



Daily Report

Friday, 30 September 2016

This report shows written answers and statements provided on 30 September 2016 and the information is correct at the time of publication (03:24 P.M., 30 September 2016). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

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

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

ANSWERS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: EU Nationals

Mr Chuka Umunna: [\[45898\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many citizens of other EU countries work in his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public body.

Joseph Johnson:

56.6% (2380) of the c.4200 staff within core BEIS (former Department for Energy and Climate Change and Business, Innovation and Skills) have voluntarily declared their nationality with 4.5% (106) of that number declaring EU citizenship.

The nationality data for BEIS's partner organisations, including arms-length bodies and non-departmental public bodies, is either not available or incomplete.

■ Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Research

Natalie McGarry: [\[45903\]](#)

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

Joseph Johnson:

The requested information is not held centrally by BEIS and its Partner Organisations.

For research reports, BEIS has committed to both GSS and GSR publication rules – this means GSS publications are pre-announced and GSR publications should normally be published within 12 weeks of completion.

The Contracts Finder government portal provides information about contracts worth over £10,000 with the Government and its agencies, including details of previous tenders and contracts, and future opportunities.

■ Drugs: Foreign Investment in UK

Andrew Gwynne: [\[46041\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate he has made of the number of (a) Japanese, (b) American and (c) European pharmaceutical companies based in the UK; and how much those companies have invested in the UK in each of the last five years.

Joseph Johnson:

There is no comprehensive data on the country of registration for the Global Ultimate Owner (GUO) of every company active in the UK pharmaceuticals sector.

We have incomplete data and therefore cannot accurately calculate how much these companies have invested in the UK in each of the last five years.

■ Fuel Poverty

Conor McGinn:

[\[45093\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to incentivise energy companies to assist people in (a) fuel poverty and (b) fuel debt.

Jesse Norman:

The Government recently consulted on proposals to increase the amount that energy companies pay to fund household energy efficiency improvements for low income and vulnerable households to £450m by 2017 and up to £640m by 2018.

Energy companies are also required to provide over 2 million low income and vulnerable households with a £140 rebate off their energy bill each winter, under the Warm Home Discount Scheme.

These proposals combined will see up to £1bn of support for low income and vulnerable households each year from 2018.

If suppliers believe a domestic customer is having difficulty paying all or part of their energy bills, they must offer facilities to make payments by: deductions direct from benefits, known as Fuel Direct; regular instalments paid through a means other than a prepayment meter; or, using a prepayment meter, where it is safe and reasonably practicable for the customer to do so.

It is important that customers who are experiencing difficulties in paying their gas or electricity bills contact their supplier as soon as possible to arrange a repayment plan that suits their needs.

■ Fuel Poverty: Children

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[46272\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many children in England were classed as living in fuel poverty in each year since May 2011.

Jesse Norman:

Fuel poverty is measured at the household level. We do not publish the number of children in fuel poverty as we cannot accurately estimate personal level information.

■ ICT: Skilled Workers

Daniel Zeichner: [\[45990\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to increase the number of people in the UK with high-level specialist skills in data science.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government recognises the need to increase the number of people with high-level skills in data science for the benefit of the UK, and is taking a range of measures to boost the supply of people with these skills.

The Alan Turing Institute is a £67 million joint venture between the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and five leading UK Universities (Cambridge, Edinburgh, Oxford, UCL and Warwick). It is the UK's national institute for data science, and training the next generation of researchers is a key part of its mission.

Other institutes supported by the Research Councils include the Hartree Centre (a centre of excellence in High Performance Computing), the Farr Institute of Health Informatics Research, and the Isaac Newton Institute in Cambridge, which are all helping researchers to develop their skills to make better use of data.

The Research Councils are taking other steps to increase the supply of researchers with data skills, for example all Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council-funded doctoral students are required to be trained in informatics, data analysis and computational methods as a core part of their training. They support numerous Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) involved in data analysis, including the University of Edinburgh's Data Science CDT, and the Big Data and Cloud Computing CDT at the University of Newcastle. And the £19.5 million Q-Step programme is designed to promote a step-change in quantitative social science training in the UK.

■ Innovate UK: Northern Ireland

Mr Gregory Campbell: [\[45342\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps Innovate UK has taken in the last 12 months to assist businesses in Northern Ireland build sustainable economic growth.

Joseph Johnson:

[Holding answer 12 September 2016]: In the last 12 months Innovate UK has committed £13.4 million from its programmes to support business led innovation in Northern Ireland and works closely with the Northern Ireland Executive to encourage innovation.

