [HL1567]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** NHS Digital collects data on the number of staff employed full-time and part-time by the National Health Service in England.

Within the data held by NHS Digital it is not possible to definitively identify those staff groups requested. Therefore a best approximation has been provided based on the guidance available to NHS organisations. This information is in the attached table and provides the latest available data as at 31 May 2016.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

NHS DIGITAL TABLE ATTACHMENT [HL1567 TABLE ATTACHMENT NHS Hospital and Community Health Services.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-05/HL1567>

### **Non-domestic Rates**

*Asked by **Lord Porter of Spalding***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of their proposal to allow local government to retain 100 per cent of the business rates raised locally, they have plans to allow local government to determine the business rates multiplier. [I] [HL1876]

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government has previously announced that combined authority mayors will in future be allowed to levy a 2p in the pound supplement on business rates bills to fund infrastructure projects; and that all authorities will be able to reduce the business rates tax rate, thereby allowing them to tailor their local tax regime to local economic circumstances. We are currently consulting on the detail of both proposals.

### **North Korea: Floods**

*Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what humanitarian aid they are providing to injured and displaced persons in North Korea following the recent flooding in that country. [HL1900]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK supports organisations such as the UN through core contributions. UN agencies are delivering humanitarian assistance to people affected.

### **North Korea: Human Rights**

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the human rights situation in North Korea. [HL1917]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is deeply concerned about the appalling human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The UN Commission of Inquiry report, published in 2014, highlighted the severe and systematic human rights violations perpetrated by the regime on its own people. These include summary executions, torture, lack of judicial process, forced labour and prevention of freedom of expression and religion. There is no evidence that the situation is improving. The UK Government will continue to work closely with partners and through international fora to raise its significant concerns about human rights in the DPRK and press for substantial reforms to improve the lives of North Korean citizens. The UK regularly raises our concerns about human rights violations directly with the regime through our Embassy in Pyongyang. The UK will support the annual resolution on DPRK human rights at the forthcoming UN General Assembly to maintain international attention on that country's dire human rights record. I include with this answer a copy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Report 2015 which includes a fuller assessment of the human rights situation in the DPRK.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

FCO Human Rights and Democracy Report 2015  
[FCO755\_Human\_Rights\_Report\_2015\_-\_WEB (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-14/HL1917>



## North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Siegfried Hecker, published on 12 September, concluding that North Korea will have enough material for about 20 nuclear bombs by the end of this year, that it has expanded uranium enrichment facilities, and that it has stockpiled plutonium. [HL1899]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have made clear our deep concern at and condemnation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear programme. We take into account all sources of information when assessing it. As the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma) made clear in his remarks to the UN Security Council on 23 September, that the United Kingdom condemns the recent nuclear test conducted by the DPRK, which is a direct violation of binding Security Council Resolutions. The DPRK must comply with its obligations under all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, including abandoning all nuclear weapons and nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

## Nuisance Calls

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why cold calls regarding mortgages can be banned but not cold calls offering free pension reviews or unregulated pension investments. [HL1833]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) prohibition on cold calling applies to financial promotion of mortgages by FCA regulated firms. Under the FCA rules, regulated entities (including mortgage providers) are not allowed to engage in real-time financial promotion of mortgages and therefore no legitimate market for telephone promotion and sales exists.

The Government tightened controls on cold calling earlier this year, when amending the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR), making it a requirement for organisations making direct marketing calls to display their Calling Line Identification (CLI). These controls need time to bed in before considering whether further changes, specific to pensions, are appropriate. If there is a case for change, the Government will take the necessary action.

## Nurses: Training

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applicants there were for the three-year full-time graduate nursing programmes to start in autumn 2016; how many students have been offered and accepted

places to commence study in 2016; how many (1) applicants, and (2) accepted offers, there were for each year from 2011 to 2015; and what is their assessment of the trends over the past six years. [HL1865]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Information relating to the number of applicants for, and admissions to, pre-registration nursing programmes is not collected by the Department.

Information on applications and admissions to full time education courses in the United Kingdom is collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

## Nursing Associates: Training

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to make a decision about commencing recruitment of nursing students onto nursing associate programmes of study. [HL1866]

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they are making to support healthcare employers to recruit apprentices onto nursing associate and graduate registered nursing programmes. [HL1868]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In May 2016, the Government confirmed proposals to introduce a new nursing support role, a nursing associate. Health Education England (HEE) are in the process of establishing test sites to educate and train the new nursing associates, which will be confirmed in the autumn. Once the test sites are confirmed with health and care employers, HEE will recruit at least 1,000 nursing associates into training by the end of 2016.

A draft Higher Degree Level Nurse Apprenticeship Standard has been submitted to the Department for Education for approval by the Nurse Apprenticeship Trailblazer Group. Trailblazer Group members are from a wide variety of health and care employers. Once the standard is approved, the Trailblazer Group will commence work on the associated assessment plan which will ensure employers and training providers are geared up to support the apprenticeship when it is ready to deliver.

## Nursing and Midwifery Council

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to enable the Nursing and Midwifery Council to process disciplinary hearings in a more timely, effective and efficient manner. [HL1869]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the independent body responsible for the regulation of nurses and midwives in the United Kingdom. The NMC is responsible for discharge of its

statutory duties including fitness to practise (FtP) investigations and hearings.

The Department is working closely with the NMC on a number of proposed legislative changes which will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its FtP processes. The Department has recently consulted on these proposed changes and is currently considering the responses received.

The Government is committed to ensuring that professional regulation continues to provide effective protection for patients.

## Nursing Associates

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Nursing and Midwifery Council will make an announcement about the regulation and registration of qualified nursing associates. [HL1867]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government remains committed to the principle of proportionate regulation of healthcare professions. We are currently reviewing how to assess when statutory regulation is appropriate, which will help inform a Ministerial decision on the regulation of nursing associates in due course.

## Obesity: Children

*Asked by Baroness Redfern*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what alternatives to a sugar tax they have considered to reduce levels of childhood obesity. [HL1982]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** In developing *Childhood Obesity: A Plan for Action* we looked at everything that contributes to a child becoming overweight and obese. The policies in the plan focus on the ones that are likely to have the biggest impact on childhood obesity. In addition to the soft drinks industry levy, this includes the sugar reduction programme, helping all children to enjoy an hour of physical activity every day and a healthy rating scheme for primary schools.

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

We are confident that the measures we have announced will make a real difference and estimate could reduce childhood obesity rates by about a fifth (330,000) over the next ten years. Though we are clear in our goals and firm in the action we will take, the launch of this plan represents the start of a conversation, rather than the final word.

Copies of *Childhood Obesity: A Plan for Action*, *Carbohydrates and Health* and *Sugar reduction: the evidence for action* are attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Childhood Obesity Plan [Childhood Obesity Plan.pdf]

PHE Sugar Reduction [PHE Sugar reduction The evidence for action.pdf]

SACN Carbohydrates & Health [SACN Carbohydrates and Health.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-15/HL1982>

## Occupational Pensions

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of the total number of employers who are potentially responsible for paying Pension Act 1995 section 75 debts of previous employers who are no longer part of their non-associated multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme. [HL1759]

**Lord Freud:** The information requested is not held by Government or the Pensions Regulator.

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their most recent estimate of the number of individual employers at risk of personal bankruptcy as a result of the increased costs of supporting defined benefit pension liabilities in non-associated multi-employer pension schemes. [HL1760]

**Lord Freud:** The information requested is not held by Government or the Pensions Regulator.

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest estimate of the impact of falling long-term gilt yields on the deficits of UK defined benefit pension schemes. [HL1761]

**Lord Freud:** Recent movement in gilt yields could have a material impact on the funding position of defined benefit pension schemes in the short term.

However, the precise effect on deficits will depend on a number of factors including how assets are allocated, the approach to hedging and the demographics of the scheme. We continue to monitor the position.

## Occupational Pensions: Tax Allowances

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many workers earning below the personal tax threshold were paying into net-pay pension schemes in (1) 2010–11,

(2) 2011–12, (3) 2012–13, (4) 2013–14, (5) 2014–15, (6) 2015–16 and (7) 2016–17 to date. [HL1586]

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of workers who earn under £11,000 a year and are contributing to net-pay pension schemes. [HL1587]

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of employers using net-pay pension schemes that are unaware that their workers who earn less than £11,000 a year are unable to receive the tax relief they could receive in a relief-at-source scheme. [HL1589]

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total value of tax relief not paid to low-paid workers in (1) 2014–15, (2) 2015–16, and (3) 2016–17 to date, as a result of those workers contributing to a net pay scheme from which they were unable to receive the tax relief to which they would be entitled in a relief-at-source scheme. [HL1757]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The Government does not collect data on the number of workers earning less than the personal allowance who are also members of pension schemes that operate a net pay system. The Government does not hold employee level data on employees enrolled in net pay pension schemes, as such schemes are not obliged to report pension contributions to HM Revenue and Customs. The Government does not therefore hold information on the value of tax reliefs paid out to employees in net pay schemes.

However, the Pensions Regulator provides guidance to employers on choosing a pension scheme for their staff in order to discharge their statutory obligations under automatic enrolment. This guidance covers the choice between net pay and relief at source schemes, and the implications of net pay schemes for employees who do not pay tax.

## Occupied Territories: Housing

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take following reports from the UN envoy that, since the diplomatic Quartet called for a halt to the construction of Jewish outposts on Palestinian land, Israeli settlement expansion has increased. [HL1809]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We continue to raise our serious concerns over this issue with the Israeli Government at all levels. On 07 September, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) emphasised our concerns about settlements with Israeli Defence Minister Lieberman during their meeting.

## Overseas Aid

*Asked by Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were (1) the core, and (2) the non-core, contributions made by the Department for International Development to (a) the United Nations Population Fund, (b) UNICEF, (c) the World Health Organization, (d) the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, (e) UN Women, (f) The Global Fund, (g) the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and (h) Women and Children First (UK), in (i) 2014–15, and (ii) 2015–16. [HL1527]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The table (below) shows DFID's spend to these organisations over the timeframe specified.

(£ millions)				
	2014/15		2015/16	
	core	non-core	core	non-core
United Nations Population Fund	20	144.2	20	92.6
UNICEF	48	266.5	48	274.8
the World Health Organization (WHO)	14.5	265.8*	14.5	-
the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	15	-	15	-
UN Women	12.5	2.3	12.5	2.7
The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	285	-	100	-
the International Planned Parenthood Federation	8.6	-	8.6	-
Women and Children First (UK)	.2	-	.2	-
Total (£ Millions)	403.8	678.8	204.3	370.1

\*The World Health Organization operates a biennial budget cycle; as such the non-core funding figure for the 2014/15 financial year covers the 2015/16 financial year also

*Asked by Baroness Kennedy of Cradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the International Aid budget is spent by departments other than the Department for International Development, and which are those departments and how much they are spending. [HL1984]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The estimated proportion of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to be spent by Departments other than the Department for International Development based on the Spending Review 2015 settlement is 18% in 2016/17. The other departments spending ODA (including allocations from cross-Government funds) are: the Department of Health; the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; the Foreign & Commonwealth Office; the Department for Energy, Food & Rural Affairs; HM Revenue & Customs; HM Treasury; the Office of National Statistics; the Department for Education; the Department for Work and Pensions; Department for Culture, Media & Sport; the Ministry of Defence; the Department for Transport; and the Home Office.

Outturn figures are not yet available, but a detailed breakdown of the 2016 ODA spend by department will be published in April 2017.

*Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role the Department for International Development plays in monitoring how international aid is spent by other government departments. [[HL1985](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Departments are responsible for ensuring their Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget offers high value for money.

DFID is committed to supporting other government departments to help them ensure that all their ODA spend is value for money for the UK tax payer. We provide advice and training to other departments on the international definition of ODA, we co-chair a cross-government senior officials' group with HM Treasury, whose role is to ensure value for money of all UK ODA, and we work with other government departments to support them in setting up their systems of programme management.

*Asked by **Baroness Kennedy of Cradley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the procedures and priorities to agree the spending of public money on international aid are the same across all government departments, and if there are differences, what they are. [[HL1986](#)]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The allocation of Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding was agreed at the 2015 Spending Review in line with the strategic objectives set out in the UK aid strategy. Departments spending ODA are required to demonstrate how they are using rigorous evidence to underpin spending decisions. There must be clear lines of accountability for all ODA projects, and project performance must be regularly assessed. Poor performing programmes will be closed and funds redeployed. In addition, all ODA spend is subject to scrutiny by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact.

Spending on ODA is also subject to the principles of sound financial management set out in 'Managing Public Money'. Within these constraints departments have

discretion over how they organise, direct and manage the resources at their disposal.

## Overseas Investment: Palestinians

*Asked by **Lord Empey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what encouragement they have given to UK investment in the Palestinian territories currently governed by the State of Israel. [[HL1954](#)]

*Asked by **Lord Empey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of companies investing in projects located in the Palestinian territories currently governed by the State of Israel. [[HL1956](#)]

**Lord Price:** The Government's Palestinian Market Development Programme (PMDP) works with Palestinian companies to improve their competitiveness and ability to attract investment and create jobs. PMDP also supports the Palestinian Investment Promotion Agency (PIPA) to deliver better services to potential investors including UK investors. PIPA offers a package of incentives to investors.

PMDP provides technical assistance to support the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy to improve the environment for trade and investment, and is working on an initiative to encourage UK businesses to outsource business in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially in the IT outsourcing sector.

No specific assessment has been made of companies investing in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), or those parts of the West Bank, known as 'Area C', under full Israeli security and administrative control.

## Overseas Investment: Ukraine

*Asked by **Lord Patten***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the opportunities for inward investment to the Ukraine by UK companies. [[HL1965](#)]

**Lord Price:** There are a number of areas of potential interest for UK investors in Ukraine, including Agriculture, Energy and Infrastructure.

