



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 29 July 2016 and the information is correct at the time of publication (03:25 P.M., 29 July 2016). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

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

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

ANSWERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

■ Sentencing: Appeals

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[\[43056\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, on how many occasions the Law Officers referred a criminal sentence to the Court for Appeal for review on the grounds that it was unduly harsh in the last 12 months.

Robert Buckland:

Whilst the Attorney General's Office can ask the Court of Appeal to review a sentence which is considered to be unduly lenient, the Law Officers have no power to intervene when a sentence is too harsh. Therefore there have been no referrals to the Court of Appeal on the grounds that a sentence was unduly harsh.

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ Department for Energy and Climate Change: UK Withdrawal from EU

Tom Brake:

[\[41968\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of which policy areas within his Department's remit will be affected by the outcome of the EU referendum.

Mr Nick Hurd:

The Government's guiding principle throughout the process of leaving the EU will be to ensure the best possible outcome for the British people.

At this stage, it is not possible to assess the implications of the outcome of the EU referendum on the potential solar jobs figures set out in the Impact Assessment.

■ Electricity Generation

Sir William Cash:

[\[42746\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to mitigate any advantage which fossil fuel generated electricity imported via interconnector has over domestic electricity generation on which carbon price floor rates are applied.

Jesse Norman:

Whatever the source, and wherever it is from, we import electricity when the cost is lower than here in the UK, driving down consumer bills. Ofgem's analysis of proposed interconnector projects shows that the carbon price floor is not the determinate of whether the projects are in the interests of UK consumers.

■ **Electricity Interconnectors: Iceland**

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[42676\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the possible long-term exchange rate fluctuations resulting from the outcome of the EU referendum on the viability of the IceLink project; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The UK Government is not considering the Ice Link project.

■ **Electricity Interconnectors: Norway**

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[42677\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the possible long-term exchange rate fluctuations resulting from the outcome of the EU referendum on the viability of the North Sea Link project; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The North Sea Link interconnector is being developed by National Grid and Statnett as a commercial business. National Grid has confirmed to us that the outcome of the referendum does not affect the delivery of the project and that construction is continuing as planned.

■ **Energy Supply: Northern Ireland**

Jim Shannon: [\[42835\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on measures to ensure that the electricity supply to customers in Northern Ireland is protected.

Jesse Norman:

The Department has regular discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive on a range of energy related matters including security of electricity supply.

Northern Ireland operates a single electricity market with the Republic of Ireland and energy policy, including issues relating to the supply of electricity, is devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

■ **Energy: Foreign Investment in UK**

Dr Paul Monaghan: [\[42340\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the effect of the outcome of the EU referendum on levels of overseas investment in the UK energy sector.

Jesse Norman:

Since the EU referendum, the Government has been engaging with our key energy stakeholders, including overseas investors in the UK energy sector, to make it clear that we are open for business.

The UK remains an attractive environment for investors in energy.

■ Energy: Imports

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[42653\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 12 July 2016 to Question 42023, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential effect of exchange rate fluctuations following the EU referendum on the (a) cost to the UK of importing energy and (b) levels imported; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The Department has not made an assessment of the potential effect of exchange rate fluctuations on the levels or cost to the UK of imported energy following the EU referendum.

It is too early to speculate on any resulting medium and long-term exchange rate fluctuations. Furthermore, exchange rates are only one of the factors that will influence volumes and costs of imported energy.

■ Fossil Fuels: Industry

Dr Paul Monaghan:

[\[42338\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment he has made of the stability of the oil and gas industry.

Jesse Norman:

We are working closely with the Oil and Gas Authority and industry to ensure we have a clear understanding of the issues affecting the sector, including the impact of low prices.

■ Gas Fired Power Stations: Greater Manchester

Sir William Cash:

[\[42743\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what progress has been made on the status of the proposed Trafford combined cycle gas turbine plant.

Jesse Norman:

Following representations from the developer, as provided for under the Capacity Market legislation, an extension of 60 working days to 19 December has been granted for them to achieve the requirements of the Capacity Market progress milestone. The Secretary of State's discretionary powers to extend a compliance period are designed to recognise situations where a little additional time can help a provider achieve a milestone, to the benefit of our security of supply.

■ Hinkley Point C Power Station

Mr Douglas Carswell: [\[42794\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make it his policy to renegotiate the strike price per megawatt hour for Hinkley Point C; and if he will assess the potential merits of imposing a limit on the taxpayer subsidy to EDF.

Jesse Norman:

Hinkley Point C is a good deal for consumers – it will provide reliable energy at an affordable cost, powering nearly six million homes for around 60 years and creating more than 25,000 jobs.

Today nuclear provides around 19% of our electricity but these ageing plants won't go on forever. Therefore the Government is committed to our policy of building new nuclear in the interest of energy security and decarbonisation, and keeping costs down for the consumer.

Consumers will only pay when Hinkley is up and running.

Caroline Lucas: [\[42907\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the effect of the projected fall in wholesale electricity prices on the financial feasibility of the proposed Hinkley C nuclear power plant; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The Government remains confident in the Hinkley Point C project. Contracts for Difference provide long-term price certainty for generators and investors, which drives investment in a new generation of clean, secure electricity supplies.

Consumers will only pay when Hinkley is up and running.

The Secretary of State's decision will be informed by a value for money assessment, a summary of which will be published alongside the contract.

■ National Grid: Conflict of Interests

Sir William Cash: [\[42744\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to remove any potential conflict of interest between National Grid and its electricity balancing and management responsibilities.

Sir William Cash: [\[42745\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department plans to create a new independent system operator to remove any potential conflict of interest between National Grid and its electricity balancing and management responsibilities.

Sir William Cash:

[\[42747\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to remove any potential conflict of interest between National Grid and its support for new interconnectors to import electricity.

Jesse Norman:

There is a case for greater independence for the system operator to promote more competition and flexibility in our electricity system. We are working alongside National Grid and Ofgem to this end, so that the electricity system continues to be operated in the best interest of consumers.

■ Renewable Energy

Andrew Percy:

[\[42088\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what the timetable is for publishing the Government's analysis of whole system costs.

Mr Nick Hurd:

Following peer review by experts in the field of whole system impacts, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will publish the methodology report of the Whole System Impacts of Electricity Generation Technologies project in due course.

■ Renewable Energy: Investment

Tim Farron:

[\[42390\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the potential effect on investment in renewable energy of the UK withdrawing from the EU.

Jesse Norman:

Since the EU referendum, the Government has been engaging with our key energy stakeholders, including investors in the renewable energy sector, to make it clear that we are open for business.

The UK remains an attractive environment for investors in energy.

■ Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

Drew Hendry:

[\[42899\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department has taken to improve consumer protection for applicants to the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme; and what plans he has to review those steps.

Jesse Norman:

Consumer protection lies at the heart of the design of the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme. One of the eligibility requirements of the scheme is certification of products and installation companies under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). The MCS aims to deliver reliable and high performing installations and to provide a route for redress where there are consumer complaints.

Installation companies that are certified by the MCS scheme must also be a member of a Chartered Trading Standards Institute approved consumer code. This code sets out the standards that installers must meet in contracting with consumers.

In September 2015, DCLG and DECC commissioned Dr Peter Bonfield to undertake an independent review of consumer advice and protection, standards and enforcement in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. The review is due to report shortly.

Drew Hendry: [\[42900\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he has taken to improve the communication of information about the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme to (a) applicants and (b) other bodies involved.

Jesse Norman:

Ofgem E-serve administers the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme on behalf of the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. They publish comprehensive guidance and consumer information on their website. This includes factsheets containing basic information for consumers, guides for applying to the scheme and links to consumer protection organisations.

The Energy Saving Advice Service, for England and Wales, and Home Energy Scotland, for consumers in Scotland, provides advice to consumers considering applying to the scheme both on the internet and through a telephone help line.

The Department meets regularly with stakeholders in the renewable heating industry and wider sector to communicate the latest information on the Renewable Heat Initiative.

Drew Hendry: [\[42903\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department has taken to prevent overselling of the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme to unsuitable properties; and what protections are in place for (a) the elderly and (b) other vulnerable people.

Jesse Norman:

One of the eligibility requirements of the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive scheme is certification of products and installation companies under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). As part of the MCS scheme, the installation company must also be a member of a Chartered Trading Standards Institute approved consumer code which sets out the standards that installers must meet in contracting with consumers.

The codes cover advertising and promotion, behaviour of sales staff, proposals, estimates and quotes, terms of business, cancellation rights, deposits and prepayments, guarantees, maintenance and service agreements and service and repair. The consumer codes also include specific provisions on dealing with vulnerable consumers.

■ Research Councils

Calum Kerr: [\[42296\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will postpone the reorganisation of UK Science Research Councils until the UK has renegotiated its relationship with the EU.

Calum Kerr: [\[42297\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the effect of UK negotiations with the EU resulting from the outcome of the referendum on the planned reorganisation of UK Science Research Councils proposed by Sir Paul Nurse.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government will continue taking forward the important legislation that was set before Parliament in the Queen's Speech, including the Higher Education and Research Bill. This includes the formation of the new body UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Now, more than ever, we need a strong and unified voice to represent the interests of UK research and innovation across Europe and around the world which UKRI will provide.

■ Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Helen Hayes: [\[42466\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what the implications of the outcome of the EU referendum are for changes to the potential number of solar jobs supported on a headcount basis set out in his Department's Impact Assessment on the Periodic Review of Feed-in Tariffs, published on 17 December 2015.

Jesse Norman:

The Government's guiding principle throughout the process of leaving the EU will be to ensure the best possible outcome for the British people.

At this stage, it is not possible to assess the implications of the outcome of the EU referendum on the potential solar jobs figures set out in the Impact Assessment.

■ Solar Power: Redundancy

Helen Hayes: [\[42253\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate he has made of the change in the number of jobs in the UK solar sector since May 2015.

Jesse Norman:

The Department does not hold estimates of the number of jobs in the UK solar sector.

■ Wind Power: Tees Valley

Anna Turley: [\[42410\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how much electricity has been generated by Teesside Wind Farm in each year since it opened.

Jesse Norman:

The Teesside Offshore Wind farm has generated the following amounts of electricity in each year since it opened;

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 2013 (JULY TO DECEMBER): | 79,405 MWh |
| 2014 | 121,808 MWh |
| 2015 | 210,057 MWh |
| 2016 (January to March) | 57,729 MWh |

This information is publically available on the Ofgem website at:

<https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0>.

CABINET OFFICE

■ Air Pollution

Jim Shannon: [\[43043\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many deaths have been caused by air pollution in each of the last 10 years.

Chris Skidmore:

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

Attachments:

1. UKSA Letter to Member - Air Pollution [UKSA Response to 43043.pdf]

■ Cabinet Office: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Tom Watson: [\[43066\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what severance pay has been granted to the special advisers that left his Department in the last week.

Ben Gummer:

Severance payments are in the process of being calculated. Details of the costs will be published in due course.

■ Cabinet Office: Staff

Tom Watson: [\[43174\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 18 July 2016 to Question 42551, if he will take steps to improve take-up of the Accelerate programme by disabled members of staff.

Ben Gummer:

If the Accelerate programme runs in future years, then the Cabinet Office will promote take-up of the programme through the intranet and will support disabled applicants through the Cabinet Office Disability Network.

■ Chevening

Tom Watson: [\[43391\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the running costs of Chevening House were in the last 12 months.

Ben Gummer:

Chevening House is not part of the government's estate. The running costs are a matter for the Trustees

■ Civil Servants: Redundancy

Tom Brake: [\[43287\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Written Statement of 18 July 2016, Machinery of Government Changes, HCWS94, how many civil servants the Government plans to make redundant as a result of those changes.

Ben Gummer:

It is each individual Department's responsibility to determine its workforce requirements, and this includes the new departments formed through recent Machinery of Government changes.

The Civil Service constantly reviews its capabilities in order to deliver the Government's agenda. Cabinet Office is working with all departments across the Civil Service to better understand their capacity and capability requirements following the decision to exit the EU, but it is too early to make a detailed assessment at this stage.

■ Infrastructure and Projects Authority

Tom Watson: [\[43173\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 18 July 2016 to Question 42548, what the cost to the public purse is of employing the 37 people referred to in that Answer.

Ben Gummer:

Having re-reviewed the numbers and status of the FTA I can confirm that 28 people in IPA are employed through Fixed Term Appointments (we have now removed people

who have since moved on either due to their appointment coming to an end or moving to other roles either within Cabinet Office or across wider government).

These members of staff cost £1,937,818 annually out of an overall IPA budget of £14,463,994.

To put this in context IPA oversees projects with whole life costs of well over £500bn.

■ Living Wage: Yorkshire and the Humber

Greg Mulholland: [\[43378\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of people in (i) Leeds North West constituency, (ii) the Leeds City Region, (iii) West Yorkshire and (iv) Yorkshire are paid less than the Living Wage Foundation's living wage.

Chris Skidmore:

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

Attachments:

1. UKSA Letter to Member - Living Wage [UKSA Response to PQ 43378.pdf]

■ Public Sector: Procurement

Greg Mulholland: [\[43380\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many public procurement contracts were won by small and medium-sized businesses in each region in the last five years.

Greg Mulholland: [\[43381\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many small and medium-sized businesses bid for a public contract in each region in the last five years.

Ben Gummer:

In 2014-15, Central Government spent over £12 billion (27.1%) with small and medium sized businesses, which shows a continued year on year increase in SMEs winning public procurements.

The Government is determined to deliver its new target of one third of spend with SMEs by the end of this Parliament and we have appointed Emma Jones as the new Crown Representative for SMEs to help us achieve that.

We do not hold information on the number of public sector contracts won by small businesses or on the number of companies bidding.

■ Senior Civil Servants: Females

Tom Watson: [\[43416\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 19 July 2016 to Question 42775, what assessment he has made of progress to date towards meeting the target of 50 per cent of applicants for senior Civil Service posts being female.

Ben Gummer:

Work is currently underway to monitor the diversity of applicants for SCS posts, including the male/female ratio. An analysis of this information will take place later in the year to help the department to understand what the barriers are for applicants what actions can be taken to overcome them.

TREASURY

■ Alternative Fuels: Excise Duties

Royston Smith: [\[42862\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will review the Alternative Fuels Framework's (a) effectiveness and (b) criteria.

Jane Ellison:

We continue to keep the Alternative Fuels Framework under review, as well as the fuel duties that fall within it.

■ Double Taxation: Malawi

Liz Saville Roberts: [\[43133\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will use the UN Model Double Taxation Convention 2011 as the template when renewing the UK tax treaty with Malawi.

Jane Ellison:

The tax treaty with Malawi has been renegotiated, though signature has been delayed by a number of factors. Although the UK's starting point in negotiations is based closely on the OECD model double taxation convention, the Government recognises that developing countries may have a preference for some of the provisions of the UN model. Treaties the UK has recently signed demonstrate that we are willing to accommodate some of those preferences as part of a balanced agreement.

■ Employee Ownership

Richard Fuller: [\[42696\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many employee share ownership schemes were submitted to HM Revenue and Customs' valuation check service in each tax year since 2010-11.

Jane Ellison:

HM Revenue and Custom's Shares and Assets Valuation office have dealt with the following employee share ownership scheme valuation checks:

| YEAR | TOTAL |
|-----------|-------|
| 2010 – 11 | 4,052 |
| 2011 – 12 | 4,042 |
| 2012 – 13 | 4,494 |
| 2013 – 14 | 4,837 |
| 2014 – 15 | 5,396 |
| 2015 – 16 | 5,721 |

■ Financial Services: Regulation

James Cartlidge: [\[43168\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what revenue was received by the (a) Financial Conduct Authority and (b) Financial Services Authority from fees and levies payable by regulated firms in each of the last five years.

Simon Kirby:

The questions on Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and Financial Services Authority fees and levies are both a matter for the FCA, who are operationally independent from Government.

The questions have been passed on to the FCA. The FCA will reply directly to the Honorable Member by letter. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

■ Gaming Machines

Carolyn Harris: [\[42712\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received on the effect on the gaming industry of the timing of Triennial review of stake and prizes; and if he will make a statement.

Jane Ellison:

The Chancellor receives a large number of representations on a wide range of issues and it is not normal practice to release details of such representations.

■ **Health Professions: Training**

Mr David Hanson:

[\[43280\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the average time taken is for refunds on overpaid national insurance and income tax to be paid to NHS trainees under the Widening Access fund.

Mr David Hanson:

[\[43281\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many NHS trainees under the Widening Access fund received a refund for their overpaid (a) national insurance and (b) income tax contributions in each of the last six years.

Jane Ellison:

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not keep records of the average time taken to process such refunds. HMRC only holds records for the number of NHS trainees receiving refunds under the widening access scheme from April 2013. A total of 8209 refunds have been processed since then, as follows:

| | |
|---------|------|
| 2013/14 | 252 |
| 2014/15 | 1115 |
| 2015/16 | 4100 |
| 2016/17 | 2742 |

■ **Taxation: Self-assessment**

Richard Fuller:

[\[42699\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many self-assessed tax returns which included employee share ownership schemes required investigation by HM Revenue and Customs in each tax year since 2010-11.

Jane Ellison:

HM Revenue and Customs is unable to provide this information as it is not a requirement to report employee share ownership schemes separately on Self-Assessment Tax Returns.

■ **Tobacco: Excise Duties**

Mr Virendra Sharma:

[\[42954\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if his Department will take steps to ensure that all heated tobacco-based products are subject to the same excise rates.

Jane Ellison:

As announced at Budget 2016, the government will consult on the duty treatment of heated tobacco products later this year.

Heated tobacco products are a recent innovation in the tobacco market and are not directly captured by current legislation, though the tobacco they contain is subject to excise duty under current legislation.

■ Widening Access Fund

Mr David Hanson: [43279]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessments has HM Revenue and Customs made of the effectiveness of repaying overpaid national insurance and income tax to NHS trainees under the widening access fund.

Jane Ellison:

For claims from 2013-14 NHS trusts are responsible for repaying any overpaid tax or National Insurance contributions in respect of trainees on the Widening Access Scheme. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is working closely with the Trusts to ensure that the rules are correctly applied and NHS trainees receive refunds as quickly as possible. For earlier years HMRC is working through claims from trainees and repaying them directly.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Affordable Housing: Calderdale

Craig Whittaker: [43123]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of trends in construction of affordable homes within Calderdale since 2010.

Gavin Barwell:

The department publishes statistics on affordable housing supply in each English local authority area in Live Table 1008, which is available to download from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-affordable-housing-supply>

■ Empty Property

Mary Glendon: [43072]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what plans he has to monitor the use of procedures to recover abandoned premises introduced by the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

Gavin Barwell:

These provisions are not yet in force. The first step is for the Department to issue guidance on how the procedures may be effectively and lawfully applied.

■ Environment Protection: EU Law

Deidre Brock: [43164]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether it is his policy to continue to require environmental impact assessment for projects under the same or similar terms to those of current EU law after the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

Gavin Barwell:

Until we leave, the UK will remain a full member of the EU, with all of the rights and obligations. The Department for Exiting the EU will be working on the UK's withdrawal and future relationship, liaising closely with other key departments on future support for the environment.

■ Fracking: Lancashire

Caroline Lucas: [42908]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether he plans to publish the full recommendations and report of the Planning Inspector before taking a decision on Lancashire County Council's rejection of the Cuadrilla fracking applications at Roseacre Wood and Preston New Road.

Gavin Barwell:

The Inspector's report will be published when the formal decision on these appeals is issued. This will be on or before 6 October.

■ Housing: Construction

Tom Brake: [43261]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether the Government plans to set new carbon standards for the new-build housing sector.

Gavin Barwell:

The Government has a duty under section 165 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to carry out a review of the minimum energy performance requirements for new homes in the Building Regulations. Work on the review is under way.

John Healey: [43423]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many net new additions to housing supply in England there have been in each category in each year since 1997.

Gavin Barwell:

Full information including a breakdown by new build, conversion and change of use and other changes from 2006/07 is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-net-supply-of-housing>

■ Housing: East of England

Jo Churchill: [\[43192\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much funding he allocated for housing regeneration in (a) Bury St Edmunds constituency, (b) Suffolk and (c) the East of England in the last five years.

Gavin Barwell:

Government expenditure on housing regeneration over the last five years is listed by programme and by the requested geographical areas below.

Help to Buy*

| | EXPENDITURE |
|-------------------|--------------|
| St Edmundsbury LA | £8,078,832 |
| Suffolk | £12,627,929 |
| East of England | £131,886,007 |

Affordable Housing Programme*

| | EXPENDITURE | NUMBER OF HOMES |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| St Edmundsbury LA | £6,611,142 | 331 |
| Suffolk | £42,209,973 | 1,924 |
| East of England | £136,907,510 | 7,652 |

Get Britain Building, Local Infrastructure Fund, Builders Finance Fund, Build to Rent

| | EXPENDITURE |
|--|-------------|
| Bury St Edmunds Parliamentary Constituency | nil |
| Suffolk | £4,258,400 |
| East of England | £81,464,427 |

*This data is not aggregated by constituency, and is provided instead for the St Edmundsbury Borough Council local authority area.

■ Housing: West Yorkshire

Craig Whittaker: [\[43121\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the outcome of the EU referendum on house prices in West Yorkshire.

Gavin Barwell:

It is too early to tell. We are keeping markets under review and are actively engaged with house builders. The Secretary of State met with leading industry representatives this week to hear their views.

The strong demand for housing which underpins the housing market continues – as does our commitment to getting them built at a rate that can achieve our ambition for a million more homes and a million more home owners by 2020.

■ Landlords

Mary Glendon: [\[43070\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when his Department plans for local authorities to have the power to issue banning orders against landlords as provided for in the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

Gavin Barwell:

The Housing & Planning Act 2016 introduced a power enabling local authorities to apply to the First tier tribunal for a banning order against a person or organisation who has been convicted of a banning order offence. Banning order offences will be specified in regulations following a public consultation and will be subject to the affirmative procedure. We are planning to introduce this power on 1 October 2017.

■ Mayors

Mr David Anderson: [\[43328\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Oral Answer of 18 July 2016, HC Deb, Official Report, column 538, whether it is the Government's policy not to impose a devolution deal that includes an elected mayor on any area that does not want an elected mayor.

Andrew Percy:

The Government's policy is that if an area is to have an elected mayor, it will be because that area, through its democratically elected representatives, has chosen to have one.

■ Neighbourhood Development Plans

Scott Mann: [\[43421\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department plans to take to (a) help expedite implementation of neighbourhood plans and (b) prevent delays resulting from judicial review of such plans.

Gavin Barwell:

We are committed to supporting communities throughout the process and encouraging more communities to join them. Reforms in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 will help to speed up and simplify the neighbourhood planning process. We are looking to introduce a new package of measures that would further strengthen the neighbourhood planning process when Parliamentary time allows over the course of the second session.

The neighbourhood planning legislation means that most challenges to neighbourhood planning decisions need to be brought within six weeks of the decision that is being challenged, rather than three months for most other judicial review proceedings, with no discretion to extend the time limit. This helps ensure that any associated delays are minimal. The establishment of the Planning Court in 2014 also means that it is more likely that these cases will be heard quickly by a specialist planning judge.

■ Owner Occupation: Calderdale

Craig Whittaker: [43122]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of trends in home ownership in Calderdale since 2005.

Gavin Barwell:

The department collects information on home ownership via the English Housing Survey (EHS). The size of the EHS sample does not permit us to produce local authority estimates. England figures going back to 1980 can be found in AT1.1 here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/501068/2014-15_Section_1_Households_tables_and_figures_FINAL.xlsx

■ Parking: Fees and Charges

Stephen McPartland: [43169]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment has he made of the effect of high car parking charges on the viability of town centre economies; and if he will make a statement.

Andrew Percy:

The department does not centrally collect data on high parking charges. Local authorities are responsible for setting local parking charges taking account of local circumstances.

We want local authorities to adopt policies that support local town centres, and have recently consulted on "Strengthening Local Government Transparency". The consultation included a proposal to increase the amount of information local authorities would need to publish on parking thereby helping local communities to better understand what revenues were being raised from parking.

The intention of this proposed change would be to encourage a better local dialogue between communities and the local authorities that represent them about what appropriate parking charge levels should be.

We are currently analysing responses to the consultation and will publish our response in due course.

■ Private Rented Housing

Mary Glendon:

[\[43069\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when his Department plans for local authorities to have access to (a) tenancy deposit protection scheme data and (b) the database of rogue landlords and property agents as provided for in the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

Gavin Barwell:

Following the positive measures to tackle rogue landlords that we have delivered in the Housing and Planning Act 2016, we are working with the Tenancy Deposit Protection (TDP) Schemes on providing local authorities with access to the relevant data by the end of this year.

Work is also underway to prepare the database of rogue landlords and property agents which will require affirmative regulations to be considered by Parliament.

Julian Knight:

[\[43319\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will estimate the average cost of moving home for a family in the private rented sector.

Gavin Barwell:

The department does not collect this information. However, we have set up a working group to look at affordability and security in the private rented sector and one of the issues this is considering is moving costs.

■ Private Rented Housing: Mortgages

Julian Knight:

[\[43385\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what further steps he plans to take to encourage buy-to-let mortgage lenders to allow longer tenancies.

Gavin Barwell:

My Department has worked closely with the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) to encourage longer term tenancies in properties with a buy to let mortgage, including during the development of our Model Tenancy Agreement (MTA). The MTA enables longer tenancies, and addresses lender concerns by including appropriate break clauses. The CML estimates that the majority of buy to let mortgage lenders now permit tenancies of up to two to three years. We continue to encourage lenders to actively promote the use of the MTA to their landlord customers.

■ Refugees: Housing

Thangam Debbonaire: [\[42661\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what (a) funding and (b) guidance his Department provides to local authorities to enable people who have recently been granted refugee status to benefit from rent deposit schemes if they are not considered to be in priority need for housing.

Gavin Barwell:

Any person, including those granted refugee status, who is not in priority need is eligible for homelessness assistance. Local authorities have a duty to provide advice and information on homelessness, free of charge, to anyone seeking help. Wherever possible local housing authorities will try to stop households from facing the stress and upheaval of a homelessness crisis by taking steps to prevent their homelessness. That is why government has maintained and protected homelessness prevention funding for local authorities, totalling £315 million by 2019/20.

Statutory guidance does not mandate the use of specific preventative tools but sets out a wide range of options so that local authorities can meet the specific needs of an individual on a case by case basis. Rent deposit and rent bond schemes are included within this guidance and the majority of local authorities will operate one.

Since 2010 local authorities have prevented homelessness for over 1.1 million households. We have committed to work with local authorities, homelessness charities and across departments to consider options, including legislation, to put prevention at the centre of our approach to tackling homelessness.

■ Rented Housing

Julian Knight: [\[43384\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what further steps he plans to take to ensure that people who require longer tenancies can get them.

Gavin Barwell:

My Department has developed a Model Tenancy Agreement for use by landlords and tenants in the private rented sector, which encourages longer term tenancies for those who want them. We are working with the sector to actively promote the use of this and to identify any barriers. We have also established a working group focussed on affordability and security in the private rented sector which will look at what more we can do to help people who require longer tenancies to get them.

■ Starter Home Initiative

Mary Glendon: [\[43071\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what plans he has to monitor the (a) provision and (b) price of starter homes under the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

Gavin Barwell:

My Department publishes annual statistics on total Affordable Housing Supply, including breakdowns by local authority and type of housing provided (social rent, affordable rent and intermediate housing). We also publish a combined Greater London Authority/Homes and Communities Agency funded Affordable Housing figure on a six-monthly basis. My Department plans to publish a breakdown of starter homes alongside existing housing types from early 2017.

