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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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

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

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Written Statements

Monday, 6 June 2016

G7 Summit

[HLWS38]

Baroness Stowell of Beeston (The Lord Privy Seal):

My Rt Hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement to the House of Commons:

I attended the G7 Summit in Ise Shima, Japan, on 26-27 May. This was the 42nd G7 Summit, and the third without Russia since its exclusion in March 2014, following the illegal annexation of Crimea.

This was the first summit under Japan's chairmanship since 2008. Under Prime Minister Abe's leadership, Japan has focused its G7 presidency on the global economy, regional prosperity and security, quality infrastructure, global health security and women's economic empowerment. G7 leaders also discussed key issues in foreign policy, trade, energy and climate change, and development. Prime Minister Abe invited leaders from Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Laos, Chad, and the heads of the UN, World Bank, OECD, IMF and African Development Bank to join two sessions on regional stability and development. I had a number of bilateral discussions and formal meetings with Prime Minister Abe of Japan and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh.

The G7 is a group of nations bound together by common values and common principles – freedom, democracy, the rule of law, a belief in open markets and respect for human rights. It is a forum where true democracies and like-minded countries come together for frank discussions on the biggest issues we face.

I went to the G7 Summit with five clear objectives: to push for progress on global trade talks, particularly the EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement; to highlight the dangers of increasing global resistance to antibiotics; to encourage G7 leaders to tackle the global scourge of corruption by committing to take forward the outcomes of the UK's Anti-Corruption Summit on 12 May; to keep up the pressure to defeat Daesh; and to ensure support for continued sanctions pressure on Russia to complete the Minsk agreement. We made good progress on each.

Leaders discussed the substantial benefits new trade agreements would bring for all our citizens. We agreed to make a renewed push on the trade agreement between the EU and the US, and we agreed to reach a political agreement on the EU-Japan trade agreement by the end of the year. This was a significant step forward. I also pushed for progress on plurilateral deals in the WTO on green goods and on services, and on the need for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement to be implemented, to ensure that the poorest are not left behind.

On the threat from growing resistance to antibiotics, I made clear to leaders the scale of the problem, and the risk that if we do not act on this now, there could be 10

million excess deaths a year by 2050. Last month, Jim O'Neill published his authoritative review on antimicrobial resistance, challenging us all to act now.

As a first step, I announced that the UK has put in place £265 million to track the spread of resistance in developing countries, and £50 million into a global fund for antimicrobial resistance research and development. I also announced that we will cut inappropriate prescribing in the UK by half by 2020, leading the global field in reducing demand for antimicrobials. And the UK will work with international partners to develop a system that incentivises pharmaceutical companies to bring new products to market. The G7 recognised the recommendations of Jim O'Neill's review in the G7 Ise Shima Vision for Global Health. And I spoke to the World Bank and others about this at the summit.

I continued the push for global action to tackle corruption, and the G7 agreed to take forward a coordinated, ambitious global effort to defeat corruption, endorsing the outcomes of the UK's Anti-Corruption Summit. The G7 agreed to play a leading role in implementing these actions, and also agreed to a G7 Action Plan to Fight Corruption.

On the global economy, leaders discussed the risks to the world economy and to jobs and growth at home, particularly from the economic transition in China, the problems in some emerging economies, and the consequences should the UK decide to leave the EU. I highlighted the success of our monetary, fiscal and structural reform policies in the UK to reduce the deficit and put the UK back on a path to growth, and made clear the need for each country to choose its macroeconomic policy tools according to national circumstances.

I led discussions among G7 Heads on terrorism and extremism. We agreed that Islamist extremism is the threat of our generation, and that Daesh is the most violent current manifestation. G7 leaders agreed that the international community must keep up the pressure to defeat this terrorist death cult, and endorsed a G7 Action Plan for Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism.

I emphasised that Britain is playing its part in confronting Daesh militarily. Our RAF pilots have now conducted more than 700 airstrikes in Iraq and since December, more than 40 in Syria – which is more than any nation other than the US. With coalition support, Iraqi forces have already retaken over 40% of the territory once held by Daesh. Our intelligence services are cooperating with each other as never before, and at the summit, leaders agreed to do more.