Ukraine has recently been moving up the World Bank Doing Business survey (now 83, up 5 places from 2015) but it continues to lag on the Corruption perception index (142 out of 175 countries ranked).

Ukraine's Government is keen to attract foreign investors and is taking steps towards improving the business climate and the UK Government is providing assistance e.g. with the recent establishment of an Anti-corruption Bureau and Business Ombudsman which has been positively received by business leaders. But more still needs to be done.



## Overseas Trade: Republic of Ireland

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total value of (1) imports, and (2) exports, between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available. [HL1890]

**Lord Price:** The value of goods exported from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland was £2.1 billion in 2015.

The value of goods imported into Northern Ireland from the Republic of Ireland was £1.6 billion in 2015.

Data on the value of trade in services between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is not available.

## Overseas Visitors: EU Countries

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each of the last five years, how many (1) tourists, and (2) non-tourists, from the UK visited the EU, and how many (1) tourists, and (2) non-tourists, from countries in the EU visited the UK. [HL1896]

**Baroness Mobarik:** In May 2016, ONS released data detailing the movements of tourists between the UK and the EU in their 2015 Travel Trends report, we have highlighted the requested information below. This Department does not hold information for non-tourists.

<i>Number of Visits to the UK from the EU (millions)</i>	<i>Number of Visits to the EU from the UK (millions)</i>
2011 - 20.3	2011 - 40.5
2012 - 20.6	2012 - 40.8
2013 - 21.6	2013 - 42.0
2014 - 23.0	2014 - 43.8
2015 - 24.2	2015 - 48.1

## Pakistan: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reply they intend to give to the petition of Ms Jennifer Chim Pik Yee of Hong Kong addressed to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary. [HL1701]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Ms Chim Pik petitioned Parliament for a debate on human rights relating to assistance that was provided to her in 2004 following a civil dispute in Pakistan. We have explained that there is nothing further that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office can do to assist her.

## Pakistan: Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the comments of Baroness Goldie on 8 September (HL Deb, col GC173), how much UK aid has been given in total to Pakistan over the past five years, and what percentage of that has been used (1) to assist and protect minorities, and (2) to promote Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [HL1729]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Since financial year 2011-12, the UK has provided more than £1.2 billion of Official Development Assistance to Pakistan. A commitment by Pakistan to respect human rights is one of the three principles set out in the Development Partnership Arrangement which provides the basis for regular bilateral assistance talks between the UK and Pakistan.

The UK Government raises human rights issues and the rights of minorities on a regular basis at the highest levels in Pakistan and we ensure our development assistance targets poor women, men and children, regardless of race, religion, social background, or nationality. DFID does not fund programmes that directly promote Article 18, but we do help to foster tolerance and social cohesion between different religious groups through our AAWAZ voice and accountability programme in 4,500 villages across 45 districts of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It reaches over 3 million poor men, women and minority groups, including religious minorities, to address issues of inequality, discrimination and prevention of violence.

## Pakistan: Religious Freedom

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Pakistan about the kidnapping and forced conversion of Christian and Hindu girls and young women, the alignment of Pakistani Law with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and freedom of religion. [HL1702]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are concerned about continuing reports of abuses against religious minorities in Pakistan. The Government strongly condemns the persecution of all minorities, including the targeting of innocent people based on their beliefs or gender. Our concerns are reflected in the latest update to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annual human rights report.

We regularly raise our concerns about the protection of vulnerable groups, including women and religious minorities, with the Pakistani Government at a senior level. In April, the previous Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Philip Hammond), raised the importance of safeguarding the rights of all minorities with Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs.

It is encouraging that the government of Pakistan has enacted legislation to protect religious minorities. The UK Government continues to urge Pakistan to honour in practice its human rights obligations, including those related to religious minorities and women, and to uphold the rule of law.

### Palestinians: Elections

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they plan to make to the Palestinian Authority to encourage local elections in Gaza and the West Bank as soon as possible, and whether they plan to give the Palestinian Authority assurances that they will accept the result of such elections. [HL1806]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Our Consulate-General in Jerusalem has regularly discussed the local elections with senior Palestinian officials over the past months. We have made clear our support for genuine and democratic elections as a way of improving accountability. Following the postponement of the elections, we will continue to urge all sides to make efforts to hold these elections in accordance with the law.

### Palestinians: Overseas Aid

*Asked by **Lord Polak***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide the names of the receiver organisations currently reported as "Supplier Name Withheld" for the £5.49 million in disbursements given to the Norwegian Refugee Council for legal assistance in the West Bank and Gaza from September 2013 to May 2016. [I] [HL1716]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** All disbursements listed on the Development Tracker for the programme entitled 'Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC): Legal Assistance to prevent demolitions and displacement in the OPTs' have been made directly to the NRC, which is the supplier for this programme. Due to a technical issue inherent in the Development Tracker management information system, some supplier names appear as withheld when in fact they should be published. Our central management information team is working on a solution to this problem.

*Asked by **Lord Polak***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the total values of UK aid disbursements in the Palestinian territories given for the purpose of (1) legal assistance, and (2) promoting peaceful co-existence, in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [I] [HL1717]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In each of the last five years the UK has provided the following support for legal assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs):

<i>Year</i>	<i>Disbursement</i>
2012/2013	£340,000
2013/2014	£2,011,000
2014/2015	£2,550,000
2015/2016	£2,655,000
2016/2017	£1,000,000*
Total	£8,556,000

\*as this is the current financial year, this figure is subject to change.

The DFID Secretary of State is currently considering options for co-existence programmes as part of a wider examination of DFID's programme in the OPTs. The FCO has supported several co-existence projects in Israel.

*Asked by **Lord Polak***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the reports of a senior World Vision official in Gaza diverting funds to Hamas, what steps they are taking to ensure that UK aid given to projects in Gaza and the West Bank is not misappropriated. [I] [HL1718]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The recent allegations against the senior World Vision official in Gaza are deeply concerning. DFID does not fund World Vision operations in Gaza or the Occupied Palestinian Territories more widely. DFID's programmes are subject to stringent safeguards.

*Asked by **Lord Empey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial or other assistance they are making available to the Palestinian territories currently governed by the State of Israel. [HL1955]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** DFID provided £72 million in financial year 2015/16 in support of Palestinian development to help build Palestinian institutions, deliver basic services and promote economic development.

As the Secretary of State has recently taken up her new role, she is conducting a full examination of our work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) to ensure UK taxpayers' money is spent in the right places and in the right way.

### Palliative Care

*Asked by **Baroness Finlay of Llandaff***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide guidance to Clinical Commissioning Groups on working with charities to provide comprehensive palliative care services for patients of all ages; and if so, when. [HL1489]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** In April 2016, NHS England updated its guidance *Commissioning Person Centred End of Life Care: A Toolkit for Health and Social Care*. This document highlighted that fundamental to any

commissioning plan for end of life care is a local strategy, jointly developed with local people and key partners, clearly setting out a vision for end of life and palliative care. Included in this are examples of how working with third sector organisations can benefit service provision for palliative care services, as well as links to guidance from these organisations. A copy of the toolkit is attached.

In addition, *Our Commitment to you for end of life care* published on 5 July 2016, highlighted that the Department will work with the National Partnership for Palliative and End of Life Care and the End of Life Care Coalition of charities to promote the implementation of the Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care Framework in local areas. A copy of the report is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Government Response [choice-response.pdf]

Toolkit [nhsiq-comms-eolc-tlkit-.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-05/HL1489>

## Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman: Local Government Ombudsman

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made to bring together the work of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman with that of the Local Government Ombudsman. [HL1904]

**Baroness Mobarik:** In December 2015 the Government confirmed its intention to bring forward draft legislation to create a Public Service Ombudsman, encompassing the existing jurisdictions of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and the Local Government Ombudsman. The intention remains to publish a draft Bill in this parliamentary session.

*Asked by Lord Skelmersdale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they began to draft legislation to combine the activities of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman with those of the Local Government Ombudsman, whether this work is continuing, and when they expect to introduce such a bill into Parliament. [HL1944]

**Baroness Mobarik:** In December 2015 the Government confirmed its intention to bring forward draft legislation to create a Public Service Ombudsman, encompassing the existing jurisdictions of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and the Local Government Ombudsman. The intention remains to publish a draft Bill in this parliamentary session.

## Pensions: Fraud

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to stop cold-callers who try to lure people into pension scams. [HL1762]

**Baroness Shields:** The Government takes the threat of pension scams very seriously. We are committed to protecting consumers from such scams, by raising awareness and pursuing scammers when these crimes occur.

The Government has established Project Bloom, a multi-department, multi-agency forum for officials to monitor trends, share intelligence on emerging threats, and help co-ordinate action to tackle scams. Members include the National Crime Agency, police forces, Pension Wise, regulators and key Government departments.

We are also taking forward a range of legislative measures to tackle nuisance calls, which will increase consumer protection and choice by strengthening the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) ability to take enforcement action against organisations that break the law. Recent actions include a measure in the Digital Economy Bill that will strengthen the ICO's direct marketing guidance by giving it statutory status. We are also exploring proposals to extend the ICO's powers of compulsory audit to more of the organisations that generate nuisance calls; and the options for enabling the ICO to hold company directors to account for breaches of the direct marketing rules.

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the percentage of pension scams in the UK that (1) originate overseas, and (2) are initiated by UK-based firms. [HL1834]

**Lord Freud:** The Government has not made an estimate of the geographic origin of pension scams. Scams are often complex in nature and those reported to Action Fraud as taking place in the UK may have originated elsewhere.

## Pensions: Taxation

*Asked by Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much tax has accrued to the Exchequer from the reported removal of £6.1 billion from pension funds since the new pensions flexibility rules were introduced, and how much they estimate will accrue by 2020. [HL1469]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The latest estimate of the tax revenue consequences of the introduction of pensions flexibility was set out in the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook in March 2016. This stated, in paragraph 4.40, that: "tax from pension withdrawals relating to the pension flexibility measure is expected to be around £0.9 billion for the

whole of 2015-16, around £0.2 billion higher than assumed in the original costing”.

The estimated longer term tax impacts of the pensions flexibility measures announced at Budget 2014 were set out in Chart 1.11 (page 45) of the Budget 2014 document.

*Asked by **Baroness Drake***

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions they have had with HM Revenue and Customs about the annual publication, in standard format, of data on the drawing of pension savings that have to be reported as taxable income by (1) age, (2) gender, (3) characteristics of income draw down products, (4) cash lump sums, and (5) annuities. [HL1819]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publishes the number and value of flexible payments made from pensions since April 2015. The quarterly publication does not include breakdowns of pension payments by characteristic, nor are there any plans to.

In accordance with the National Statistics Code of Practice, Official Statistics are shared with a minimal number of named officials 24 hours prior to publication. HMRC maintains and publishes a record, which can be found on gov.uk, of all of those who have pre-release access to National Statistics and Official Statistics.

### **Personal Savings: Tax Allowances**

*Asked by **Lord Birt***

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the case for not taxing the income from interest-bearing savings whilst interest rates are low. [HL1764]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Since April 2016 savers have benefitted from a new Personal Savings Allowance of up to £1,000 for basic rate taxpayers, and £500 for higher rate taxpayers. They can also save up to £15,240 tax-free in ISAs this tax year. Together these measures mean that 95% of taxpayers have no savings tax to pay at all.

### **Peter Sutcliffe**

*Asked by **Lord Stoddart of Swindon***

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is the cost to date of keeping Peter Sutcliffe at Broadmoor Hospital, and what is the projected annual cost of keeping him at a category A high security prison. [HL1794]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** Decisions over whether prisoners are to be sent back to prison from secure hospitals are based on clinical assessments made by independent medical staff.

The Department for Health advise that information quantifying the costs to date of treating Peter Sutcliffe (now known as Peter Coonan) at Broadmoor Hospital between 1984 and 2016 is not available and would vary throughout the period of detention according to the care

and interventions provided to meet his clinical needs and security requirements.

The annual cost in 2014/15 of keeping a prisoner in a High Security prison was £57,000. This information can be found in the attachment.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Prisoner Costs table [HL1794 - NOMS PRISONER COSTS.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-12/HL1794>

### **Philippines: Drugs**

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations they are making to the government of the Philippines following reports that many hundreds of people have been killed by police and vigilantes on suspicion of involvement in drugs; and what assessment they have made of whether the courts and prisons in that country are capable of dealing with the large numbers of newly arrested suspects. [HL1699]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government’s view on the importance of the rule of law is clear, consistent and well known in the Philippines. Our Ambassador has repeatedly raised the Government’s concerns over drug-related killings with the Philippine Administration, including the Foreign Minister, Interior Secretary and Defence Secretary. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Mr Sharma), spoke of the importance of democratic accountability, human rights and the rule of law at a UK-Philippines trade and business event in London on 7 September.

Members of the Philippine Administration and Supreme Court have highlighted a lack of capacity within the courts and prisons to handle those newly arrested on suspicion of involvement in illegal drugs. We share this concern. The British Government supports the right to a fair trial and the humane treatment of detainees. The Government of the Philippines is taking some steps to increase the functionality of the justice system, including by increasing the number of specialist drug courts. Our Ambassador has conveyed the Government’s willingness to share its own experience of delivering a proportionate criminal justice response to illegal drug use and trafficking.

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations they have made to the government of the Philippines concerning drug trafficking. [HL1914]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has a regular and productive law enforcement dialogue with the Philippine authorities relating to serious crime, including drug trafficking, though we have no intelligence to



suggest that drugs are being trafficked from the Philippines to the UK or vice versa. All of our engagement in this area is subject to scrutiny under the Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment process.