Innovate UK is strengthening the way it connects businesses with knowledge, partners and opportunities and is increasing its regional presence to further develop its joined -up innovation support network for business. It is establishing a team of regional managers and is in the process of recruiting a regional manager to be based in Northern Ireland, co-located with Invest NI.

■ Internet: Copyright

Nigel Adams:

[\[44175\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 2 August 2016 to Question 42624, what the evidential basis is for the conclusion that there has been a decrease in autocomplete suggestions from search engines providing access to stream ripping and online converter websites.

Joseph Johnson:

Work to reduce the prevalence of autocomplete suggestions which are likely to lead search engine users to infringing websites is still ongoing, and so it is not yet possible to analyse the resultant effectiveness of these measures.

This work is discussed by representatives of the creative industries and search engines at the round table meetings chaired by my noble Friend Baroness Neville-Rolfe as Minister for Intellectual Property. OFCOM provide research for these meetings utilising results which they take from publicly accessible search interfaces.

Nigel Adams:

[\[44176\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 2 August 2016 to Question 42624, what the evidential basis is for the conclusion that a decrease in the prominence of copyright infringing websites in search engine results has resulted in a decrease in infringement.

Joseph Johnson:

Publically available research from industry clearly shows a decrease in traffic to the most high profile Bit Torrent indexing websites following changes to search engine algorithms to demote websites which have been the subject of large numbers of copyright infringement notices. While it is not possible to say exactly how this equates to changes in infringement, traffic levels to these websites are likely to be highly correlated with levels of infringing activity.

The work of the Ministerial roundtable group on search and copyright is supported by research from OFCOM, which gives the group a periodic snapshot of the prominence of copyright infringing websites in search results for various search terms.

■ Iron and Steel: Manufacturing Industries

Tom Blenkinsop:

[\[46062\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether it remains Government policy to (a) offer specific financial support to the UK steel industry and (b) take a 25 per cent equity stake in Tata Steel.

Mr Nick Hurd:

[Holding answer 15 September 2016]: The Government continues to make compensation payments to all Electricity Intensive Industries, including steel, for the

policy costs in their electricity bills. To date we have paid the steel sector over £100 million. We continue to make significant progress in addressing the wider challenges faced by the steel sector, and are working through the Steel Council to ensure the efforts of the sector itself, the Trade Unions, and the Government are all targeted in the right areas.

We are also continuing to work with Tata, the Welsh Government and Trade Unions to support commercial discussions on the future of the company's remaining UK assets.

■ Older People: Weather

Andrew Gwynne: [\[46271\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what contingency plans the Government has in place for winter 2016-17 to support pensioners and other vulnerable people in the event of a prolonged spell of below average temperatures.

Jesse Norman:

The Government has various policies in place that will support pensioners and other vulnerable people with their energy bills throughout winter 2016/17, irrespective of temperature.

The Warm Home Discount scheme provides eligible households with a £140 energy bill rebate. This winter, over 2 million low income and vulnerable households, of which over 1.2 million are pensioner households, will be helped under the scheme.

Over 12 million pensioners receive the Winter Fuel Payment of up to £300 each winter while people on certain benefits, including Pension Credit, receive a £25 Cold Weather Payment for each seven day period of freezing temperatures.

The Government is also reforming the Energy Company Obligation to have a greater focus on vulnerable and low income households. It will have a value of £640m a year, will run from 2017 until 2022, and homes helped under the new obligation could see their energy bills fall by up to £300 per year.

In addition, we are providing £1.3m to fund the Big Energy Saving Network and running the Big Energy Saving Week again. This is a grant scheme that supports vulnerable consumers to take action to reduce their energy costs by switching supplier and taking up energy efficiency, through outreach by trusted and trained community and third sector organisations.

■ Reaction Engines: Finance

Daniel Zeichner: [\[46025\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, for what reason the Government's £60 million investment in Reaction Engines to help support the development of SABRE, as announced on 16 July 2013, has been delayed.

Joseph Johnson:

The announcement in July 2013 was an in principle decision to fund, subject to the development of a suitable business case. The reason the funding was not disbursed

sooner was because Reaction Engines had not produced a business case that met the Government's requirements.

The funding for SABRE was confirmed to Reaction Engines as a grant in December 2015, and milestone payments began in April 2016.