We have also included provisions in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 for local planning authorities to report on starter homes delivery in their area and make this publicly available. This could be combined with their existing requirement to report on delivery of affordable housing through their Authority Monitoring Report. We have consulted on proposals, which will be put in place through regulations.

■ West Midlands Combined Authority

Valerie Vaz: [\[42710\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the staff time of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council involved in setting up the combined authority.

Andrew Percy:

We have made no such estimates. Whether, and how, councils approach setting up a combined authority is wholly a local matter for them. Creation of combined authorities is central to devolving power to local communities to ensure decisions are made locally.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

■ Broadband

Jo Churchill: [\[43244\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what the level of take-up was for superfast fixed broadband in each parliamentary constituency in the latest year for which figures are available.

Matt Hancock:

We do not hold take-up data at constituency level.

Take-up in the areas covered by the BDUK projects is available at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Hs00bNsyRV1WoOt-fow3rsNXzpcKg26AsOWvk1bvJRk/edit#gid=0>

Ofcom's, "Connected Nations 2015" publication indicates that "one in three homes had 'superfast' broadband with a connection of 30 Mbit/s or more" in May 2015.

■ Broadband: Business

Greg Mulholland: [43377]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many businesses do not have access to high speed broadband in each region of England.

Matt Hancock:

Superfast broadband with speeds of at least 24Mbps is now available to 90 per cent of UK premises and we are on track for this to reach 95 per cent by December 2017.

We do not hold data at regional level or specifically for businesses. We hold information for all premises at constituency level and this was deposited with the Parliamentary Library in January 2016. You can access the deposited papers database here:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/?fd=2016-01-01&td=2016-01-31&search_term=Department+for+Culture%2c+Media+and+Sport&itemId=122028#toogle-56

The Deposit reference is: DEP2016-0056

■ Broadband: Greater London

Robert Neill: [42671]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to her Department's Business Broadband Review, what assessment she has made of the connection needs of businesses in London.

Matt Hancock:

We recognise the importance of broadband access for British businesses in remaining globally competitive. That is why the Business Broadband Review was announced by the Business Secretary on 24 February. The Review is exploring the barriers faced by all businesses in the UK, especially SMEs, in accessing affordable, high-speed broadband.

Robert Neill: [42674]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether she has plans to work with the Mayor of London to create a chief digital officer to oversee and champion the Capital's broadband needs.

Matt Hancock:

We work closely with all devolved authorities on their Broadband needs. The appointment of a chief digital officer for London is a matter for the new Mayor of London.

■ Direct Selling

Ronnie Cowan: [\[43399\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to tackle cold-callers.

Ronnie Cowan: [\[43400\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of making cold-calling a criminal offence.

Matt Hancock:

We are determined to tackle the scourge of nuisance calls, however a balance needs to be struck between ensuring that consumers are adequately protected and also ensuring that the legitimate direct marketing industry can continue to operate. Our efforts are focused on taking action against companies that are deliberately break the rules, rather than penalising legitimate businesses who comply with the law.

■ Electronic Commerce

Nigel Adams: [\[42648\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will make representations to her EU counterparts and the European Commission on amending provisions related to take-down notices in the Electronic Commerce Directive 2002.

Matt Hancock:

Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period the Government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation.

■ Sports: Disability

Gavin Newlands: [\[42919\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to improve access to sport for people with disabilities.

Tracey Crouch:

There is already fantastic work going on to improve access to sport for people with disabilities in England such as the English Federation of Disability Sport's Talk to Me principles which outline ten clear steps that providers can follow to make their activities more appealing to disabled people, and Disability Rights UK's Get Yourself Active 8 project, which is led by and for disabled people and which seeks to explore how Disabled People's User Led Organisations (DPULOs) can lead the development of better physical activity and sport opportunities for disabled people locally.

It is important that sport is accessible to all and that we continue to break down those barriers that prevent all under-represented groups from engaging in sport and wider physical activity. Over the last year the government's strategy for sport and physical activity 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for An Active Nation' has been published as

well as Sport England's strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim of both strategies is to create a more physically active nation, where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the benefits that sport and physical activity can provide, at every stage in their lives. In line with the strategies Sport England will triple its current investment in tackling inactivity to over £250 million.

■ Sports: Ethnic Groups

Gavin Newlands: [\[42920\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to increase the number of people from BME backgrounds taking part in sport.

Tracey Crouch:

We know from Sport England's Active People survey results that the number of people from BME backgrounds taking part in sport in England has fallen recently. However, Sport England are investing £2 million in Sporting Equals, which exists to promote ethnic diversity in sport and physical activity, between 2013 and 2017 to help get more people from BME communities involved in sport and physical activity.

Over the last year the government's strategy for sport and physical activity 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for An Active Nation' has been published as well as Sport England's strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim of both strategies is to create a more physically active nation, where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the benefits that sport and physical activity can provide, at every stage in their lives.

■ Sports: Females

Gavin Newlands: [\[42921\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to increase the number of women taking part in sport.

Tracey Crouch:

Sport England's latest Active People Survey results show that the number of women playing sport and being active in England is increasing faster than the number of men, with 7.12 million females aged 16 years or over playing sport once a week.

However, we recognise that there are various obstacles which still exist that put women off sport and initiatives such as This Girl Can, a Sport England behaviour change campaign, have helped encourage women and girls to get active. We are keen to remove any barrier that prevents women from taking part in sport and over the last year the government's strategy for sport and physical activity 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for An Active Nation' has been published as well as Sport England's strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim of both strategies is to create a more physically active nation, where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the benefits that sport and physical activity can provide, at every stage in their lives.

DEFENCE■ **Defence: Satellite Communications**

Kirsten Oswald: [\[43348\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he plans to upgrade the Skynet A5 satellite system.

Harriett Baldwin:

We currently have no plans to upgrade the specific SKYNET 5A satellite. The Ministry of Defence is currently examining options to sustain the capability currently provided by the Skynet constellation.

■ **Islamic State**

Clive Lewis: [\[43258\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2016 to Question 39927, what the procedure is for triggering an independent service police investigation into an allegation of civilian casualties.

Mike Penning:

An independent Service Police investigation would be triggered in Iraq or Syria when there is substantive evidence that civilians have or may have been killed or injured through the actions of UK forces.

Clive Lewis: [\[43259\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to his oral contribution of 24 May 2016, Official Report, column 414, whether the battle damage assessment carried out after every RAF strike assesses whether civilians have been injured as a result of UK strikes.

Mike Penning:

As set out in my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary's contribution, the Ministry of Defence conducts a battle damage assessment after every RAF strike. This assessment reviews the strike, including whether it resulted in civilian casualties. Based on this careful assessment we have no evidence of civilian casualties as a result of any UK strikes in Iraq or Syria since combat operations began in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

■ **Knightsbridge Barracks**

James Cleverly: [\[43338\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what progress has been made on the sale of Knightsbridge Barracks; and when he expects the site to be put out to tender.

Harriett Baldwin:

The plans to dispose of Hyde Park Barracks are in development and it is too early to say when land may be released for sale.

■ Military Alliances

Andrew Rosindell: [\[43428\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the implications of the outcome of the EU referendum for existing bilateral defence agreements.

Michael Fallon:

Immediately after the referendum I contacted a number of my European counterparts to reassure them that Britain remains committed to existing bilateral Defence agreements and to NATO. The then Prime Minister and I reiterated this at the NATO Warsaw Summit. We will continue to engage closely with our Allies and partners.

■ Ministry of Defence: Property

James Cleverly: [\[43335\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what property assets his Department (a) has sold in the last five years and (b) plans to sell before 2020 as part of the Government's commitment to dispose of surplus assets and make better use of the Department's estate.

Mark Lancaster:

A copy of the Department's property assets sold within the last five years is attached.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has committed to releasing land to accommodate 55,000 homes before 2020, in support of the Government's public sector land release target. The MOD has also committed to reducing the built Defence estate by 30% by 2040. This year in January and March I announced 19 sites which will provide land for some 21,000 homes in this Parliament. By the end of this year I shall clarify further land release plans.

Attachments:

1. 43335 - Site List of MOD Disposals - Last 5 Years
[PQ43335_Site_list_for_MOD_assets_sold_in_the_last_five_years.doc]

■ MOD Wethersfield

James Cleverly: [\[43336\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of the selling of MDP Wethersfield on the Ministry of Defence Police.

Mark Lancaster:

There is not expected to be any effect on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police. 91% of all operational MOD Police Officers are stationed at other locations around the United Kingdom with Wethersfield providing a Headquarters and training capability. The functions and facilities currently provided at Wethersfield to support the Ministry of Defence Police have already been surveyed and they will be re-provided at a new location. The eventual move of the MOD Police from Wethersfield will be managed to ensure minimal disruption or risk to the policing and security of the Defence estate.

James Cleverly:

[\[43337\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of the sale of MDP Wethersfield on (a) the Volunteer Glider Squadron based there and (b) air cadets in the Eastern region.

Mark Lancaster:

All units based at Wethersfield including 614 Volunteer Gliding Squadron will be provided for elsewhere. Work to identify the future location for these units will be completed later this year. We are strongly committed to the Air Cadets in the Eastern Region and 614 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, when it moves from Wethersfield, will expand into its new role as a regional hub.

James Cleverly:

[\[43340\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department has made of potential alternative uses of MDP Wethersfield.

Mark Lancaster:

The Ministry of Defence together with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) jointly commissioned a study by Cushman Wakefield in 2015 to identify potential future uses for the Wethersfield site, subject to all necessary planning approvals.

The study reported that the site had the potential to be a mixed development of commercial/employment, housing, education and community uses with supporting public open space.

The HCA will work closely with the Local Planning Authority and other interested parties to consider the best possible future uses for the site.

■ Navy: Maps

Mr Virendra Sharma:

[\[42912\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many out of use naval charts are held by his Department; and what estimate he has made of the value of such charts.

Mark Lancaster:

Royal Navy nautical charts are only printed for training and operational requirements. Once issued they are only used by the relevant Unit and, as stated on 14 July 2016 in answer to Question 42313, the accounting value of our holdings is rated as 'Zero'.

Attachments:

1. QnA extract on Ministry of Defence Maps
[Hansard_Extract_14_July_2016,_HOC_42313[1].docx]

■ Syria: Military Intervention

Clive Lewis: [\[43260\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to his oral contribution of the Minister for Armed Forces of 27 June 2016, Official Report, column 19, what recent steps he has taken to develop joint policy on investigating civilian casualties.

Mike Penning:

The Coalition is in the process of developing a joint policy on investigating civilian casualties. However, until that is finalised, the current policy is that each coalition member investigates civilian casualties according to their respective national methodology.

■ Territorial Army

Craig Whittaker: [\[43085\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what plans his Department has to (a) invest in and (b) modernise Territorial Army centres.

Mark Lancaster:

The Department continues to develop and invest in the Army Reserves, including its infrastructure and estate, in line with commitments set out in the Reserves White Paper (Cm8655) published on 3 July 2013 and accompanying statement (Official Report, column 49WS) and through our wider estate optimisation plans.

Attachments:

1. Army Reserve (Structure and Basing) [Hansard Extract 3 July 2013 WS 49.docx]

■ Unmanned Air Vehicles

Kirsten Oswald: [\[43321\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing domestic Remotely Piloted Aircraft System pilot training capability.

Mike Penning:

The Armed Forces continually assesses aircrew training requirements and the efficacy of its training capability to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Specialist flying training for RAF Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) pilots who are not previously qualified and experienced military pilots starts with a bespoke version of Elementary Flying Training on the Tutor aircraft. All pilots then conduct MQ-9 Reaper-specific conversion training and qualifications in the USA. Once this training is completed pilots in the RPAS Pilot branch are awarded their wings. MQ-9 Reaper conversion training is currently conducted at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico and Creech Air Force Base, Nevada using a mix of US and UK facilities and instructors.

Watchkeeper training is conducted in both the UK mainland and at the British base on the British Overseas Territory of Ascension Island. All basic manned flying training, theory training and simulator training is conducted in mainland UK, students then deploy to Ascension Island for the live flying elements of their course.

Desert Hawk 3 training is conducted in both the UK and USA. All theory training is conducted in the UK but some live flying is conducted in Camp Roberts California.

■ Veterans: Housing

Drew Hendry:

[\[42885\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what transitional housing support is available to service members and their families leaving the armed forces.

Mark Lancaster:

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) provides education and support to Service personnel due to leave the Armed Forces to prepare them for the transition to civilian life. This includes education and advice about future housing options, delivered by the Joint Service Housing Advice Office.

Service leavers have priority in applying for Government sponsored affordable housing schemes and they retain this status for a period of 12 months in England and Wales and 24 months in Scotland after their discharge from service. Those injured in Service should also have preferential access to appropriate housing schemes, as well as assistance with necessary adaptations to private housing or Service accommodation whilst serving.

The MOD referral scheme also provides support to Service leavers and their families, with social housing offers made directly by housing associations and other charitable housing providers following discharge.

EDUCATION

■ Academies

Stephen Timms:

[\[43274\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2016 to Question 42232, what the content of the MAT CEO programme is; and if she will make a statement.

Edward Timpson:

The Department has worked with the Future Leaders Trust to successfully pilot the Executive Educators programme for Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) leaders, which is now being rolled out. The Department is now working closely with a number of leading business schools and higher education providers to ensure that the distinctive programmes which they will each be offering are designed to meet the range of needs amongst current and future MAT leaders.

The programmes will focus, through a tailored approach, on enabling participants to acquire the business and management skills needed to run and grow a MAT sustainably and effectively. Indicative topics may include: vision-setting and developing strategic capability, governance, financial analysis, commercial awareness and working effectively in partnerships.

■ Academies: Admissions

Steve McCabe: [\[42893\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2016 to Question 39593, for what reason more directions were upheld in 2008 than in other years listed.

Nick Gibb:

Local authorities have powers to direct maintained schools to admit pupils. Where a school wishes to appeal such a direction, it may refer the case to the Schools Adjudicator. If the Adjudicator decides that the school should admit the child they can uphold the direction.

Such cases are very rare and may occur for different reasons. We do not hold information centrally on the reasons or circumstances of each case, and we are unable to comment on why more directions were referred to and upheld by the Adjudicator in that particular year.

Steve McCabe: [\[42894\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2016 to Question 39597, how many similar requests to intervene were made by local authorities to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator in each year from 2012.

Nick Gibb:

Schools Adjudicators do not have powers to intervene in response to requests by local authorities regarding the admission of individual children. Local authorities (LAs) would not make such requests to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

Under sections 96 and 97 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, a LA has the power to direct the admission authority for a maintained school to admit a child. Where a school wishes to appeal a local authority's intention to direct it to admit a child, the governing body may refer the case to the Schools Adjudicator.

The Adjudicator may uphold the appeal, or not uphold the appeal. If the appeal is not upheld the school is required to admit the child. If the appeal is upheld, the Adjudicator has power (but is not required) to direct another school to admit the child.

If the school does not admit a child following a direction by a LA or Schools Adjudicator, they would be failing in a legal duty and the Secretary of State would be able to use her powers under sections 496 and 497 of the Education Act 1996. The Secretary of State is rarely asked to do this, and we do not record the number of such requests centrally.

■ Academies: Bury St Edmunds

Jo Churchill:

[\[43030\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of (a) trends in the take-up of academy places and (b) the performance of academies in Bury St Edmunds constituency in the last five years.

Edward Timpson:

The number of pupils on roll in the nine academies in the Bury St Edmunds Constituency for the years when they were open as academies from January 2012 to January 2016 is provided in the table below:

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Bury St Edmunds County Upper School | 1009 | 993 | 957 | 978 | 987 |
| Horringer Court 296 Middle School | | 272 | 307 | 356 | 371 |
| Westley Middle 468 School | | 466 | 470 | 468 | 478 |
| Priory School 121 | | 117 | 129 | 135 | 143 |
| Tollgate Primary N/A School | | N/A | N/A | 224 | 273 |
| Great Barton N/A Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School | | N/A | N/A | N/A | 200 |
| Rattlesden N/A Church of England Voluntary Controlled School | | N/A | N/A | N/A | 123 |
| Thurston N/A Church of England Voluntary | | N/A | N/A | N/A | 197 |

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Controlled Primary School | | | | | |
| Woolpit Community Primary School | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 171 |

Source: School Census, January 2012 to 2016

The percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths at key stage 2 in 2012 to 2015 for academies with results in 2015 in the Bury St Edmunds constituency was as follows:

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Horringer Court Middle School | 64% | 72% | 79% | 83% |
| Westley Middle School | 67% | 70% | 80% | 78% |

Source: School Performance Tables

The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and mathematics GCSEs at key stage 4 in 2012 to 2015 for the academy with results in 2015 in the Bury St Edmunds constituency was as follows:

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Bury St Edmunds County Upper School | 74% | 77% | 70% | 70% |

Source: School Performance Tables

There were no open academies in Bury St Edmunds constituency before August 2011 and no academy results before 2012. Key stage 4 results from 2014 reflect the removal of many equivalent vocational qualifications and other reforms.

■ Academies: Sex and Relationship Education

William Wragg:

[42705]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the Education for All Bill will require academies to provide sex and relationships education.

Edward Timpson:

All schools should offer high quality, age-appropriate sex and relationship education, and build a curriculum that meets the needs of all their students. Sex and relationship education is compulsory in all maintained secondary schools. Academies do not have to teach sex and relationship education but many choose to do so as part of their statutory duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

The content of any forthcoming Bill will be announced in due course.

■ Academies: Standards

Stephen Timms:

[43220]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what performance measures her Department plans to use to determine whether a Multi Academy Trust is permitted to expand.

Edward Timpson:

When schools are converting to academy status as part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) or joining an existing MAT, it is the Regional Schools Commissioner's (RSC) role to decide, on behalf of the Secretary of State, whether to approve or decline the application.

When schools are converting to academy status as part of a MAT or joining an existing MAT, the RSC will want to be assured that the governance and leadership of the MAT is clear and robust and that the MAT has the capacity to drive improvement across all schools within it. Consideration will include, amongst other things, Ofsted judgements and published performance measures in relation to progress and attainment of academies already within the MAT, how these relate to the floor standard, and national and local averages, as well as improvement over time. The RSC will also consider the performance of the academy applying to join the MAT.

The White Paper *Educational Excellence Everywhere*, committed to increasing accountability by publishing data to show how MATs are performing. We began to deliver on this with the publication earlier this month of MAT performance measures for 2014-15, which can be found on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/multi-academy-trust-performance-measures-2014-to-2015>

A key benefit of an academy-based system is that it can be responsive to performance, and the White Paper committed to testing further how we can develop a system with the right balance of intervention, review and stability. We want to continue to engage widely on this in upcoming months.

■ Apprentices

Stephen Timms: [\[42434\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the implications of market uncertainty following the EU referendum for progress in meeting her target for creating new apprenticeships.

Robert Halfon:

Some market and economic volatility can be expected as the process for leaving the EU unfolds. In recent years, however, the UK has been the fastest growing economy in the G7 and one of the strongest major advanced economies in the world. The Government has already outlined how this strength means that we are as well-placed as any economy could be to meet any economic challenges that lie ahead.

Stephen Timms: [\[42436\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the maximum duration is of an apprenticeship.

Robert Halfon:

To ensure that apprenticeships are focused on providing sustained and substantial training, they must last for at least 12 months. We do not set a maximum duration centrally, but apprenticeships generally take between one and four years to complete.

The suggested duration of each apprenticeship is set by employers when designing the apprenticeship standard.

■ Apprentices: Degrees

Stephen Timms: [\[42435\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of how many degree apprenticeship places will be taken up by 2020.

Robert Halfon:

Degree Apprenticeships are designed by groups of employers working with higher education institutions and will be driven by employer demand.

We therefore do not use a top-down estimate of how many Degree Apprenticeships will be taken up by 2020, as part of our overall commitment to 3 million starts.

Degree Apprenticeships provide a valuable route for people to obtain a degree-level qualification alongside training for a career, with employment from day one.

■ Apprentices: Hearing Impaired

Richard Fuller: [\[42700\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many deaf young people aged 16 to 24 achieved (a) intermediate, (b) advanced and (c) higher apprenticeships in 2014-15; and what their destinations were following apprenticeship completion.

Robert Halfon:

Information on apprenticeship achievements is published as part of a Statistical First Release, which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held>

Table 1 shows apprenticeship achievements by 16-24 year olds with hearing impairments in 2014/15, by level.

TABLE 1: APPRENTICESHIP ACHIEVEMENTS BY 16-24 YEAR OLD LEARNERS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

| Level | 2014/15 |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Intermediate Level Apprenticeships | 250 |
| Advanced Level Apprenticeships | 130 |
| Higher Apprenticeships | - |
| All Apprenticeships | 380 |

Notes:

- 1) Data source is the Individualised Learner Record.
- 2) Volumes are rounded to the nearest ten. "-" indicates a base value of less than 5.
- 3) Learners with hearing impairments figures are based upon self-declaration by the learner, where the provider has indicated that they have a disability, learning difficulty or health problem.

Information on the destinations of learners to this level of detail is not centrally collected.

■ **Children: Day Care**

Judith Cummins:

[\[42944\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to improve the quality of early education and childcare.

Caroline Dineneage:

The Government wants all children, regardless of their starting point, to have access to quality early education and childcare, as we know this makes a difference to their outcomes in later life. That is why we have taken the following steps to support the quality of early years provision:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) helps early years providers to prepare young children for school and improve their life chances by requiring them to deliver high-quality provision. The 2014-15 EYFS Profile results show that the proportion of children achieving a good level of development continues to increase – 66% in 2015, compared to 60% in 2014, and 52% in 2013.
- We work closely with Ofsted to ensure a robust regulatory and inspection framework to drive continuous improvement in quality. The sector has responded very positively and the latest statistics show that 86% of early years providers were rated “good” or “outstanding” as of 31 March 2016.
- The quality of the workforce continues to improve, with 87% of staff in full day care settings now qualified to level 3 (equivalent level of study to A-level). We are developing a workforce strategy that will aim to remove barriers to attracting, retaining and developing staff.
- From September 2016, all newly qualified level 2 and level 3 staff must also have paediatric first aid training if they are to count in the EYFS staff:child ratios. This will mean an extra 15,000 staff a year coming into the sector with first aid training, providing vital reassurance to parents that their children will be well cared for.
- We have also introduced the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP). Each eligible child will be funded for an EYPP of 53p per hour on top of the rate currently paid for the funded entitlement. This amounts to over £300 a year for a child taking up the full entitlement. Providers have flexibility about how they spend this money in order to improve the quality of provision for eligible children, but are held to account by Ofsted for using it effectively.

■ Children: Domestic Violence

Melanie Onn: [\[42781\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has assessed the effect of experiencing domestic violence in the home on the educational attainment of pupils at primary and secondary school.

Melanie Onn: [\[42782\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will estimate the number of children at primary and secondary school who have experienced domestic violence at home.

Edward Timpson:

We know that educational outcomes for children in need or on child protection plans are generally worse than their peers.

This is published in the annual children in need census which is matched to the national pupil database to show attainment levels at both key stage 2 and key stage 4 for children in need, including those who have experienced domestic violence in the home (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/children-in-need-census>).

This latest data is published on gov.uk within the 'outcomes tables' at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2014-to-2015>.

Domestic violence is the most common factor identified in social worker assessments of children. We must continue to improve our understanding and response to this issue. The Home Office leads a wide-ranging cross-Government programme of work to address violence against women and girls, which includes domestic violence. In addition, on 7 July DfE announced up to £2.25 million in grant funding to VCS organisations over an 18 month period to help address key priorities on safeguarding, specifically including domestic violence.

While numbers of children for whom domestic violence is identified as a factor at assessment is published in the children in need census, attainment data for these children is not published and would only be available at disproportionate cost.

In the year ending 31 March 2015, there were around 45,500 children aged between 5 and 10 inclusive (primary school age ¹) and 31,200 aged between 11 and 16 inclusive (secondary school age ¹), recorded as having domestic violence identified as a factor at the end of their assessment by children's social care. The purpose of an assessment is to gather information and evidence about a child's developmental needs and the parents' capacity to meet these needs within the context of the wider family and community. This information should be used to inform decisions about the help needed by the child.

Please note that this may not cover all children who have experienced domestic violence, but provides an estimate of those children that have been referred to children's social care who have been assessed in the year and domestic violence was a factor identified. This information is collected within the children in need census (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/children-in-need-census>). The latest information can be found in the 'Characteristics of children in need' statistical first release (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2014-to-2015>).

[1] Age calculated at 31 March 2015.

■ Children: Self-harm

Melanie Onn:

[\[42780\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the levels of self-harm among (a) boys and (b) girls in secondary schools.

Edward Timpson:

Self-harm occurs in relation to a wide range of personal problems, emotional turmoil and psychiatric disorders, and is a serious concern. The government does not collect central data on cases of self-harm by school-age children, but the Department of Health is currently commissioning a new national prevalence survey for children and young people's mental health which is due to report its findings in 2018.

Schools should take prompt action to deal with cases of self-harm. The Department has taken a range of actions to help them to build a whole-school approach to good mental wellbeing, which includes being informed about self-harm. We funded guidance and age-appropriate lesson plans on teaching mental health in PSHE – which covers teaching about self-harm. Training for teachers on self-harm is available through MindEd, a free online portal which has been developed to enable all adults working with children and young people learn more about specific mental health problems and how to support them. We have also revised and updated our blueprint for effective school-based counselling.

However, teachers are not mental health specialists and can need specialist support in deciding how to respond. We have contributed to a £3m joint pilot between schools and specialist mental health services, to help schools draw on specialist support for their pupils; where needed.

■ Class Sizes: East of England

Jo Churchill:

[\[43254\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many Key Stage 1 children in (a) Bury St Edmunds constituency, (b) Suffolk and (c) the East of England were in classes of more than 30 children in the academic year beginning September (i) 2010, (ii) 2011, (iii) 2012, (iv) 2013, (v) 2014 and (v) 2015.

Nick Gibb:

The number of pupils in key stage one classes of more than 30 pupils for each of the years and locations requested is given below, along with the corresponding number of classes:

| - | BURY ST EDMUNDS CONSTITUENCY | | SUFFOLK LOCAL AUTHORITY | | EAST OF ENGLAND | |
|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | Number of Pupils | Number of Classes | Number of Pupils | Number of Classes | Number of Pupils | Number of Classes |
| Jan-11 | 157 | 5 | 468 | 15 | 3,735 | 119 |
| Jan-12 | 96 | 3 | 408 | 13 | 4,905 | 157 |
| Jan-13 | 31 | 1 | 529 | 17 | 6,575 | 211 |
| Jan-14 | 93 | 3 | 437 | 14 | 7,705 | 247 |
| Jan-15 | 124 | 4 | 751 | 24 | 9,338 | 299 |
| Jan-16 | 155 | 5 | 716 | 23 | 9,451 | 303 |

This information has been taken from the Local authority tables and underlying data of the 'schools, pupils and their characteristics' statistical release[1] for the corresponding year.

Of those infant classes with more than 30 pupils, roughly 95% of pupils are in classes of 31 or 32 pupils and larger classes are uncommon.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-and-pupil-numbers>

■ Department for Education: Babies

Mr Mark Hendrick:

[42213]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what facilities are available for (a) lactating mothers and (b) the changing of babies in her Department.

Nick Gibb:

The Department for Education's main office in London has a facility for both nursing mothers and baby changing. This room is clearly signed as a baby changing area and contains a baby changing fold down work top, wipes, and chairs for nursing mothers to sit comfortably.

Other Department sites in Coventry, Darlington, Manchester and Sheffield also have a room available for use by nursing mothers and baby changing which contain seating, worktop areas and wipes.