### Police: Stun Guns

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals have been tasered by the police in England since 2012 and what protected diversity characteristics applied to each individual. [HL1557]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publish police use of TASER ® X26 statistics annually on GOV.UK. These releases contain statistics on police use of TASER ® X26 from the 43 Home Office police forces in England and Wales up to 2015. Protected diversity characteristics do not form part of this collection. The table below shows total police use of TASER ® X26 across England and Wales since 2012.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total use of TASER ® X26 since 2012
Number of times TASER ® X26 was used	8,161	10,380	10,095	10,401	39,037

Source: Home Office

Following the former Chief Constable David Shaw Use of Force Data review, published in July 2016, a new data collection is being implemented by the police which will allow for some protected characteristic data from 2016. We expect the data collected to be published locally by police forces and a sub-set of the data to be included in the mandatory annual data return for forces in 2017/18 for publication as Official Statistics. The current TASER publications can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/use-of-taser-statistics>

### Population: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons born in (1) Poland, and (2) the Republic of Ireland, now live in Northern Ireland. [HL1887]

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the most recent estimate of the population of Northern Ireland. [HL1888]

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

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA response - HL1887 and HL1888 [Lord Kilclooney (HL1887 HL1888) v MT (1) (1) (3).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-13/HL1887>

### Press: Regulation

*Asked by The Earl of Listowel*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assurances they have received from the media, or its representative bodies, that the issue of children being named before they are charged will be addressed through the new system of press regulation. [HL1919]

**Lord Ashton of Hyde:** The Government is committed to a free and open press and does not interfere with what the press does and does not publish, as long as the press abides by the law. The new system of independent press self-regulation protects press freedom and the industry develops its own standards and codes. The Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) handles complaints about its members under the Editors' Code of Practice. The Independent Monitor for the Press (IMPRESS) is currently consulting on its new Standards Code.

### Prisoners: Literacy

*Asked by Baroness Rebuck*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the 60 per cent of the prison population who do not have at least entry level literacy skills do so by the time they complete their prison sentence. [HL1753]

**Baroness Mobarik:** Prisons should be places of safety and reform. The Government is determined to make sure that it achieves better educational outcomes for all prisoners, including in literacy. This will form a key part of its safety and reform plan, which it will set out this autumn.

### Profumo Inquiry

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider releasing papers relating to Lord Denning's Report on the Profumo affair earlier than 2048. [HL1961]

**Baroness Mobarik:** I refer the Noble Lord to the answer Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen gave to Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield on 14 September 2016.

### Public Footpaths

*Asked by Lord Skelmersdale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish an affirmative order to amend the law on public footpaths. [HL1637]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** I am unable to confirm a precise date at present. The Government expects to publish an affirmative order later in the session. I would be happy to meet my Noble Friend and other interested peers to discuss progress with the whole package of reform.

### Racial Hatred

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many xenophobic and racist hate crimes were reported in England and Wales each month in the past year; what percentage rise, if any, there has been in the number of such crimes reported since 24 June; and what is their assessment of the causes of any rise. [HL1822]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales annually. The most recently published data are for 2014/15 and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2014-to-2015>

Data for 2015/16 will be published in October 2016. It is planned that this publication will include some information on hate crime following the EU Referendum on the 23 June.

Following increases in the reporting of hate crime and raised community tensions in late June, the National Police Chiefs' Council requested weekly returns from forces across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. These show the number of all monitored hate crime recorded by forces, not just those that were racist or xenophobic.

At its peak, these returns showed a 58 per cent increase in the reporting of hate crime in comparison to 2015. This has since subsided and we have now observed four consecutive weeks of reductions in reporting. The latest returns from 5 to 18 August show 2778 hate crimes and incidents. This is a decrease of 479 offences on the previous fortnight but it is a 14 per cent increase on the equivalent period in 2015. Full information on these statistics can be found here: <http://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/tackling-hate-crime-remains-a-priority>

There is no single factor to which the rise in reporting can be attributed, and there is no current evidence to indicate the rise is due entirely to an increase in occurrence of hate crime. However, multiple factors, including the increased profile of hate crime in the media, greater awareness of hate crime and increased confidence in the police may have had an impact on levels of reporting.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Hate Crime 2014-15 [Hate Crime 2014-15.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-12/HL1822>

### Radicalism

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish details of the Islamist de-radicalisation treatment and of the organisations that deliver it. [HL1580]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The new Desistance and Disengagement Programme will be launched as a pilot in October 2016. The pilot will focus on those convicted of terrorist, or terrorist-related offences, who have served their custodial sentences and are due to be released on licence.

### Ragwort: Weed Control

*Asked by Lord Tebbit*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the Ragwort Control Act 2003 in preventing the spread of ragwort. [HL1864]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The effectiveness of this Act is assessed annually by recording details of complaints and enforcement cases. Research undertaken for Defra in 2013 concluded that ragwort is not becoming more widespread.

The Ragwort Control Act 2003 contains provision for a Code of Practice for the management and control of ragwort.

Common ragwort is one of the five, so called 'injurious weeds' and is toxic to grazing livestock including horses, so the priority is to protect them where there is a risk of them ingesting dead, dying or green ragwort. The Government recognises the impact that ragwort ingestion can have and we ask that landowners take all reasonable steps to ensure that ragwort does not spread from their land onto adjoining land, where it poses a risk to grazing livestock, land used for grazing or to produce hay/forage. Where complaints are received and there is a genuine risk to grazing livestock then action to ensure compliance is taken with private individuals or public bodies.

### Railways: Competition

*Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the timing proposed by the Office of Road and Rail on opening all main Inter City Railway lines to an open-access competition, in the light of the fact that there is no financial measurement of the consequences of such a competition on the East Coast Main Line including the impact on the existing Virgin Trains East Coast franchise. [HL1646]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Office of Rail and Road's comments on open access competition were in-line with the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA's) report on passenger rail services published on 8 March 2016. In their report the CMA did not envisage their options for greater open access competition would come into effect before 2023 at the earliest. The Government responded to the report in a written ministerial statement on 17 March 2016, explaining that we would explore options for potentially implementing the CMA's recommendations.

The Government is actively considering the CMA's recommendations, in discussion with industry stakeholders. Until this process is further developed, and the options fully considered, the Government is not in a position to provide an assessment of the timing for potential reforms in this area.

### Railways: Graffiti

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to remove graffiti from the rail network. [[HL1710](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Graffiti removal on the rail network is an operational matter for Network Rail, but the company has advised me that it currently spends around £3.5 million a year for this purpose.

### Railways: Industrial Health and Safety

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the health and safety implications of discarded pieces of rail and equipment alongside tracks across the rail network. [[HL1711](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The independent regulator, the Office of Rail and Road (ORR), is responsible for monitoring and enforcing health and safety matters in respect of Britain's railway. It has confirmed that Network Rail has standards in place regarding the removal of material and equipment following the completion of works and that Network Rail provides adequate guidance to its staff on this issue in order to minimise health and safety risks. However, the ORR has noted some inconsistent application of these standards; its inspectors are therefore actively engaging with Network Rail to address this issue.

### Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an assessment of the upkeep and tidiness of the rail network in Japan; and if so, what lessons they have learnt that could be adopted within the UK. [[HL1712](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Her Majesty's Government has not made any such assessment.

*Asked by Lord Mawson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on inward investment to the UK of the condition and environment of the UK rail network. [[HL1713](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** There is extensive evidence of the importance of transport and connectivity to attracting inward investment in to the UK economy. HM Government is always seeking to maximise such opportunities, however we have made no specific assessment of how the UK's railways are currently bearing on inward investment.

### Rakhine State Advisory Commission

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they plan to give to the Commission on Rakhine State led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. [[HL1495](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We have long advocated for action to tackle the problems of Rakhine for the benefit of all communities, and to end the mistreatment of the Muslim Rohingya minority. We therefore welcome the establishment of this Commission. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma), issued a statement to this effect on 25 August. On 14 September he also held a telephone conversation with Mr Annan in which he conveyed the UK's strong support for his appointment and mandate. We are clear that this is a Burmese conceived and led initiative, and that is as it should be. The UK is providing funding to support the work of the Kofi Annan Foundation.

*Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Kofi Annan and members of the new panel investigating the conflict in Rakhine State in Burma. [[HL1850](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 15 September, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Honourable Friend the Member for Reading West (Alok Sharma), spoke on the phone with Kofi Annan, Chair of the new Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. He commended Mr Annan on his appointment and expressed the UK's support for the work of the Commission. We welcome State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi's initiative in establishing this Commission, whose work will play an important part in providing independent advice on how to resolve intercommunal tensions in Rakhine state.

## Recycling

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Whitchurch***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 4 April (HL7139), whether they have published their vision and business case for improved recycling, and if so, what action they are now taking to follow it up with a plan to deliver simplified and consistent recycling collection systems. [HL1721]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The framework for greater consistency in household recycling in England, devised by Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and an Advisory Group was published on 13 September. The framework, along with the supporting evidence and case studies, is available on WRAP's website.

There are various work streams continuing under the framework WRAP is also working with a number of councils that would like to explore the business case and introduce service changes in line with the consistency framework.

## Refugees: Children

*Asked by **Lord Dubs***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied child refugees have been transferred to the UK under the terms of the Immigration Act 2016 from (1) France, (2) Italy, and (3) Greece. [HL1485]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Our records currently indicate that since Royal Assent, 30 children who meet the criteria in the Immigration Act 2016 have been transferred to the UK. Details on the European country these children arrived from are not currently available. This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

*Asked by **Lord Dubs***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many child refugees have been transferred to the UK because they had an existing family connection in the UK from (1) France, (2) Greece, and (3) Italy, in (a) 2015, and (b) 2016 to date. [HL1486]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Our records currently indicate that in 2016 the Government has transferred just under 100 unaccompanied refugee children to the UK under the Dublin Regulation, the majority of which are from France. This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

In 2015, around 20 unaccompanied refugee children in Europe were accepted for transfer to the UK.

*Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied child refugees have been accepted into

the UK since the passing of the Immigration Act 2016. [HL1513]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Our records currently indicate that since Royal Assent, 30 children who meet the criteria in the Immigration Act 2016 have been transferred to the UK. This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

*Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to reunite with their families the 387 child refugees in Calais camps identified by Citizens UK who are eligible to come to the UK. [HL1788]

*Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to identify families in the UK who would be willing to receive related unaccompanied child refugees from the refugee camps in Calais. [HL1789]

*Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to secure the co-operation of voluntary organisations that are ready to assist in welcoming child refugees. [HL1790]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** UK Government officials have confirmed that the Citizens UK list has been passed to the French authorities, who are primarily responsible for migrants on French territory.

We continue to work with the French authorities and others to speed up exist-ing family reunification processes or implement new processes where necessary. We will shortly be seconding another official to the French Interior Ministry to support these efforts.

We have established a dedicated team in the Home Office Dublin Unit to lead on family reunion cases for unaccompanied children. Transfer requests under the Dublin Regulation are now generally processed within 10 days and children transferred within weeks. Over 120 children have been accepted for transfer this year from Europe; over 70 of these are from France.

It is important that the due processes under the Dublin Regulation are followed. This position was recently confirmed in a Court of Appeal judgement ("ZAT and others"). Families are only contacted once a transfer request has been made and a family link has been established. When we accept a request to transfer an unaccompanied minor we liaise with Local Authorities and the child's family.

A new scheme to allow community groups to directly sponsor a refugee family was launched by the Home Secretary and Archbishop of Canterbury on 19 July. The Full Community Sponsorship scheme enables community groups including charities, faith groups, churches and businesses, to take on the role of supporting resettled refugees in the UK. A 'Help Refugees in the UK' web-page has also been developed on GOV.UK to make it



easier for the public to support refugees in the UK and allow local authorities to focus support on the goods and services that refugees need.

### Refugees: Facilities

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial contribution they have received from the Church of England to fund the provision of facilities for refugees. [HL1840]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government recently launched a community sponsorship scheme to enable community groups including charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to take on the role of supporting resettled refugees in the UK.

### Refugees: Syria

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that their pledge to accept 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020 is honoured. [HL1514]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We intend to resettle up to 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament. We will continue to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify appropriate cases, prioritising the most vulnerable. The numbers resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals from UNHCR in the field and the availability of suitable accommodation and care packages in the UK. We continue to work closely with local authorities to manage the arrival of the Syrian refugees in to the resettlement places they have pledged. We will manage the flows based on need and in support of the wellbeing of the people and communities involved, rather than rushing to meet arbitrary targets. However, we are clear that we want to help as many people as we can as quickly as possible.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities have agreed to accept Syrian refugees. [HL1719]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** More than 170 local authorities have provided firm offers of places and many more have pledged to resettle refugees under this scheme. We continue to work with them all in order to meet our commitment. Progress on resettlement is reported in quarterly immigration statistics, including the local authorities participating in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and how many refugees have been resettled in each area.

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the announcement by the Home Office that they have

secured the necessary places with councils and devolved administrations across the UK to settle 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020, whether the majority of those refugees will be settled in the UK by 2018; and if not, what steps they are taking to speed up the admissions process. [HL1791]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has been working with local authorities and devolved administrations across the UK in order to ensure we have the capacity and infrastructure to meet our commitment to resettle 20,000 vulnerable Syrians by the end of this Parliament and through these discussions local authorities have committed their involvement in the resettlement programme between now and 2020.

We are not complacent. There is still a significant amount of work to be done with regions and local authorities to turn these pledges into arrivals. But we are committed to resettling 20,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees by the end of this Parliament and we are on track to do that.

The numbers resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the field and the availability of suitable accommodation and care packages in the UK. We will manage the flows based on need and in support of the well-being of the people and communities involved, rather than rushing to meet arbitrary targets.

### Regional Airports

*Asked by Baroness Redfern*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote the role of regional airports in stimulating the UK economy. [HL1983]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The government made clear in its Aviation Policy Framework, that airports across the UK make a vital contribution to the growth and recovery of regional and local economies and their role in helping to accommodate wider forecast growth in demand for aviation in the UK. The government recognises that regional air connectivity across the UK is also very important and announced in November 2015 that it will provide around £7million of start-up aid from the Regional Air Connectivity Fund over the next three financial years to support 11 new air routes from smaller airports. The Fund is also providing support to two Public Service Obligation routes from London to Dundee and Newquay. The UK government has also recently agreed in principle to support the air route between City of Derry Airport and London.