■ Research: Finance

Daniel Zeichner:

[\[45497\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what comparative assessment he has made of the UK's investment in research and innovation as a proportion of gross domestic product to that of (a) EU member states, (b) non-EU countries with associated status, (c) the US and (d) China.

Joseph Johnson:

Data on total R&D expenditure in other countries are published on the OECD website.

Gross investment in R&D in the UK was 1.67% of GDP in 2014. This compares to the EU average of 1.95%, the OECD average of 2.38%, 2.74% in the United States (in 2013) and 2.05% in China.

The 2015 data for UK expenditure on R&D will be published by the Office for National Statistics in March 2017.

EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Drugs

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[46044\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what discussions his Department has had to date with representatives of pharmaceutical companies on the UK voting to leave the EU.

Mr Robin Walker:

Ministers have met with the Association of The British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), and The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union will be attending the EU UK Life Science Steering Board. We will continue to consult with a broad range of stakeholders on the implications of the referendum result, including the pharmaceutical industry.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Hotels

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[46205\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how much his Department has spent on overnight hotel accommodation since it was created.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Government publishes the relevant information on the costs of Ministerial and senior official hotel accommodation, as well as other expenses incurred on overseas trips, on a quarterly basis. Wherever possible Ministers and officials use overnight

accommodation in UK Permanent Representations and Embassies to reduce the costs of travel abroad.

■ **Department for Exiting the European Union: Travel**

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[46206\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many international flights have been taken by (a) Ministers, (b) civil servants and (c) special advisers of his Department in an official capacity since his Department was created.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Government publishes information about flights and other expenses incurred on Ministerial and senior official overseas trips on a quarterly basis.

HOME OFFICE

■ **Cumbria Constabulary**

Tim Farron: [\[46030\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will set out her plans for the future of Cumbria Police; and whether that police force's (a) budget and (b) number of police officers will be reduced in the current financial year.

Brandon Lewis:

Decisions about the policing priorities in Cumbria are a matter for the locally elected and accountable Police and Crime Commissioner. In Cumbria, police recorded crime fell by 5% between June 2010 and March 2016.

In 2016/17, direct resource funding to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), including precept (the element of police funding derived from council tax), has been protected to at least flat cash levels. This means that no PCC who chose to maximise precept is facing a reduction in cash funding in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16 and the majority are seeing marginal cash increases in their spending power.

■ **Immigration Controls**

Christian Matheson: [\[46253\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 September 2016 to Question 45595, how much her Department spent from the public purse on advertising and promoting the previously proposed points-based immigration system for non-EU nationals in the latest period for which figures are available.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

We have spent no money promoting a proposed points-based immigration system for non-EU nationals.

JUSTICE**■ Featherstone Prison**

Louise Haigh: [\[39594\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much has been levied in financial remedies relating to each key performance indicator in the contractual agreement between his Department and HM Prison Featherstone II in each year since 2011.

Louise Haigh: [\[39844\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much was levied in respect of financial remedies in each key performance indicator designated in respect of the contractual agreement between his Department and G4S Care and Justice Services (UK) Limited at HM Prison Birmingham in each year since 2011.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Well-run prisons are fundamental to the proper functioning of our justice system, and a vital part of our reform plans. Private providers play an important role in the prison estate. Performance of all providers is closely monitored and we will not hesitate to take action where standards fall short.

All private prisons are managed by a full-time, on-site controller. Where a provider fails to meet the expected level of performance, financial remedies can be applied. This ensures that providers are incentivised to properly support the rehabilitation of offenders through a safe, decent and secure regime.

The attached table provides a breakdown of financial remedies applied for both HMP Birmingham and HMP Oakwood (HMP Featherstone II was the working name during construction of HMP Oakwood).

No financial remedies were applied at either prison in 2011/12. Operation of HMP Birmingham transferred from HM Prison Service to G4S Justice Services in October 2011. HMP Oakwood opened in April 2012.

■ Magistrates: Email

Philip Davies: [\[45429\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) what representations she has received and (b) what assessment she has made of the security of magistrates' new e-mail addresses.

Sir Oliver Heald:

The Secretary of State for Justice has not received any representations concerning magistrates' new e-mail addresses.

The Judiciary worked with the Ministry of Justice Information Assurance team and an Independent CLAS (CESG Listed Advisor Scheme) consultant to produce a technical risk assessment and achieve security accreditation for the service.