I underlined that we must go beyond fighting terrorism and tackle the root causes of extremism. In the G7 Action Plan for Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, leaders committed to do more to work with the private sector to tackle the poisonous ideology of terrorism online, such as through working with Internet Service Providers and administrators of relevant applications to facilitate counterterrorism investigations and to help prevent the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes to recruit and radicalise young people in our communities.

We discussed all of these things and shared ideas with each other.

Leaders underlined that Ukraine is the victim of Russian-backed aggression. G7 leaders were clear that existing sanctions against Russia must remain in place until the Minsk agreement is fully implemented, and that the EU should therefore renew the sanctions currently in place at the June European Council.

G7 leaders discussed the continuing migration crisis in the Mediterranean. We agreed that we must continue supporting jobs and livelihoods in poor and unstable African countries, to try to reduce migratory pressures – and the UK is doing a great deal already in this respect. But we also agreed that we need strong borders and a means to return those who attempt to cross them illegally, often at grave risk to their own lives. In the eastern Mediterranean, on average nearly 2,000 people arrived a day before the EU-Turkey deal was signed. Since then, the average has been fewer than 100 and in May was fewer than 50. Although the agreement remains fragile, it is saving lives and reducing migratory pressures, and needs to be fully supported.

G7 leaders discussed the need to achieve the same objectives on the central Mediterranean route. We are working to agree a plan to boost the capability of the Libyan coastguard. And I announced at the G7 that, once a detailed plan is agreed with the Libyan authorities, the UK will send a training team to assist in its implementation. I also announced that, once the relevant permissions and UN Security Council Resolution are in

place, I will deploy a naval warship to the south central Mediterranean to combat arms trafficking in the region. Together these developments will help stabilise Libya, secure its coast and tackle the migration crisis.

Leaders also discussed energy and climate change, and reiterated the need to move ahead with the momentous agreement agreed in Paris last November to keep global temperature rise to below 2 degrees. Leaders underlined the importance of increasing women's education and training, as well as providing greater access to science, technology, engineering and maths subjects, as set out in the G7 Guiding Principles for Building the Capacity of Women and Girls.

Finally, leaders underlined the need to continue supporting the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Leaders agreed that we must leave no one behind, and agreed that the 2030 Agenda lays the foundation for a more peaceful, stable, inclusive and prosperous international community. Significantly, G7 leaders reiterated their respective commitments to providing 0.7% of Gross National Income in overseas development assistance, where the UK is the only member to be meeting this target.

This was a successful summit for the UK, and I look forward to working with the Italian G7 Presidency to take forward many of these important issues at next year's G7 summit, which Prime Minister Renzi announced would be held in Sicily. Written Statement missing, please insert manually.

Written Answers

Monday, 6 June 2016

Academies

Asked by **Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total cost, including legal fees, of converting a school to an academy. [[HL341](#)]

Lord Nash: The costs of becoming an academy vary from school to school. Schools that become academies each receive a standard pre-opening grant relative to their particular circumstances.

Currently, these tariffed grants contribute towards the costs of conversion incurred by schools in establishing the academy. These may include legal fees, as well as costs associated with transfer of land, transfer of software licences, Human Resources and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations advice, setting up an Academy Trust and paying for school improvement capacity.

Acts

Asked by **Lord Lexden**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Acts of Parliament have been passed since 2010; and how many of those have not been implemented. [[HL132](#)]

Lord Bridges of Headley: 212 Government and non-Government Bills have been passed by the United Kingdom Parliament since 2010. The Government monitors implementation of its policy commitments rather than individual legislative measures.

Africa: Manufacturing Industries

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has been asked by the Department for International Development to analyse why Africa's share of global manufacturing has fallen from three percent in 1970 to less than two percent in 2014. [[HL245](#)]

Baroness Verma: DFID, BIS and the FCO form a joint Trade Policy Unit which collectively works on issues of trade policy and trade facilitation and regularly scrutinises sectoral trade and growth trends across Africa.

While Africa's share of global manufacturing has fallen since 1970, this is mostly driven by the rise in manufacturing production in China and India. Manufacturing production is increasing across Africa, but with varying experiences across countries. African manufacturing grew at 3.5% annually in real terms over the last decade. However, manufacturing still represents on a small fraction of economic activity and it is our assessment that manufacturing in Africa is lagging.