### Religious Freedom

*Asked by Lord Collins of Highbury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding has been allocated from the Magna Carta fund

for projects related to freedom of religion or belief. [HL1930]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** In 2016/17, the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy is funding seven projects, with a total value of £670,037, that directly relate to strengthening freedom of religion or belief (FORB). This represents an 18% increase in funding from 2015/16, when the fund supported freedom of religion or belief projects worth £550,016. Freedom of religion or belief remains a core strand of the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy. Many of the Fund's other projects also indirectly support the creation of more tolerant societies, through strengthening representation of minority groups, supporting freedom of expression and promoting just and fair rules-based systems of government.

The seven FORB projects this year promote positive FORB outcomes through different methods and strategies, from attempting to working with NGOs to lobby for the removal of laws which discriminate on religious grounds, to more upstream interventions which seek to change public opinion and promote a culture which is more accepting of religious diversity. A good example of a hybrid of these methods is a project this year working with teachers across the MENA region to develop a school curriculum that supports freedom of religion and belief. This project promotes a more progressive education curriculum, and ensures the next generation of students have a greater awareness of the important right to freedom of religion or belief.

### Republic of Ireland: Diplomatic Service

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether HE Dan Mulhall is the Irish Ambassador to Great Britain or to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. [HL1886]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** All Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary accredited to the Court of St James's are Ambassadors to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

### Retail Trade: Dispute Resolution

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the proportion of retail businesses that have designated an appropriate alternative dispute resolution (ADR) provider for their sector in accordance with the EU ADR Directive. [HL1902]

*Asked by Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the progress made by the eight Competent Authorities recognised as relevant bodies under the Alternative Dispute Resolution for Consumer Disputes (Competent Authorities and Information)

Regulations 2015 and the amending regulations to ensure consistency across their respective jurisdictions. [HL1905]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The Government supports the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to help businesses and consumers save time and money when dealing with complaints. Approved ADR is available for every consumer to trader dispute in the UK.

We have not estimated what proportion of retail businesses have a designated ADR provider as it is open to the retailer to choose a different ADR provider with the necessary skills and experience to deal with a particular dispute.

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute acts as the lead competent authority and has held working groups and individual meetings with the other competent authorities to ensure consistency of approach.

### Rights of Way

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 4 July (HL761), by what date they expect the draft regulations seeking to amend the Local Authorities (Recovery of Costs for Public Path Orders) Regulations 1993 to be laid before Parliament. [HL1962]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** I am unable to confirm a precise date at present but I expect to publish the draft regulations later in the session.

### Road Traffic Offences

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to ensure that EU law relating to traffic will continue to be enforced when the UK leaves the EU. [HL1623]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government is considering the impacts of the decision to leave the EU, including future arrangements for existing legislation. Until we leave the EU, EU law continues to apply, so we continue to comply with the requirements relating to traffic.

### Roads: Gloucestershire

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Gloucestershire County Council regarding the budget required to repair local roads in the county. [HL1685]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Whilst no specific discussions have been held with Gloucestershire County Council in respect to local highways maintenance budgets, the Department for Transport officials meet with officers from all local highway authorities in respect to a wide range of local transport issues on a regular basis.

The Government has committed record levels of investment, over £6 billion, to highways maintenance up to 2020/21, including a Pothole Action Fund totalling £250 million in this Parliament. From this funding we are allocating over £95 million to the council to help improve the condition of the local roads for which Gloucestershire County Council are responsible.

### **Roads: Noise**

*Asked by Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to reduce noise on public highways, and if so, when they plan to implement those plans. [HL1892]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) set out plans to reduce noise from public highways in Noise Action Plans, which were published in January 2014. Road traffic noise is covered in the "Noise action plan for roads (including major roads)" and the "Noise action plan for agglomerations."

These identify "noise important areas" and highway authorities are required to assess whether any mitigation is required at each noise important area. Highways England is in the process of mitigating at least 1,150 noise important areas by 2020, as part of the £300m Environment Fund in the Road Investment Strategy.

### **Royal Blackburn Hospital**

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the waiting times for treatment in the accident and emergency department of the Royal Blackburn Hospital. [HL1906]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the scale of trolley waits in the accident and emergency department of the Royal Blackburn Hospital and the consequent safety of patients. [HL1907]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the handover time of patients from ambulances to hospital staff at the Royal Blackburn Hospital. [HL1908]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have held with NHS Improvement and the Care Quality Commission on the quality, safety and effectiveness of services at the Royal Blackburn Hospital. [HL1909]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the sufficiency of accident and emergency capacity in East Lancashire. [HL1910]

*Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the closure of accident and emergency services at Burnley Hospital. [HL1911]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** No such assessments have been made. The provision of accident and emergency (A&E) services at the Royal Blackburn Hospital is a matter for the local National Health Service. The NHS in East Lancashire has established an A&E delivery board to oversee system performance and the effective delivery of urgent and emergency care locally.

Ministers consult weekly with NHS Improvement and the Care Quality Commission about A&E performance.

### **Russia: Sanctions**

*Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 25 July (HL1110), whether they are at variance with the government of the Republic of Cyprus regarding its unilateral call for an end to current trade and economic sanctions imposed on Russia by the EU; and what assessment they have made of whether that call casts doubts on the Republic of Cyprus' sincerity and dependability in other areas of common interest, including the Talks Process. [HL1503]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** On 1 July 2016, the European Council unanimously agreed to prolong economic sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy until 31 January 2017. The EU remains united in its strategy of resolving the Ukraine crisis through diplomacy underpinned by robust sanctions pressure. All EU Member States have agreed that the duration of the sanctions is linked to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements.

The UK has a strong relationship with the Republic of Cyprus. With respect to the Cyprus settlement talks, we commend the courageous leadership of President Anastasiades and Mr Akinci. As The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Sir Alan Duncan) made clear during his visit to Cyprus on 6-8 September, the UK will continue to support the efforts of both communities to reunite Cyprus.

### **Rwanda: Burundi**

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what diplomatic and financial assistance they are providing to the governments of Rwanda and Burundi to establish

confidence-building measures that improve relations between those governments. [HL1691]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK remains deeply concerned about the ongoing political crisis in Burundi. The sharp deterioration in Burundi's relationships with the region, including Rwanda, is particularly worrying. The recent restrictions imposed by Burundi on cross-border trade will further exacerbate the serious negative economic impact of the crisis on the lives of Rwandans and Burundians.

The UK is supporting a range of efforts to generate dialogue and ease tension in the region. We have worked with EU and UN Security Council partners to deliver strong and coherent international messaging to the government of Burundi. We have imposed EU sanctions on key individuals responsible for the violence; suspended direct EU aid to the government; and delivered robust strong Security Council Resolutions including July's UNSCR 2303.

The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge), visited Rwanda and Burundi in December 2015 and urged all parties to act responsibly to reduce violence. The UK Special Envoy to the Great Lakes, Danae Dholakia, visits the region regularly to reinforce these messages. We have been clear in all our public and private dialogue with Rwanda on the need for neighbours to play a stabilising role in Burundi. The UK is also providing £6.85 million of DFID funding to support Burundian refugees in Rwanda.

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial and diplomatic assistance they are providing to the East African Community and the UN to support them in their efforts to reduce existing tensions between the governments of Burundi and Rwanda. [HL1692]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The East African Community (EAC) has a central role to play in resolving the crisis in Burundi and mediating dialogue between Burundi and its neighbours. We strongly support the EAC mediation process, led by former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa. We have provided extensive diplomatic support to the process through lobbying of regional leaders and attendance by our Special Envoy to the Great Lakes at meetings of the dialogue in May and July in Arusha, Tanzania.

Through our UN Security Council Membership we have worked with partners to ensure that EAC efforts are fully coordinated with, and supported by, the United Nations. In January 2016 our Ambassador to the United Nations participated in a Security Council visit to Burundi. In July the Security Council passed Resolution 2303 which welcomed the EAC's efforts so far and called for all parties in the region to participate fully with the process.

## Rwanda: Equality

*Asked by The Lord Bishop of Durham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing to the government of Rwanda to tackle levels of inequality there. [HL1694]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** DFID supports various programmes that tackle economic and social inequalities in Rwanda. Our programmes on social protection, education and agriculture all support the Government of Rwanda to address inequality and focus on the needs and rights of the poorest and most excluded people. In addition to DFID's direct support to Government programmes, we also work with the private sector and other partners to promote inclusive economic growth that promotes social cohesion and reduces economic inequalities, creating decent and sustainable jobs for all. We also work with non-governmental organisations and civil society to address economic, social and gender inequalities. We have three dedicated programmes working on gender and women and girls' empowerment, focusing on Gender Based Violence Prevention, the empowerment of adolescent girls, and addressing harmful social and gender norms.

## Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they made of Saudi Arabia's human rights record, and its role in Yemen, before announcing that the UK would continue to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia. [HL1603]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government takes its arms export responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. All export licence applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking account of all relevant factors at the time of the application.

Risks around human rights violations are a key part of our assessment against the Consolidated Criteria. We do not export equipment where we assess there is a clear risk that it might be used for internal repression, or would provoke or prolong conflict within a country, or where we assess there is a clear risk that the intended recipient would use the items aggressively against another country. Export licensing requires us to consider how the equipment will be used by the end-user. This is done by reference to all currently available and relevant information at the time of application. A licence will not be issued, for any country, if to do so would be inconsistent with any provision of the mandatory Criteria, including where we assess there is a clear risk that it might be used in the commission of a serious violation of International Humanitarian Law.



## Saudi Arabia: Migrant Workers

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Saudi Arabia about foreign workers now unemployed and owed pay; and whether they plan to consult the governments of Pakistan, India and the Philippines on that issue. [[HL1703](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are aware of reports of some third country migrant workers not receiving payments. This is a matter for the parties involved in each situation to find a solution.

## Schools

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal schools have been closed down, and how many people have been prosecuted for running an illegal school, in each of the last five years. [[HL1967](#)]

**Lord Nash:** We are determined to keep children safe in and out of school and have made it very clear that it is an offence to operate an unregistered independent school. We announced in January funding for Ofsted to establish a dedicated team of specialist inspectors to investigate such settings. Since that time, there's been a significant escalation in Ofsted investigations of settings, which has resulted in the closure of many.

However, the numbers of unregistered schools, including closures fluctuates all the time as new ones come to our attention, existing ones are closed down, or are confirmed as not operating as schools. Such settings also proceed to go through the registration process and may be operating in some capacity, but on a part-time basis which is not an offence.

No prosecutions have yet been taken but we are working closely with Ofsted and the Crown Prosecution Service on taking forward prosecutions of individuals running them, where appropriate.

## Schools: Asbestos

*Asked by Baroness Donaghy*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to eradicate the presence of asbestos on school sites in England and Wales. [[HL1484](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The issue of asbestos in schools is a serious one and the government is supporting those that are legally responsible for managing asbestos in schools.

The Health and Safety Executive, which is the lead regulator on managing asbestos advise that as long as asbestos is in good condition and unlikely to be damaged or disturbed, it is not a significant risk to health to pupils and students during the course of their daily activities. On this basis, the department has provided targeted guidance to schools on the effective management of asbestos in

their schools and has recently concluded a voluntary data collection exercise to understand how duty holders are managing asbestos in their schools.

The department directly funds the removal of asbestos through schemes such as the Priority Schools Building Programme and provides capital funding for asbestos management and removal where appropriate for those schools that have identified that asbestos is in poor condition or poses a high risk of deterioration.

The department is not committing to the removal of asbestos in all schools as blanket and accelerated removal of asbestos in schools is potentially more dangerous and may involve greater risk to school children and staff.

It is the aim of the government that, over time, as more school buildings are replaced and refurbished, all asbestos will be removed from schools.

## Schools: Health Education

*Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for patients who have certain medical conditions, such as diabetes, mental health problems or other illnesses, to go into schools to talk to children about those conditions, to give them a better understanding of the nature of those illnesses. [[HL1628](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The national curriculum sets the expectation that pupils study personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education in maintained schools and academies are encouraged to teach it as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

Schools and teachers should decide what to teach based on their pupils' needs, and taking account of pupil and parent views, when planning health education as part of PSHE.

We believe that schools are best placed to decide whether they draw on the support of patients or resources using patients' perspectives when delivering PSHE.

## Schools: Staff

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases of work-related stress and mental ill-health were reported by teaching assistants and school support staff in (1) 2009–10, (2) 2010–11, (3) 2011–12, (4) 2012–13, (5) 2013–14, (6) 2014–15, and (7) 2015–16. [[HL1658](#)]

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what regional variations arose in the reporting of cases of work-related stress and mental ill-health by teaching assistants and school support staff in (1) 2009–10, (2) 2010–11, (3) 2011–12, (4) 2012–13, (5) 2013–14, (6) 2014–15, and (7) 2015–16; and what assessment they have made of the reasons for those variations. [[HL1659](#)]

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many claims for Statutory Sick Pay were made by teaching assistants and school support staff due to work-related stress and mental ill-health in (1) 2009–10, (2) 2010–11, (3) 2011–12, (4) 2012–13, (5) 2013–14, (6) 2014–15, and (7) 2015–16. [[HL1660](#)]

*Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases of absence as a result of work-related violence were reported by teaching assistants and school support staff in (1) 2009–10, (2) 2010–11, (3) 2011–12, (4) 2012–13, (5) 2013–14, (6) 2014–15, and (7) 2015–16. [[HL1661](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The Department does not collect the information requested.