The Nottingham site is a conference centre, with overnight accommodation facilities. This site is able to prepare a suitable hotel room for nursing mothers and baby changing when required.

■ Education: Left Handed People

Nigel Huddleston:

[43076]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the potential correlation between left-handedness and levels of educational attainment; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

The Department does not hold data on whether pupils are left-handed and therefore has not made an assessment of their levels of educational attainment.

■ Free School Meals: Bury St Edmunds

Jo Churchill:

[43253]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children living in Bury St Edmunds constituency have been eligible to receive free school meals in each of the last six years.

Nick Gibb:

The number of pupils attending schools in Bury St Edmunds and known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in each of the last six years is given in the table below:

| YEAR | NUMBER OF PUPILS ON ROLL | NUMBER OF PUPILS KNOWN TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AND CLAIMING FSM | % OF PUPILS KNOWN TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AND CLAIMING FSM |
|--------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| January 2011 | 17,436 | 1,328 | 7.6 |
| January 2012 | 17,412 | 1,365 | 7.8 |
| January 2013 | 17,270 | 1,515 | 8.8 |
| January 2014 | 17,294 | 1,716 | 9.9 |
| January 2015 | 17,510 | 1,618 | 9.2 |
| January 2016 | 17,360 | 1,508 | 8.7 |

This information has been calculated from the underlying data of the 'schools, pupils and their characteristics' statistical release[1] for each corresponding year.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-school-and-pupil-numbers>

■ Further Education: Liverpool City Region

Luciana Berger:

[42509]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the end of year budget surplus or deficit was for each further education college in the Liverpool City Region in each financial year since 2010-11.

Robert Halfon:

Colleges own this information. They are required to publish the information on their own website and the Skills Funding Agency publish a collated picture on GOV.UK. All the information requested for this question is already in the public domain:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-financial-management-college-accounts>

■ Home Education

Mark Pawsey:

[42594]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure that children who are home schooled receive a comparable level of education to that received in a school.

Nick Gibb:

Responsibility for providing a suitable full-time education for children of compulsory school age who are educated at home rests with the parents. Although local authorities do not have a power to monitor such provision on a routine basis, they are under a duty to identify children who are not receiving a suitable full-time education. As part of that process, they will take appropriate steps to ensure that if a child is not being properly

educated at home to serve a school attendance order. The department publishes guidance to local authorities on this matter, which is available on GOV.UK at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288135/guidelines_for_las_on_elective_home_educationsecondrevisev2_0.pdf

■ Languages: Education

Gordon Marsden: [42754]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister of State for Schools of 4 July 2016, Official Report, column 210WH, what the evidential basis is for the statement that 77 per cent of UK employees say that they need more employees with foreign languages.

Nick Gibb:

The figure to which I referred on 4 July was derived from a survey by the Confederation of British Industry's Education and Skills Survey 2015[1] which found that only 23% of businesses said they had no need for foreign language skills among their employees.

[1] <http://news.cbi.org.uk/reports/education-and-skills-survey-2015/>

■ Languages: GCSE

Gordon Marsden: [42751]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many students in English state schools took at least one GCSE in a foreign language at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2014-15; and whether her Department made an estimate of the number of students expected to take at least one GCSE in a foreign language under the planned 90 per cent English Baccalaureate target.

Nick Gibb:

The number and percentage of pupils in English state-funded schools who were entered for a foreign language GCSE in the 2014/15 academic year is published as part of the key stage 4 school performance tables.[1]

To enter the EBacc, pupils must enter an approved qualification at key stage 4 in either an ancient or a modern foreign language. This means that when 90% of pupils are taking the EBacc, at least 90% of pupils will enter at least one language qualification.

[1] <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/download-data?currentstep=datatypes®iontype=all&la=0&downloadYear=2014-2015&datatypes=ks4>

Gordon Marsden: [42752]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the subjects most likely to be affected by a reduction in the number of people taking them in the event of a significant proportion of young people required to take a foreign language GCSE.

Nick Gibb:

In implementing the EBacc, the Government remains fully committed to ensuring all pupils receive a well-rounded education. All state-funded schools are required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils. We expect all schools to continue to offer a wide range of options beyond the EBacc, so that pupils have opportunities to study subjects that reflect their individual interests and strengths.

The EBacc has been designed to be limited in size to provide a rigorous academic core whilst leaving space in the curriculum for other subjects. On average, pupils in state-funded schools enter nine GCSEs and equivalent qualifications, rising to more than ten for more able pupils.[1] For many pupils, taking the EBacc will mean taking seven GCSEs; and for those taking triple science, it will mean taking eight. This means that there will continue to be room for pupils to study other subjects.

We set out our EBacc proposals in our consultation on implementing the English Baccalaureate. We will respond to the consultation in due course.

[1] <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase&geographic=all®ion=0&phase=secondary&for=Key%20stage%204%20performance&basedon=Exam%20entries&show=All%20pupils&&schoolTypeFilter=allSchools>

Gordon Marsden:**[42753]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what her policy is on the relative value of a foreign language GCSE compared to a qualification in a creative or technical subject; and what the evidential basis for that policy is.

Nick Gibb:

The consultation on implementing the EBacc set out our ambition that at least 90% of pupils in mainstream secondary schools will enter GCSEs in the core academic subjects – English, maths, science, history or geography and a language. These subjects are all facilitating at A level, and help to keep options open for future work or study. The consultation, which finished on 29 January 2016, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementing-the-english-baccalaureate>

The Government strongly believes that study of a foreign language provides an opening to other cultures, fosters pupils' curiosity, and helps pupils to develop intellectually. It also equips pupils to study and work in other countries. Language skills are in demand from employers. These are all reasons why a language forms part of the core academic curriculum. Between 2000 and 2010 the proportion of pupils taking a modern foreign language at GCSE declined from 76% to just 43%.[1] It is right that the Government is acting to address this.

In implementing the EBacc, the Government remains fully committed to ensuring all pupils receive a well-rounded education. All state-funded schools are required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils. We expect all schools to continue to offer a wide range

of options outside of the EBacc, so that pupils have opportunities to study subjects that reflect their individual interests and strengths.

We have extensively reformed GCSEs to ensure that they are the gold standard qualification at 16 and in particular to bring them into line with expected standards in countries with the highest performing education systems. Ensuring that the qualifications that our young people hold are rigorous and stand comparison with the best in the world is vital if we are to give them the best opportunity to succeed in life.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-gcses-key-stage-4>

■ Ofsted: Staff

Jess Phillips: [42502]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many staff were employed by Ofsted in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14, (d) 2014-15 and (e) 2015-16.

Jess Phillips: [42503]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the total net budget of Ofsted was in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14, (d) 2014-15 and (e) 2015-16.

Jess Phillips: [42506]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many inspectors operated at Ofsted in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14, (d) 2014-15 and (e) 2015-16.

Nick Gibb:

These are matters for Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw. I have asked him to write to you and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House libraries.

■ Overseas Students: EU Nationals

Mr Jamie Reed: [42270]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many students from other EU countries are registered to attend UK universities in the academic year 2016-17.

Joseph Johnson:

Interim data on the number of EU domiciled applicants accepted to study full-time undergraduate courses in the 2016/17 academic year will be published by UCAS on 29th September. The UCAS timetable of statistical releases can be found at the following link: <https://www.ucas.com/corporate/data-and-analysis/ucas-undergraduate-releases/ucas-undergraduate-timetable-data-and>

As at 26th May, 49,600 EU domiciled individuals (excluding UK) had applied to attend UK higher education institutions for the 2016-17 academic year. This does not include those studying at postgraduate level or on a part-time basis.

Information on enrolments in all modes and levels of study will be included in the 2016/17 Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Student Record, which will be available from January 2018.

■ Pre-school Education: Teachers

Catherine West: [43466]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how she plans to ensure that the early years workforce strategy encourages the recruitment and retention of early years teachers.

Nick Gibb:

We recognise the importance of the Early Years workforce in improving quality and delivering better outcomes for children. That is why we are committed to publishing an Early Years workforce strategy. The strategy will set out how we will help to remove barriers to attracting, retaining and developing staff. As part of the strategy, we will look at the barriers to increasing the number of graduates in the workforce.

The Government currently delivers Early Years initial teacher training places, funds eligible graduates to undertake training and also provides student bursaries. Information about training routes is available from the Get into Teaching site:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

■ Primary Education

Steve McCabe: [42895]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 8 June 2016 to Question 39094, if she will provide the answer sought in that Question from the data collected in the consultation document.

Nick Gibb:

We have worked with teachers, head teachers and unions as the primary assessment reforms have been introduced, and have listened to their concerns in supporting schools to adjust to the new system this year. We will continue to listen to and engage with the profession as the details of the new assessment arrangements are finalised and we build stability for future years.

As set out in the answer to PQ 39094, while the 2013 consultation was a valuable exercise to seek views on aspects of policy, it was not designed to ask teachers and head teachers specifically to indicate their support for the principle of the assessment reforms which took effect this year. An answer to that question cannot, therefore, be derived from the data collected as part of that consultation.

■ Primary Education: Class Sizes

Greg Mulholland:

[43379]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children in Key Stage 1 were taught in classes of more than (a) 30 and (b) 35 pupils in the academic year beginning September 2015 in each region of England.

Nick Gibb:

The number of pupils in Key Stage 1 classes of more than 30 and 35 pupils in each region of England relating to the academic year beginning September 2015 can be found in table 11 of the 'schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2016' statistics[1].

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2016>

■ Priority School Building Programme

Danny Kinahan:

[43350]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the results of the post-occupancy data on schools built under wave 1 of the Priority Schools Building Programme will be published before wave 2 begins.

Edward Timpson:

The Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) is rebuilding and/or refurbishing those school buildings in the worst condition across the country. We expect to deliver the vast majority of the new school buildings in Phase 1 by the end of 2017, two years earlier than originally planned. Work on schools in Phase 2 of the programme has recently begun and good progress is being made.

The Department is collecting a range of post-occupancy data on schools under Phase 1. For post-occupancy evaluation to be truly representative, schools need to be operational for a full year to experience all the seasons. The results of the post-occupancy exercise will be published once it is complete. Lessons learnt on Phase 1 are being transferred to Phase 2 of the PSBP.

Danny Kinahan:

[43351]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many school buildings under wave 1 of the Priority Schools Building Programme received additional funding for those buildings; and for what that additional money was used.

Edward Timpson:

Under the first phase of the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP), third parties have chosen to contribute funding at 133 schools. The majority of the third party funding is for additional places beyond the capacity requested in the PSBP application.

The Department provides basic need funding to local authorities for the provision of additional places to meet basic need. Between 2011 and 2015, the Government

allocated over £5 billion of basic need funding to local authorities for new school places and will be spending a further £7 billion between 2015 and 2021.

By co-ordinating PSBP projects and the provision of additional places we are able to drive value for money for the public purse.

■ Pupils: Left Handed People

Nigel Huddleston: [\[43077\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has made an estimate of the proportion of left-handed pupils in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

The Department does not collect data on the number of left-handed pupils in primary and secondary schools.

■ Pupils: Mental Health

Jessica Morden: [\[42678\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to her Oral Answer of 4 July 2016 to Question 905617, on Mindfulness in Schools, when she plans to publish the results of the national survey.

Edward Timpson:

The survey will provide the first nationally representative assessment of activities carried out by schools and colleges to support their pupils' and students' mental health and development of character traits.

The fieldwork for the survey has now begun and the Department expects to publish the results early in 2017.

■ Pupils: Personal Records

Caroline Lucas: [\[42842\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department consulted (a) schools and (b) parents on the new requirement to collect country of birth data in the 2016-17 school census; how parents are informed of their right to opt out of providing that information; for what purpose that information will be used; whether that information will be shared with other Government departments; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

The collection of data on the country of birth and nationality of pupils will be used to improve our understanding of the scale and impact of pupil migration on the education sector and provide the Department with a better evidence base for future policy decision making. These new data items will provide valuable statistical information on the characteristics of these groups of children, along with their attainment and destinations, and allow the Department to measure whether the individual pupils, or the schools they attend, face additional educational challenges.

The data will be collected solely for the Department's internal use for the analytical, statistical and research purposes described above. There are currently no plans to share the data with other government departments unless we are legally required to do so.

All Departmental proposals for new, or revised, data collections are reviewed by the Star Chamber Scrutiny Board (SCSB). The SCSB is an external panel of representatives from schools and local authorities who approved the collection of country of birth data via the school census in November 2015.

The Department have not consulted directly with parents regarding the changes to the school census. As we do not have a means of directly communicating with individual parents ourselves, the Department provides a privacy notice template for schools to use to explain to parents what personal data they collect, why it is collected, who it is shared with and what it is used for. As data controllers in their own right, we do not advise schools directly on their collecting and processing of personal data or regulate their compliance with the Data Protection Act but the template we provide to schools gives parents access to further information about the Department's use of their children's data.

Charlotte Leslie:

[42942]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, for what reasons her Department plans to begin collecting country of birth data on children aged two to 19 from Autumn 2016; what limitations will be placed by her Department on disclosure of such information to (a) other government departments and (b) private third parties; and whether her Department plans to change its protocols or processes for handling and disclosure of confidential information when country of birth data begins to be collected.

Nick Gibb:

The collection of data on the country of birth and nationality of pupils will be used to improve our understanding of the scale and impact of pupil migration on the education sector, and provide the Department with a better evidence base for future policy decision making. These new data items will provide valuable statistical information on the characteristics of these groups of children, and along with their attainment and destinations, will allow the Department to measure whether the individual pupils, or the schools they attend, face additional educational challenges.

The data will be collected solely for internal Departmental use for the analytical, statistical and research purposes described above. There are currently no plans to share the data with other government Departments and decisions on whether the Department will release any personal data to third parties are subject to a robust approval process and are based on a detailed assessment of who is requesting the data, the purpose for which it is required, the level and sensitivity of data requested and the arrangements in place to store and handle the data. Details about the process are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-pupil-database-apply-for-a-data-extract>

There are currently no plans for the Department to change the existing protocols and processes for the handling and disclosure of confidential information.

■ Schools: Admissions

Melanie Onn: [\[42798\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the effects of family evictions on student numbers at individual schools.

Nick Gibb:

The Department has not made an assessment of the effects of family evictions on student numbers at individual schools.

■ Schools: Finance

Gloria De Piero: [\[42975\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effect of increased national insurance and pension employer contributions on school budgets.

Nick Gibb:

Funding for education is a priority for the Government. At the Spending Review last November, the Chancellor protected the core schools budget in real terms, enabling a per-pupil protection for the dedicated schools grant. Throughout this Parliament the money available for our schools will increase as pupil numbers rise.

We recognise that schools are facing increased costs as a result of changes to employer pension and national insurance contributions. We believe that the best way to help schools is through the introduction of a national funding formula.

A national funding formula will do more to put all schools on a level playing field, where funding is matched to need. It will also make it easier for head teachers, governing bodies and local authorities to compare their spending and outcomes with other schools.

■ Schools: Mental Health Services

Andrew Stephenson: [\[43090\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what mental health support systems are in place in schools to tackle eating disorders and anorexia.

Edward Timpson:

Education professionals have a vital role to play in raising concerns about eating disorders and anorexia, and other mental health issues, as well as providing support when such issues have been identified.

Schools should consider how to provide appropriate support to their pupils and they are able to decide on the most appropriate way to do this, based on their individual circumstances. One of the best ways is as part of a 'whole-school' approach and we have taken a range of actions to support them to do this, including being informed about eating disorders and anorexia.

We have funded guidance and age-appropriate lesson plans on teaching mental health in PSHE – which covers teaching about eating disorders and anorexia. Training for

teachers on eating disorders and anorexia is available through MindEd, a free online portal which has been developed to enable all adults working with children and young people learn more about specific mental health problems and how to support them. We have also revised and updated our blueprint for effective school-based counselling.

However teachers are not mental health specialists, and can need specialist help to support pupils with eating disorders and anorexia. We have contributed to a £3m joint pilot between schools and specialist mental health services, to help schools draw on specialist support for their pupils, where needed.

To improve the specialist support available, the Government made available £150m in April 2015 for 5 years to enable specific improvements in the support available to young people with eating disorders. In 2016 -17, £30m of this funding has been allocated by NHS England to Clinical Commissioning Groups to improve community based eating disorder services.

■ Sex and Relationship Education

William Wragg: [\[42647\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what account the Government plans to take of the recommendations of the report from the Terrence Higgins Trust, Shh.No Talking, published in July 2016, in ensuring the adoption of a sex and relationship education curriculum which includes LGBT issues for the purposes of supporting young people's long-term physical and mental health and general wellbeing.

William Wragg: [\[42706\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to Terrence Higgins Trust's report Shh.No Talking, published in July 2016, what steps she is taking to ensure that sufficient resources are given to local authorities and schools to ensure that sex and relationships education lessons are properly resourced and teachers are trained.

Edward Timpson:

High quality sex and relationship education is a vital part of preparing young people for life in modern Britain. It should also help young people to make informed choices, stay safe and learn to respect themselves and others.

Our statutory Sex and Relationship Guidance is clear that young people, whatever their developing sexuality or identity, should feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them and sensitive to their needs.

Sex and relationship education is compulsory in all maintained secondary schools and many primary schools also teach it in an age appropriate manner. Decisions relating to resources and teachers' professional development rest with schools, headteachers, and teachers themselves, as they best know the needs of their staff and pupils.

■ Teachers: Internet

Jess Phillips: [\[42149\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much her Department has spent on its teaching blog since that blog was established.

Jess Phillips: [\[42150\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many visits her Department's teaching blog has received on average each week since that blog was established.

Jess Phillips: [\[42151\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many staff of her Department work on its teaching blog.

Nick Gibb:

The teaching blog has received an average of 758 visits per week, and 15,938 visits in total. The costs are only in staff time and image usage of £2.50 per image as the blog is hosted on the GOV.UK platform. The blog is run by the Department's social media team as a small proportion of one member of staff's overall workload.

■ Teachers: Resignations

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[42654\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2016 to Question 41323, what assessment she has made of the reasons for the increase in the number of teachers leaving state-funded schools between 2011 and 2015; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

The proportion of teachers leaving the profession has remained at around 10% a year since 1996. However, there are more qualified teachers than ever before with 440,000 in 2011 compared to 456,900 in 2015.

We recognise that it is vital for schools to be able to retain good teachers – that is why we have made policy interventions in the areas that teachers tell us matter most such as improving pupil behaviour and reducing unnecessary workload.

We asked Tom Bennett, a behaviour expert, to chair an expert group to develop core content on behaviour management for the framework of content for initial teacher training, and the group's recommendations were published last week.

We set up three independent review groups to address unnecessary workload in the key areas of marking, planning and data management. The groups reported early this year, and set out clear principles about what should happen in schools to reduce unnecessary workload in these areas. The Government has accepted all the relevant recommendations made by the groups, and we will continue to work with the teaching

profession to make sure they have the ongoing support they need to continue reducing unnecessary teacher workload.

We have recently conducted the first biennial Teacher Workload Survey, which will allow us to track teacher workload over the coming years. The results of the first survey will be published later this year.

■ Teachers: Strikes

Mr Nigel Evans: [\[43270\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many teachers went on strike in Lancashire on 5 July 2016.

Nick Gibb:

Of the schools in the North West with a known status, over 80% remained open or partially open to students.

The Department cannot release this information at local authority (LA) level, or the number of teachers who went on strike as this data is provided voluntarily by LAs on the understanding that it will not be published.

■ Teachers: Training

Melanie Onn: [\[42393\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the performance of the National Allocation Scheme relating to initial teacher training as part of National Teaching School programme.

Nick Gibb:

There is no 'National Allocation Scheme', but this year we have used recruitment controls for the purpose of recruitment to Initial Teacher Training (ITT). Information on these recruitment controls can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-training-itt-recruitment-controls>

In response to feedback from the sector from previous years, we changed the approach to initial teacher training (ITT) allocations for 2016-17 recruitment. The National College for Teaching and Leadership did not allocate a specific number of places to individual organisations for postgraduate ITT courses due to start in the 2016-17 academic year. Instead, eligible schools, School Centred Initial Teacher Training providers (SCITTs) and higher education institutions (HEIs) are able to recruit (subject to a limited number of controls) as many trainees as they feel they need until the overall system has recruited sufficient trainees.

The Census data which will be published online later in 2016 will indicate the number of trainees recruited by subject.

Melanie Onn:

[\[42395\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what progress her Department has made on regionalisation of the initial teacher training programme.

Nick Gibb:

We are monitoring recruitment at a regional level in all subjects to ensure that the regional balance of initial teacher training (ITT) provision is maintained. We reserve the right to control recruitment in particular regions for all ITT routes and courses. It is important to maintain the regional balance of ITT provision and consequently we may use recruitment controls to prevent significant geographical variation in the distribution of provision compared to previous years. However, we will not operate with regional targets.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Aarhus Convention

Deidre Brock:

[\[43162\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether it is her policy that the UK will continue to adhere to the terms of the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters after the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Until we leave the EU, EU law continues to apply so the UK continues to comply with EU law that implements obligations in the Aarhus Convention. The UK remains a Party to the Aarhus Convention.

■ Agriculture: Subsidies

Dan Jarvis:

[\[43181\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will make it her policy that payments delivered through the Common Agricultural Policy will in future be delivered at the same level by the Government in the event of the UK leaving the EU.

George Eustice:

Defra is currently working on a range of proposals to inform discussions about the shape of a future agricultural policy to replace the CAP and we will be involving stakeholders in those discussions.

■ Air Pollution: West Yorkshire

Craig Whittaker:

[\[43112\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if the Government will take steps to work with local authorities and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to improve air quality in West Yorkshire.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

We are aware that local authorities have a crucial role to play in improving air quality across the UK. The Government is already taking a number of steps to support them in this role.

The national air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide, published in December 2015, sets out a comprehensive approach for meeting air quality challenges by implementing a new programme of Clean Air Zones in five cities in England, one of which is Leeds. The Plan 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.

We have allocated funding to help Leeds City Council implement the Clean Air Zone and are working closely with City officials on its development. Delivery of the Clean Air Zone will also take account of the need to work closely with related authorities and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Local authorities additionally have a duty to evaluate local air quality against standards set by the Government. They designate air quality management areas (AQMAs) at locations where these standards are not met and take remedial actions to improve air quality at these locations. Six local authorities in West Yorkshire - Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield and York - have declared AQMAs and are implementing remedial action plans to improve air quality in their areas.

Defra introduced regulatory and guidance changes in 2015 to provide better and clearer guidance to local authorities on local air quality management to enable them to improve air quality in their areas and achieve better health and environmental outcomes.

Defra supports local authorities through the Air Quality Grant Scheme, a competitive fund they can bid into to support local action to improve air quality. Details and criteria for this year's scheme will be available later in the year.

■ Climate Change**Caroline Lucas:**[\[42909\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when she plans to provide a comprehensive government response to the Committee on Climate Change UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report 2017; if she will meet the Committee on Climate Change to discuss the contents and recommendations of that report; if she will discuss that report with other relevant departments; and if she will make a statement.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report published by the Committee on Climate Change on 12 July was commissioned by Defra to inform the Second UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Government Report that will be laid in Parliament in January 2017. The Government will subsequently respond to the new evidence in a second National Adaptation Programme report as soon as practicable thereafter.

Defra ministers have met and will continue to meet with members of the Committee on Climate Change and the Adaptation Sub-Committee to discuss their work, including the Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report. Officials also meet regularly with members of the Committee as part of formal governance arrangements. Government departments provided input to the Evidence Report and will be closely involved in the preparation of the Government Report and, subsequently, the National Adaptation Programme.

■ Dairy Farming**Jim Shannon:**[\[43048\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that dairy farmers receive a greater proportion of the profits of their produce compared to other elements of the supply chain.

George Eustice:

The voluntary Code of Practice on contractual relationships has been extremely important for improving relationships across the dairy industry through greater transparency and predictability in milk pricing arrangements. It is for the industry to review it and check that it is working. The Code was last independently reviewed in 2014 which showed that it has been effective, but the review made some recommendations which its signatories (Dairy UK, NFU Scotland and the NFU) are taking forward.

The Groceries Code Adjudicator also has an important role to play in changing behaviours and the overall culture of the sector. A review of the Grocery Code Adjudicator is due this year and we will look at how this can help the farming industry.

The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board has established a Volatility Forum which brings together government, the farming industry and wider supply chain to catalyse knowledge exchange and long-term engagement with new risk management tools. It is exploring options such as forward contracts and use of futures markets, which could give farmers more certainty over price and share risk throughout the supply chain.

Retailers have also shown their support for the British dairy industry. For example, Tesco has pledged that all own-brand yoghurt will now be made with British milk, Morrisons has launched the 'Milk for Farmers' brand that allows customers to pay more if they want to support British farmers and Arla has launched 'Arla Farmers Milk' where an additional 25p of the retail price of a four pint carton is paid to its farmers.

■ **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Maps**

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[42911\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 15 July 2016 to Question 42314, what the process is for disposal of outdated or damaged maps held by her Department.

George Eustice:

Defra has no specific process for disposal of printed maps. A number of out of date maps were included in a sale of old library books in 2014 and the proceeds of £161.60 were donated to charity.

■ **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: UK Withdrawal from EU**

Diana Johnson: [\[43448\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she has taken to ensure that the (a) devolved administrations, (b) local government and (c) regional bodies are represented in negotiations to exit the EU.

George Eustice:

Until we leave the EU, current arrangements for farming, fisheries, food and drink, rural affairs and our environment remain in place.

We are now preparing to negotiate our exit. Defra officials will be working with the new Department for Exiting the European Union to look at future arrangements. The Government will work very closely with the Devolved Administrations, local government and regional bodies on this approach.

■ **Dog Fighting**

Craig Whittaker: [\[43086\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to tackle and prevent organised dog fighting.

George Eustice:

The Government considers that the necessary laws to tackle dog fighting are already in place. The police have specific powers under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to tackle dog fighting and work closely with the Special Operations Unit of the RSPCA to gather intelligence against gangs involved in organised dog fights.

■ **Environment Protection: EU Law**

Deidre Brock: [\[43163\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether it is her policy to continue to require protection of habitats and species under the same or similar terms to those of current EU law.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Until we leave the EU, current arrangements for our environment remain in place.

Defra will continue to ensure the right policies are in place for a cleaner, healthier environment for everyone.

The Government will wish to consider the impacts of the decision to leave the EU, including for protected species, the UK's Natura 2000 and other protected sites. We have a manifesto commitment to produce a 25 Year Plan for the Environment. We all now have an opportunity to consider our long-term vision for the environment following the referendum vote.

■ Environment Protection: Scotland

Deidre Brock: [\[43161\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to devolve to Scotland the areas of law and policy on the environment formerly dealt with by the EU after the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

George Eustice:

Until we leave the EU, current arrangements for farming, fisheries, food and drink, rural affairs and our environment remain in place. Defra will continue to ensure the right policies are in place for a cleaner, healthier environment for everyone.

We are now preparing to negotiate our exit. Defra officials will be working with the new Department for Exiting the European Union to look at future support for the environment. The Government will work very closely with the Devolved Administrations, Parliament, and a wide range of other interested parties on this approach.

■ Farmers: Bureaucracy

Jim Shannon: [\[43049\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to minimise bureaucracy for farmers.