The World Bank calculates that 18 million jobs need to be created in Africa every year until 2035 to keep up with this growth. The Department for International Development is currently scaling up our efforts to boost manufacturing in Africa to help create jobs and economic opportunities. This adds to DFID's strong portfolio on unlocking industrialisation and trade in Africa.

Air Pollution: Greater London

Asked by **Lord Freyberg**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to address the key findings of the 2013 report *Analysing Air Pollution Exposure in London*, and whether additional powers will be given to boroughs, particularly in deprived communities, to further reduce levels of NO₂ emissions that are above the EU limit for 2020. [[HL239](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government's National Air Quality Plan, published on 17 December 2015, sets out a comprehensive approach to improving UK air quality. A key measure of this is the introduction of new Clean Air Zones in five cities (Birmingham, Derby, Leeds, Nottingham and Southampton), along with the Ultra Low Emission Zone in London. The Plan will tackle the most polluting vehicles in air pollution hotspots and will enable us to reach compliance with legal limits as quickly as possible.

The Mayor is responsible for air quality standards in London. The Mayor provides the framework and guidance which London boroughs use to review and improve air quality within their areas.

Asked by **Lord Kinnock**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they received from the former Mayor of London, Mr Johnson, about the 2013 conclusions of the Report on Air Pollution in London, which he commissioned but did not publish in full; when any such information was received; and what response they made, if any. [[HL265](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Mayor is responsible for air quality standards in London. The Mayor provides the framework and guidance which London boroughs use to review and improve air quality within their areas. Officials have found no evidence that information about the specific report referred to was shared with Government.

Andargachew Tsege

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to ask the government of Ethiopia to release Andy Tsege following his alleged torture and sentencing to death without a court hearing, and if not, why not. [[HL204](#)]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government takes the detention and welfare of Mr Andargachew Tsege, who

was transferred from Yemen and is imprisoned in Ethiopia, very seriously. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Philip Hammond), has raised Mr Tsege's case with his Ethiopian counterpart over 20 times. The Minister for Africa, my Hon Friend, the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) has also raised the case, most recently on 8 January. Our focus has been on lobbying for Mr Tsege to have access to an independent lawyer who is able to advise him of his legal options. We believe that this is the best way to grant Mr Tsege the opportunity to resolve this case. Ministerial lobbying has already achieved the transfer of Mr Tsege to a normal federal prison and regular consular visits. We will continue to lobby the Ethiopian government until Mr Tsege is given access to a lawyer, and until our concerns about Mr Tsege's case have been fully addressed.

Apprentices: Females

Asked by Baroness Nye

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish the completion rates for apprentices across all apprenticeship frameworks and standards, disaggregated by gender, in the light of the recent report by the Young Women's Trust suggesting that female apprentices in male dominated sectors such as engineering, IT and construction are less likely to complete their apprenticeship. [HL33]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Apprenticeship achievement rates disaggregated by framework and gender are published on the GOV.UK website by the Skills Funding Agency in the National Achievement Rate Tables (formerly National Success Rate Tables).

The dataset is too large to attach to this response but is available at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/sfa-national-achievement-rates-tables-2014-to-2015>

However, table 1 shows overall achievement rates by gender in 2014/15.

Table 1: Apprenticeship Overall Achievement Rates by Gender, 2014/15

	Overall Cohort	Overall Achievement Rate %
Female	192,310	71.7
Male	170,950	71.7

Armed Conflict: Sexual Offences

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish a strategic plan and five-year road map for the implementation of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, and if so, when. [HL343]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government is considering the recommendation in the House of Lords Select Committee Report on Sexual Violence that it

develops a strategic plan and roadmap. The Government will respond in full to the Select Committee Report on 13 June. The Government will continue to update Parliament on the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual Human Rights Report. The Government also plans to provide regular briefings and updates to the recently formed All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual Violence in Conflict. In addition, the Government keeps all those interested in this important work up-to-date on progress via social and other forms of media.