**Smoking: Developing Countries***Asked by Baroness Northover*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of smoking rates in low- and middle-income countries and how those rates are predicted to evolve over the next century; and how they take such rates into account in awarding development funding. [[HL1854](#)]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Government recognises the significant impact of tobacco use in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Tobacco use is the world's single most preventable cause of disease and the number of tobacco users is increasing in LMICs. If current patterns of use persist, tobacco will kill about 1 billion people in the 21st Century. Evidence indicates that by 2030, over 80% of the world's tobacco-related mortality will be in LMICs.

Tobacco use is also a major barrier to sustainable development. A major driver of social inequities, tobacco use imposes significant social, economic and environmental harm on individuals, families and national economies.

Given the recognised impact of tobacco on international development, the United Kingdom Government is funding a project to strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, using official development assistance funds. Through this project, we will share the UK's experience in tobacco control to support LMICs to save lives by putting effective measures in place to stop people using tobacco.

**Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals***Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the analysis by HM Revenue and Customs Further Tax Credit Statistics on EEA Nationals, published on 25 August, how many individuals who were recorded as

being (1) Bulgarian, and (2) Romanian, nationals at the time of issue of their National Insurance numbers claimed (a) tax credits, and (b) child benefit, in 2014–15; and what was the amount of those claims. [[HL1820](#)]

**Lord Young of Cookham:** The 'Further Tax Credit Statistics on EEA Nationals, 2013/14' publication released in August of this year covered HMRC benefits alongside National Insurance Contributions and Income Tax paid by EEA nationals for 2013/14. HMRC information on EEA nationals is complex and the data should be considered in its totality, as set out in that August publication, in order to get as comprehensive and complete a picture as possible. The data on the amount of National Insurance and Income Tax paid for 2014/15 will not be available until spring 2017, and will be published alongside tax credits and Child Benefit data in due course.

**Social Services: Birmingham***Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the LaingBuisson report into the future of children's services in Birmingham; and if so, when. [[HL1943](#)]

**Lord Nash:** The Department for Education does intend to publish the LaingBuisson report entitled "The potential for developing the capacity and diversity of children's social care services in England." The Department intends to publish the report in due course.

It should be noted that the report considers the potential for developing the capacity and diversity of provision of children's social care services in England, and is not a report into the future of children's services in Birmingham.

**South Sudan: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund***Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which projects funded by the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund in South Sudan in 2016–17 are directly linked to the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. [[HL1727](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) in South Sudan will provide funding for five projects in 2016–17 that seek to reduce conflict at a national and local level, and are therefore directly linked to the implementation of the peace agreement. These projects will help improve public knowledge of the peace agreement, increase the capacity for HMG to engage with implementation, provide technical assistance on the economy and security sectors, and support the Sudan People's Liberation Army on professionalisation, implementation of the peace agreement and preventing sexual violence in conflict.

## South Sudan: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of South Sudan following reports of attacks on aid workers at the Terrain hotel in Juba in July; and what action they plan to take alongside the USA to investigate the reported crimes committed. [HL1670]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We were appalled by reports of aid workers coming under attack at the Terrain hotel. It is completely unacceptable to target people who have themselves gone to help those in greatest need. We have strongly condemned this attack and the UN Security Council emphasised concerns about this incident directly to the South Sudanese government during its visit to Juba in early September.

Together with our Troika colleagues, we urged the South Sudanese authorities to carry out a thorough investigation into the atrocities committed at the Terrain compound; and the UN has launched a special independent investigation into the violence and the response of the UN Mission in South Sudan.

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have evaluated the efficacy of the emergency response of foreign embassies to the reported attacks on aid workers at the Terrain hotel in Juba in July. [HL1671]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We do not evaluate the operations of other embassies, but we are pleased that the UN have announced that they will launch a special independent investigation into the violence and the response of the UN Mission. Our Embassy in Juba helped all those British Nationals who wanted to leave the country during the recent violence in Juba to do so, while at the same time evacuating our own non-essential staff. We will continue to provide consular assistance to those remaining in country.

*Asked by The Earl of Sandwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the reported attacks on aid workers in Juba in July on (1) the longer-term presence of UK non-governmental organisations in South Sudan, and (2) the UK's future relations with the government of South Sudan. [HL1672]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The welfare of British Nationals in South Sudan is a top priority for our Embassy in Juba. We have advised our citizens to leave but we recognise that some of those working in non-governmental organisations have decided to stay and will continue to provide assistance to them. The reinforced mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan, including the arrival of a Regional Protection Force in Juba, is designed to provide greater protection for the civilian population, as well as humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organisations. We will continue to lobby the government

of South Sudan to allow the mission to operate effectively.

## South Sudan: Overseas Aid

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much development aid has been provided to South Sudan in each of the last three years, and how much of that aid was specifically focused on conflict resolution and promoting reconciliation. [HL1728]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Through DFID the UK provided £158m in 2013/14 and £188m in 2015/16 of development aid to South Sudan, a further £165 million is budgeted to be spent this financial year.

The UK remains committed to helping bring an end to the cycle of violence in South Sudan. Many of our programmes have components aimed at conflict resolution and reconciliation. In terms of specific programming, a £12 million 'Community Security and Arms Control' project running from 2012-16 helps to control and regulate small arms, enhance dispute resolution mechanisms and improve security within communities. In addition, through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) the UK spent almost £1.4 million on conflict resolution and promoting reconciliation in 2015/16, and is forecasting to spend a further £1 million in 2016/17, including on community level peacebuilding and the Conflict Sensitivity Programme. DFID works very closely with the FCO, who, along with 'Troika' partners the US and Norway, are working to help end the conflict through the implementation of the 2015 peace agreement.

## Sovereignty: Northern Ireland

*Asked by Lord Kilclooney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the commitments in the Belfast Agreement 1998, what representations they have received from the Irish government about the continuing status of Northern Ireland as part of the UK. [HL1891]

**Lord Dunlop:** The Government has regular discussions with the Irish Government on a range of issues in accordance with the well-established three stranded approach laid out in the Belfast Agreement. As one of the negotiators of that Agreement, the Noble Lord is aware that Northern Ireland's constitutional position is based on the principle of consent, which is fully supported by both the United Kingdom and Irish Governments.

The Belfast Agreement stated that "the present wish of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, freely exercised and legitimate, is to maintain the Union and, accordingly, that Northern Ireland's status as part of the United Kingdom reflects and relies upon that wish". The Government has no reason to believe that there has been any change in this position.

## Sports Competitors: Finance

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Olympic Games in Rio, and the potential adverse impact on funding for elite athletes of Brexit, what steps they will take to ensure proper funding for such athletes to support their successful participation in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. [HL1582]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** The London 2012 Olympic Games were a huge success with sold-out venues and the best British performance for over 100 years in winning 65 medals. The Games left a legacy of increased participation and world-class sporting venues which are now being used by our elite athletes as well as local communities.

The commitment from the Government immediately following the London 2012 Olympic Games to confirm and sustain Exchequer support for the UK Sport World Class Programme was a significant moment in underpinning the success of Rio, providing UK Sport, and the National Governing Bodies of sport, with the necessary financial support to invest in medal success across the Olympic and Paralympic sports.

I am confident that this success will continue at the Rio 2016 Paralympics, and through to Tokyo in 2020 and beyond. Since 2012, UK Sport funded athletes have given back over 18,000 days visiting schools and local projects as part of our commitment to inspire the next generation.

## Sports: Public Participation

*Asked by Lord Pendry*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Olympic Games in Rio, what steps they will take to encourage greater participation in sport in the UK, in particular among women and ethnic minorities. [HL1583]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** The brilliant performance of Team GB at this year's Olympic Games will have inspired many to take part in sport and physical activity. We are determined to get more people from under-represented groups including women and ethnic minorities taking part in sport and physical activity and to remove any barrier that prevents them from doing so. Government's sport strategy 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for An Active Nation' states that in future government will, via Sport England, support work designed to get more people from under-represented groups engaging in sport and physical activity and wherever possible, this focus on under-represented groups will run through all Sport England funding.

## St Helena: Airports

*Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made on tackling the wind shear issue that is

preventing the opening of St Helena's airport to regular passenger flights; and when they anticipate that regular passenger flights will begin at that airport. [HL1684]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Work is ongoing to establish the impact of the wind conditions at St Helena Airport, with a view to identifying the means to mitigate the impact of the wind shear on flight operations. At the same time work continues to identify options for commencing commercial air services, the timing of which depends on securing the right aircraft and regulatory approvals. We are aiming for these services to start as soon as possible.

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who will decide whether the airport at St Helena will open to commercial traffic; what criteria will be used in making that decision; and when they expect the information necessary to make that decision to be available. [HL1730]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Following certification by the regulator, ASSI, in June, the airport is open to flights that meet the Category C conditions set out in the St Helena Government's Aerodrome Information Publication; this is provided to all prospective airlines and their pilots. The wind conditions at the Airport preclude commercial services at this time. A decision on when commercial services can begin will be made once sufficient information is available to make a decision which reflects the paramount importance of safety.

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish and place in the Library of both Houses the Met Office Report on climatology and wind shear relating to St Helena airport, submitted in October 2014. [HL1731]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Met Office report was commissioned by the St Helena Government. It is therefore their report. Information in this report, and more recent data on the climatology and wind shear, is provided by the airport operator to airlines and pilots when applying to fly into St Helena.

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish all representations they have received following the delay in opening the airport at St Helena to commercial traffic. [HL1732]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The St Helena Government, supported by DFID, is in discussions with a number of possible air service providers. On commercial grounds, it would not be appropriate to publish the representations at this time.

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what detailed research was carried out into potential problems with the proposed airport at St Helena before the contract



was signed in 2011, and what were the results of that research. [HL1733]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** A detailed Feasibility Study was undertaken in 2004. This study looked at a wide range of issues associated with the development of the airport.

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what enquiries they have received regarding compensation claims arising from the delay in the opening of St Helena airport to commercial traffic, and what response they have given. [HL1734]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Enquiries from claimants seeking compensation is a matter for the St Helena Government. DFID has not received any claims for compensation related to the St Helena Airport.

### St Helena: Aviation

*Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place with Comair, the preferred bidder for commercial air services to St Helena, and with what outcome. [HL1735]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The current contract for air services is between the St Helena Government and Comair. Comair remain engaged in discussions about flying to St Helena when the time is right.

### Stamp Duty Land Tax: Greater London

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of higher stamp duty costs on activity in London's housing market throughout 2016. [HL1635]

**Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** The housing market is affected by a wide variety of factors including exchange rates and the economic outlook. The Government continually monitors the housing market as part of the ordinary process of policy development.

At Autumn Statement 2014 the Government announced a radical reform of Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) on residential properties, cutting the tax for 98% of homebuyers who pay it.

The Government believes it is fair that those who can afford to buy the most expensive properties contribute the most. Whilst the reform does increase the SDLT paid on the top 2% of transactions, this increase is small relative to the price of the property.

### Stansted Airport: Railways

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what work they are undertaking to implement the Airports Commission

recommendations for surface transport improvements to Stansted to make the best use of existing capacity at London's airports, to encourage more people to travel by rail, and to reduce emissions. [HL1859]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** In its National Infrastructure Plan of December 2013, the government confirmed that it would be taking forward the surface access measures recommended by the Airports Commission to make best use of existing capacity at London airports.

For Stansted, work to examine potential upgrades to rail infrastructure between London, Stansted and Cambridge has been taken forward by the West Anglia Taskforce, which was established by the government and the Mayor of London to consider this issue and the benefits it might generate.

The Taskforce published its recommendations and a suggested timetable for action in July.

Rail services to Stansted will also be enhanced through the new East Anglia franchise. This will bring a number of improvements for passengers travelling to the airport, including new trains with free Wi-Fi from February 2019 and a minimum 12.5% reduction in anytime return fares and anytime single fares on the Stansted Express by early 2017. By early 2018, passengers will be able to purchase tickets via a dedicated Stansted Express website, to be delivered to their mobile devices for validation. There is flexibility within the new franchise for the train operator to introduce services to different parts of London if market demand for this emerges.

### State Retirement Pensions

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) women, and (2) men, are working but do not receive any credit towards their National Insurance state pension each year, due to being in one or more jobs that pay less than the lower earnings limit. [HL1835]

*Asked by Baroness Altmann*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how women who are in multiple part-time jobs, none of which pay more than the National Insurance lower earnings limit, are able to claim credit for their state pension. [HL1836]

**Lord Freud:** DWP analysis suggests that at any one time around 10,000 men and 40,000 women have multiple jobs below the lower earnings limit (LEL) with combined earnings above it, but are not receiving any qualifying years towards the State Pension on those earnings.

DWP analysis estimates that of the women with multiple jobs below the LEL but total earnings above it, around 30% are getting a childcare credit for their State Pension. Others in this group may also be receiving credits through another route or be paying voluntary national insurance contributions.

## Students: Loans

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the tuition fee loans made by the Student Loans Company in (1) 2014–15, and (2) 2015–16, were for awards at a level below a full bachelors degree, such as foundation degrees, higher national diplomas, and other awards at level 5. [HL1537]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The Student Loans Company (SLC) administers student support for each of the UK Government administrations. Statistics on expenditure on student support are published annually in the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'Student Support for Higher Education in England'. This is available in the 'Official statistics' section of the SLC's website.

Provisional figures for the academic year 2014/15 were published in December 2015 and showed that tuition fee loans had been paid to Higher Education providers on behalf of 971,000 students. Of these, we estimate that 73,900 (8%) were for course aims at a level below a full Bachelor's degree. Provisional figures for the academic year 2015/16 will be published later this year.

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what sum of money was allocated for advanced learner loans in 2015–16; and how much was taken up and lent to eligible learners. [HL1972]

**Lord Nash:** The available budget for Advanced Learner Loans for the financial year 2015-16 was up to £498m. A total of £162m was lent for loan-eligible courses in that period.

*Asked by Baroness Wolf of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of advanced learner loans in 2015–16, as a percentage of the total number of individual loans made in that year, were made for courses at (1) level 3, and (2) level 4. [HL1973]

**Lord Nash:** 82,990 eligible applications for Advanced Learner Loans were received for courses starting in the 2015/16 academic year. Approximately 94% of courses taken were for provision at Level 3, with approximately 6% for provision at Level 4.