George Eustice:

During the previous Parliament Defra made significant progress in reducing regulatory burdens on all businesses. These were listed in my Written Ministerial Statement of 25 March 2015. Defra continues to take forward reforms to deliver our policy outcomes more efficiently for farmers. The Farm Visits programme was established in July 2015 to reduce the number of farm visits by 20,000 by 2020, reduce the regulatory burden on farmers and improve customer service. The programme has implemented a single helpline for farmers, started to combine inspections where it is beneficial to the farmer, and, in June established the farm visits coordination unit. I also announced in April changes to the arrangements for reporting livestock movements that will significantly reduce burdens for keepers. A Cutting Red Tape review of farm information reporting requirements is also under way whose recommendations will be published in due course.

■ Farmers: EU Internal Trade

Deidre Brock: [\[43159\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she plans to take to protect the access of UK farmers to European markets.

George Eustice:

Until we leave the EU, current arrangements for farming, food and drink and our environment remain in place.

We are now preparing to negotiate our exit. Defra will be working with the Department for Exiting the EU on the UK's withdrawal and future relationship, liaising closely with other key departments on future support for farmers, the food and drink industry and the environment. The Government will work with industry and the public to develop these new arrangements.

■ Fisheries

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[42926\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate she has made of the value of fishing to the UK economy in each of the last five financial years.

George Eustice:

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO)'s Annual Fisheries Statistics show the contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to the UK economy over the calendar year period 2010-2014, as shown in the Table.

| YEAR | CONTRIBUTION OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTORS TO THE UK ECONOMY (£ MILLION) |
|------|---|
| 2010 | 542 |
| 2011 | 466 |
| 2012 | 438 |
| 2013 | 454 |
| 2014 | 426 |

Table: Contribution of the Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors to the UK economy, 2010-2014 (MMO, accessed 2016).

Figures for 2015 are not yet available.

■ Fisheries: Finance

Scott Mann: [\[43417\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if her Department will take steps to provide financial support to coastal communities to develop their capacity to manage local fishing waters after the UK leaves the EU.

George Eustice:

The precise nature of our relationship with the EU is still being determined and will be subject to negotiation. We will be looking at a future package for fishing, including potential support measures, and will work closely with industry and other key interests to develop these new arrangements.

■ Flood Control: EU Grants and Loans

Diana Johnson: [\[43447\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment she has made of the effect of leaving the EU on EU funding for flood defence projects.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

No Government Grant-in-Aid funding for flood defence projects comes from the European Union. Where EU Structural Funds are being used in partnership funding, current arrangements for such funding will remain in place until we leave the EU.

■ Gun Sports

Jim Shannon: [\[43050\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the value of shooting sports is recognised in legislation protecting wildlife.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Nature protection and management is a devolved issue, so I can only answer with respect to England. When carried out in accordance with the law, shooting is a legitimate and humane activity. In addition to its significant economic contribution, providing jobs and investment in some of our most remote areas, the Government recognises that shooting offers important benefits for wildlife and habitat conservation and can be a useful wildlife management measure.

The Government's position is that people should be free to undertake lawful activities if they wish to do so and shooting is a permitted method of control in legislation protecting wildlife.

■ Moths: Crops

Jim Shannon:

[\[43051\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to address the recent influx of diamondback moths and its effect on crops.

George Eustice:

Diamondback moths migrate to the UK every year. While the number observed this year is particularly high, there has been no significant damage reported in crops and a number of effective pesticides are available for farmers.

Protecting our country from pests and diseases is important for our economy, the environment and our health. We will continue to monitor the situation and work with farmers to limit the damage to our valuable crops sector.

■ Pigmeat: China

Nigel Adams:

[\[42945\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when her Department submitted the final information required by the Chinese authorities to approve the export of pigs' trotters to China to those authorities.

George Eustice:

We have worked with the UK pork industry to collate the necessary data and information requested by the Chinese authorities. The last set of information from all companies involved was submitted at the end of June and we continue to work with the Chinese authorities as they review this information to ensure they have everything they need to finalise the agreement.

Nigel Adams:

[\[42946\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what length of time there was between her Department receiving information from Cranswick plc that was required for the approval of the export of pigs' trotters to China before her Department provided that information to the Chinese authorities.

George Eustice:

The Chinese authorities requested information relating to the whole UK pork industry, involving the collation of information from a number of different companies. Once the necessary information was received from all pork companies involved, via AHDB, this was reviewed and verified by Defra and submitted to the Chinese authorities with accompanying competent authority assurances. The information was submitted to the Chinese authorities as soon as it was ready, following review and verification by Defra, meaning that it was sent in four separate tranches. Information relating to Cranswick specifically was first received on 21 December 2015 and submitted the following morning. The second tranche was received on 26 January and contained a large amount of detailed information from all the companies involved. This required extensive review

and verification by Defra and was sent on 3 March. The third set of information was received on 24 March and once the necessary verification had taken place was submitted on 4 April. The final set of information was received on 24 June and submitted to the Chinese authorities on 27 June.

Nigel Adams: [\[42947\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when the most recent meeting took place between the UK Embassy in Beijing and the Chinese Certification and Accreditation Administration; whether approval for the export of pigs' trotters to China was discussed at that meeting; and what the outcome of that meeting was.

George Eustice:

The UK Agriculture, Food and Drink Counsellor in Beijing meets with the Chinese Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA) on a regular basis to raise the importance of reaching agreement on the export of pigs' trotters to China. The most recent meeting took place in the week of 11 July where agreement was reached on some additional information required by CNCA on which Defra is working as a priority.

Nigel Adams: [\[42948\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the reasons are for the time taken to begin trade with China in pigs' trotters since the protocol on such trade was signed in November 2015.

George Eustice:

The signing of the protocol was an important stage in reaching agreement for the export of UK pigs' trotters to China. We are now completing the additional requirements as part of the normal process of finalising the agreement with China.

■ Poultry: Animal Welfare

Caroline Lucas: [\[42910\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of the welfare of quail in the egg farming industry; and if she will extend the ban on the use of unenriched battery cages for laying hens to quail egg production.

George Eustice:

The welfare of all animals, including quail raised for egg production, is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which makes it an offence to fail to provide satisfactorily for welfare needs.

The ban on conventional cages only applies to laying hens of the species *Gallus gallus*.

■ Rural Areas

Deidre Brock:

[\[43158\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to assess the potential effect on rural communities of a UK withdrawal from the EU.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The UK is still a member of the EU and we will continue to engage with EU business as normal and be engaged in EU decision-making in the usual way.

Once Article 50 is invoked, we will remain bound by EU law until the withdrawal agreement comes into force.

We now have an historic opportunity to deliver an environment for future generations to be proud of, grow our world leading food and farming industry that continues to attract significant global investment and harness the enormous economic potential of our rural communities.

■ Timber: Air Pollution

Jim Shannon:

[\[43047\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what research her Department has conducted or assessed on the effect of wood-burning stoves on air pollution.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Defra has commissioned its independent Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) to assess the potential air quality impacts of biomass combustion, including from domestic wood burning stoves. The report reviews the current evidence base and provides recommendations for further assessment. The report will be published in due course.

Air quality is monitored and assessed on an ongoing basis. The National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory is updated annually and compiles data on total UK air pollutant emissions from a broad range of sources. This includes estimates of emissions from domestic combustion.

Defra undertakes air quality modelling to assess the impact emissions have on concentrations of air pollutants in the UK. This is carried out on an annual basis.

Defra also commissioned research aimed at testing different measurement techniques on stoves to inform analysis on the impacts of the Eco-design Directive, which will provide new Particulate Matter emission limits for domestic stoves and boilers. This research will be published in due course.

■ Tree Planting

Jim Shannon:

[\[43052\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to encourage tree planting; and what grants are available for that purpose.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Government is committed to planting 11 million trees in England during this Parliament, and is also supporting the planting of a million trees by schoolchildren, in partnership with the Woodland Trust. Individual administrations within the UK determine their own ambitions for tree planting.

In England, we encourage tree planting by championing sector-led initiatives, such as Grown in Britain and the Roots to Prosperity strategy, in their work to grow demand for wood from ground level up, developing the woodland economy. We also support the Woodland Carbon Code to help to attract private investment in woodland creation.

Grants are available from the Forestry Commission under the EU funded Woodland Creation Grant in the Rural Development Programme for England. Until negotiations conclude and the UK leaves the EU, all existing arrangements remain in place, including the rural development programme. We are working with the Treasury to ensure continuity, particularly for agri-environment schemes, but without prejudice to future decisions.

EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION■ **Alcoholic Drinks**

Deidre Brock: [\[43203\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will, in his negotiations to leave the EU, ensure that the agreement puts no legal obstacle in the way of the Scottish Government's policy of minimum alcohol pricing.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Government will fully involve the devolved administrations, including Scotland, as we prepare for negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU. We are working towards securing the best possible deal for the whole UK. The Government will continue to consult a broad range of stakeholders, including governments and business, on the implications of the referendum result.

■ **British Overseas Territories**

Andrew Rosindell: [\[43285\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what plans his Department has to ensure that Gibraltar and other Overseas Territories will be included from the beginning in negotiations related to the UK leaving the EU.

Mr Robin Walker:

We are committed to working closely with the UK Parliament, devolved administrations, Overseas Territories and Crown dependencies and a wide range of other interested parties on what approach the Government should take to negotiations on the UK's exit

from the EU. I addressed this subject in greater detail in the debate held on 20 July:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-07-20/debates/16072020000001/EUReferendumGibraltar>

■ Common Agricultural Policy

Dan Jarvis: [\[43187\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what steps he plans to take during negotiations on leaving the EU to ensure that people in the UK who benefit from the Common Agricultural Policy are not disadvantaged by the UK leaving the EU.

Mr Robin Walker:

We continue to receive views across the range of the Department's responsibilities following the outcome of the EU Referendum. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the EU and current EU funding arrangements will continue unchanged. Defra will be liaising closely with other key departments, the industry and the public on future support for agriculture and its beneficiaries.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Jonathan Ashworth: [\[43065\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whom he has appointed as his new special advisers.

Mr Robin Walker:

Cabinet Members are entitled to two special advisers. These appointments will be made in the coming days and weeks.

■ Department for Exiting the European Union: Staff

Jonathan Ashworth: [\[43032\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many officials his Department will have once it is fully staffed; and by what date he expects his Department to be fully staffed.

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[43144\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what estimate he has made of the number of officials that will be employed by his Department in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement.

Tom Brake: [\[43282\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what the (a) budget and (b) staffing level will be for his Department in 2016-17.

Mr Robin Walker:

The new Department for Exiting the European Union will be made up of staff from various departments across Government. The overall size and scope of the new department, including staffing and budget, are under consideration.

■ Devolution

Stephen Gethins: [\[43435\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what discussions he has had with Ministers from the devolved administrations since he took office.

Mr David Davis:

The Government will fully involve the devolved administrations, including Scotland, as we prepare for negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU. We are working towards securing the best possible deal for the whole UK, and we will work closely with colleagues in the devolved administrations. Details of Ministerial meetings will be published in the Department's Quarterly Transparency Returns, which will be made publicly available on GOV.UK.

■ Digital Technology

Calum Kerr: [\[43440\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will ensure the UK's participation in the Digital Single Market during negotiations for UK withdrawal from the EU.

Mr David Davis:

While the UK remains a member of the EU it will continue to play an active role in the development of the Digital Single Market.

■ Drugs: Innovation

Diana Johnson: [\[43441\]](#)

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

Mr David Davis:

The Innovative Medicines Initiative is a joint undertaking between the European Union and the pharmaceutical industry association EFPIA to boost biomedical innovation. The UK remains a member of the EU until our withdrawal is completed. UK researchers can still apply for Horizon 2020 projects. Future involvement will need to be agreed in forthcoming negotiations.

■ ERASMUS

Diana Johnson: [\[43442\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will make it his policy to ensure that (a) UK students can continue to participate in the Erasmus programme and (b) UK universities can continue to participate in cross-European research projects.

Mr David Davis:

The UK remains a member of the EU until our withdrawal is completed. There is no immediate change to the rights of UK universities and their students and staff from EU countries. UK researchers can still apply for Horizon 2020 projects. There is no change to those currently participating in, or about to start, Erasmus+ exchanges and Marie Curie fellowships.

■ EU Budget

Diana Johnson:

[\[43444\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, when he plans that the UK will cease contributing towards the funding of the EU.

Mr David Davis:

The UK will remain a full member of the EU, with all of the rights and obligations, until it leaves. As we establish a UK approach and objectives for negotiations on the UK's exit, a range of decisions will be made, including on funding.

■ EU Countries: British Nationals Abroad

Stephen Gethins:

[\[43189\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what discussions he has had with other EU member states on the rights of UK nationals living in those countries.

Stephen Gethins:

[\[43239\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will make it his policy that nationals from other EU countries who are resident in the UK will be able to remain in the UK after the UK has left the EU.

Mr Robin Walker:

The rights retained by EU nationals here and British citizens in other EU states once the UK has left the European Union will be agreed during the course of negotiations. The Government fully expects that the legal status of EU nationals in the UK will be properly protected when we leave the EU. We also expect the same for British nationals in other EU Member States.

■ EU Law

Deidre Brock:

[\[43256\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will, in negotiations to leave the EU, ensure that courts retain the ability after the UK leaves the EU to put questions of EU law for matters arising before the UK left the EU to the Court of Justice.

Mr Robin Walker:

Under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, the arrangements relating to the UK's withdrawal are to be made between the UK and the EU in a withdrawal treaty. Our efforts will be focused on getting the best deal possible for the UK in the negotiations with the EU.

■ Food

Deidre Brock: [\[43202\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will, in his negotiations to leave the EU, retain production chain food traceability measures for live animals, animal-based products and plants.

Deidre Brock: [\[43204\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will, in his negotiations to leave the EU, retain common European control of food standards, animal feed safety and food hygiene.

Deidre Brock: [\[43205\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will, in his negotiations to leave the EU, retain free movement of animals as (a) pets and (b) farm animals.

Mr Robin Walker:

We continue to receive views across the range of the Department's responsibilities following the outcome of the EU Referendum. Defra will be working on our future policies in this area, liaising closely with other key departments on future support for agriculture, animal welfare, and the food and drink industry. The Government will work with industry and the public to develop these new arrangements.

■ Foreign Relations

Diana Johnson: [\[43443\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what discussions he has had with UK universities on their views on the UK's future engagement with the EU.

Diana Johnson: [\[43445\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what meetings he has had with (a) businesses, (b) trade unions and (c) trade bodies on the UK's future engagement with the EU.

Mr David Davis:

As we prepare for negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU, the Government will continue to consult with a broad range of stakeholders in order to secure the best possible deal for the whole UK. Details of Ministerial meetings will be published in the Department's Quarterly Transparency Returns, which will be made publicly available on GOV.UK.

■ Free Movement of People

Stephen Gethins: [\[43302\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what assessment he has made of the economic benefits of maintaining freedom of movement between the UK and the EU.

Mr David Davis:

Our economy is fundamentally strong, and the UK is open to business and investment. We will need to consider all factors carefully in implementing the decision of the British people.

■ Parliament

Tom Watson: [\[43453\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what his policy is on the role Parliament will have in negotiations related to the UK leaving the EU.

Mr David Davis:

The Department for Exiting the EU will work closely with Parliament on what the approach to negotiations should be. While legally there is no obligation to consult Parliament on triggering Article 50, it will clearly have an important role in making sure that we find the best way forward.

Tom Watson: [\[43454\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether he plans to consult Parliament on the triggering of Article 50.

Mr Robin Walker:

The British people have voted to leave the European Union and their will must be respected and delivered. While legally there is no obligation to consult Parliament on triggering Article 50, it will clearly have an important role in making sure that we find the best way forward.

■ Political Parties

Tom Watson: [\[43465\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what plans he has to consult opposition parties on the process of negotiating the UK exit from the EU; and what plans he has to consult those parties during those negotiations.

Mr David Davis:

The Department for Exiting the EU will lead the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union and establish the future relationship between the EU and the UK, working closely with the UK Parliament, devolved administrations, and a wide range of other interested parties. Consultation with opposition parties will be an important part of this process.

■ Renewable Energy

Diana Johnson: [\[43437\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will ensure full access to the EU single market for the renewable energy industry following UK withdrawal from the EU.

Mr David Davis:

The Government has been engaging with key energy stakeholders, including investors in the renewable energy sector, to make it clear that we are open for business. We will want the strongest possible economic links with our European neighbours. The UK remains an attractive environment for investors in energy.

■ **Science: Finance**

Andy Slaughter: [43303]

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on funding for the UK's life sciences sector.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Government recognises the importance of our research base, which is why we have protected the science budget in real terms from its current level of £4.7 bn for the rest of the parliament.

The referendum result has no immediate effect on the right of researchers to apply to or participate in EU research programmes. We remain a part of the EU until negotiations are concluded. While the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU arrangements continue unchanged. UK participants, including those researching mental health issues, can continue to apply to programmes in the usual way. The future of UK access to these programmes is one of many issues to be addressed in our EU negotiations.

■ **UK Withdrawal from EU**

Stephen Gethins: [43033]

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what role the Scottish Government and other devolved administrations have in negotiating with the EU.

Andrew Rosindell: [43284]

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what role the Scottish Parliament will have in negotiations related to the UK leaving the EU.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Government will fully involve the devolved administrations, including Scotland, as we prepare for negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU. We are working towards securing the best possible deal for the whole UK, and to achieve this we will need to work closely with colleagues in the devolved administrations at official and ministerial level. I addressed this subject in greater detail in the debate held on 21 July:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-07-21/debates/16072153000001/EUExitDevolvedGovernments>

Stephen Gethins: [43257]

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what discussions he has had with other EU countries on the timetable for triggering Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union.

Mr Robin Walker:

The process for leaving the EU and determining our future relationship will be a complex one, so we need to take time to think through our objectives and approach. We want to ensure the best possible outcome for Britain and the future UK-EU relationship. The Prime Minister has said she will not trigger Article 50 until we have a UK approach and objectives, and Article 50 should therefore not be invoked before the end of this year.

Tom Brake:

[\[43289\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, with reference to the Written Statement of 18 July 2016, Machinery of Government Changes, HCWS94, who the interested parties are that the Government plans to consult on the future relationship between the UK and the EU.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Government has been consulting, and will continue to consult, with a broad range of stakeholders on the implications of the referendum result. These will include the UK Parliament, devolved administrations, Overseas Territories and Crown dependencies, businesses, and other interest groups.

Andrew Rosindell:

[\[43290\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what criteria his Department has drawn up that must be satisfied before the Government activates Article 50.

Mr Robin Walker:

The process for leaving the EU and determining our future relationship will be a complex one, so we need to take time to think through our objectives and approach. We want to ensure the best possible outcome for Britain and the future UK-EU relationship. The Prime Minister has said she will not trigger Article 50 until we have a UK approach and objectives, and Article 50 should therefore not be invoked before the end of this year.

Andrew Rosindell:

[\[43291\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what process his Department plans to use to recruit negotiators for the forthcoming negotiations on the UK exit from the EU.

Mr Robin Walker:

The new Department for Exiting the European Union is equipping itself to oversee negotiations to leave the EU and establish the future relationship between the UK and EU. The overall size and scope of the new department, including staffing and budget, are now under consideration.

Stephen Gethins:

[\[43301\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what plans the Government has to trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty.

Mr Robin Walker:

The Prime Minister has said she will not trigger Article 50 until we have a UK approach and objectives, and Article 50 should therefore not be invoked before the end of this

year. The process for leaving the EU and determining our future relationship will be a complex one, so we need to take time to think through our objectives and approach. We want to ensure the best possible outcome for Britain and the future UK-EU relationship.

■ **UK Withdrawal from EU: Costs**

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[43425\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether his Department has made an estimate of the total cost to the public purse of negotiations for leaving the EU; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Davis:

The new Department for Exiting the European Union is equipping itself to oversee negotiations to leave the EU and establish the future relationship between the UK and EU. The overall size and scope of the new department, including staffing and budget, are under consideration.

■ **UK Withdrawal from EU: Scotland**

Stephen Gethins: [\[43449\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what plans he has to engage with Scottish businesses and civic society on the negotiations to exit the EU.

Mr David Davis:

The Government will fully involve all parts of the UK, including Scotland, as we prepare for negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU. We are working towards securing the best possible deal for the whole UK, and to achieve this we will work closely with businesses and other interest groups.

■ **Visas: EU Nationals**

Diana Johnson: [\[43434\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what assessment he has made of the practical consequences of re-introducing a visa system for EU citizens entering the UK and the ability of UK embassies and consulates to fulfil this requirement.

Mr Robin Walker:

The process for leaving the EU and determining our future relationship, including freedom of movement, will be a complex one, so we need to take time to think through our objectives and approach. We want to ensure the best possible outcome for Britain and the future UK-EU relationship.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE■ **Angola: Human Rights****Fabian Hamilton:**[\[42702\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his counterparts in Angola on freedom of human rights activists and organisations in Angola.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK Government continue to have concerns over the freedom of human rights activists and organisations in Angola. We followed the case of the 15+2 closely. The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) raised his concerns over the handling of the case and length of sentencing with the Minister of Justice and Human Rights during his visit to Luanda on 8 June. During the course of the trial, UK staff in Luanda discussed the promotion and development of human rights with the Angolan Minister of Justice and Human Rights; the Public Prosecutor; the Secretary of State for Human Rights; the Minister of Foreign Affairs; and the Minister for Presidential Affairs.

■ **Angola: Yellow Fever****Fabian Hamilton:**[\[42701\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his counterparts in Angola on the yellow fever epidemic and shortages of medical supplies.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

FCO officials have been in direct contact with the Angolan Government and Angolan Embassy in London on yellow fever. Although we are unable to provide direct assistance given the UK regulations around yellow fever supplies, the Department for International Development are directly funding Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and as its largest donor is providing £1.44 billion for 2016-2020. Gavi is supporting Angola's response through the International Coordination Group's (ICG) Revolving Fund. Angola has already received 7 million doses from the ICG to respond to the outbreak. We also provide central funding to the WHO, who have been running a vaccination campaign in Luanda province.

■ **Bangladesh: Religious Freedom****Bob Blackman:**[\[42822\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with the government of Bangladesh on tackling levels of violence against minority Hindu communities in that country.

Bob Blackman:

[\[42823\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to encourage the government of Bangladesh to put perpetrators of violence against religious minorities on trial as soon as possible.

Alok Sharma:

The British Government is extremely concerned by the increase in extremist-related violence against a number of minority groups including Hindus in Bangladesh since September 2015. The former Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron) most recently talked to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh about countering extremism in the margins of the G7 meeting in Japan on 27 May. The former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) raised this with Foreign Minister Ali on 5 July. The British High Commissioner regularly discusses these issues with Bangladesh government ministers.

We welcome Prime Minister Hasina's "zero tolerance" approach towards terrorism, but this must be implemented in a way that fully respects the international rights standards that Bangladesh has signed up to and which, as a member of both the Commonwealth and the UN Human Rights Council, it has pledged to uphold.

Bob Blackman:

[\[43156\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if his Department will take steps to encourage the government of Bangladesh to put the perpetrators of violence against religious minorities in the region on trial as soon as possible.

Alok Sharma:

The British Government is extremely concerned by the increase in extremist-related violence against a number of minority groups including Hindus in Bangladesh since September 2015. The former Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron) most recently talked to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh about countering extremism in the margins of the G7 meeting in Japan on 27 May. The former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) raised this with Foreign Minister Ali on 5 July. The British High Commissioner regularly discusses these issues with Bangladesh government ministers. We welcome Prime Minister Hasina's "zero tolerance" approach towards terrorism, but this must be implemented in a way that fully respects the international rights standards that Bangladesh has signed up to and which, as a member of both the Commonwealth and the UN Human Rights Council, it has pledged to uphold.

Bob Blackman:

[\[43157\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Bangladesh on tackling increasing levels of violence against minority Hindu communities in that country.

Alok Sharma:

The British Government is extremely concerned by the increase in extremist-related violence against a number of minority groups including Hindus in Bangladesh since September 2015. The former Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron) most recently talked to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh about countering extremism in the margins of the G7 meeting in Japan on 27 May. The former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) raised this with Foreign Minister Ali on 5 July. The British High Commissioner regularly discusses these issues with Bangladesh government ministers. We welcome Prime Minister Hasina's "zero tolerance" approach towards terrorism, but this must be implemented in a way that fully respects the international rights standards that Bangladesh has signed up to and which, as a member of both the Commonwealth and the UN Human Rights Council, it has pledged to uphold.

Burma: Human Rights**Mr Gavin Shuker:**[\[42847\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what his policy is on supporting an independent investigation with international experts to investigate human rights violations in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Alok Sharma:

Ms Yanghee Lee, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in Burma, produces regular reports which assess specifically allegations of human rights violations, particularly in Rakhine. Her role is mandated by annual UN Human Rights Council Resolutions, which the UK continues to support firmly. Additionally, UN High Commissioner Zeid presented a report to the June Human Rights Council in Geneva detailing patterns of violations and abuses committed over a prolonged period of time against the Rohingya and other minorities in Burma.

While it is clear that violations and abuses have taken place in Rakhine State, our priority is to encourage the new civilian Government to take urgent steps to: improve security and the humanitarian situation; lift restrictions on freedom of movement; and find a sustainable solution on citizenship.

Burma: Nationality**Mr Gavin Shuker:**[\[42851\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Myanmar government on reform of that country's 1982 Citizenship Law.

Alok Sharma:

The British Government's concerns that Burma's 1982 citizenship law does not meet international standards is well known. It is clear that a thorough process of legislative and judicial reform is required in Burma. The new Government have formed a

parliamentary committee to consider laws that require reform or repeal. That body has produced an initial list of 142 pieces of legislation to be considered. We encourage the new Government to consider the 1982 citizenship law within this exercise.

■ Burma: Politics and Government

Mr Gavin Shuker: [\[42848\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to support the Myanmar government beginning a reconciliation process between different communities and faith groups in that country.

Alok Sharma:

We are extremely concerned by the recent increase in inter-faith tensions in Burma, the violent incidents in Bago and Hpakant and anti-Muslim protests in Rakhine. Our Embassy in Rangoon has raised these concerns in detail with the Burmese authorities, stressing the need to uphold the rule of law for all communities.

We are promoting peace and reconciliation efforts in Burma through a range of bilateral and multilateral initiatives in support of the peace process, such as the Peace Support Fund and the Joint Peace Fund. We are providing £19 million over five years to the Peace Support Fund and, with a £5 million contribution, we are the largest donor to the multinational Joint Peace Fund. The British Government is one of the biggest humanitarian donors in Rakhine, contributing over £18m since 2012.

■ Burma: Rohingya

Mr Gavin Shuker: [\[42850\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Myanmar government on steps to prevent hate speech and incitement of violence against Rohingya people in that country.

Alok Sharma:

This is an issue of serious concern in light of the extensive inter-communal violence of 2012 and the large-scale Buddhist nationalist protests seen across Rakhine at the start of July this year. The British Government has repeatedly raised our concerns with the Burmese Government at the highest levels, and will continue to do so. The former Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the member for East Devon (Mr Swire), raised this a number of times, including in July 2015 last year during his visit to Burma, when he also visited Rakhine. We are encouraged to see that the new Burmese Government has started to take real steps to try to defuse tensions in Rakhine while making progress for the Rohingya, including through forming a cross-Government Rakhine committee and re-starting the citizenship verification exercise.

■ China: Abduction

Jim Shannon:

[\[43035\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese government on the abduction of activists from outside mainland China.

Alok Sharma:

The British Government remain concerned by the case of British citizen Lee Po and the other four Hong Kong booksellers. The National Security Adviser, Mark Lyall Grant, raised the case with the Chinese authorities on 13 June at the UK-China Security Dialogue. The former Foreign Secretary my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) also raised the case with the Hong Kong and Chinese authorities on 8 and 9 April.