■ Prison Sentences

Jim McMahon:

[44494]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people have been sentenced to a term in prison for (a) non-payment of council tax, (b) watching television broadcasts without a television licence and (c) tax evasion in each year from 2008-09 to 2014-15.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The law and penalties in these three areas are different. The Government takes tax evasion very seriously. There is no single definition of "tax evasion" so there are several offences under which those who evade taxes can be prosecuted, with a maximum penalty of up to 7 years for the most serious cases under c) below. Watching television broadcasts without a television licence is also a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of a fine.

Non-payment of council tax is not a criminal offence. Where a person fails to pay the council tax after it has been demanded, the local authority may apply to the magistrates' court for a liability order. Liability orders are granted for the amount owed plus reasonable costs. If they are still not paid the local authority can apply for a warrant committing an individual to prison; an individual cannot be fined for non-payment of council tax.

a) The number of people imprisoned following non-payment of council tax in England and Wales, by financial year from 2009/10 to 2014/15 can be viewed in table 1. The magistrates' courts have been using their centralised case management system since early 2009 so data are only available from 2009/10.

b) Immediate custody is not an available sentence for TV licence evasion; the maximum sentence is a fine.

c) The number of offenders sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for offences relating to tax evasion, in England & Wales, by financial year from 2008/09 to 2014/15, can be viewed in table 2.

Due to the complexity of the accompanying table, the link below is to the web version of the answer:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44494>

■ Remand in Custody: Crimes of Violence

Philip Davies:

[46046]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, in (a) how many and (b) what proportion of cases involving common assault was someone remanded in custody prior to their conviction in the two years (i) prior to and (ii) following the introduction of the associated person exception to bail.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The number and proportion of offenders appearing at the Crown Court for offences of common assault and battery who were remanded in custody prior to their conviction, in England and Wales, 2010 to 2014, can be viewed in the table below.

The table also includes data on remand status for offenders convicted of common assault and battery in the magistrates' court between 2013 and 2014. Unfortunately data prior to 2013 could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Court proceedings data for 2016 are planned for publication in summer 2017.

THE NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF OFFENDERS ⁽¹⁾ APPEARING AT THE CROWN COURT FOR OFFENCES OF COMMON ASSAULT AND BATTERY WHO WERE REMANDED IN CUSTODY ⁽²⁾ PRIOR TO THEIR CONVICTION, ENGLAND AND WALES, 2010 - 2014 ^{(3) (4) (5)}

| | Year | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 ⁽⁶⁾ | 2013 | 2014 |
| Offenders remanded in custody prior to conviction for common assault and battery | 515 | 534 | 391 | 450 | 562 |
| <i>Proportion of offenders remanded in custody prior to conviction for common assault and battery ⁽⁷⁾</i> | <i>24.1</i> | <i>27.8</i> | <i>26.9</i> | <i>33.1</i> | <i>40.8</i> |

(1) Excludes persons where sex "Not Stated" and other offenders, i.e. companies, public bodies, etc.'

(2) Includes those who were remanded in custody prior to conviction who may also have been granted bail on another occasion prior to conviction.

(3) The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for or found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

(4) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure

THE NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF OFFENDERS ⁽¹⁾ APPEARING AT THE CROWN COURT FOR OFFENCES OF COMMON ASSAULT AND BATTERY WHO WERE REMANDED IN CUSTODY ⁽²⁾ PRIOR TO THEIR CONVICTION, ENGLAND AND WALES, 2010 - 2014 ^{(3) (4) (5)}

data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

(5) Data will not necessarily match published remanded in custody data. This is because the published data are produced using a different methodology, whereby one principal remand status involving the greatest degree of court control is determined. A defendant would be counted as remanded in custody if at any period of the trial he or she was given custodial remand.

(6) The 'associated person exception to bail' provision came into force on 3rd December 2012. A defendant need not be granted bail if there are substantial grounds for believing that the defendant if released on bail (whether subject to conditions or not) would commit an offence on bail by engaging in conduct that would or would be likely to cause physical or mental injury or fear of the same to an associated person. 'Associated person' is defined in section 62 Family Law Act 1996'.

(7) As a proportion of all offenders convicted at the Crown Court for offences of common assault and battery.

Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ Political Parties: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon:

[\[45490\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he will make it his policy to end the anonymity of donations to political parties in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement.

James Brokenshire:

The Government remains committed to introducing greater transparency in the regulation of donations and loans to Northern Ireland political parties and I intend to consult the Northern Ireland parties shortly on this matter.