## Syria: Foreign Loans

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made since the Supporting Syria and the Region conference in February in implementing loans by multilateral development banks and bilateral donors to help vulnerable Syrians and host communities in the Middle East. [HL1592]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Syria Conference raised a record amount of more than \$12 billion - the

largest amount raised in one day for a humanitarian crisis. This was supported by Multilateral Development Banks and donors' pledges of around \$41 billion loans, including \$1.7 billion on highly concessional terms.

The World Bank launched the MENA Finance Initiative to support Syrian refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon at the Spring Meetings in April. Donors pledged \$140 million in grants and over \$1 billion in concessional loans. Grant pledges have since increased to \$225 million.

As part of this initiative, the UK is providing an £80 million concessional loan to the World Bank MENA Finance Facility to support employment opportunities for Syrian refugees in Jordan. In July, a successful first meeting of the Steering Committee saw two Jordan projects approved.

The UK continues to urge donors to deliver on the commitments made at the London Conference in London. The Department for International Development has set up a tracking mechanism that will report on the delivery of the financial commitments made at the London Conference, including humanitarian and development funding and loans. The first report from the tracking mechanism will be published in September.

## Syria: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by Baroness Helic*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the \$6 billion of humanitarian aid pledged at the Supporting Syria and the Region conference in February has been disbursed. [HL1591]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Syria Conference raised a record amount of more than \$12 billion - the largest amount raised in one day for a humanitarian crisis. \$6 billion was pledged for 2016 and a further \$6.1 billion for 2017-20 to enable partners to plan ahead. According to the UN, as of 26 August, \$4.8 billion has been committed by donors to implementing partners for humanitarian assistance in 2016.

The UK continues to urge donors to deliver on the commitments made in London including at the forthcoming UN General Assembly in New York, where the Secretary of State for International Development will co-host a Conference follow-up event. The Department for International Development has set up a tracking mechanism that will report on the delivery of all the financial commitments made at the conference, including humanitarian and development funding and loans. The first report from the tracking mechanism will be published in September.

## Syria: Refugees

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the governments of Syria and Jordan concerning the Syrian refugees

trapped at the Syria–Jordan border; what responses they have had; and what plans they have for securing food and essential services for them. [[HL1958](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation for the people camped in the no man's land between Syria and Jordan. We are working closely with the Jordanian authorities and humanitarian agencies to resume relief supplies as soon as possible. Our Ambassador visited the area in March and we have regularly raised the issue with Jordan at the highest levels, including during the Secretary of State for International Development, My Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel)'s visit to Jordan in August. Understandably, the Jordanian Government's priority is their national security. We welcome their decision to supply water and allow a delivery of food and other essential aid in August, and continue to press for a long term solution that addresses both the humanitarian situation and Jordan's security needs.

### Syria: White Helmets

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funds or other support they have provided in recent years for the organisation known as White Helmets in Syria; and what assessment they have made of its activities. [[HL1755](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has provided support to Syria Civil Defence (also known as the White Helmets) through the cross-departmental Conflict Pool and its successor, the Conflict Stability and Security Fund. Our assistance has been delivered through trusted third party implementers. The total value of funds committed between June 2013 and the end of the last financial year (31 March 2016) was £19.7m. For financial year 2016/17, we have allocated a further £12.5m.

Our support to Syria Civil Defence is part of a coordinated international programme of assistance. It has helped to provide the Syrian-led organisation of over 2800 volunteers with much-needed training and equipment. To date they have saved more than 60,000 lives and were nominated for the Nobel peace prize in both 2015 and 2016 in recognition of their efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people.

### Taxis: Wheelchairs

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that taxis are wheelchair accessible; and whether they plan to set a target for all taxi firms and hire car operators to have a minimum number of wheelchair accessible vehicles in their fleets by 2020. [[HL1608](#)]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs) play an important role in enabling disabled people to complete door-to-door journeys independently, and it is essential that they are accessible to those needing to use them.

Local licensing authorities already have powers to determine the categories of vehicle included in their fleets, and we encourage them to ensure a range of passengers are catered for. Whilst wheelchair accessible vehicles are vital for some passengers, for some ambulant disabled people they can be difficult to access. As such we encourage authorities to consider the needs of all potential passengers when determining the make-up of their taxi and PHV fleets.

We currently have no plans to set minimum quotas for wheelchair accessible vehicles.

### Teachers: Apprentices

*Asked by Baroness Donaghy*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether schools participating in vocational pathways to qualified teacher status as part of the apprenticeship programme will be able to choose to work in partnership with universities that provide initial teacher training as well as with school-centred initial teacher training providers and other school-led providers. [[HL1883](#)]

**Lord Nash:** To date we have not received a formal proposal from employers to develop an apprenticeship standard for entry to teaching. There are monthly opportunities for employers to submit proposals to the department for review or, from April 2017, the Institute for Apprenticeships. For existing apprenticeship standards, employers can choose their preferred provider to deliver the training requirements providing they meet the government's quality criteria and are registered on the Skills Funding Agency's Register of Training Organisations.

### Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre

*Asked by Baroness Hamwee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the role Barnardo's has played at Cedars family accommodation centre is replicated in Tinsley House by a similar organisation. [[HL1736](#)]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office has now launched a tender exercise in line with Government procurement policy to provide welfare services to families while they are accommodated at the new pre-departure accommodation.

The services to be provided through the new contract will replicate those currently carried out by Barnardo's at Cedars. The contract will focus on maintaining the current high quality of provision. The tender process will assess the experience and capability of bidding organisations to ensure that the most suitable organisation is selected.

*Asked by **Baroness Hamwee***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what training staff at Tinsley House have received to ensure that they are able to work with children. [HL1737]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The training requirements for Home Office, custodial service provider and NHS England staff at Tinsley House pre-departure accommodation are equivalent to those for Cedars.

As set out in Detention Services Order 19/2012 'Detention and Escorting Safeguarding Children policy', updated in May 2016, all staff working with children receive suitable training, which must be at least equivalent to Tier 1 of the Home Office 'Keeping Children Safe'.

## Trade Promotion

*Asked by **Lord Storey***

To ask Her Majesty's Government who the current trade envoys are, what the total cost of their provision is, and whether they will produce a report on their work. [HL1966]

**Lord Price:** The current trade envoys are:

<i>Trade Envoy</i>	<i>Market(s)</i>
Adam Afriyie MP	Ghana
Rushanara Ali MP	Bangladesh
Richard Benyon MP	Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique
Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP	Egypt
Richard Graham MP	Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, ASEAN Economic Community
John Howell MP	Nigeria
Andrew Murrison MP	Morocco, Tunisia
Mark Prisk MP	Nordic and Baltic Countries, Brazil
Lord Hollick of Notting Hill	Tanzania, Kenya
Rt Hon. Baroness Northover	Angola
Lord Popat of Harrow	Uganda, Rwanda
Lord Risby of Haverhill	Algeria
Rt Hon. Lord Astor of Hever DL	Kazakhstan, Oman
Rt Hon. Lord Lamont of Lerwick	Iran
Rt Hon. Lord King of Bridgwater	Saudi Arabia
Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne	Iraq, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan
Rt Hon. Lord Janvrin	Turkey
Baroness Morris of Bolton	Jordan, Kuwait, Palestinian Territories

<i>Trade Envoy</i>	<i>Market(s)</i>
Lord Faulkner of Worcester	Taiwan
Lord Puttnam of Queensgate	Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia
Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury	Mexico

The 2016/17 budget for the Trade Envoy Programme is £333,936.

Trade Envoys, and Posts, report on market visits and UK engagements to identify actions and outcomes on an ongoing basis.

## Trade Promotion: USA

*Asked by **Baroness Barker***

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what basis they decided to open an office in Raleigh, North Carolina. [HL1464]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** North Carolina has been one of the fastest growing states in the US in recent years in terms of both GDP and population and hosts numerous multinational corporations. Raleigh is home to the Research Triangle, centred on North Carolina State University, Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and contains one of the biggest clusters of life science companies in the US as well as a growing number of high-tech companies.

*Asked by **Baroness Barker***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what locations they considered for their new offices in the USA focused on international trade. [HL1465]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The USA is the UK's single largest trade and investment partner, and the decision to open three new Government Offices in 2016 reflects our ambition to expand this economic partnership even further.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office considered a number of factors when deciding where to open these offices. The cities of Raleigh, North Carolina; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and San Diego, California were judged to have the best combination of policy, research and trade and investment potential.

## Treaties

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK has signed and ratified (1) Articles 1(c) and 2 of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions, and Practices Similar to Slavery; (2) Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages; (3) Articles 3 and 23 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; (4) Article 10 of the International Covenant on Economic,



Social and Cultural Rights; (5) Articles 2 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and (6) the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and if so, when. [[HL1877](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has ratified all of these treaties and it is not possible to ratify single articles of these treaties. The UK ratified the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions, and Practices Similar to Slavery in 1957; acceded to the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages in 1970; ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1976; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1976; ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1986; and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991.

### Tree Planting

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 4 April (HL7141), whether they are on target to meet their commitment to plant 11 million trees by 2020, and what are the latest figures for trees planted to date. [[HL1726](#)]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Figures published by the Forestry Commission show that 546 hectares of woodland was created in England during the financial year 2015-16. This was supported by the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).

In addition, the Forestry Commission estimates that a further 165 hectares of woodland was created without RDPE support, bringing the total created during 2015-16 to 711 hectares.

In the period April 2016 - June 2017, a further 422 hectares of woodland was created with RDPE support. This amounted to 1,292,000 trees planted in England.

This Government remains committed to planting 11 million trees during this Parliament.

### Trident Submarines

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Delivery Authority for the replacement of the Vanguard-class submarines will be established. [[HL1970](#)]

**Earl Howe:** Options for establishing a new delivery body continue to be developed and assessed. We will announce further details once the relevant decisions have been made.

### Turkey: Financial Services

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the effect on UK-Turkish financial services transactions of the reported collection by the Turkish government of client research carried out by Turkish brokerage houses following the attempted coup of 15 July. [[HL1509](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The Government is aware of news reporting of Turkish brokerage houses' research being sought by the Turkish authorities, but the impact on UK-Turkish financial services transactions is as yet unclear. It is not unusual for governments to refer to research undertaken by independent researchers and analysts. We have and continue to emphasise that the Turkish Government's response to the coup attempt must be demonstrably lawful and proportionate. We will continue to engage with the Turkish Government on its response to the coup attempt and monitor the situation closely.

### Turkey: Overseas Investment

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the implications for inward investment in Turkey by UK companies and financial institutions of the attempted coup of 15 July. [[HL1510](#)]

**Lord Price:** The attempted coup of 15 July came as a surprise to everyone including UK investors in Turkey. The democratically elected government remains in power. Its policies, relating to international investors, remain the same or have been improved, with the aim of encouraging more foreign direct investment. UK investors were quick to confirm their intention to maintain or enhance their investments. We have consulted widely with the UK investor community, their message is clear; they are in Turkey for the long term and do not believe the events of 15 July have altered the economic fundamentals or the business case for continuing to invest in the market.

### Turkey: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Turkey concerning that government's response to the attempted coup d'état in July. [[HL1915](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government has unreservedly condemned the failed attempt to overthrow the democratically elected government of Turkey on 15 July. Both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary spoke to their Turkish counterparts on the day following the coup attempt. The Minister for Europe and the Americas visited Turkey on 20-21 July to

reiterate the UK's support for democracy in Turkey, the first Minister to do so following the coup attempt. During his visit he stressed the need for Turkey to respect human rights and the rule of law, and the importance of taking measures under the State of Emergency that are proportionate and justified. The Foreign Secretary met his Turkish counterpart on 7 September in London.

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the flow of information between the UK and Turkey in the light of the actions taken by the government of Turkey following the attempted coup in that country. [HL1964]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK Government continues to have a regular dialogue with the Turkish Government following the attempted coup on 15 July, at both official and ministerial level. Both the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson) spoke to their Turkish counterparts on the day following the coup attempt. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Sir Alan Duncan) also travelled to Turkey shortly after the attempted coup to demonstrate our support for the democratically elected Turkish government. The Foreign Secretary also met the Turkish Foreign Minister on 7 September in London.

### Uganda: LGBT People

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent representations they have made to the government of Uganda about its treatment of Uganda's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. [HL1947]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** We are in regular dialogue with the Ugandan Government and Parliament on this issue and will continue to raise our concerns about any legislation which could lead to further persecution and discrimination against LGBT people and which is incompatible with Uganda's international treaty obligations. After the events of Uganda Pride in August, we raised our concerns with the Ugandan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and worked with leading figures in the local LGBT Community and Ugandan Police Force. We remain committed to working with the government of Uganda and with civil society to promote diversity and tolerance, and to prevent violence and discrimination on any grounds.

### UK Border Force

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff are employed by Border Force; whether that number has decreased in the past year; and what assessment

they have made of whether Border Force has sufficient immigration officers to operate effectively. [HL1826]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This Government has always made the integrity of the UK border a priority and we will never compromise on keeping the people of this country safe from terrorism, criminality and illegal immigration.

We have pursued an ambitious programme of reform at the border to keep this country safe. Border Force has transformed its working practises, command and control and leadership. And we have invested in new technology, like e-Gates at airports and heartbeat monitors at freight ports, to improve security and prevent illegal entry to the UK to improve security, benefit passengers and deliver efficiencies.

These reforms are working. Border security has been enhanced. Border Force continues to perform 100 per cent checks on scheduled passengers arriving in the UK.

Deployments are made across a wide range of activities based on levels of demand and intelligence and will take into consideration the requirement for deployment of a flexible seasonal workforce, which is prone to fluctuations depending on seasonal pressures.