■ China: Christianity

Jim Shannon:

[\[43039\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations to the Chinese government on the removal of crosses from Christian churches in Zhejiang province.

Alok Sharma:

We pay close attention to the human rights situation in China and remain concerned by all reports of restrictions to freedom of religion or belief and persecution of faith groups, including reports of the removal of crosses from Christian churches in Zhejiang Province. A British official visited Wenzhou in May and spoke to church leaders. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my noble Friend, the Rt Hon. the Baroness of Anelay of St Johns raised the case of Ding Cuimei, who reportedly died while protesting the demolition of her church in Zhejiang province, with the Director of the National People's Congress Foreign Affairs Committee on 7 July.

■ China: Human Rights

Steve McCabe:

[\[42896\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 17 June 2016 to Question 39875, when he plans to hold the next round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue.

Alok Sharma:

We continue to press the Chinese authorities for dates for the next round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue. We value the Dialogue to raise the full range of our human rights concerns, but in its absence we raise individual cases of human rights abuse in other meetings. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my noble Friend, the Rt Hon. the Baroness of Anelay of St Johns raised the importance of the Dialogue and two individual cases of concern relating to religious freedoms and minority rights with Fu Ying, chair of China's National People's Congress' Foreign Affairs on 7 July.

■ China: Organs

Jim Shannon: [43036]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations to the UN on forced organ harvesting in China.

Alok Sharma:

The Government has no plans to make representations to the UN on organ harvesting in China. We pay close attention to the human rights situation in China, including allegations of organ harvesting and encourage China to implement its public commitment to stop the use of organs from prisoners. Our current assessment of the human rights situation in China can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy.

■ COE Commissioner for Human Rights

Greg Mulholland: [43323]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations his Department has made to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights in response to his Memorandum on surveillance and oversight mechanisms in the United Kingdom, published in May 2016.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Following his visit to the United Kingdom from 17 – 22 January, Commissioner Muižnieks published his "Memorandum on surveillance and oversight mechanisms in the United Kingdom" on 17 May. The same day Her Majesty's Government formally responded, detailing the necessity of surveillance powers and the ways in which the Government has brought world-leading oversight and transparency to these powers. The Government's full response, which runs to 27 pages, can be found on the Commissioner's website here: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/country-report/united-kingdom>

■ Ethiopia: Eritrea

Jim Shannon: [42606]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea in reducing conflict in border areas between those countries.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) gave on 29 June, to PQ 41027.

■ EU Countries: British Nationals Abroad

Tom Brake: [\[41956\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment the Government has made of the potential effect of the outcome of the EU referendum on the rights of British citizens to continue to reside in other EU countries.

Sir Alan Duncan:

Securing such rights will form an important part of the UK's negotiations to leave the EU.

■ Gibraltar

Mr Nigel Dodds: [\[42203\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions the Government has had with the Gibraltar authorities on the potential implications of the outcome of the EU referendum.

Sir Alan Duncan:

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) met the Chief Minister of Gibraltar in London on 16 July. The then Minister for Europe, my Rt Hon Friend the member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington) spoke to the Chief Minister twice by telephone on 24 June about the outcome of the referendum. He also met the Chief Minister on 28 June in London to discuss the potential implications, and again on 11 July alongside the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for West Dorset (Mr Letwin). In addition, officials continue to be in frequent contact with their Gibraltarian counterparts.

In all of these discussions, the former Minister of State made clear the outcome of the referendum does not affect the United Kingdom's steadfast and longstanding commitment to Gibraltar, and its guarantee to stand by the double-lock on sovereignty.

The Government has also confirmed that, as it prepares for the process to leave the EU, we will fully involve Gibraltar to ensure that all of its interests are taken properly into account. In the meantime, the Government will continue to take whatever action is necessary to safeguard Gibraltar, its people and its economy, including maintaining a well-functioning Gibraltar-Spain border.

■ Hong Kong: Human Rights

Jim Shannon: [\[43038\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with Chinese government on protection of freedom of religious belief and human rights in Hong Kong.

Alok Sharma:

We take a close interest in the respect of all rights and freedoms guaranteed for Hong Kong in the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, including freedom of religion. In the Government's six monthly report to the House published in February

2016 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/six-monthly-report-on-hong-kong-july-to-december-2015>), we raised concerns about freedom of the press. During his meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on 9 April, the former Foreign Secretary my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) stressed the importance of respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of all residents of Hong Kong.

■ International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Richard Burden: [\[42734\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when the UK's representatives on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance were appointed and to whom they report.

Alok Sharma:

[Holding answer 19 July 2016]: The UK delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance is currently led by Sir Eric Pickles, the UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, appointed in September 2015, who reports to the Minister for Human Rights in the Foreign Office and also to the Prime Minister. There is no formal process for appointing members of the UK delegation. Representatives are drawn from a range of UK non-government organisations and academic institutions, covering Holocaust education, remembrance and research. Delegates are expected to play an active part in the IHRA's various working groups and committees, including taking part in discussions between formal meetings, and fund their own travel costs. We always welcome expressions of interest from organisations interested in being represented.

Richard Burden: [\[42760\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what plans the Government has for parliamentary scrutiny of the work of the UK's representatives on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; and if he will list the (a) dates and (b) means by which its decisions have been reported to Parliament during 2016.

Alok Sharma:

[Holding answer 19 July 2016]: The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance was established in 1988 as a result of the Stockholm Declaration, which represents a political commitment between signatories, rather than a legal one. Its decisions are not legally binding and have no direct impact on UK legislation, policy or resources. As such there is no formal requirement for parliamentary scrutiny of its decisions. All its activities and decisions are reported in full on its website.

■ Israel: Arms Trade

Mr David Anderson: [\[42997\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make it his policy to impose an embargo on the sale of arms between the UK and Israel.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The 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. We do not believe that imposing a blanket arms embargo on Israel would promote the urgent progress towards the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict which we want to see. We continue to monitor the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and take into account the latest circumstances when assessing licence applications. Israel, like any state, has the right to ensure its own security, as its citizens also have the right to live without fear of attack and we will continue to support Israel's right to defend itself.

■ **Israel: West Bank****Richard Burden:**[\[43397\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK's policy on the Middle East of recent demolitions by Israel of Palestinian homes and other structures in the West Bank.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK position on demolitions is clear: demolitions cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians; are harmful to the peace process; and are, in all but the most exceptional of cases, contrary to international humanitarian law. Officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have raised our opposition to demolitions with the Israeli authorities repeatedly, most recently on 12 July, and urged them to provide a legal route for Palestinian construction. I also made our position clear at Oral Questions in the House on 12 July.

■ **John Cantlie****Mr Barry Sheerman:**[\[42818\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to help secure the return of John Cantlie to the UK.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We do not comment publicly on our operational response to kidnappings. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to support Mr Cantlie's family at this difficult time.

■ **Joseph Kony****Jim Shannon:**[\[42607\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will provide assistance to the Ugandan government to support the capture of Joseph Kony in that country.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK supported UN sanctions placed on the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Joseph Kony and will consider imposing further sanctions on other members of the LRA. The

former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) welcomed the International Criminal Court's action in the case against LRA Commander, Dominic Ongwen and encourage the international community to work together to bring all perpetrators to justice.

The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) was alarmed at the LRA's increase in activities across eastern Central African Republic this year. Those attacks have involved looting, violence against civilians, destruction of property and abductions. The African Union's Regional Task Force remains the best tool the international community has to defeat the LRA and the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) welcomed the extension of the operation to May 2017. He urged the UN Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) to work with the region to ensure there is no increase in LRA activity.

The UK is working with UN Security Council partners on the MINUSCA (UN peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic) mandate renewal in which MINUSCA will be asked to enhance operational coordination and information sharing with the Regional Task Force.

■ Religious Freedom

Jim Shannon:

[42608]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will provide support to overseas students who convert to Christianity in the UK to ensure they are not persecuted for their religious beliefs when they return to their country of origin.

Alok Sharma:

The UK is a staunch defender of the right to freedom of religion or belief internationally. We believe that societies where freedom of religion or belief is protected are fairer, more tolerant and better able to resist extremist ideologies.

With this in mind, we actively lobby governments for changes to laws and practices that discriminate against individuals on the basis of their religion or belief.

In many cases students have access to alumni networks, often supported or endorsed by the British Embassy, once they have returned to their country of origin. Such networks can offer moral and practical support in times of need.

■ Russia: Diplomatic Service

Mark Pritchard:

[42321]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the Russian government on increases in the number of attacks on EU and US diplomats stationed in Russia.

Sir Alan Duncan:

We continue to take robust measures to protect all our staff in Russia and raise our concerns with the Russian authorities in Moscow and the Embassy in London as appropriate.

■ **Tibet: Human Rights**

Jim Shannon:

[\[43037\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with the government of China on human rights in Tibet.

Alok Sharma:

We set out our human rights concerns about China, and specifically in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annual report on Human Rights and Democracy. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my noble Friend, the Rt Hon. the Baroness of Anelay of St Johns raised our concerns about the Tibetan language advocate Tashi Wangchuk with the Director of the National People's Congress Foreign Affairs Committee on 7 July.

Jim Shannon:

[\[43040\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions the Government has had with (a) the Dalai Lama and (b) dissidents on human rights in Tibet.

Alok Sharma:

The Dalai Lama has not visited the UK since September 2015. Ministers did not meet the Dalai Lama during that visit. Officials discuss the human rights situation in Tibet regularly with NGOs and human rights activists. UK officials visited Tibetan regions in Gansu in March. UK officials have requested permission to visit the Tibet Autonomous Region later this year, but the Chinese authorities have not yet confirmed a date.

■ **Yemen: Armed Conflict**

Steve McCabe:

[\[42913\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 4 July 2016 to Question 41351, for what reason his Department has not called for an international commission of inquiry to be established in addition to the measures listed in that Answer.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We want to see the Saudis investigate allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL) which are attributed to them; and for their investigations to be thorough and conclusive. Saudi Arabia has publicly stated that it is investigating reports of alleged violations of IHL, and that any lessons learned will be acted upon. They have the best insight into their own military procedures. This is the standard we set ourselves and our allies. For example, when allegations have been made against us in Afghanistan and Iraq we investigated these claims.

■ Yemen: Bombings

Dr Lisa Cameron: [\[43139\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports he has received on the bombing of an Oxfam warehouse in Saada on 18 April 2015; and if he will commission a Government inquiry into that bombing.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We are aware of allegations of the bombing of an Oxfam warehouse on 18 April 2015. It is important that thorough and conclusive investigations are conducted into this incident. We encourage NGOs to share information of incidents of concern with HMG to be considered in the analysis conducted by MOD.

■ Yemen: Peace Negotiations

Steve McCabe: [\[42892\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 15 June 2016 to Question 40002, what support to the UN Special Envoys the £1.05 million will provide.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), has made clear that the Government continues to be fully supportive of the work of the UN Special Envoy. The UK's funding for the UN Special Envoy for Yemen's office, alongside support from other donors, is assisting the UN-led peace process. It enables the UN to recruit technical experts on issues such as mediation, ceasefire design and monitoring, and disarmament and demobilisation. Our support is also helping the UN deliver the logistics of holding formal talks, shuttle diplomacy, and engaging with other political actors in Yemen.

Craig Whittaker: [\[43116\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if his Department will work with (a) Oman and (b) other Middle Eastern countries to broker a deal to end the current conflict in Yemen.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), met his Saudi, Emirates and US counterparts on 19 July in London to review the situation in Yemen. A political solution is the best way to bring long-term stability and end the conflict. We welcome and fully support the UN led talks in Kuwait: now is the time to reach an agreement. We will continue to work closely with the UN and partners in the Middle East, including Oman, to encourage both sides to engage constructively.

■ Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Jim Shannon:

[[42609](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Zimbabwean counterpart on (a) steps to improve democracy and (b) support for the domestic production of food in that country.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK Government continues to stress the importance of political and governance reform and respect for human rights to the Government of Zimbabwe. The former Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) discussed these issues with Zimbabwean Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa on 5 July. He also raised the economic situation and land reform policy, which have a direct impact on Zimbabwe's agricultural capabilities. The UK's Livelihoods and Food Security Programme is providing over 130,000 farmers with training in the application of new agricultural technologies and management practices in crop and livestock production, including promoting the production of bio-fortified food crops. The programme is working with the private sector to offer agricultural inputs and outputs services to smallholder farmers, as well as improving agri - businesses and smallholder farmer access to finance.

HEALTH

■ Antidepressants: Prescriptions

Charlotte Leslie:

[[43304](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many prescriptions of individual antidepressants were dispensed in the community in 2015.

David Mowat:

This information is given in the table below:

THE NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTION ITEMS WRITTEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND DISPENSED IN THE COMMUNITY IN ENGLAND IN 2015, CLASSIFIED AS ANTIDEPRESSANT DRUGS IN BRITISH NATIONAL FORMULARY (BNF) SECTION 4.3, USING THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM PRIOR TO EDITION 70

| BNF Chemical Name | Prescription items (000s) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Agomelatine | 21.6 |
| Amitriptyline Hydrochloride | 12,404.5 |
| Amoxapine | - ¹ |
| Citalopram Hydrobromide | 14,403.8 |
| Citalopram Hydrochloride | 78.3 |
| Clomipramine Hydrochloride | 304.8 |

THE NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTION ITEMS WRITTEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND DISPENSED IN THE COMMUNITY IN ENGLAND IN 2015, CLASSIFIED AS ANTIDEPRESSANT DRUGS IN BRITISH NATIONAL FORMULARY (BNF) SECTION 4.3, USING THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM PRIOR TO EDITION 70

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Dosulepin Hydrochloride | 1,034.2 |
| Doxepin | 40.4 |
| Duloxetine Hydrochloride | 1,595.5 |
| Escitalopram | 932.6 |
| Fluoxetine Hydrochloride | 6,469.7 |
| Flupentixol Hydrochloride | 153.2 |
| Fluvoxamine Maleate | 27.9 |
| Imipramine Hydrochloride | 167.1 |
| Isocarboxazid | 1.8 |
| Lofepramine Hydrochloride | 253.1 |
| Mianserin Hydrochloride | 4.4 |
| Mirtazapine | 6,783.9 |
| Moclobemide | 20.5 |
| Nefazodone Hydrochloride | 0.2 |
| Nortriptyline | 574.6 |
| Other Antidepressant Preps | - ¹ |
| Oxtripitan | - ¹ |
| Paroxetine Hydrochloride | 1,466.5 |
| Phenelzine Sulfate | 17.5 |
| Reboxetine | 32.0 |
| Sertraline Hydrochloride | 9,447.8 |
| Tranlycypromine Sulfate | 8.6 |
| Trazodone Hydrochloride | 1,084.0 |
| Trimipramine Maleate | 73.6 |
| Tryptophan | 2.3 |

THE NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTION ITEMS WRITTEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND DISPENSED IN THE COMMUNITY IN ENGLAND IN 2015, CLASSIFIED AS ANTIDEPRESSANT DRUGS IN BRITISH NATIONAL FORMULARY (BNF) SECTION 4.3, USING THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM PRIOR TO EDITION 70

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Venlafaxine | 3,617.1 |
| Vortioxetine | 0.1 |
| Total ² | 61,021.6 |

Source: Prescription Cost Analysis system data provided by the Health and Social Care Information Centre

¹ Less than 50 prescription items dispensed.

² Total figure may not sum due to rounding

■ Blood: Contamination

Luciana Berger:

[43206]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the oral contribution of the previous Prime Minister on 13 July 2016, Official Report, column 291, on contaminated blood and compensation, when he expects the details of that scheme to be published.

Nicola Blackwood:

Reforming the infected blood ex-gratia support schemes remain a priority for this Government and, at his last Prime Minister's Questions on 13 July 2016, the then Prime Minister announced the publication of the Government's plans for reforming the current payment support schemes for individuals affected by HIV and/or hepatitis C through National Health Service-supplied blood, including its response to the public consultation which ran earlier this year.

The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Public Health (Jane Ellison) also issued a Written Ministerial Statement ([HCWS88](#)) on 14 July 2016.

The response document went live on the Gov.UK website on 13 July 2016 and can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/infected-blood-reform-of-financial-and-other-support

Christian Matheson:

[43389]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what legal or other agreements the Government has with suppliers of contaminated blood products to provide for liability and compensatory efforts to support people who contracted illnesses as a result of the use of such products.

Christian Matheson:

[43390]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much funding has been received by the public purse from suppliers of contaminated blood products to support compensation schemes for people adversely affected by the use of such products.

Nicola Blackwood:

There are no legal or other agreements in place between the Government and suppliers of contaminated blood products to provide support for those who contracted illnesses as a result of the use of such products. No money has been received by the Government from suppliers of such products to fund ex-gratia support.

■ Cerebral Palsy: Medical Treatments

Andrew Gwynne: [\[43354\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps the NHS plans to take to maintain the availability of selective dorsal rhizotomy for children with cerebral palsy during the Commissioning through Evaluation analysis phase.

David Mowat:

Recruitment of patients for the commissioning through evaluation process for the Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy procedure has now concluded, and an evaluation of the long term benefits is now in the analysis phase. There are no plans to provide Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy surgery to additional patients during this time.

■ Dental Services

Judith Cummins: [\[42943\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of NHS dentists practicing in (a) Bradford and (b) other areas with significantly above average incidences of oral and dental health problems.

David Mowat:

NHS England is required to commission primary care dental services to meet local need. Generally there are not difficulties in finding dentists to work on services where these are commissioned. The local National Health Service is undertaking a detailed project to understand the ongoing access issues in Bradford in order to identify a solution. NHS England is also looking at how best to improve oral health in 10 high need areas.

■ Diabetes: Depressive Illnesses

Jim Shannon: [\[43185\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what research his Department has undertaken or assessed on links between depression and diabetes.

Nicola Blackwood:

NHS England is undertaking work aimed at supporting people with diabetes who need psychological support: for example, psychological support for children with diabetes is being incentivised through the paediatric diabetes best practice tariff.

More generally, work has recently been undertaken on treating common mental health disorders for people with long term physical conditions, including diabetes. Based on the findings from this and other published evidence, *Implementing the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health* outlines NHS England's ambition that two thirds of the expansion of psychological therapies services for common mental health problems, such as depression, will be integrated within physical health pathways, including diabetes.

■ Diabetes: Medical Equipment

Jim Shannon:

[43045]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans his Department has to make personal devices for instant monitoring of insulin levels available to people with diabetes on the NHS.

Nicola Blackwood:

We are not aware of any clinical utility associated with the instant monitoring of insulin levels. However, continuous glucose monitoring devices can measure glucose levels 24 hours a day and it is for National Health Service commissioners to decide whether to make these available to their local populations.

In August 2015, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published guidelines which recommend that such devices should not be made routinely available to people with Type 1 diabetes unless they are willing to commit to using them at least 70% of the time and to calibrate them as needed (as well as meeting certain other criteria).

NICE has found that, for some people, continuous glucose monitoring can have clinical benefit but generally it is not more effective than current methods of self-monitoring.

■ Eating Disorders: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson:

[43081]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to improve community-based eating disorder services in East Lancashire.

Nicola Blackwood:

The provision of local health services is a matter for the local National Health Service.

The Lancashire Children and Young People's Resilience, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation Plan 2015-2020 sets out plans for improvements to services, including eating disorder services. The Plan can be accessed using the following link:

<http://www.blackburnwithdarwenccg.nhs.uk/health/child-health/camhs/>

■ Food: EU Law

Deidre Brock:

[43160]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether he plans to bring forward proposals to change any aspect of current legislation on food, animal feed safety and food hygiene formerly dealt with by the EU after the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Nicola Blackwood:

Until we leave, the United Kingdom will remain a full member of the European Union, with all of the rights and obligations. The content of future food and feed legislation will be dependent on the outcome of negotiations on the UK's exit from the European Union. The Food Standard Agency's priority will remain the same: to protect the interests of consumers in relation to food.

■ **Freedom of Information**

Rosie Cooper: [\[43241\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that there are no further breaches of Freedom of Information regulations on the identification of people making requests on his Department's website.

David Mowat:

There have been no recent breaches of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Data Protection Act 1998 in relation to the identification of people making requests on the Department's website. Guidance and training on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 is provided to Departmental staff on a rolling basis.

■ **General Practitioners: Halton**

Derek Twigg: [\[42649\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many full-time equivalent GPs were employed in Halton Clinical Commissioning Group area in each year since 2012.

David Mowat:

Information is not available in the format requested. The data that is available is shown in the following table.

TOTAL FULL TIME EQUIVALENT GENERAL PRACTITIONERS (GPs) IN SELECTED AREA IN ENGLAND: 2012-2015

full time equivalents

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 ¹ |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|-------------------|
| Total GPs | | | | |
| Halton And St Helens PCT | . | . | . | . |
| NHS Halton CCG | . | . | . | 72 |
| NHS St Helens CCG | . | . | . | 104 |
| Total GPs (excluding locums) | | | | |
| Halton And St Helens PCT | 183 | . | . | . |
| NHS Halton CCG | . | 66 | 74 | 71 |

TOTAL FULL TIME EQUIVALENT GENERAL PRACTITIONERS (GPs) IN SELECTED AREA IN ENGLAND: 2012-2015

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|
| NHS St Helens CCG | . | 107 | 118 | 103 |
|-------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|

Total GPs (excluding retainers, registrars and locums)

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Halton And St Helens PCT | 177 | . | . | . |
| NHS Halton CCG | . | 66 | 71 | 65 |
| NHS St Helens CCG | . | 107 | 111 | 101 |

¹ From 2015 the primary data source of these statistics changed to the Workforce Minimum Dataset (wMDS). Prior to this the primary source was the NHIAS (Exeter) payments system. More information on the data sources used in this publication can be found in the publication bulletin.

Notes:

Data as at 30 September each year.

GP workforce figures are not available by constituency. Halton constituency is serviced by Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Prior to the creation of CCGs, Halton constituency was contained within and serviced by Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust (PCT).

St Helens CCG has been provided in the figures for 2013, 2014 and 2015 for the purposes of comparability with previous years data.

'.' denotes not applicable

Data Quality:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

■ Health Services: Private Sector

Paula Sherriff: [43131]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of the NHS budget is spent on private providers which deliver NHS services; and if he will list those providers.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The proportion of the National Health Service budget spent by NHS commissioners on the purchase of healthcare from private providers was 7.6% in 2015/16, as confirmed in the 2015-16 Department of Health Annual Report and Accounts. NHS commissioners purchase both healthcare and social care services from a range of private providers – a comprehensive list is not held centrally, but details of Government contracts held centrally can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>

■ Hepatitis: Disease Control

Jim Shannon: [43300]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how the UK plans to meet its commitment to the elimination of viral hepatitis by 2030 made at the 69th World Health Assembly in May 2016.

Nicola Blackwood:

On 28 May 2016, the World Health Assembly adopted a Global Health Sector Strategy on viral hepatitis for the period 2016-2021. Within this strategy there is a target for elimination of hepatitis C as a major public health threat by 2030. This is a very ambitious goal and requires coordinated efforts across partner agencies. Success is largely dependent on the wider availability and access to new treatments combined with effective planning and integration of hepatitis prevention, testing, diagnosis and treatment within the broader health system.

In the United Kingdom, new, highly effective, interferon-free treatments for hepatitis C will contribute to this goal. 5,000 of those affected have already been treated with the new therapies, under the early access schemes operated by NHS England from 2014 to the start of 2016. NHS England are currently funding providers to treat more patients in accordance with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance.

■ HIV Infection

Stuart Andrew: [43054]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many adults were newly diagnosed with HIV in (a) England, (b) each parliamentary constituency and (c) each local authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available.

Stuart Andrew: [43055]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will place in the Library data showing the (a) number of people living with HIV, (b) number of HIV deaths and (c) level of HIV prevalence in

(i) England, (ii) each parliamentary constituency and (iii) each local authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available.

Stuart Andrew: [43078]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people accessed HIV care in (a) England and (b) each parliamentary constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available.

Stuart Andrew: [43079]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many HIV tests were undertaken in (a) England, (b) each parliamentary constituency and (c) each local authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available.

Stuart Andrew: [43080]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information his Department holds on the proportion of adults with HIV that had a CD4 cell count below 350 within 91 days of diagnosis in (a) England, (b) each parliamentary constituency and (c) each local authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available.

Nicola Blackwood:

Public Health England (PHE) has developed Fingertips, a rich source of indicators across a range of health and wellbeing themes that have been designed to support the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and commissioning to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities. The sexual and reproductive health profiles for local authorities can be found in the following link:

<http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/sexualhealth/data#page/9/gid/8000057/pat/6/par/E12000004/ati/101/are/E06000015>

Data at parliamentary constituency level is not available for any measure as requested.

It is estimated that for 2014 (the most recent year for which figures are available) there are 103,700 people living with HIV (includes both diagnosed and undiagnosed infection) in the United Kingdom; a breakdown for England only is not available. Further breakdown by local authority is not available.

Table 1 below shows the number of people newly diagnosed with HIV, numbers of death in people with HIV, number people accessing HIV care and HIV testing in England and proportion of adults diagnosed with a cluster of differentiation 4 (CD4) count below 350 cells, for 2014.

ENGLAND

| | |
|--|------------------|
| New HIV diagnoses (all ages) | 5,559 |
| Deaths in people with HIV (all ages) | 518 |
| Accessing HIV care (all ages) | 78,317 |
| HIV tests performed in sexual health clinics (all ages) (2015) | 1,129,456 |
| HIV self-sampling service (all ages) (November 2015 – July 2016 only) | 15,631 |
| HIV tests performed in antenatal settings (all ages) | 693,570 |
| Proportion of people with CD4 count below 350 cells within 91 days of diagnosis (all ages) | 40% (1,748/4415) |

Note:

I. Data is not included on additional HIV tests undertaken in England such as on blood donors, tests conducted by general practitioners that are not on pregnant women, tests undertaken by private practitioners or pharmacies, etc.

II. New HIV diagnoses are not synonymous with new HIV infections; people can and do live with an undiagnosed HIV infection for many years before they are diagnosed.

III. The proportion of people diagnosed with a CD4 count.

IV. Numbers accessing care at the local authority level are restricted to age groups 15-59 years to be consistent with British HIV Association HIV testing guidelines.

V. Data on HIV testing in sexual health clinics represent the total number of HIV tests performed and not the number of people tested for HIV. HIV testing data exclude people accessing sexual health clinics located in England who are residents in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland or abroad.

VI. The figure presented for the HIV self-sampling service represents the total number of kits returned for testing and are provisional. Data are available from November 2015, when the service began to mid July 2016. Data presented are for period November 2015 to January 2016 available from conference presentation by Guerra *et al* 0038:

<http://www.bashh.org/documents/Events/Conference%202016/BASHH%20Conference%202016%20Abstract%20Book.pdf>

Local Authority data are owned by local commissioners and not published nationally.

VII. Deaths include all-cause mortality, including non-HIV related deaths.

■ HIV Infection: Disease Control

Helen Hayes:

[\[43424\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much Public Health England plans to spend on HIV prevention in 2016-17; and what interventions will be provided with that budget.

Nicola Blackwood:

In 2016/17, Public Health England's (PHE) allocation for the national HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Promotion programme is £2.5 million and these monies will be invested in five different workstreams.

A total of £1.2 million has been allocated to the national HIV prevention programme for most at-risk populations (MARPs) which will deliver, on behalf of PHE, a range of activities in system leadership, social marketing, amplification of local HIV prevention and monitoring and evaluation that aim to reduce HIV incidence in MARPs. This contract has been re-tendered and retained by HIV Prevention England, a consortium led by Terrence Higgins Trust.

A total of £0.6 million has been allocated for the 2016/17 HIV Prevention Innovation fund which will support voluntary sector organisations, supported by their local authority, to deliver local projects that offer new and innovative ways of delivering HIV prevention in groups at high risk of HIV.

A total of £0.2 million has been allocated as PHE's contribution to the national HIV self-sampling service jointly commissioned with over 80 local authorities.

A total of £0.25 million for the Sexual Health and Reproductive Health Information contract was re-tendered and successfully retained by FPA (formerly Family Planning Association) who will deliver, on behalf of PHE, a range of information products to enable people to make healthy, safe and sustainable sexual and reproductive health choices.

A total of £0.25 million has been allocated for monitoring and evaluation of the HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Promotion programme.

PHE staff are also involved in supporting HIV prevention in England through data analysis and reporting, public health system leadership and management of programme activities at both national and local levels.

■ Medical Treatments

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[43353\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how long his Department estimates the Commissioning through Evaluation analysis phase will last for (a) selective dorsal rhizotomy, (b) patent foramen ovale closure, (c) left atrial appendage closure, (d) percutaneous mitral valve leaflet repair, (e) selective internal radiation therapy and (f) stereotactic ablative radiotherapy.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[43355\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of the Commissioning through Evaluation programme to date; and if he will make a statement.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[43394\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate his Department has made of the potential cost to the NHS of maintaining patient access to the technologies and procedures offered through the Commissioning through Evaluation analysis phase; and if he will make a statement.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[43395\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, by what mechanisms (a) clinicians and (b) patients can request NHS England review specialised services commissioning policies that previously conferred a not routinely commissioned status to procedures (i) as part of the Commissioning through Evaluation Programme and (ii) in general.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[43464\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans the NHS has to ensure that clinicians are able to maintain clinical expertise in procedures offered through the Commissioning through Evaluation programme in the event that patient access is withdrawn during the analysis phase of that programme.

David Mowat:

Commissioning through Evaluation (CtE) is an innovative £25 million programme introduced by NHS England in 2013. It specifically aims to generate valuable new evaluation data in promising areas of specialised care where the current evidence base of cost and clinical effectiveness is insufficient to support routine National Health Service commissioning, and where further formal research trials are thought to be less likely.

Each scheme - put forward by senior clinicians and other stakeholders - is funded on a time limited basis in a small number of selected centres, and then evaluated by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

Once the planned number of patients has been recruited across the participating centres, each scheme closes to new patients and analysis begins. This means that the funding identified for each scheme can then be reinvested into the evaluation of additional potentially life changing specialised treatments to maximise the value and impact of the overall evaluation fund for patients. As an example, routinely funding Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy contrary to the currently published clinical commissioning policy and in advance of a formal review of any new evidence would mean that between £2 million and £4 million per year (covering the surgical costs and immediate follow up only) would then be unavailable to support the evaluation of other promising treatments.

The analysis phase for each CtE scheme will typically take between one and two years depending on how long we need to follow up patients after their treatment to identify its effectiveness. The three cardiology based CtE schemes are currently scheduled for a

15 month analysis and reporting phase, after which the data can be used by NHS England to support policy review.

However, CtE is only one form of data that might be put forward in considering a new (or revision to an existing) policy and clinicians do not need to await the final report from CtE schemes if they feel that other new substantive data becomes available more quickly.

NHS England's published clinical commissioning policies (which set out eligibility for NHS funded specialised care on the basis of the available evidence) can be reviewed at any time where there is thought to be substantive new evidence available, and around 100 such proposals were developed and considered by NHS England during 2016/17.

The policy development process is subject to both informal stakeholder testing and formal public consultation, including the opportunity for patients, clinicians and industry representatives to review and comment on the evidence base considered and the assessed impact on patients, existing services and cost.

Where a new service is routinely commissioned as a result of a policy review, NHS England works with commissioned providers to ensure that sufficient clinical expertise and supporting infrastructure is in place to provide a safe service to patients in line with nationally set requirements.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[43368\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when his Department plans to publish the Accelerated Access Review.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[43427\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much the Government has spent on the Accelerated Access Review to date.

Nicola Blackwood:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Charles Walker) on 12 July to Question [42142](#)

The Government has spent £398,785 on the Accelerated Access Review. This figure covers expenditure on conferences and seminars, printing and publicity and external support. In addition, the Government has seconded civil servants from the Department of Health and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to support the work of the review.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[43393\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make it his policy to ensure that (a) clinicians and (b) patients participate in the decision making process for the routine commissioning of procedures under the Commissioning through Evaluation Programme.

David Mowat:

The policy development process for specialised commissioning is subject to both informal stakeholder testing and formal public consultation, including the opportunity for patients, clinicians and industry representatives to review and comment on the

evidence base considered and the assessed impact on patients, existing services and cost.

In addition, clinical commissioning policies are already primarily developed through Clinical Reference Groups which comprise of a range of stakeholders including patients, carers and clinicians.

■ Mental Health Services

Andrew Stephenson: [\[43089\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have entered the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Programme in (a) England, (b) the North West and (c) East Lancashire in each of the last three years.

Nicola Blackwood:

The table provides figures for the number of referrals entering Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) treatment by clinical commissioning group (CCG), England, 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15.

ENGLAND

| Number of referrals entering treatment | | | | |
|--|--|---------|---------|---------|
| CCG Code | CCG Name | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
| | All England | 434,247 | 709,117 | 815,665 |
| 00C | NHS Darlington CCG | 1,015 | 1,360 | 1,310 |
| 00D | NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG | 2,834 | 3,470 | 3,420 |
| 00F | NHS Gateshead CCG | 3,075 | 3,735 | 4,200 |
| 00G | NHS Newcastle North and East CCG | 1,370 | 3,525 | 3,400 |
| 00H | NHS Newcastle West CCG | 1,122 | 2,610 | 2,485 |
| 00J | NHS North Durham CCG | 2,829 | 3,190 | 3,285 |
| 00K | NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees CCG | 2,837 | 7,050 | 5,605 |
| 00L | NHS Northumberland CCG | 4,541 | 6,800 | 6,410 |
| 00M | NHS South Tees CCG | 3,339 | 5,820 | 4,650 |
| 00N | NHS South Tyneside CCG | 2,060 | 3,050 | 3,655 |
| 00P | NHS Sunderland CCG | 1,312 | 5,220 | 5,615 |

ENGLAND

| | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 00Q | NHS Blackburn with Darwen CCG | 1,098 | 1,280 | 3,305 |
| 00R | NHS Blackpool CCG | 268 | 1,730 | 2,340 |
| 00T | NHS Bolton CCG | 11 | 4,760 | 5,690 |
| 00V | NHS Bury CCG | 1,710 | 3,070 | 4,220 |
| 00W | NHS Central Manchester CCG | 1,269 | 1,750 | 1,960 |
| 00X | NHS Chorley and South Ribble CCG | 1,816 | 2,225 | 3,200 |
| 00Y | NHS Oldham CCG | 564 | 2,330 | 3,760 |
| 01A | NHS East Lancashire CCG | 3,420 | 3,495 | 6,980 |
| 01C | NHS Eastern Cheshire CCG | 1,093 | 1,985 | 1,965 |
| 01D | NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale CCG | 1,156 | 3,280 | 4,425 |
| 01E | NHS Greater Preston CCG | 3,096 | 2,260 | 3,960 |
| 01F | NHS Halton CCG | 572 | 750 | 1,455 |
| 01G | NHS Salford CCG | 1,767 | 5,255 | 6,930 |
| 01H | NHS Cumbria CCG | 8,441 | 8,690 | 7,260 |
| 01J | NHS Knowsley CCG | 861 | 1,915 | 2,575 |
| 01K | NHS Lancashire North CCG | 1,511 | 1,505 | 3,030 |
| 01M | NHS North Manchester CCG | 786 | 1,465 | 1,720 |
| 01N | NHS South Manchester CCG | 1,392 | 1,660 | 1,825 |
| 01R | NHS South Cheshire CCG | 1,158 | 2,085 | 1,920 |
| 01T | NHS South Sefton CCG | 1,630 | 2,170 | 3,185 |
| 01V | NHS Southport And Formby CCG | 1,130 | 1,490 | 2,100 |
| 01W | NHS Stockport CCG | 1,274 | 2,330 | 5,290 |
| 01X | NHS St Helens CCG | 990 | 1,070 | 1,885 |
| 01Y | NHS Tameside and Glossop | 970 | 2,045 | 5,505 |

ENGLAND

| | CCG | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 02A | NHS Trafford CCG | 3,182 | 3,840 | 4,405 |
| 02D | NHS Vale Royal CCG | 755 | 1,375 | 1,255 |
| 02E | NHS Warrington CCG | 694 | 3,250 | 3,265 |
| 02F | NHS West Cheshire CCG | 4,803 | 4,350 | 4,515 |
| 02G | NHS West Lancashire CCG | 1,454 | 1,635 | 2,155 |
| 02H | NHS Wigan Borough CCG | 3,536 | 6,020 | 3,990 |
| 02M | NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG | 1,534 | 1,510 | 2,550 |
| 12F | NHS Wirral CCG | 3,323 | 4,080 | 5,410 |
| 99A | NHS Liverpool CCG | 6,684 | 8,115 | 9,420 |
| 99C | NHS North Tyneside CCG | 0 | 5,015 | 3,810 |

Data source : IAPT, Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)

Notes:

1. A referral is classified as having entered treatment if it has a first, attended treatment appointment in the year.
2. For 2012-13, referrals entering treatment is a subset of referrals received in the year, as this was the first year of the IAPT programme.
3. For 2014-15, CCG is the recorded commissioner, unless this was not recorded or not a CCG, in which case the CCG is derived from the patient's general practitioner (GP) practice or postcode. For 2013-14 and 2012-13, CCG is based on GP Practice. Where CCG and GP Practice were not recorded and could not be assigned, the referral is categorised as 'Unknown'. A list of valid CCGs can be found on the HSCIC website at: <http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/data/ods/datadownloads/othernhs>
4. For this response, we are defining North West and East Lancashire as those CCGs within the following NHS Health Authority regions: Q74 - NHS England North (Cumbria and North East), Q75 - NHS England North (Cheshire and Merseyside), Q83 - NHS England North (Greater Manchester), Q84 - NHS England North (Lancashire).

■ NHS: Contracts

Paula Sherriff:

[43125]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what requirements his Department directs NHS organisations to place on direct contractors who sub-contract to other providers.

David Mowat:

The Department advises National Health Service bodies that they must comply with the Procurement Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015. Regulation 71 requires the prime contractor to provide the contracting authority with names and contact details of personnel in the supply chain. Additionally, regulation 113 requires a contracting authority to place an obligation on the prime contractor to pay undisputed invoices in 30 days down the supply chain.

The Crown Commercial Service has published guidance on paying undisputed invoices in 30 days. The following link takes you to the Crown Commercial Service guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/524355/Paying_undisputed_invoices_within_30_days_in_supply_chain.pdf

The Department has developed standard NHS terms and conditions for use by NHS bodies procuring non-clinical goods and services from commercial suppliers. Clause 9 'Price and payment' places an obligation on the prime contractor to pay undisputed invoices to its sub-contractors within a period not exceeding 30 days. Clause 28 'Assignment, novation and subcontracting' covers 30 day payment terms for sub-contractors. This clause also states the prime supplier shall endeavour to pay its relevant sub-contractors within a comparable timeframe from receipt by the supplier of such undisputed invoices from its sub-contractors. The following link takes you to the full suite of the NHS Terms and Conditions including the overarching guidance note:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-standard-terms-and-conditions-of-contract-for-the-purchase-of-goods-and-supply-of-services>

Additionally, NHS England mandates that any clinical services commissioned by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are on the terms of the NHS Standard Contract, which prohibits sub-contracting without the prior written consent of the CCG. The CCG may require approval of the form of sub-contract used, but NHS England does not and cannot itself prescribe the form of sub-contract (although it does publish a template which the CCG may require its provider to use when sub-contracting). Notwithstanding any sub-contracting, the commissioned provider remains responsible to the CCG for delivery of the service.

■ NHS: Sustainable Development

Helen Jones:

[43326]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that (a) hon. Members, (b) members of the local authority and (c) the public are consulted about the sustainability and transformation plans being developed for Warrington and its surrounding area.

Mr Jeremy Hunt:

We acknowledge that local government are vital in helping to set the strategic direction of health and care service development locally.

The March guidance to Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) leads clarified that submissions should state how:

- partnership arrangements should include local government and explain fit with existing plans, including Health and Wellbeing Strategies and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments;
- systems will work with local government to deliver prevention and public health improvements; and
- the footprint will engage other employers, working with local government, to improve health and wellbeing of local people.

At a regional level, National Health Service arm's length bodies (ALBs) have:

- worked initially with local authority colleagues to agree footprints and STP leadership;
- offered membership of the four new regional STP boards to Local Government Association representatives (including the potential for involvement in the assessment of initial returns); and
- asked their regional colleagues to continue to work with the STP footprints in their area to encourage them to reflect the knowledge, expertise and experience of local government colleagues where appropriate, e.g. Health and Wellbeing Board leads' insight into the plans for, and effects on, the local system.

As set out in the NHS Shared Planning Guidance, published in December 2015, the success of STPs will depend on having an open, engaging, and iterative process that involves patients, carers, citizens, clinicians, local community partners, parliamentarians, the independent and voluntary sectors, and local government through health and wellbeing boards. The arm's length bodies responsible for the NHS Five Year Forward View – NHS England, NHS Improvement, the Care Quality Commission, Public Health England, Health Education England and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence – have asked for local engagement plans as part of the STP process, building where appropriate on existing engagement through health and wellbeing boards and other local arrangements. Where plans propose service changes, formal consultation will follow in due course in line with good practice and legislative requirements. The arm's length bodies will be holding conversations with each area to assess their plans for local engagement.

■ Older People: Depressive Illnesses**Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck:**[\[43367\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people over the age of 65 are using medication for depression; and if he will estimate how many such people cite loneliness as a contributory factor to their depression.

Nicola Blackwood:

Information about the number of people over the age of 65 using medication for depression is not collected. Conditions for which medicines are prescribed are not recorded.

Loneliness is a complex problem and affects people in different ways. It is not possible to estimate how many people cite loneliness as a contributory factor to their depression.

■ Osteoporosis: Dietary Supplements**Jim Shannon:**[\[43178\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans his Department has to make dietary supplements to address osteoporosis available through the NHS.

David Mowat:

General practitioners can prescribe any product, which they consider to be a medicine necessary for the treatment of their patients providing that the product is not included in Schedules 1 or 2 to the NHS (General Medical Services contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc.) Regulations 2004 and the doctor is prepared to justify any challenges to their prescribing by their local primary care organisation.

■ Primary Health Care**Mr Virendra Sharma:**[\[43136\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make an estimate of the potential savings that each clinical commissioning group could make through greater promotion of self-care for patients; and if he will make a statement.

David Mowat:

Initial analysis of the potential financial impact of self-care interventions demonstrated that there is the ability for a substantial amount of savings to be derived from the Self-care Programme over the next few years. This is subject to the successful delivery of alternative, complementary programmes of activity over the same period.

NHS England is in the process of conducting detailed financial modelling predicated on a suite of self-care interventions distributed across five evidence-based areas of practice identified through the Realising the Value Programme. This detailed modelling will result in the production of a number of toolkits for commissioners due to be published this autumn. More information can be found at the following link:

www.nesta.org.uk/project/realising-value

In terms of potential savings that each clinical commissioning group (CCG) could make through greater promotion of self-care for patients, each CCG will start from a different point in terms of the amount and quality of self-care that its population currently undertakes and will also have different future potential in scope for self-care dependent on geography, demography, and disease prevalence.

■ Smoking: Death

Bob Blackman: [\[43155\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what data exists about the proportion of excess mortality in lower socioeconomic status groups due to smoking-related diseases; whether the forthcoming tobacco control strategy for England will contain measures to address that issue; and when he expects to publish the next tobacco control strategy for England.

Nicola Blackwood:

The independent review into health inequalities in England undertaken by Professor Sir Michael Marmot culminated in the publication in 2010 of Fair Society, Healthy Lives. The review identified the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England and made the following recommendation:

“Tobacco control is central to any strategy to tackle health inequalities as smoking accounts for approximately half of the difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest income groups. Smoking-related death rates are two to three times higher in low-income groups than in wealthier social groups.”

The new tobacco control plan is currently being developed and Ministers will decide on an appropriate publication date in due course.

■ Tobacco

Julian Knight: [\[43383\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 24 May 2016 to Question 37407, when he plans to publish the new Tobacco Control Plan.

Nicola Blackwood:

The Government remains committed to publishing a new tobacco control plan and Ministers will decide on a publication date shortly.

HOME OFFICE

■ Asylum: Eritrea

Patrick Grady: [\[43226\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to publish updated country guidance for asylum applications made by Eritrean nationals.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

[Holding answer 21 July 2016]: Updated country information and guidance on Eritrea will be published on the www.gov.uk website shortly.

■ Asylum: Families

Mr David Burrowes:

[\[42993\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to publish the number of applications for refugee family reunion which were granted outside the rules in its quarterly migration statistics.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

[Holding answer 21 July 2016]: The Home Office does not currently plan to change the data that is published on this category of applications. The question covers a number of different casework operations and the information is not recorded in a way which can be reported directly.

The Home Office keeps under review the statistics that are published in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, balancing user needs against burdens on data suppliers.

Mr Alistair Carmichael:

[\[43151\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to speed up the application process for refugee family reunion.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Customer service is a key priority for UK Visas and Immigration, and the efficiency and effectiveness of the visa application process is kept under regular review, including by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration. Customers now apply and pay online in addition to being able to make appointments to submit their documents and biometrics at visa application centres in over 200 locations around the world.

The published service standard for resolving refugee family reunion applications is within 12 weeks, or 60 working days. Where an application is complex and likely to take longer than the advertised processing times, UKVI will contact the applicant to inform them of this.

Catherine West:

[\[43356\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to speed up the application process for refugee family reunion.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Customer service is a key priority for UK Visas and Immigration, and the efficiency and effectiveness of the visa application process is kept under regular review, including by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration. Customers now apply and pay online in addition to being able to make appointments to submit their documents and biometrics at visa application centres in over 200 locations around the world.

The published service standard for resolving refugee family reunion applications is within 12 weeks, or 60 working days. Where an application is complex and likely to take longer than the advertised processing times, UKVI will contact the applicant to inform them of this. The average processing time for 2015 was 40 days.

■ Bombings: Birmingham**Mr Khalid Mahmood:** [\[43344\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will provide full financial support and administrative oversight for the relatives of the victims of the Birmingham pub bombings of 1974; and if she will ensure that past and future expenses of those victims relating to investigations into those bombings are reimbursed or paid from the public purse.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Prime Minister has received correspondence from the families of the victims of the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings, requesting a special scheme be set up for funding of the families' legal representation at the newly reopened Coroner's inquest into the bombings. The Government is carefully considering these requests, and will respond directly to these parties in due course.

■ British Nationality**Drew Hendry:** [\[42883\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the provision of test centres for citizenship applications; and if she will investigate the potential for increased use of digital technology for such applications from remote areas of the UK.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The networks of test centres in place for the Life in the UK test and the Secure English Language Test (SELT) are subject to continuous review. Provision is linked to demand. There are currently no plans to deliver tests outside of the approved networks.

■ British Nationality: Scotland**Drew Hendry:** [\[42901\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many test centres there are in Scotland for citizenship applicants to take the (a) life in the UK and (b) English language test.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

[Holding answer 20 July 2016]: (a) There are two test centres proving the life in the UK test in Scotland – located in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

(b) There are two test centres providing the Secure English Language Test (SELT) in Scotland – also located in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

■ British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries**Andy Slaughter:** [\[43053\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what bi-lateral discussions she has had with her counterparts in which EU member states on the long-term status of UK citizens in those member states.

Andy Slaughter:

[\[43075\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help secure the long-term status of UK citizens in other EU member states before Article 50 negotiations formally begin; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Government has repeatedly stated that there will be no immediate changes in the circumstances of UK nationals and their family members entering or currently residing in the European Union.

During the period of the negotiations, the UK remains a full member of the EU, entitled to all the benefits and obligations of membership. We have published guidance on gov.uk which makes this clear.

It is a Government priority to protect the legal rights of British nationals living in EU countries, as well as EU nationals in the UK, and we are confident that we will be able secure those things together during discussions with our EU partners.

As part of this process, the Secretary of State will continue to work closely with EU counterparts and with relevant stakeholders.

■ Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Gavin Newlands:

[\[42923\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to ratify the Istanbul Convention.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The previous Government signed the Istanbul Convention to show the strong commitment it placed on tackling violence against women and girls and this Government remains committed to ratifying it.

The UK already complies with the vast majority of the Convention's articles but further amendments to domestic law, to take extra-territorial jurisdiction over a range of offences (as required by Article 44), are necessary before the Convention can be ratified. We are currently considering the approach to implementing the extra-territorial jurisdiction requirements in England and Wales and will seek to legislate when the approach is agreed and Parliamentary time allows.

■ Detainees: Vulnerable Adults

Mr David Burrowes:

[\[43061\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation her Department has undertaken on the draft Adults at Risk policy for vulnerable people detained under immigration powers.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Stephen Shaw carried out a comprehensive consultation in preparing his report of his review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention, and the draft adults at risk policy forms part of the Government's response to Mr Shaw's review. The Government saw no reason to duplicate this in developing the adults at risk policy. However, when the draft policy was published on 26 May, the Government wrote to a wide range of relevant non-Governmental organisations and offered them the opportunity to discuss it. Subsequently, Home Office officials have held meetings with a number of interested organisations, and the views of these organisations have been taken into account as the policy has been developed further.

Paul Blomfield: [\[43171\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation her Department has held on the draft Adults at Risk policy for vulnerable people detained under immigration powers.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Stephen Shaw carried out a comprehensive consultation in preparing his report of his review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention, and the draft adults at risk policy forms part of the Government's response to Mr Shaw's review. The Government saw no reason to duplicate this in developing the adults at risk policy. However, when the draft policy was published on 26 May, the Government wrote to a wide range of relevant non-Governmental organisations and offered them the opportunity to discuss it. Subsequently, Home Office officials have held meetings with a number of interested organisations, and the views of these organisations have been taken into account as the policy has been developed further.

Paul Blomfield: [\[43172\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how the effect of the Adults at Risk policy for vulnerable people detained under immigration powers will be measured.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Consideration is being given to arrangements for measuring the impact of the adults at risk policy and other initiatives aimed at improving the safeguarding of vulnerable people in immigration detention. The expectation is that these initiatives will result in a reduction in the number of the most vulnerable who are detained. The Government intends to ask Stephen Shaw to carry out a short review next year in order to assess progress against the key actions from his previous report.

■ Domestic Violence: Homicide

Jo Churchill: [\[43250\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women were killed by their current or former partner in (a) Suffolk, (b) the East of England and (c) England and Wales in each of the last five years.

Sarah Newton:

The Home Office Homicide Index contains information on partner / ex-partner homicides. Information on the number of women aged 16 or over killed by a partner or ex-partner in (a) Suffolk and (b) the East of England and (c) England and Wales for each of the last five years is given in the table.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF HOMICIDES RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SUFFOLK, THE EAST OF ENGLAND AND ENGLAND AND WALES, WHERE A WOMAN AGED 16 OR OVER WAS KILLED BY A PARTNER OR EX-PARTNER, 2010/11 TO 2014/15 ^{1,2,3}

| Partner or ex-partner ⁴ | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>Number of victims</i> | | | | | |
| Suffolk | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| East of England ⁵ | 9 | 10 | 12 | 3 | 8 |
| England and Wales | 97 | 89 | 77 | 85 | 81 |

1. Source: Homicide Index, Home Office

2. Police recorded crime data are not designated as National Statistics

3. As at 13 November 2015; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

4. Partner / ex-partner homicides include the following relationships: spouse, cohabiting partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, ex-spouse/ex-cohabiting partner/ex-boyfriend/girlfriend, adulterous relationship, lover's spouse or emotional rival.

5. Includes Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk police.

■ EU Nationals

Tom Brake:

[\[43286\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to guarantee the rights in the UK of citizens of other EU member states who had been in resident in the UK for less than (a) one, (b) two, (c) three, (d) four and (e) five years on 23 June 2016.

Tom Brake: [\[43288\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that her Department consults with civil society organisations on the future of EU citizens in the UK.

Tom Brake: [\[43295\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of whether (a) EU citizens in the UK have any acquired rights under Article 70 of the Vienna Convention and (b) UK citizens living in other EU member states have any such rights; and if she will make a statement.

Tom Brake: [\[43296\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Compact between Government and the voluntary and community sector includes a requirement on her Department to liaise with (a) civil society organisations which represent the interests of EU citizens and (b) community groups and support agencies that are working with EU citizens.

Tom Brake: [\[43298\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues on securing the long-term future of EU citizens in the UK.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Government has repeatedly stated that there will be no immediate changes in the circumstances of European nationals and their family members entering or currently residing in the UK. We have published guidance on gov.uk which makes this clear.

The Government want to be able to guarantee the legal status of EU nationals who are living in the UK, and we are confident that we will be able to do this. But we must also win the same rights for British nationals living in European countries, and it will be a priority for the Government to achieve those things together.

As part of this process, the Home Secretary will continue to work closely with colleagues across Whitehall and the Government will engage with relevant stakeholders.

Article 70 of the Vienna Convention applies to States only. It does not create rights for individuals. Nevertheless, we would expect to deal with the rights of EU nationals already living in the UK and the rights of UK citizens living in other EU member states as part of the UK's exit negotiations.

Roger Mullin: [\[905997\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government has taken since the EU referendum to ensure that nationals of other EU countries living in the UK are made welcome and supported.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

[Holding answer 21 July 2016]: The Government recognises the invaluable contribution European nationals make to our economy, our society and to our daily lives and we continue to welcome them to the UK.

The Government has repeatedly stated that there will be no immediate changes in the circumstances of European nationals and their family members entering or currently residing in the UK and we have published guidance on gov.uk which makes this clear.

The Government wants to be able to guarantee the legal status of EU nationals who are living in the UK, and we are confident that we will be able to do this. But we must also win the same rights for British nationals living in European countries, and it will be a priority for the Government to achieve those things together.

■ **Immigrants: Detainees**

Mr Alistair Carmichael: [\[43149\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to introduce a maximum limit on the length of time a person can be detained under immigration law.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Government does not believe that it is appropriate for there to be a formal time limit on immigration detention.

Paul Blomfield: [\[43188\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what mechanisms are in place to monitor the application of Section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016, on limitation on detention of pregnant women.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Home Office has issued guidance to Immigration Enforcement caseworkers, enforcement officers and Border Force officers on the application of section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016. This was published on GOV.UK on 12 July, and includes monitoring tools to track the detention of pregnant women.

Catherine West: [\[43324\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what mechanisms are in place to monitor the application of section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016, on limitation on detention of pregnant women.

Catherine West: [\[43325\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will introduce community-based alternatives to immigration detention for pregnant women released from immigration removal centres under section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Home Office has issued guidance to Immigration Enforcement caseworkers, enforcement officers and Border Force officers on the application of section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016. This was published on GOV.UK on 12 July, and includes monitoring tools to track the detention of pregnant women.

It is already the case that the majority of individuals liable to be detained at any one time are not actually detained but are managed in the community through the grant of

temporary admission or temporary release on bail. This includes pregnant women, whose detention is now subject to the further restrictions imposed by section 60 of the 2016 Act.