### UK Withdrawal from EU

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government at what stage of the process of leaving the EU they will invoke the Vienna Accord on the denunciation of treaties. [HL1795]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Treaty on the European Union contains provision for withdrawal in Article 50. It is this process which accordingly applies and has to be followed for the United Kingdom to leave the EU in accordance with international law.

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the UK's departure from the EU is not delayed by general or presidential elections in other EU countries. [HL1796]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Prime Minister has been clear that we will not be triggering Article 50 before the end of 2016, and the detailed work now underway to prepare for our negotiation over exit is complete. Once we have triggered Article 50, a clear process and timeline then applies. We intend to work closely with other Member states to deliver a smooth and orderly departure in line with that process.

*Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 3 August (HL1132 and HL1135), whether they consider that they are showing no sense of urgency in negotiating the UK's departure from the EU and

whether they consider that delay in doing so will result in uncertainty and harm to the economy. [HL1799]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Government is working thoroughly, systematically and rapidly through the full range of issues. The Prime Minister has been clear we will not be triggering Article 50 before the end of 2016, and the detailed work underway to prepare for our negotiation over exit is complete.

*Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the role that Parliament should play in triggering the Article 50 process, in the subsequent negotiating process, and in approving or otherwise the final terms under which the UK leaves the EU. [HL1960]

**Lord Bridges of Headley:** The Department for Exiting the EU will work closely with Parliament on what the approach to negotiations should be. The Government's position is clear: triggering Article 50 is a prerogative power and one that can be exercised by the Government. There are now legal proceedings underway and it would therefore not be appropriate for the Government to comment further on these at this time.

The precise timing, terms and means by which we leave the EU will be determined by the negotiations that follow the triggering of Article 50. We will observe in full all relevant legal and constitutional obligations that apply.

## UN Refugees and Migrants Summit

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what stance they plan to take at the UN General Assembly's High Level Meeting on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants on 19 September; and whether they will consult in advance with UK allies. [HL1821]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK fully supported the UN General Assembly's High Level Meeting on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants on 19 September, and the New York Declaration on refugees and migrants which was adopted at the meeting.

We will work with others following the High Level Meeting to achieve specific outcomes that will be better for migrants, for refugees, and for all countries in the migration chain – source, transit and destination.

In New York, the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) argued that alongside stepping up our efforts on humanitarian assistance and development, the international community needs to build a more effective policy approach: addressing the root causes of forced displacement, providing proper protection for refugees, and reducing today's unmanaged population movement.

At the High Level Meeting, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the principle of providing asylum in the first safe country, thereby discouraging

dangerous secondary movements; ensuring clarity in the different protections afforded to refugees and economic migrants; and maintaining the rights of all states to control their own borders.

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they will be putting forward to assist in the adoption of a new global framework on refugees at the forthcoming UN High Level Summit on Refugees and Migrants on 19 September. [HL1827]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK fully supported the UN General Assembly's High Level Meeting on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants on 19 September, and the New York Declaration on refugees and migrants which was adopted at the meeting.

We will work with others following the High Level Meeting to achieve specific outcomes that will be better for migrants, for refugees, and for all countries in the migration chain – source, transit and destination.

In New York, the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) argued that alongside stepping up our efforts on humanitarian assistance and development, the international community needs to build a more effective policy approach: addressing the root causes of forced displacement, providing proper protection for refugees, and reducing today's unmanaged population movement.

At the High Level Meeting, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the principle of providing asylum in the first safe country, thereby discouraging dangerous secondary movements; ensuring clarity in the different protections afforded to refugees and economic migrants; and maintaining the rights of all states to control their own borders.

## Unemployment

*Asked by Baroness McGregor-Smith*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the annual black and minority ethnic unemployment rate has been for (1) men, (2) women, and (3) overall, and how that contrasts with (a) the general population unemployment rate, and (b) unemployment rates by gender in the general population, in each year since 1979. [HL1922]

**Lord Freud:** This table shows the annual averaged unemployment rates, from 1993 – 2015, for BME groups and the whole population. This is also split by gender.

	All BME Groups %	BME – men %	BME – Women %	Whole Population %	All men %	All women %
1993	21.8	23.9	18.8	10.3	12.2	7.9
1994	20.2	23.1	16.2	9.5	11.1	7.4
1995	18.8	20.1	17.1	8.6	10.0	6.9

	<i>All BME Groups %</i>	<i>BME – men %</i>	<i>BME – Women %</i>	<i>Whole Population %</i>	<i>All men %</i>	<i>All women %</i>
1996	18.1	20.0	15.4	8.1	9.4	6.4
1997	15.4	16.3	14.1	6.9	7.8	5.9
1998	13.4	14.0	12.6	6.2	6.9	5.4
1999	13.1	13.2	12.9	5.9	6.6	5.2
2000	12.4	13.1	11.5	5.4	5.9	4.9
2001	*	*	*	*	*	*
2002	11.4	11.8	10.8	5.2	5.7	4.5
2003	11.8	12.5	10.8	5.0	5.5	4.4
2004	10.5	10.6	10.4	4.7	5.1	4.3
2005	10.4	11.0	9.7	4.8	5.2	4.4
2006	11.7	11.5	11.9	5.4	5.8	5.1
2007	11.0	10.8	11.2	5.4	5.6	5.1
2008	11.0	11.1	10.8	5.7	6.2	5.2
2009	13.2	13.1	13.3	7.6	8.6	6.5
2010	13.1	12.9	13.4	7.9	8.6	7.0
2011	13.7	13.2	14.4	8.1	8.7	7.5
2012	13.5	12.7	14.6	8.0	8.4	7.5
2013	13.7	13.4	14.0	7.6	8.0	7.2
2014	11.3	10.5	12.2	6.2	6.4	5.9
2015	9.9	9.8	10.1	5.4	5.5	5.2

\* Data suppressed due to change in ethnicity question on LFS.

#### NOTES

- There is no data for years prior to 1993.
- The data is sourced from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which is released quarterly. The LFS is a survey of households living at private addresses in the UK, conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- The data shows figures for the labour market status of people aged 16 and over, covering annual averages (January to December) between 1993 and 2015 (excluding 2001).
- All data is for Great Britain.
- In spring 2001, Labour Force Survey ethnicity variables were adjusted in line with the Census definitions of ethnicity. The ethnicity variable being replaced was still used in January and February 2001, and the new ethnicity variable was brought in from April 2001. In March 2001 however, there was no recording of ethnicity, therefore figures from 2001 are not presented in this data. In addition to this, the ethnicity question was not asked throughout the entire United Kingdom prior to 2001. Due to these changes in ethnicity recording, it is not recommended that direct comparisons are made across this affected period.

### Unemployment: Young People

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding of the Ernst & Young

study on the employment landscape for young people in the UK that there are significant variations in youth unemployment rates across different regions of the UK. [\[HL1631\]](#)

**Lord Freud:** Nationally, nearly 86% of young people are either working or in full-time education. Since 2010, the proportion of young people who have left full-time education and are unemployed has fallen to 5.8%, close to the lowest on record. There is always some regional variation, but youth unemployment rates exaggerate this because they are affected by the varying proportion of young people in full-time education. Looking at young people claiming unemployment benefits, which excludes full-time students, the variation between regions is narrower than in 2010, with the West Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside and the North East having seen the largest falls.

### Unidentified Flying Objects

*Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have undertaken any follow-up work as a result of the MoD study Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region published on 15 May 2006; and if so, what was the nature and status of such work, and what units were involved. [\[HL1949\]](#)

**Earl Howe:** No.

### Universities: EU Grants and Loans

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much in research grants UK universities received from the EU in the last year for which figures are available. [\[HL1968\]](#)

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** In 2014/15 UK universities and other higher education institutions received £836,388,000 in research grants from EU sources.

### Unmanned Air Vehicles

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 21 January (HL5353), whether they will provide an update on the timeline and consultation planned for (1) the proposed defence policy on the use of remotely piloted air systems, (2) the revised Joint Doctrine Note 2/11, The UK Approach to Unmanned Aircraft of Systems, and (3) the Future Air and Space Operating Concept. [\[HL1779\]](#)

**Earl Howe:** The Defence policy review has broadened to cover both remotely piloted air and wider highly automated systems. Officials are currently consulting stakeholders; we expect the review to conclude early in 2017.



Regarding Joint Doctrine Note 2/11, I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave on 2 February 2016 to Question number HL5353. I reported the intention for the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC) to review and update Joint Doctrine Note 2/11 "The UK Approach to Unmanned Aircraft Systems". Following this review, it was decided to upgrade the note to a full publication (Joint Doctrine Publication 0-30.2), which is currently being drafted in consultation with stakeholders, in parallel with the policy review.

A review of the future joint and environmental operating concepts concluded that an integrated concept for defence is preferred; consequently the Future Air and Space Operating Concept will be incorporated into an unified Future Operating Concept, which is expected to be published in Spring 2017.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

QnA extract on Unmanned Air Vehicles  
[20160202\_HL5353\_Unmanned\_Air\_Vehicles.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-12/HL1779>

## UNRWA: Finance

*Asked by Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what response they are making, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to the statement on 8 September of the Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine at the extraordinary general meeting called to discuss the acute financial challenges currently faced by the organisation. [HL1776]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK is a long-term supporter of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), and we regularly discuss with UNRWA how it can resolve its financial situation. The UK remains committed to supporting the Agency and Palestinian refugees at this difficult time in the region. My officials are in close contact with UNRWA's senior management about the current funding position.

## USA: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the use in Florida of the organophosphate insecticide Naled, which is banned in the EU, what advice they are giving to British citizens intending to visit Florida; and what steps they are taking to place that advice on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website. [HL1839]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The method of mosquito control in other countries is not a matter routinely covered by FCO travel advice. Currently, specific UK health travel advice for Florida and the wider US is supplied by the National Travel Health Network

and Centre, to which the FCO website country pages have links.

## Visas

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each month since December 2014, how many Restricted Certificates of Sponsorship were available, how many applications for such certificates were (1) granted, and (2) refused, and what was the minimum point score for successful applications. [HL1844]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The data requested is set out in the table below

<i>Allocation Month</i>	<i>RCoS available</i>	<i>No of RCoS Granted</i>	<i>No RCoS refused</i>	<i>Minimum points score[1]</i>	<i>Minimum salary required to meet points score</i>
Dec-14	2481	1819	0	32	£20,500
Jan-15	2416	1670	0	32	£20,500
Feb-15	2392	2409	0	32	£20,500
Mar-15	1690	1919	0	32	£20,500
Apr-15	2528	1888	0	32	£20,800[2]
May-15	2285	2277	0	32	£20,800
Jun-15	1690	1215	1329	50	£46,000
Jul-15	2040	1943	1201	45	£32,000
Aug-15	2347	2418	583	36	£24,000
Sep-15	1544	1520	891	35	£23,000
Oct-15	2111	1953	374	22	£22,000
Nov-15	2011	2100	0	21	£20,800
Dec-15	1989	1774	0	21	£20,800
Jan-16	1926	1441	0	21	£20,800
Feb-16	2439	1760	0	21	£20,800
Mar-16	2661	1748	0	21	£20,800
Apr-16	2175	1692	0	21	£20,800
May-16	2464	1849	0	21	£20,800
Jun-16	2575	1853	0	21	£20,800
Jul-16	2701	2238	0	21	£20,800
Aug-16	2695	1952	0	21	£20,800

(1) The points table used to score applications changed in October 2015.

(2) The minimum salary to qualify under Tier 2 increased from £20,500 to £20,800 in April 2015, in line with wage inflation. This information is available in the public domain and can be found at the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-sponsorship-restricted-certificate-allocation/allocations-of-restricted-certificates-of-sponsorship>

## Visas: Overseas Students

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that regular updates of the list of Tier 4 visa sponsors are published when sponsors are found not to be compliant with government requirements. [HL1523]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The register of licensed Tier 4 sponsors is published daily and will continue to be. Sponsors that lose their licence as a result of non-compliance are removed from the published list of sponsors.

No information is routinely published regarding sponsors found not to be compliant. In January 2015 data was published showing Tier 4 sponsors whose status appeared as revoked from 2010 to 2014. This information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tier-4-sponsors-whose-status-appeared-as-revoked-from-2010-to-2014>

*Asked by Lord Lexden*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the challenges that educational institutions face as a result of the points-based Tier 4 of the visa arrangements for overseas students. [HL1746]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** International students make an important contribution during their time here, and they help make our education system one of the best in the world. The UK remains the second most popular destination in the world for international higher education students and we want to continue to attract the brightest and best to study at our world-leading institutions.

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of visa applications involving the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Bath, and Imperial College London, were successful in each of the last three years. [HL1783]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Visa refusal rate data is produced for internal use only and is not intended for publication.

The data requested provides sensitive information about sponsors' compliance with their immigration requirements and by extension how likely they are to retain their sponsor licence. As this information could potentially impact their reputation and ability to attract international students, and therefore their commercial viability, we are unable to provide the information requested on the basis of commercial confidentiality.

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which were the top 10 universities for successfully processed visa applications for each of the past three years; and what

were the percentages of applications successfully processed for each. [HL1784]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Visa refusal rate data is produced for internal use only and is not intended for publication.

The data requested provides sensitive information about sponsors' compliance with their immigration requirements and by extension how likely they are to retain their sponsor licence. As this information could potentially impact their reputation and ability to attract international students, and therefore their commercial viability, we are unable to provide the information requested on the basis of commercial confidentiality.

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations took place with the Scottish Government in advance of the announcement of the pilot study on post-study work visas in July. [HL1785]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have been in correspondence with the Scottish Government concerning the Tier 4 visa pilot. There is no pilot study currently being conducted into post-study work visas.

The Tier 4 visa pilot is part of the Home Office's continued efforts to ensure that the UK maintains an excellent offer to attract the brightest and best to study at our world-leading institutions. The pilot is deliberately narrow in scope, with the institutions selected on the basis of their consistently low level of visa refusals. Its main aim is to test the benefits of a differentiated approach within Tier 4, whilst ensuring any changes do not undermine the robust application of immigration requirements.