Pregnant women who are to be released from detention, but who remain liable to be detained, will be granted temporary admission or temporary release with appropriate reporting and/or residence restrictions. Pregnant women have access to the Home Office Voluntary Departures Service.

■ Immigration Enforcement Directorate

Mr David Burrowes: [\[43141\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Written Statement of 14 January 2016, HCWS470, when she plans to publish the Immigration Enforcement's Business Plan for 2016-17.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Immigration Enforcement planning for 2016-17 and beyond will be reviewed by the new Secretary of State and published in due course.

■ Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake: [\[43297\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to reduce or abolish the fee for permanent residency applications for EU citizens.

Sarah Newton:

This Government has no plans to reduce or abolish the fee for permanent residency applications for EU citizens.

■ Marriage of Convenience

Keith Vaz: [\[41643\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of immigration marriage fraud have led to (a) an investigation and (b) a subsequent deportation in each of the last eight years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The information requested is shown in the following table:

| YEAR | CASES REFERRED | TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS |
|---------|----------------|----------------------|
| 2014/15 | 137 | 54 |
| 2015/16 | 55 | 47 |

Prior to 2014 the records were not held centrally. The decrease in the number of referrals to the Home Office can be aligned to the introduction of the Immigration Act 2014. This legislation extends the notification period for those seeking to marry up to 70

days and provides time for the Home Office to investigate whether the marriage is sham. The effect of this is that those marriages deemed to be sham can be prevented from taking place. It would be a disproportionate cost to disaggregate information on the number of criminal investigations for this offence from all of those prosecuted who were subsequently deported.

■ Modern Slavery Act 2015

Sarah Champion:

[\[42668\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when guidance on Part 1 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 was sent to (a) Chief Police Officers in England and Wales, (b) the National Crime Agency, (c) HM Inspectorate of Constabularies and the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration.

Sarah Newton:

Guidance on Part 1 was sent to Chief Officers of Police, the NCA, HMIC and other partners on 9 July 2015 as part of a broader Home Office circular on the Modern Slavery Act. The circular was not copied to the Independent Chief Inspector of Border and Immigration but is easily accessible on GOV.UK. All Border Force officers undergo mandatory training on identifying victims of modern slavery and have access to relevant guidance.

Sarah Champion:

[\[42836\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what Statutory Instruments required by the Modern Slavery Act 2015 have yet to be laid by her Department.

Sarah Newton:

The majority of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 has already been enacted and is having a positive impact on the protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators. The only duty to make regulations in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 is in Section 48. The Government reaffirmed on 28 June its commitment to commencing Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. As announced, the Government is trialling a revised model in the Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy service in three early adopter sites. The commencement of Section 48 requires resolutions of both Houses. Once these have been secured the Government will seek to commence Section 48 and begin the procedure to compile the affirmative regulations required by that section.

■ Offenders: Foreign Nationals

Keith Vaz:

[\[41649\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign national offenders have been living in the community for (a) less than six months, (b) between six months and one year, (c) between one and two years, (d) between two and three years, (e) between three and four years, (f) between four and five years and (g) over five years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Our records indicate that as of March 2016, there were 5,895 foreign national offenders awaiting deportation. Please see following table with the number of foreign national offenders living in the community as at March 2016.

**FOREIGN NATIONAL OFFENDERS (FNOs) LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY BY
LENGTH OF TIME SINCE RELEASE, MARCH 2016**

| Time since release | Total FNOs |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
|---------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Less than 6 months | 522 |
|--------------------|-----|

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Between 6 months and one year | 440 |
|-------------------------------|-----|

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Between one and two years | 843 |
|---------------------------|-----|

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Between two and three years | 574 |
|-----------------------------|-----|

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Between three and four years | 466 |
|------------------------------|-----|

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Between four and five years | 344 |
|-----------------------------|-----|

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Over five years | 1,792 |
|-----------------|-------|

| | |
|---|-----|
| <i>No UK conviction or sentence end date not recorded</i> | 914 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Total March 2016 | 5,895 |
|-------------------------|--------------|

(1) The figures quoted have been derived from management information from the Home Office databases and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

(2) A Foreign National Offender (FNO) is defined as an individual with a criminal case on the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID) and may include individuals with asylum cases.

(3) Figures relate to those FNOs who have completed their custodial sentence and are subject to deportation action living in the community.

(4) Figures relate to a snapshot of cases as of March 2016.

(5) Details of restrictions may not be routinely available from the Case Information Database at the time of reporting for FNOs. This includes those FNOs with overseas convictions identified by

**FOREIGN NATIONAL OFFENDERS (FNOs) LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY BY
LENGTH OF TIME SINCE RELEASE, MARCH 2016**

increased use of intelligence (e.g. from the Association of Chief Police Officers Records Office, ACRO) where there has not been any custodial detention within the UK. The consequence of this is that these cases cannot be counted within the different length of time since release categories and are then recorded in the column labelled Data Quality.

■ Passports

Drew Hendry: [\[42884\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the cost of passport applications for (a) adults and (b) children.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Her Majesty's Passport Office reviews passport fees annually to ensure they are set to recover the full cost of providing the passport service. The review is currently underway and is carried out collectively with Her Majesty's Treasury, ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation and guidance including Managing Public Money.

Michael Fabricant: [\[43057\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to introduce a new passport with a navy blue cover for the UK following the exit of the UK from the EU; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

There are no immediate plans for changes to the format or colour of the UK passport. Parliament will be informed of any changes to the passport following UK withdrawal from the European Union.

■ Prostitution: Arrests

Jess Phillips: [\[43388\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many arrests were made under the Street Offences Act 1959 for the offence of soliciting by (a) age, (b) sex, (c) ethnicity and (d) police authority under which the arrest was made in each of the last five full years for which records are available.

Brandon Lewis:

The information requested is not held centrally by the Home Office.

■ Refugees: Children

Mr Alistair Carmichael: [\[43150\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she intends to allow children with refugee status to sponsor their parents for the purposes of refugee family reunion.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The current family reunion policy meets our international obligations and strikes the right balance. There are no plans to extend the criteria. Allowing children to sponsor parents would create perverse incentives for them to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk hazardous journeys to the UK to sponsor relatives. This plays into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people and goes against our safe guarding responsibilities.

Where a family reunion application fails under the Immigration Rules we consider whether there are exceptional circumstances or compassionate reasons to justify granting a visa outside the Rules.

Neil Carmichael:[\[43152\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children with refugee status in the UK have been granted permission to sponsor family members to join them under the refugee family reunion rules in each of the last three years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Under the Family Reunion Rules, children cannot sponsor family members. Any grant of leave in such cases would be on an exceptional basis outside the Immigration Rules. To obtain the information would involve examining individual case records and would incur a disproportionate cost.

Paul Blomfield:[\[43170\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children with refugee status in the UK have been granted permission to sponsor family members to join them under the refugee family reunion rules in each of the last three years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Under the Family Reunion Rules, children cannot sponsor family members. Any grant of leave in such cases would be on an exceptional basis outside the Immigration Rules. To obtain the information would involve examining individual case records and would incur a disproportionate cost.

■ Road Traffic Offences: Speed Limits**Jim Fitzpatrick:**[\[43094\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many hand-held radar speed detectors are in use by police constabularies in England; and whether her Department has made an assessment of the merits of recruiting and training civilian volunteers to use such detectors.

Brandon Lewis:

The Home Office does not hold this information centrally. The purchase and deployment of speed enforcement devices is a local operational matter for individual police forces. There has been no assessment made on the merits of recruiting and training civilian volunteers in the use of these devices. Decisions on how the public can assist the police in speed enforcement activity are matters for individual Chief Officers.

■ Social Networking

Anna Turley:

[\[43024\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle online abuse on social media.

Sarah Newton:

[Holding answer 21 July 2016]: The Criminal Justice Act 2015 strengthened two existing communications offences: section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988, and section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 which can now be used to prosecute misuse of social media. The police now have longer to investigate either offence, and the maximum penalty for the former has been increased to two years imprisonment.

We have introduced a new law to make 'revenge porn' a specific criminal offence. Those convicted will face a maximum sentence of 2 years in prison. We have already seen convictions under this legislation and will continue to monitor its effectiveness.

To improve police capability, the Home Office has allocated £4.6m of the Police Transformation Fund to begin the critical work of setting up a comprehensive programme of digital transformation across policing. This money will help provide a step-change in digital capability, funding police led programmes that will work to equip forces with the tools to effectively police a digital age and protect victims of digital crime.

We are also working with the College of Policing to drive improvements in police capability to investigate and prosecute online Violence against Women and Girls offences. For example, we have introduced an 'online flag' allowing police forces to record instances of crimes such as stalking and harassment taking place online.

We are driving work through the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) to keep children and young people safe online. UKCCIS brings together industry, law enforcement, academia, charities and parenting groups to help to keep children and young people safe online.

■ South Yorkshire Police

Tom Watson:

[\[42626\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Prime Minister will meet members of the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign to discuss the Independent Police Complaints Commission's decision not to make public the report into allegations of police misconduct at Orgreave in 1984.

Brandon Lewis:

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) oversees the police complaints system in England and Wales. It is operationally independent of the police, government and complainants, and makes its decisions independently and free from political influence. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to discuss the IPCC's decision. The Home Secretary does though plan to meet members of the Orgreave Truth and Justice

Campaign immediately after the summer recess to discuss their case on the need for an inquiry into the events at Orgreave in 1984.

Tom Watson: [\[42784\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her Department has had with the Independent Police Complaints Commission on its decision not to make public the report into allegations of police misconduct at Orgreave in 1984.

Brandon Lewis:

[Holding answer 19 July 2016]: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) oversees the police complaints system in England and Wales. It is operationally independent of the police, government and complainants, and makes its decisions independently and free from political influence. The Home Office has therefore had no discussions with the IPCC concerning its decision not to make public the report into allegations of police misconduct at Orgreave in 1984.

■ Vetting

Tom Brake: [\[42523\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what targets her Department has in place to ensure criminal records check disclosures are processed efficiently.

Sarah Newton:

The Disclosure and Barring service works directly with each police force to agree a budget annually based on the expected numbers of local checks and considers any requests for additional resources as part of these discussions.

In 2015/16 the Disclosure and Barring Service had a target of processing 85% of all applications within 21 days. Some of the over four million applications received each year need to be referred to one or more police forces for further checks and the Disclosure and Barring Service funds Police disclosure units.

Tom Brake: [\[42573\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has received representations from the police on increasing resources related to criminal record check disclosure requests.

Sarah Newton:

The Disclosure and Barring service works directly with each police force to agree a budget annually based on the expected numbers of local checks and considers any requests for additional resources as part of these discussions.

In 2015/16 the Disclosure and Barring Service had a target of processing 85% of all applications within 21 days. Some of the over four million applications received each year need to be referred to one or more police forces for further checks and the Disclosure and Barring Service funds Police disclosure units.

■ Visas

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[42905\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to monitor the use of Tier 2 intra-company transfer visas to ensure they are used legitimately.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

Employers must justify the reasons why they wish to sponsor migrant workers when they apply to the Home Office. We also routinely carry out compliance checks and visits on sponsoring employers.

On 24 March 2016, the Government announced reforms to the ICT category, to align it more closely with its original intention as a route for senior managers and specialists. From April 2017, we will require all transferees (except graduate trainees) to qualify under a single category with a minimum salary threshold of £41,500.

We will also review the extent to which allowances may be counted as salary, to ensure we have appropriate safeguards in place against undercutting of the resident labour market.

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[42906\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 2 intra-company transfer visa applications were (a) received and (b) refused in each of the last five years.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The information is provided in the table below.

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISA APPLICATIONS AND CASES RESOLVED (GRANTED, REFUSED, WITHDRAWN/LAPSED): INTRA-COMPANY TRANSFERS

(including dependants)

| Year | Applications | Cases Resolved | of which | | |
|-------|--------------|----------------|----------|---------|------------------|
| | | | Granted | Refused | Withdrawn/lapsed |
| 2011 | 42,229 | 41,946 | 40,644 | 1,107 | 195 |
| 2012 | 48,704 | 48,158 | 47,218 | 813 | 127 |
| 2013 | 54,965 | 55,422 | 54,868 | 476 | 78 |
| 2014 | 61,089 | 61,010 | 60,454 | 460 | 96 |
| 2015 | 59,038 | 59,405 | 58,931 | 419 | 55 |
| Notes | | | | | |

ENTRY CLEARANCE VISA APPLICATIONS AND CASES RESOLVED (GRANTED, REFUSED, WITHDRAWN/LAPSED): INTRA-COMPANY TRANSFERS

Applications do not equal cases resolved. Applications made in a year may be resolved in a subsequent year

The latest quarterly Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visa applications, grants and refusals by category are published in 'Immigration Statistics', Visas volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition available from the Home Office website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2016/list-of-tables#visas>

Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons Review

Mr David Burrowes: [\[43062\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timetable is for Stephen Shaw to complete his follow-up review of the use of immigration detention.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The follow up to Stephen Shaw's review into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons will take place in late 2017, with timings to be agreed with Mr Shaw.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**Burma: Thailand**

Greg Mulholland: [\[43376\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to ensure that humanitarian aid is delivered to displaced people along the Thai-Burmese border.

Rory Stewart:

DFID has a £33.6m four year programme providing humanitarian, health and peacebuilding assistance to Eastern border areas of Burma. This includes humanitarian assistance to the nine Burmese refugee camps in Thailand, as well as assistance to displaced and conflict-affected people in Eastern Burma. DFID is the second largest donor to The Border Consortium, who provide food and shelter to the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand. DFID also funds health and legal assistance to refugees in the camps.

DFID officials visit the refugee camps regularly and work with implementing partners to monitor that our assistance is reaching the most vulnerable displaced people.

Department for International Development: Staff

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[43167\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether her Department employs staff with responsibility for developing best practice on withdrawing bilateral programmes from countries that transition to middle-income status.

Rory Stewart:

Transition planning and development of best practice is led by the relevant country office, with support from officials in the UK and across regions. Each transition process has been different depending on circumstance. ICAI is currently undertaking a review of DFID's approach to transition and their report is due to be published towards the end of 2016.

■ Developing Countries: Climate Change**Dawn Butler:**[\[43322\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what support the Government is providing to micro-insurance schemes in developing countries for the protection of livelihoods from the effects of climate change.

Rory Stewart:

DFID's work on climate resilience includes a number of weather-related microinsurance initiatives and a major research programme on scaling up microinsurance in the agricultural sector.

Dawn Butler:[\[43339\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department has taken to support the G7 Initiative on Climate Risk Insurance; and what assessment her Department has made of progress towards the target of expanding insurance coverage to 400 million people by 2020.

Rory Stewart:

DFID has a large and growing disaster risk finance and insurance portfolio, with up to £136m approved or invested to date. This includes our £100 million contribution to the Africa Risk Capacity, which aims to reach 150 million people by 2020. The G7 are setting up an expert group to develop indicators to measure progress against the 'Insuresilience' target, against which all G7 members, including the UK, will report progress.

■ Developing Countries: Infrastructure**Jeremy Lefroy:**[\[43092\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, which infrastructure projects were funded through or supported by the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2016; how much funding for each such project was (a) provided through PIDG and (b) leveraged from other sources; and whether each such project is operational.

Rory Stewart:

The table attached shows all PIDG supported projects. The table indicates whether the support for projects was initiated before or after 01 January 2010. As support for many projects initiated before 2010 will have continued into the timeframe set out in the question, we have also listed all projects where support was started before 01 January

2010. There is no other straightforward way to filter the data. Further information is also available online (<http://data.pidg.org/>) .

Attachments:

1. PQ 43092 [PQ 43092.docx]

Jeremy Lefroy: [\[43093\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, which infrastructure projects were supported by borrowing guaranteed through GuarantCo between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2016; how much was guaranteed for each such project; how much funding was leveraged from other sources for each such project; and whether each such project is operational.

Rory Stewart:

The table attached shows all projects supported by GuarantCo. The table indicates whether the support for projects was initiated before or after 01 January 2010. As support for many projects initiated before 2010 will have continued into the timeframe set out in the question, we have also listed all projects where support was started before 01 January 2010. There is no other straightforward way to filter the data. Further information is also available online (<http://data.pidg.org/>) .

Attachments:

1. PQ 43093 [PQ 43093.docx]

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

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[43439\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if her Department will increase its contribution to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

James Wharton:

The Global Fund has announced its 2017-2019 replenishment target – seeking to mobilise US\$13billion to save 8 million lives and avert up to 300 million new infections. The UK is planning to support a successful Fifth Replenishment of a strong, value for money Global Fund and a decision on the size of our investment will be made later in the summer.

■ **GuarantCo**

Jeremy Lefroy: [\[43091\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether the proposed creation of a contingent liability of £40 million in respect of callable capital of GuarantCo is treated as Official Development Assistance (a) when the contingent liability is created and (b) in the event that capital is called from the public purse under the contingent liability.

Rory Stewart:

The creation of the contingent liability in respect of the callable capital for GuarantCo does not have immediate budgetary implications and is not treated as Official

Development Assistance (ODA). If the capital is called it will be treated as ODA. This is in line with the internationally agreed rules on ODA.

■ Yemen: Politics and Government

Helen Goodman: [\[43426\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent discussions she has had with (a) her international counterparts, (b) international organisations and (c) NGOs on the situation in Yemen.

Rory Stewart:

The UK is playing a leading role in responding to the crisis in Yemen. DFID Ministers regularly have discussions with international counterparts, organisations, and NGOs on the situation in Yemen. The World Humanitarian Summit in May was obviously a key moment for such discussions.

Senior officials also have regular discussions on the situation in Yemen. Mark Lowcock, DFID Permanent Secretary, recently discussed the humanitarian and economic situation in Yemen with international counterparts on 11 July, at the annual Tidewater conference of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-ordination and Development (OECD-DAC).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

■ Balance of Trade

Jonathan Ashworth: [\[43193\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps he plans to take to reduce the UK's trade deficit.

Mark Garnier:

Since 2010 the Government has succeeded in reducing the trade deficit by £4bn or 9.4% through a number of measures delivered by UKTI such as the Exporting is GREAT campaign. We will continue this work and boost our delivery of assistance to British business through new initiatives such as the Directory of Exporters, due to be formally launched in November, and other measures.

■ Department for International Trade: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Jonathan Ashworth: [\[43064\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, who he has appointed as his new special advisers.

Dr Liam Fox:

A list of Special Advisers in Government will be published in due course.

■ Department for International Trade: Staff

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[43143\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what estimate he has made of the number of officials that will be employed by his Department in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement.

Mark Garnier:

The Department for International Trade is currently being established. This requires machinery of government changes which are ongoing; it is too early to say the exact number of officials that will be employed in the new Department. We will inform the House in due course.

■ Shellfish: Exports

Angus Brendan MacNeil: [\[43001\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how much shellfish was exported from (a) England and (b) Scotland in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Mark Garnier:

HMRC special analysis showing the value of shellfish exports from England and Scotland is set out in the table below. Data are provisional and subject to revision.

EXPORTS OF SHELLFISH (£MILLION)

April 2015 to March 2016

| | |
|----------|-----|
| England | 191 |
| Scotland | 185 |

Source: HMRC special analysis of Regional Trade Statistics database

■ Trade Agreements

Andrew Rosindell: [\[43292\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, by what process the Government plans to recruit trade negotiators; and how many trade negotiators the Government plans to recruit.

Mark Garnier:

My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has established the Department for International Trade to promote British trade across the world and take advantage of huge opportunities. We are beginning the process of recruiting trade negotiators in anticipation of the period of leading up to exiting the European Union after the completion of Article 50 negotiations. We are building our trade policy capability over this period and the process of recruiting staff is underway.

■ UK Trade with EU

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[43352\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what estimate he has made of the time that will be required for the UK to reach a trade deal with the EU; and if he will make a statement.

Mark Garnier:

It is in the interests of all parties to secure an agreement that provides the basis for the fullest possible market access. The timescale will partly be determined by the discussions held prior to Brexit.

Mr David Lammy: [\[43429\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what estimate his Department has made of how long it will take to negotiate a trade deal with the EU after the UK leaves the EU.

Mark Garnier:

It is in the interests of all parties to secure an agreement that provides the basis for the fullest possible market access. The timescale will partly be determined by the discussions held prior to Brexit.

■ Whisky: Exports

Angus Brendan MacNeil: [\[43000\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how much Scotch whisky was exported from (a) England and (b) Scotland in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Mark Garnier:

HMRC special analysis showing the value of Scotch Whisky exports from England and Scotland is set out in the table below. Data are provisional and subject to revision.

EXPORTS OF SCOTCH WHISKY (£MILLION)

April 2015 to March 2016

| | |
|----------|-------|
| England | 144 |
| Scotland | 3,554 |

Source: HMRC special analysis of Regional Trade Statistics database

■ World Trade Organisation

Mr David Lammy: [\[43432\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what estimate his Department has made of how long it will take to negotiate the UK's membership of the World Trade Organisation when the UK leaves the EU.

Mark Garnier:

The UK is a Member of the WTO in its own right. However, in leaving the EU, we will need to update the terms of our WTO membership where, at present, our commitments are applied through the EU as a whole.

We recognise the need to work with the EU and with other WTO Members in order to ensure a smooth transition which minimises the disruption to our trading relationships with other WTO Members, including developing country Members and our closest trading partners.

JUSTICE

■ CAFCASS

Peter Dowd: [\[43059\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent assessment her Department has made of the performance of Cafcass.

Peter Dowd: [\[43060\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether her Department plans to carry out a review of the organisational efficiency and effectiveness of Cafcass.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The Government is confident that the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) continues to provide high quality social work advice to support decisions by the courts in cases involving children. This reflects the outcome of the inspection in 2014 by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) which judged that as a minimum all children, young people and families receive a service where the quality and effectiveness of Cafcass practice is 'good'.

In addition, the department regularly assesses Cafcass' efficiency and effectiveness and holds Cafcass to account for its performance, governance and stewardship of public funds.

■ Children: Maintenance

David Mowat: [\[42645\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many applications have been issued in England and Wales for financial provision for the children of unmarried parents under schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 in each year since 2000.

Dr Phillip Lee:

A parent is entitled to apply for an order under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 regardless of marital status. Information on marital status is not collected in relation to Schedule 1 applications. Applications can also be made by a person who is a special guardian for the child or by a person with whom the child is living under a child arrangements order. The number of all applications issued under Schedule 1 over the period is set out in the table below.

| YEAR | NO. OF APPLICATIONS |
|------|---------------------|
| 2000 | 556 |
| 2001 | 604 |
| 2002 | 585 |
| 2003 | 599 |
| 2004 | 675 |
| 2005 | 677 |
| 2006 | 637 |
| 2007 | 702 |
| 2008 | 615 |
| 2009 | 507 |
| 2010 | 529 |
| 2011 | 472 |
| 2012 | 504 |
| 2013 | 467 |
| 2014 | 588 |
| 2015 | 650 |

■ Community Orders: Females**Kate Green:**[\[42809\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, which women's centres which were providing services for women who were on licence or serving a community sentence prior to the introduction of the Transforming Rehabilitation Programme in February 2015 are no longer providing services for such women.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The information requested is not held centrally.

■ **Crime: Victims**

Justin Tomlinson:

[\[43419\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when her Department plans to publish its green paper on reform of the law supporting victims.

Dr Phillip Lee:

We have committed to introduce measures to further increase the rights of victims. It is important that we take the time to get this right and we will announce our plans in due course.

■ **Crime: Victims and Witnesses**

Justin Tomlinson:

[\[43386\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of allowing police and crime commissioners to commission witness and victim support services.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The majority of support services for victims and witnesses of crime have, since April 2015, been commissioned and funded locally by Police and Crime Commissioners, who are generally best placed to provide services to victims of crime in their areas.

Some support services for victims and witnesses currently remain nationally commissioned, including support for families bereaved by murder and manslaughter and by road crime, female and male victims of rape, victims of terrorism and victims and witnesses at criminal courts.

My officials are currently taking the views of Police and Crime Commissioners and other stakeholders and will provide advice to me in due course for consideration of any potential for further devolution in this area.

■ **Family Proceedings**

Peter Dowd:

[\[43329\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if she will review the Family Procedure Rules 2010 to ensure that those rules do not restrict the ability of hon. Members to represent their constituents; and if she will make a statement.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The Family Procedure Rule Committee makes rules to ensure that the family justice system is accessible, fair and efficient. It has fully considered the issue of disclosure of court documents to persons who are not a party to the proceedings. The Rules and supporting Practice Directions on disclosure provide balance between transparency and preserving the confidentiality of those families involved. Hon Members could refer concerns to the Family Procedure Rule Committee for consideration.

■ Offenders: Employment

Chloe Smith:

[43396]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment she has made of the performance of (a) the National Probation Service and (b) community rehabilitation companies in placing ex-offenders into employment in (i) Norfolk and (ii) England.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

We assess the performance of the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) through a range of service levels and, for CRCs, through a robust contract management and assurance process. Performance information against these service levels is published quarterly but it does not include an assessment of performance in placing offenders into employment. We have, however, introduced enhanced measures of resettlement which include the recording of employment at the start and end of the sentence and at the end of the licence supervision period for any offender. We aim to include this in future publications, for both CRCs and the National Probation Service, once data collection has bedded in.

We closely monitor and robustly manage providers to make sure they fulfil their commitments to maintain service delivery, reduce reoffending, protect the public and provide value for money to the taxpayer.

■ Prison Service: Staff

Andy Slaughter:

[42914]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many operational prison officers there were on (a) 12 May 2010, (b) 4 September 2012, (c) 9 May 2015 and (d) 14 July 2016.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Information on the NOMS workforce is published quarterly at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-offender-management-service-workforce-statistics>.

We will always ensure prisons have safe staffing levels. In the 15 months to March 2016 we recruited 2340 prison officers nationally - a net increase of 540 officers.

■ Prison Service: Working Hours

Mr David Anderson:

[42814]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what information her Department holds on the number of prison officers who work additional shifts at other prison establishments; and whether line managers at those prison officers' main place of work are aware of additional shifts worked elsewhere.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

There is a requirement that home/parent establishments maintain records of all official duties carried out by members of staff, both those duties within their home/parent establishment and within or for any other establishment.

Establishments are also required to maintain records when members of staff from other establishments carryout duties within or for their establishment.

Individual members of staff have a responsibility to support the above and are required inform their parent establishment of their wish/intention to work additional hours at another establishment, in advance of the hours being worked. In all circumstances records should be maintained.

Mr David Anderson:

[\[42815\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what representations she has received on prison officers working additional shifts in other prison establishments than those at which they are based without the knowledge of their line management.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Following an audit of the arrangements under which members of staff undertake additional hours/shifts, new arrangements and requirements were introduced that mandated the need to maintain records of all attendance arrangements, both those within parent establishments and also any additional attendance within other establishments.

The above new arrangements were introduced in 2014 with the publication of Notice to Staff 43/2014.

Concerns have previously been raised relating to staff undertaking additional hours/shifts within establishments other than their home/parent establishment by the Prison Officers Association. It is felt that the introduction of the above address's this, as the arrangements ensure that information is readily available to managers to enable them to monitor the additional attendance.

Mr David Anderson:

[\[42816\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment her Department has made of the implications for (a) prison officer and (b) prisoner safety of prison officers working in shifts at other prison establishments in addition to those prison establishments at which they are based.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

There is a requirement that home/parent establishments maintain records of all official duties carried out by members of staff, both those duties within their home/parent establishment and within or for any other establishment. Establishments are also required to maintain records when members of staff from other establishments carryout duties within or for their establishment.

Individual members of staff have a responsibility to support the above and are required inform their parent establishment of their wish/intention to work additional hours at another establishment, in advance of the hours being worked.