The pilot helps simplify the visa application process for international students looking to study on a Masters' course, in the UK, of 13 months or less. Whilst it will also help to support students who wish to switch into a work route by extending the leave period following the end of their study to up to six months, it does not make any changes to the Tier 2 visa route and is not a return to the post-study work visa route.

The four selected institutions were consulted regarding its implementation. Should the pilot be successful, the Home Office will consult key stakeholders about its possible expansion.

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received from the Scottish Government since July concerning the new pilot study on post-study work visas. [HL1786]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have been in contact with the Scottish Government concerning the Tier 4 visa pilot. There is no pilot study currently being conducted into post-study work visas.

The Tier 4 visa pilot is part of the Home Office's continued efforts to ensure that the UK maintains an

excellent offer to attract the brightest and best to study at our world-leading institutions. The pilot is deliberately narrow in scope, with the institutions selected on the basis of their consistently low level of visa refusals. Its main aim is to test the benefits of a differentiated approach within Tier 4, whilst ensuring any changes do not undermine the robust application of immigration requirements.

The pilot helps simplify the visa application process for international students looking to study on a Masters' course, in the UK, of 13 months or less. Whilst it will also help to support students who wish to switch into a work route by extending the leave period following the end of their study to up to six months, it does not make any changes to the Tier 2 visa route and is not a return to the post-study work visa route.

The four selected institutions were consulted regarding its implementation. Should the pilot be successful, the Home Office will consult key stakeholders about its possible expansion.

*Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to implement the recommendation in the Smith Commission Report on post-study work visas; and if so, how. [HL1787]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We will shortly be publishing the Government's response to the recommendations made in the Scottish Affairs Committee's report: "Post-study work schemes".

### Voluntary Work: Young People

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what purpose is served by the National Citizen Service; who benefits from its provision; and what diversity data is available relating to that service. [HL1556]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** NCS was created to help build a more responsible, more cohesive, more engaged society. The government is committed to providing a place on NCS for every young person who wants one.

Social mix is at the core of National Citizen Service and all young people, regardless of background, are supported to take part in the programme.

In 2014, 17% of NCS participants were eligible for free school meals, compared with around 8% of young people of the same age in the general population.

The national picture of NCS shows that young people from disadvantaged and minority ethnic backgrounds are well represented. The latest evaluation showed that 30% of NCS participants were from Black, Mixed or Asian backgrounds compared with 19% of the general population.

The 2014 evaluation demonstrates that NCS graduates are more confident leaders and decision-makers. 7 in 10 NCS graduates felt more confident about getting a job, and more than 9 in 10 graduates felt NCS helped them develop useful skills for the future. Data from the summer 2014 programme showed that participants who were eligible for free school meals generally showed larger increases in personal resilience than others.

### Warships

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 13 September (HL1532) stating that HMS Ocean had an expected in service life of 20 years and would be paid off at the end of 20 years' service, what was the expected in service life of HMS Vanguard and HMS St Albans when designed, and at what age they are expected to be paid off. [HL1897]

**Earl Howe:** The Type 23 frigates entered service with an anticipated service life of 18 years for each ship. A Type 23 sustainment programme, comprising a series of long-term planned upgrades, aligned with routine maintenance, has permitted the service life of the class to be extended so that HMS St Albans, which entered service in 2001 has a current Out of Service Date of 2035.

For HMS Vanguard, I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave to him on 7 December 2015 (Question HL4046). HMS Vanguard entered service in 1993 and is planned to remain in-service until the Successor submarines are introduced into service in the 2030s. I am withholding their respective planned Out of Service and In Service Dates as their disclosure would be prejudicial to national security.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

20151207\_HL4046\_HMS\_Vanguard  
[20151207\_HL4046\_HMS\_Vanguard.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-13/HL1897>

### West Anglia Railway Line

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to take forward the recommendations of the West Anglia Taskforce to examine timetable improvements to reduce rail journey times on the West Anglia Main Line between London, Stansted and Cambridge. [HL1857]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport is carefully considering the recommendations of the draft report of the West Anglia Taskforce, particularly the interactions with the commitments made as part of the new East Anglia franchise. However, the

recommendation to establish an “action group” has already been taken forward.

*Asked by **Baroness Randerson***

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what are Network Rail’s existing infrastructure investment commitments for the West Anglia Mainline over the duration of the new East Anglia rail franchise. [HL1861]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** During railway Control Period 5 (2014-2019) Network Rail is funded to operate and maintain the West Anglia Main Line. The Department for Transport has provided additional funding for a range of infrastructure enhancements including power upgrades; construction of the new Cambridge North station; provision of additional track capacity between Coppermill Junction and Angel Road at the south end of the line.

*Asked by **Baroness Randerson***

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they are planning to support track upgrades on the West Anglia Main Line to enable that region fully to benefit from the recently announced plans for new rolling stock. [HL1862]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Department for Transport is working closely with Network Rail and the recently confirmed operator of the next East Anglia franchise, to fully understand any infrastructure enhancements required to release the full benefits of the new rolling stock. Once an agreed position has been established, we will work with all parties to consider how best to implement such enhancements.

## Written Questions: Government Responses

*Asked by **Baroness Wolf of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty’s Government why the Department for Education has yet to answer a Question for Written Answer tabled on 19 July (HL1338), and when they plan to do so. [HL1933]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** HL1338 has been answered and the answer given is provided below:

The Student Loans Company (SLC) records the nationality and domicile of individuals when they apply for student support. Domicile is based on the applicant’s residence in the years prior to starting their course, and is held as a region within the UK or as EU, rather than by individual country of domicile.

Eligibility for student support is based on residence. EU nationals, including non-European Economic Area (EEA) family members, are able to apply for a tuition fee loan if they have been resident in the EEA or Switzerland for the three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course. In addition, EU nationals who have been resident in the UK for five years (three years up to academic year 2016/17) and are resident in England prior to starting their course can also apply for maintenance support. EEA migrant workers and their family members, including those who are non-EEA nationals, who meet the residency requirements, are able to apply for both tuition fee and maintenance support. Non-EEA nationals may also be eligible for student support if they are granted refugee status, have been granted humanitarian protection, have acquired permanent residence in the UK, or have been in the UK for at least half their lives or for at least 20 years.

The table below sets out SLC Management Information on the number of students paid either a full-time tuition fee or maintenance loan through the English student support system by declared nationality over the last five academic years.

*English and EU domiciled students paid full-time tuition fee or maintenance loans, by EU nationality (July 2016)*

*Country of nationality*

*Academic Year*

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Austria	460	520	590	600	710
Belgium	480	500	610	690	790
Bulgaria	2,780	3,570	4,080	4,750	4,670
Croatia	30	20	20	50	120
Cyprus	4,930	5,560	5,860	5,880	5,750
Czech Republic	540	500	530	640	770
Denmark	540	630	700	820	960
Estonia	750	840	810	840	860
Finland	550	580	590	680	770



France	2,700	2,720	3,120	3,580	4,060
Germany	3,650	3,850	4,060	4,240	4,580
Greece	1,660	1,930	2,240	2,530	2,850
Hungary	660	790	1,270	1,600	1,820
Ireland	2,400	2,360	2,260	2,400	2,730
Italy	2,110	2,430	3,010	3,950	5,500
Latvia	1,680	1,920	2,010	2,110	2,080
Lithuania	3,680	4,610	5,110	5,510	5,460
Luxembourg	10	10	20	30	40
Malta	90	90	100	90	110
Netherlands	1,700	2,010	2,460	3,030	3,400
Poland	6,420	6,380	6,870	7,950	9,170
Portugal	2,330	2,600	3,170	3,890	4,440
Romania	2,970	4,060	6,920	7,920	8,510
Slovakia	1,080	1,040	990	1,020	1,120
Slovenia	70	70	70	100	110
Spain	1,350	1,510	1,780	2,330	3,160
Sweden	870	950	1,220	1,410	1,630
EU sub-total	46,490	52,050	60,470	68,640	76,170
United Kingdom	862,410	911,920	935,050	972,090	974,690
Non-EU	24,040	24,610	26,840	29,600	29,870
Unknown	10,570	5,570	3,930	2,550	2,060
Grand Total	943,500	994,130	1,026,270	1,072,860	1,082,810

## Young Offender Institutions: Education

*Asked by Lord Quirk*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Faulks on 2 December 2014 (HL2982) about young offender institutions, what progress has been made in providing more than 12 hours a week of purposeful activity since new education contracts came into operation in spring 2015. [HL1561]

**Baroness Mobarik:** Since the new education contracts came into operation in public sector under-18 Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) in August 2015, young people have accessed an average of more than 12 hours education per week.

We are committed to continually improving the youth custodial system in England and Wales. We are considering the recommendations of Charlie Taylor's Review of the Youth Justice System and will publish his review and our response later this year.

## Youth Clubs: Closures

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many youth centres have been closed since 2010 and what

assessment they have made of the impact of those closures on young people. [HL1554]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** 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 changes there have been to the number of youth centres in their local area.

## Youth Justice System Review

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the final report of the review of the youth justice system will be published. [HL1924]

*Asked by Lord Ramsbotham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total cost of the review of the youth justice system. [HL1925]

**Lord Keen of Elie:** The estimated total cost of the review of the youth justice system is £350,000. This figure is subject to audit at the end of the 2016-17 financial year and may change.

Ministers are currently considering Charlie Taylor's review of the youth justice system. The final report and

the government's plans for reform of the youth justice system will be published later in the autumn.

### Youth Services

*Asked by Lord Ouseley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many youth service staff posts have been removed since 2010 and what assessment have they made of the effect of the reduced provision for young people. [HL1555]

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** It is the responsibility of local authorities to decide how to allocate funding for youth services and as part of this, youth service staff posts, 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 any changes there have been to the number of youth service staff posts in their local area.

### Zero Hours Contracts

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey showing that there has been a 20 per cent increase in the past year of workers on zero-hours contracts, what action they are taking to support those workers. [HL1802]

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The latest ONS survey shows that less than 3% of the UK workforce is on a zero hours contract with nearly 70% happy with the hours they work. These contracts have a part to play in a modern, flexible labour market.

Government made exclusivity clauses in zero hour contracts unlawful in 2015, meaning individuals have more control over their lives and can work more hours with another employer if they wish. Government also created a route of redress for individuals whose employer mistreats them if they look for, or work elsewhere.

### Zika Virus: USA

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what warnings they are giving to prospective UK visitors to the USA about the dangers of contracting Zika virus, and whether they will highlight the most dangerous areas in the USA. [HL1607]

**Lord Prior of Brampton:** Public Health England (PHE) and the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) introduced a risk-based approach for countries reporting Zika infection ahead of cases reported from Florida in the United States of America. PHE and NaTHNaC issued travel guidance about Florida as soon as

cases were announced. A copy of this guidance is attached. The first locally acquired cases of Zika were reported from Florida on 29 July 2016. The guidance advised pregnant women to consider postponing non-essential travel to Florida. Links to NaTHNaC's detailed, site-specific advice allowed clinicians to have in-depth discussions of the transmission risks in Florida with potential travellers.

A high risk alert was issued as more information became available stating: "The risk in Miami-Dade county is considered high and pregnant women are advised to postpone non-essential travel to Miami-Dade county until after their pregnancy." Advice on reducing the risk of sexual transmission of Zika infection was also issued, which is included within the attached guidance.

The situation is constantly under review and assessment, and travel and sexual transmission guidance is updated regularly as new information emerges from Florida.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Zika advice [PQ Zika Virus advice on NaTHNaC website HL1607.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-06/HL1607>

### Zimbabwe: Human Rights

*Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. [HL1916]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government's view is that the human rights situation in Zimbabwe has worsened in recent weeks. We have been particularly concerned by police violence in response to recent protests and demonstrations. As set out in the EU Statement of 30 August, the freedom to demonstrate and present petitions is enshrined in the Zimbabwean constitution, along with other fundamental human rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression, assembly and association.

This Government made a 2015 manifesto commitment to stand up for the rule of law and human rights in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe remains one of the 30 UK Human Rights Priority Countries, where we monitor and report regularly on human rights and support programmes designed to make abuses less likely. We regularly call, both bilaterally and in partnership with others, for an end to human rights abuses and the restoration of internationally accepted standards.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they consider the government of Zimbabwe would need to

fulfil, in terms of demonstrating sustained adherence to the constitution of Zimbabwe and a sustained commitment to protecting the human rights of Zimbabwe citizens, before they would provide financial support for a land reform programme. [[HL1855](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** Land reform in Zimbabwe is essential for improving agricultural productivity and broader economic development. The British Government has consistently said that it would be ready to join international partners in supporting a land reform programme in Zimbabwe that is transparent, fair, legal and within the context of a broad range of reforms. Separately, we continue to call, both bilaterally and in partnership with others, for an end to human rights abuses and the restoration of internationally accepted standards.

*Asked by Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they consider the government of Zimbabwe would need to fulfil, in terms of demonstrating sustained adherence to the constitution of Zimbabwe and a sustained commitment to protecting the human rights of

Zimbabwe citizens, before they would provide an economic support package. [[HL1856](#)]

**Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The UK has no plans at present to provide an economic support package to the government of Zimbabwe. As we have made clear, any future decision on new funding through the International Financial Institutions would require considerable further progress on a wide range of reforms –including upholding the constitution and human rights alongside urgently needed economic reforms.

The UK has made clear that the international community must continue to support the people of Zimbabwe in exercising their democratic rights and in building a free, peaceful and prosperous future. Delivering critical assistance and services to empower poor Zimbabweans is central to this support. No UK aid is channelled directly through the government of Zimbabwe. We only provide direct funding to foreign Governments when they commit to improving the management of public finances, tackling concerns about human rights and corruption and improving domestic accountability.

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