When members of staff are deployed to another establishment for a protracted period on Detached Duty they are given an appropriate induction to familiarise them with specifics of the prison and key issues relating to individual prisoners. If standard duties

are carried out on an ad hoc basis for other establishments standard risk assessments and briefs will be carried out.

In all circumstances records should be maintained.

■ Prisoners' Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme

Andy Slaughter: [42916]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prisoners were on each level of incentives and privileges in each of the last five years.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Information on the average number of prisoners at each level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges (IEP) scheme (including Entry level, which was introduced on 1 November 2013) for 2013-14 and 2014-15 can be found in the NOMS Annual Report Management Information Addendum for those years via the following links:

2013-14:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/338945/mi-addendum.pdf

2014-15:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/449925/mi-addendum.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro.pdf

Figures for the three preceding years, 2010-11 to 2012-13, are provided in the table below.

Table: Average Number of prisoners at each IEP level, 2010-11 to 2012-13, England & Wales

| | ENHANCED | STANDARD | BASIC |
|---------|----------|----------|-------|
| 2010/11 | 36,231 | 45,101 | 1,344 |
| 2011/12 | 37,818 | 45,407 | 1,608 |
| 2012/13 | 39,778 | 43,738 | 1,788 |

Figures for 2015-16 will be published in the Annual NOMS Digest on 28 July.

■ Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Jonathan Ashworth: [43374]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people from ethnic minority backgrounds were sent to prison in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the total annual prison population such people represent in each of those years.

Jonathan Ashworth:

[\[43375\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people were sent to prison in each of the last 10 years.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

It is absolutely essential that our justice system treats people from all backgrounds equally. That's why we commissioned an independent review to look at the treatment and experiences of BAME groups in the justice system.

The number of people sent to prison in each of the last 10 years can be viewed in the table below. The table also includes the number of people from ethnic minority backgrounds who were sent to prison in each of the last 10 years.

**TABLE 1: FIRST PRISON
RECEPTIONS¹ INTO PRISON BY
ETHNIC GROUP, ENGLAND &
WALES, 2005 - 2015**

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 ² | 2015 ³ |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| All ethnicities | 132,058 | 128,986 | 125,881 | 134,148 | 125,877 | 118,042 | 120,760 | 112,774 | 107,318 | 103,892 | 93,722 |
| White | 102,465 | 98,745 | 96,412 | 103,024 | 96,722 | 90,095 | 92,265 | 86,671 | 83,268 | .. | 73,258 |
| Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups | 3,330 | 3,497 | 3,704 | 4,047 | 3,961 | 3,946 | 3,963 | 3,752 | 3,567 | .. | 3,192 |
| Asian/ Asian British | 8,504 | 8,853 | 8,392 | 9,294 | 8,947 | 8,249 | 8,748 | 8,017 | 8,026 | .. | 6,533 |
| Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British | 15,664 | 15,635 | 15,033 | 15,585 | 13,745 | 11,941 | 12,263 | 10,568 | 9,773 | .. | 8,316 |
| Other ethnic group | 1,657 | 1,875 | 2,047 | 2,039 | 2,056 | 1,658 | 1,607 | 1,588 | 1,440 | .. | 1,308 |
| Not stated | 276 | 244 | 216 | 125 | 92 | 80 | 87 | 109 | 109 | .. | 297 |
| Ethnic group not recorded | 52 | 45 | 42 | 5 | 298 | 2,071 | 1,827 | 2,069 | 1,135 | .. | 818 |

**TABLE 1: FIRST PRISON
RECEPTIONS¹ INTO PRISON BY
ETHNIC GROUP, ENGLAND &
WALES, 2005 - 2015**

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1991 Census ethnic codes ⁴ | 110 | 92 | 35 | 29 | 56 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .. | 0 |
| <i>Proportion of first receptions that are from ethnic minority groups</i> | 22% | 23% | 23% | 23% | 23% | 22% | 22% | 21% | 21% | .. | 21% |

(1) A first reception is a measure which counts a prisoners first movement into custody following a court hearing for a particular set of offences committed, and therefore gives the best indication of the number of new prisoners in the reporting period

(2) Due to data quality concerns and a problem with the supply of data between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014, the volume of first receptions are unavailable for this period. To estimate the 2014 totals and subsequent breakdowns for the affected statistics, an imputation method has been applied. Due to the disruption in data supply, a breakdown of first receptions by ethnic group is not available.

(3) Due to improvements in IT systems, the 2015 prison receptions data is now taken from a different source and, for statistical reporting purposes only, are produced using a different method.

(4) Prior to 2004 the 1991 census ethnic codes were used.

The proportion of the total yearly prison population such people represent in each of those years can be found in the prison population 2015 publication at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-january-to-march-2015>

■ Prisoners: Racially Aggravated Offences

Andy Slaughter:

[42918]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many incidents classified as racially-motivated were reported by prisoners in each of the last five years.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

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

■ **Prisons: Reform**

Andy Slaughter:

[\[42863\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what her plans are for prison reform.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

I am committed to continuing the vital work of prison reform. We need to create safe, secure and purposeful prisons with regimes that help rehabilitate offenders so there are fewer victims in the future. This is a key part of the Government's commitment to delivering social justice for all.

We already have an ambitious agenda to modernise the prison estate, improve education and empower governors, so that we can tackle issues like drugs and violence which are key to cutting reoffending and keeping staff and prisoners safe.

I want to see radical reform of prisons and will set out the next steps in coming weeks.

■ **Probation**

Kate Green:

[\[42812\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many breach proceedings initiated by community rehabilitation companies, the National Probation Service has rejected; and what the reasons for those rejections were.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

It has not been possible to answer this question in the time allowed. I will write to the honourable member in due course.

Kate Green:

[\[42813\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of breach proceedings initiated by community rehabilitation companies resulted in a person being recalled to prison by the National Probation Service in each of the last two years.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The National Probation Service does not authorise recall requests on behalf of the Secretary of State. Therefore, we have interpreted your question relating to breach proceedings in relation to those cases where a Community Rehabilitation Company is seeking an endorsement of a recall request by the National Probation Service before it is submitted for authorisation. This applies to cases where there is evidence of an increase in the offender's risk of serious harm to high and the risk is not deemed to be imminent. We do not hold this information centrally and, therefore, it is not possible to provide you with the information which you have requested.

■ Reoffenders: Females

Kate Green: [\[42806\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment her Department has made of the causal link between a reduction in reoffending among women and the work of women's (a) centres and (b) groups.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The Justice Data Lab (JDL) provides re-offending outcomes to organisations working with offenders to help them assess the impact of their work on reducing re-offending. Analysis by the JDL, looking at individuals who received support provided by 32 Women's Centres throughout England between 2010 and 2012, noted a reduction in reoffending of between 1 and 9 percentage points. Centre-level analyses for two Women's Centres have shown no significant impact in reducing reoffending.

The JDL has analysed a number of women-only interventions that aim to reduce reoffending. The results of these analyses are mixed, with some showing significant results and some not.

Kate Green: [\[42807\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many men supervised by community rehabilitation companies (CRC) following a prison sentence of less than 12 months have been recalled to prison in each (a) CRC area and (b) month since February 2015.

Kate Green: [\[42810\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many women supervised by community rehabilitation companies (CRC) following a prison sentence of less than 12 months have been recalled to prison in each (a) CRC area and (b) month since February 2015.

Kate Green: [\[42811\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many women supervised by community rehabilitation companies following a prison sentence of less than 12 months have been recalled to prison during their licence period (a) once, (b) twice, (c) three times, (d) four times and (e) five or more times.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Anyone who breaches his licence conditions is liable to be recalled to custody. Those who commit a crime while on licence face prosecution and potentially more time in prison. For serious offences, they can be held in prison on remand until trial.

The figures provided in the tables below refer to offenders serving a sentence of less than 12 months who have been released and subsequently recalled. These offenders became subject to supervision and licence conditions only as a result of the commencement of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 (ORA) in February 2015. Prior to this, such offenders were released unconditionally.

Throughout the period covered by the data, the number of offenders subject to the new provisions has steadily increased. This is because the ORA requirement applied only to

those sentenced after commencement. In recent months, the number of ORA offenders being recalled has levelled out.

Furthermore, the ORA provisions have had a disproportionate effect on the number of women recalled because evidence suggests women are more likely to receive shorter sentences.

Table A gives a breakdown of the number of men and women supervised by Community Rehabilitation Companies following a prison sentence of less than 12 months who have been recalled to prison, each month since February 2015.

Table A

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS RECALLED FROM LICENCE FOLLOWING A SENTENCE OF LESS THAN 12 MONTHS, BY GENDER, MONTH AND COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY AREA

| | Feb-15 | Mar-15 | Apr-15 | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Females | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community Rehabilitation Companies | 2 | 12 | 18 | 25 | 38 | 49 | 45 | 45 | 48 | 38 | 48 |
| London | 1 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 6 |
| Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Rutland | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| Staffordshire & West Midlands | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Warwickshire & West Mercia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Durham Tees Valley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Humberside, Lincolnshire & North Yorkshire | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| West Yorkshire | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS RECALLED FROM LICENCE FOLLOWING A SENTENCE OF LESS THAN 12 MONTHS, BY GENDER, MONTH AND COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY AREA

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Cheshire & Greater Manchester | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Cumbria & Lancashire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Merseyside | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Essex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Kent, Surrey & Sussex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Norfolk & Suffolk | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset & Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Dorset, Devon & Cornwall | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Hampshire & Isle of Wight | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Thames Valley | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wales | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Males | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community Rehabilitation Companies | 5 | 60 | 158 | 268 | 310 | 393 | 323 | 338 | 422 | 387 | 380 |
| London | 0 | 13 | 17 | 46 | 53 | 39 | 51 | 39 | 74 | 67 | 65 |
| Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, | 0 | 1 | 18 | 24 | 30 | 40 | 35 | 29 | 36 | 23 | 30 |

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS RECALLED FROM LICENCE FOLLOWING A SENTENCE OF LESS THAN 12 MONTHS, BY GENDER, MONTH AND COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY AREA

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Leicestershire & Rutland | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staffordshire & West Midlands | 0 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 9 | 20 | 24 | 16 | 16 | 25 | 29 |
| Warwickshire & West Mercia | 0 | 0 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 17 | 10 |
| Durham Tees Valley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Humberside, Lincolnshire & North Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 24 | 12 | 19 | 24 | 11 | 31 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 3 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 17 | 11 | 22 | 22 | 34 | 24 |
| West Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 9 |
| Cheshire & Greater Manchester | 1 | 7 | 26 | 26 | 44 | 48 | 28 | 39 | 35 | 34 | 34 |
| Cumbria & Lancashire | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 10 |
| Merseyside | 0 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 20 | 6 | 10 | 20 | 9 | 7 |
| Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire | 0 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 13 | 22 | 17 | 17 | 28 | 22 | 10 |
| Essex | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 9 | 2 |
| Kent, Surrey & Sussex | 0 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 24 | 27 | 22 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 16 |
| Norfolk & Suffolk | 0 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 13 |
| Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset & Wiltshire | 1 | 2 | 5 | 16 | 7 | 17 | 15 | 19 | 14 | 11 | 20 |

NUMBER OF OFFENDERS RECALLED FROM LICENCE FOLLOWING A SENTENCE OF LESS THAN 12 MONTHS, BY GENDER, MONTH AND COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY AREA

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Dorset, Devon & Cornwall | 0 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 12 |
| Hampshire & Isle of Wight | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Thames Valley | 2 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 19 | 11 | 13 |
| Wales | 0 | 3 | 15 | 19 | 27 | 38 | 28 | 20 | 29 | 35 | 38 |

Table B gives a breakdown of women supervised by Community Rehabilitation Companies following a prison sentence of less than 12 months who have been recalled, broken down by the number of times they have been recalled.

Table B

NUMBER OF FEMALE
OFFENDERS RECALLED FROM
LICENCE BY COMMUNITY
REHABILITATION COMPANIES
FOLLOWING A SENTENCE OF
LESS THAN 12 MONTHS

Feb-
Dec
2015

Total 368
number
of recalls

Total 310
number
of
offenders
recalled

Recalled 264
once

Recalled 37
twice

NUMBER OF FEMALE
OFFENDERS RECALLED FROM
LICENCE BY COMMUNITY
REHABILITATION COMPANIES
FOLLOWING A SENTENCE OF
LESS THAN 12 MONTHS

Recalled 6
3 times

Recalled 3
4 times

Recalled 0
5 or
more
times

1. Recalls following a sentence of less than 12 months were only available from February 2015.

2. The number of recalls for each offender is the total number of recalls from the same sentence in the period February-December 2015

3. Some offenders may have been recalled from more than one sentence over the period. Only multiple recalls from the same sentence are counted here.

Kate Green:

[\[42808\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many women have been released from prison to no fixed address in each month since February 2015.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

■ Slavery: Sentencing

Sarah Champion:

[\[42669\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when she plans to publish the sentencing guidelines for Part 1 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Sentencing Guidelines are issued by the Sentencing Council for England and Wales, a body independent of Government.

■ Social Networking

Anna Turley:

[43124]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of legislation relating to online abuse on social media.

Dr Phillip Lee:

I refer the hon. member to the answer given to PQ 42962 on 21 July 2016.

■ Social Security Benefits: Suffolk

Jo Churchill:

[43251]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many decisions taken on claims for (a) employment and support allowance and (b) personal independence payments were appealed in (i) Bury St Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk in each of the last five years; and how many of those appeals were successful.

Dr Phillip Lee:

HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) does not hold accurate information on the volumes of appeals against decisions on claims for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP). At the point of receipt and registration of the appeal the Tribunal is unable to differentiate between appeals relating to new claims for these benefits and those to relating existing claims.

Information about the volumes and outcomes of appeals to the Tribunal is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunals-and-gender-recognition-certificate-statistics-quarterly-january-to-march-2016>.

The tables below provide information on the number of appeals against decisions taken on ESA and PIP claims that were found in favour of the appellant, that were heard at (i) the Tribunal venue at ¹ Cambridge, which serves appellants living in the Bury St Edmunds constituency and other nearby locations; and (ii) Suffolk.

ESA CLAIMS (EXCLUDING REASSESSMENT DECISIONS)

| | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ¹ Cambridge | 171 | 171 | 252 | 33 | 75 |
| ² Suffolk | 1,177 | 869 | 1,797 | 332 | 537 |

³PIP CLAIMS (EXCLUDING REASSESSMENT DECISIONS)

| | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cambridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 103 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 532 |

¹ The tribunal venue in Cambridge serves appellants living in the Bury St Edmunds constituency and other nearby locations

² Suffolk includes the data from the Cambridge, Colchester, Ipswich & Norwich venues.

³ PIP was introduced as a new benefit in April 2013 to replace Disability Living Allowance for people aged 16 to 64, and appeal volumes have risen since that time.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the details are subject to inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale case management system.

■ Terrorism: Victim Support Schemes

Justin Tomlinson:

[\[43387\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with which other government departments and executive agencies her Department works to provide support for victims of terrorism; and what steps her Department is taking to improve co-ordination between those bodies and her Department.

Dr Phillip Lee:

This Government is committed to ensuring that victims of terrorism can access effective and timely support to help them cope, and as far as possible, recover from the trauma they have experienced.

The Ministry of Justice works with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, which administers both the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and Victim of Overseas Terrorism Compensation Scheme, which provides compensation to victims of terrorist attacks in the UK and of designated terrorist attacks overseas respectively.

The Ministry of Justice continues to work pan Government to understand current support provision for victims of terrorism, to ensure that victims and their families are aware of the sources of MoJ funded support available in England and Wales and to identify potential gaps in support including guidance on gov.uk.

■ Young Offenders: Education

Andy Slaughter:

[\[42917\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much funding will be allocated to the Youth Justice Board for expenditure on education in each of the next three years.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The Youth Justice Board has responsibility for commissioning the youth secure estate, including the provision of education. We place a high priority on education and training for young people in the youth secure estate, but no decisions have yet been taken on funding allocations for the next three years.

■ Zero Hours Contracts

Justin Madders:

[42650]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many employment tribunal claims have been made under the Exclusivity Terms in Zero Hours Contracts (Redress) Regulations 2015 since those regulations came into force.

Sir Oliver Heald:

There have been no claims made under the Exclusivity Terms in Zero Hours Contracts (Redress) Regulations 2015 since its introduction on 11 January 2016 to 31 March 2016. Data from April 2016 onwards will be published in due course at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics>.

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ EU Grants and Loans: Northern Ireland

Ms Margaret Ritchie:

[42989]

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what funding his Department received from EU sources in each of the last five years.

Ms Margaret Ritchie:

[42990]

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what plans his Department has to mitigate any loss of funding resulting from the decision to leave the EU.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 21 July 2016]: The Northern Ireland Office does not receive any funding from EU sources.

PRIME MINISTER

■ Syria: Military Intervention

Kirsten Oswald:

[43349]

To ask the Prime Minister, with reference to the 2015-16 Annual Report of the Intelligence and Security Committee, for what reasons it was decided not to provide the Intelligence and Security Committee with evidence on the UK's role in US air strikes against (a) Junaid Hussain and (b) Mohammed Emwazi.

Mrs Theresa May:

I refer the hon. Member to paragraph 15 of the 2015-16 Annual Report of the Intelligence and Security Committee.

TRANSPORT

■ Ferries: Fares

Danny Kinahan: [\[43341\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent discussions he has had with the Consumer Council on UK ferry operators and their pricing structures.

Danny Kinahan: [\[43342\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent discussions he has had with UK ferry operators on their pricing structures.

Danny Kinahan: [\[43343\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will assess the level of charges by ferry companies to cross the Irish Sea.

Mr John Hayes:

I have held no such recent discussions. The level of charges on ferries across the Irish Sea is a commercial matter for the companies concerned, subject to normal competition law.

■ Govia Thameslink Railway: Staff

Caroline Lucas: [\[43366\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the requirements for the Great Northern and Thameslink services to be Driver Only Operation contained in the Invitation to Tender for the Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) Franchise apply to all other services across that franchise; what agreement is in place between GTR and his Department on Driver Only Operation; and if he will place that agreement in the public domain.

Paul Maynard:

The requirements the Department specified for Driver Only Operation in the Invitation To Tender can be seen in that document on page 74. Govia proposed changes beyond what was specified in the Invitation to Tender in their bid. These were then contractualised in the Franchise Agreement as an obligation for the operator to fulfil. A copy of the Invitation To Tender and redacted Franchise Agreement is available on the DfT website.

■ Govia Thameslink Railway: Timetables

Kelvin Hopkins: [\[43420\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether under the terms of its franchise agreement Govia Thameslink Railway is required to consult stakeholders before introducing a change to the timetable for its services.

Paul Maynard:

For planned timetable changes, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) is required to consult stakeholders before introducing them. However, when – as is the case for the revised timetable which came into effect on Southern and Gatwick Express services on 11 July a revised timetable has been introduced to mitigate the impact of official and unofficial industrial action – no consultation is required. GTR has an overriding obligation to act in the overall interests of passengers and to take all reasonable measures to avoid or reduce the impact of any disruption.

■ High Speed 2 Railway Line**Mrs Cheryl Gillan:**[\[43088\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the (a) staff, (b) recruitment and (c) other costs of press liaison, publicity and marketing of High Speed 2 have been to date.

Andrew Jones:

For the period of 2011/12 – 2015/16 HS2 Ltd has incurred the following costs associated with press liaison, publicity and marketing of HS2:

(a) staff - £0.9m. This is the total payroll cost for HS2 Ltd staff (i.e. permanent staff). This excludes contingent labour and secondees;

(b) recruitment - HS2 Ltd incurs, manages and controls its recruitment costs centrally and, as such, it is not possible to identify the costs incurred in specific business functions; and

(c) other costs of press liaison, publicity and marketing of High Speed 2 - £1.1m

Expenditure prior to 2011/12 was not broken down by expenditure type in this way.

■ Network Rail: Contracts**Lilian Greenwood:**[\[43345\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 20 June 2016 to Question 40374, what the estimated values are of Network Rail's costs referred to in that Answer by (a) costs incurred with the supplier, (b) installation and (c) operational costs for the (i) Cardiff and (ii) Romford Rail Operating Centre.

Paul Maynard:

The Department for Transport does not hold this level of detail on Network Rail's costs.

■ Rapid Transit Systems**Greg Mulholland:**[\[43320\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of levels of passenger satisfaction with light rail systems.

Paul Maynard:

The Department for Transport has not made any assessment of passenger satisfaction levels in regards to light rail. However, Transport Focus, an independent transport user

watchdog, published results in May 2016 which indicated overall journey satisfaction in 2015 had increased to 92% from 90% the previous year. This follows a survey conducted of over 5,000 passengers who had used light rail systems in operation in Blackpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield and Edinburgh.

A copy of the Transport Focus report can be found at the following weblink:

<http://www.transportfocus.org.uk/research-publications/research/tram-passenger-survey/>

■ Shipping: Climate Change

Richard Burden:

[43370]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to help define the fair share contribution for the global shipping sector as part of the International Maritime Organisation's work on tackling climate change.

Mr John Hayes:

With greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping expected to grow as others sectors act to reduce theirs, the UK Government is clear that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) should take further steps to reduce emissions and improve the energy efficiency of ships, in line with the long term goal set out in the Paris Agreement of keeping the global temperature rise well below 2 degrees.

At the 69th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee, there was broad support from Member States and industry for proposals to define international shipping's fair share of global greenhouse gas emissions. The UK strongly supports the establishing of a Working Group at the 70th session of the Committee (MEPC70) to discuss how the Organization should take this work forward and will play an active part in this group.

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Enterprise Allowance Scheme: Bury St Edmunds

Jo Churchill:

[43247]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people in Bury St Edmunds constituency are in receipt of the new enterprise allowance.

Damian Hinds:

Statistics published on 29 June 2016 show from April 2011 to March 2016, 210 participants started the mentoring phase of NEA, of which 120 have started a business with support from the scheme in the constituency of Bury St Edmunds.

The most recent NEA statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/new-enterprise-allowance-apr-2011-to-mar-2016>

■ Fairgrounds: Accidents

Jim Shannon:

[\[43042\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many accidents have occurred at funfairs and amusement parks in each of the last five years.

Penny Mordaunt:

The figures in the table below provide the number of (a) workers and (b) members of the public who have been reported to HSE under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences 2013 (RIDDOR), as being injured in accidents at funfairs and amusement parks from 2012. Data collected prior to 2012 is not directly comparable due to changes in reporting and recording criteria.

Table 1 - Injuries to workers and members of the public in funfairs and amusement parks¹ as reported to all enforcing authorities 2012/13 – 2014/15p

| YEAR ³ | PUBLIC | WORKERS-- ² |
|----------------------|--------|------------------------|
| 2012/13 | 479 | 64 |
| 2013/14 | 387 | 56 |
| 2014/15 ⁴ | 489 | 51 |

1 Statistics are identified by Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC 2007) class 9321 – Activities of amusement parks and theme parks

2 The term worker includes employees and self-employed persons combined

3 Due to changes in legislation, the criteria for reporting injuries to workers changed in April 2012 and again in October 2013. Therefore annual estimates of injuries to workers over this period are not directly comparable

4 HSE's analysis of the data for injuries to members of the public at fairgrounds and theme parks in 2014/15 found that upwards of 75% of reported injuries did not meet the criteria for a RIDDOR reportable injury.

■ Fairgrounds: Safety

Jim Shannon:

[\[43041\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps the Government is taking to prevent accidents at funfairs and amusement parks.

Penny Mordaunt:

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has a dedicated National Fairground Inspection Team (NFIT) which enforces health and safety law at fairgrounds and theme parks in Great Britain. The NFIT work plan for 2106/17 targets proactive inspection of fairground rides with known problems and other areas of higher risk.

NFIT inspectors also investigate accidents and complaints. They have a range of options available to hold poor performers to account, including enforcement notices and

prosecution for the most serious breaches of the law. Any lessons learned from these investigations are communicated to the industry.

HSE is also working with national industry bodies, which collectively make up the Amusement Devices Safety Council, to maintain and where necessary, improve health and safety standards and practices across the industry. HSE is currently working with one of those bodies, the British Association Leisure Parks Piers and Attractions, on an initiative aimed at improving risk management at theme parks.

■ Personal Independence Payment: Appeals

Rosie Cooper: [42852]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what reason Motability is required to repossess a claimant's vehicle before mandatory reconsideration or appeals related to personal independent payment claim applications.

Penny Mordaunt:

Motability is an independent charitable organisation wholly responsible for the Motability scheme. It is therefore Motability's decision whether to allow claimants to keep their vehicle during this period.

Claimants are allowed to keep their vehicle for up to seven weeks following a decision that they are no longer entitled to PIP, with Mandatory Reconsiderations normally completed well before this. Most are also eligible for a £2,000 transitional support payment. Those who win their appeal can normally reapply for the scheme immediately, providing they repay this; otherwise, they can re-join after 6 months.

■ Social Security Benefits

Caroline Lucas: [43073]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of people who have (a) had their payments reduced and (b) lost their motability cars after transferring from disability living allowance to personal independence payments; and if he will make a statement.

Penny Mordaunt:

Breakdowns of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) claims made by Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants in payment by type and rate of awards, and reassessment claims by type of clearance (i.e. whether the claim was awarded, disallowed or withdrawn), can be found at <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

The Department does not have verified data on the number of PIP claimants who have had their payments reduced as a result of the move to PIP. We intend to provide more detailed breakdowns of DLA to PIP reassessment outcomes in due course. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity.

The Department does not hold data on whether a DLA recipient has leased a car under the Motability scheme.

■ **Work and Health Programme**

Ronnie Cowan:

[\[43418\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when his Department plans to publish its Work and Health Green Paper.

Penny Mordaunt:

We plan to publish the Work and Health Green Paper later this year to start to reframe the discussion with disabled people, those who have long term health conditions and their representative organisations. The Green Paper points towards long-term reform.

■ **Work Capability Assessment**

Dr Lisa Cameron:

[\[42665\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of proposed changes to the work related activity group on the effectiveness of the assessment process.

Penny Mordaunt:

The change is not related to the work capability assessment process, which happens prior to a claimant being placed in the work related activity group. Therefore no assessment of the change on the effectiveness of the work capability assessment process has been undertaken.

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

JUSTICE

■ Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Frank Field: [\[41331\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many decisions taken on claims for (a) employment and support allowance and (b) personal independence payment have been appealed in (i) Birkenhead and (ii) the UK in each of the past five years; and how many of those appeals have been successful.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 30 June 2016. The correct answer should have been:

Mr Shailesh Vara

Sir Oliver Heald:

HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) does not hold accurate information on the volumes of appeals received against claims for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

The tables below provide information on the number of appeals against decisions taken on ESA and PIP claims that were found in favour of the appellant in Birkenhead and Great Britain ¹.

ESA CLAIMS (EXCLUDING REASSESSMENT DECISIONS)

| | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Great Britain ¹ | 62,147 | 56,042 | 88,946 | 24,979 | 43,773 25,831 |
| Birkenhead | 306 | 163 | 664 | 203 | 277 |

PIP ² CLAIMS (EXCLUDING REASSESSMENT DECISIONS)

| | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Great Britain ¹ | 0 | 0 | 21 | 3,374 | 42,354 20,659 |
| Birkenhead | 0 | 0 | 1 | 41 | 190 |

¹ HMCTS administer appeals received from appellants living in England, Scotland and Wales. The Appeals Service, part of the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service, administers appeals from appellants living in Northern Ireland.

² PIP started to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for people aged 16 to 64 from 8 April 2013.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the details are subject to inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale case management system.