Asylum: Children

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to move more UK officials to Calais and Northern France to work full-time on identifying, screening and processing potential transfers under the Dublin III regulations, and to make special provision for cases where further evidence of family links is needed. [HL72]

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to work together with the French government to ensure that unaccompanied children have access to high quality legal assistance to submit claims for family reunion in the UK, and to fund improved measures for identification of, and support for, unaccompanied minors in Calais and Northern France. [HL73]

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that unaccompanied children in Northern France have information about the process for reuniting with their families in the UK under the Dublin III Regulations, that this is presented in a form and language that the children can understand, and that it includes information about the process for asylum transfers, the likely timeframes involved, and the criteria on which decisions are based. [HL74]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Under the UK-France Joint Declaration of 20 August 2015, the UK and France have committed to ensuring that the provisions of the Dublin III Regulation are used efficiently and effectively. To assist the handling of such cases the two governments have established a permanent official contact group, agreed single points of contact within respective Dublin Units and the UK seconded an asylum expert to the French administration to facilitate the improvement of all stages of the process of identifying, protecting and transferring relevant cases to the UK. The Home Office will review the existing arrangements as part of the work to implement the relevant provisions of the Immigration Act 2016.

To assist with the identification of potential victims of trafficking and exploitation (including unaccompanied children) in Calais the UK has funded a project run by a

French non-governmental organisation which aims to identify and direct these vulnerable people to the appropriate support services in France.

The UK and France are running regular joint communication campaigns in northern France which informs individuals (including unaccompanied children) of their rights to claim asylum in France and gives them information on family reunification. The frequency of these campaigns has been increased in line with the Joint Declaration signed in August 2015.

Asylum: EU Law

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish guidance on the handling of family reunion cases under the Dublin III Regulations including clarifying responsibilities, procedures for unaccompanied children in Calais prior to any transfer, and ensuring that local authorities have sufficient funding and capacity to conduct assessments. [HL123]

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have made to use their discretionary powers under the Dublin III Regulations to take charge of the asylum applications of any mothers or fathers with children who are seeking to reunite with family members in the UK. [HL124]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Dublin III Regulation sets out the criteria for determining responsibility for asylum cases and using discretionary powers. The procedures for dealing with an asylum seeker in Calais, including an unaccompanied child, are for the French authorities to determine, in line with their obligations under the Regulation. We are committed to making the Dublin Regulation work effectively and are in ongoing discussions with France, Italy and Greece to ensure that the right processes and resources are in place to enable this. We are also working with other EU Member States, the UNHCR and other non-governmental organisations and local authorities in the UK to establish the best way to implement the provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 for the transfer of unaccompanied refugee children from elsewhere in the EU to the UK.

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, in Calais and throughout Europe, to enhance the processes for identifying children with rights to family reunion in the UK. [HL125]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK and France are running regular joint communication campaigns in northern France which inform unaccompanied children and others of their right to claim asylum in France and of the family reunion process. The frequency of these campaigns has been increased in line with the Joint Declaration signed in August 2015. Since February 2016

more than 20 children have been transferred to the UK from France and there are many other cases in train.

75 UK personnel will be deployed to Greece to support implementation of the EU-Turkey Migration Agreement. Supporting the operation of the Greek asylum system is a fundamental part of our approach to identifying individuals in need of protection at the earliest opportunity, including those who may be eligible for family reunification under the Dublin Regulation. We are also providing bilateral support to the Dublin Unit in Italy.

Aviation: Fuels

Asked by Baroness Featherstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding is available for research and development into sustainable aviation fuels. [HL20]

Asked by Baroness Featherstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the carbon savings that could result from increasing the use of biofuels in UK aviation. [HL21]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government believes sustainable aviation fuels are of strategic importance, both in reducing carbon emissions and to drive the development of an advanced biofuels industry in the UK.

Those developing sustainable aviation biofuels were eligible to apply for funding under the Department's Advanced Biofuel Demonstration Competition, the winners of which were announced last September.

In early 2015 a Transport Energy Taskforce including aviation industry experts considered, amongst other things, the potential for sustainable aviation fuels to contribute to our climate change commitments to 2030 and beyond. Further to that work we are planning to consult on potential changes to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation later this year, including to make renewable fuels used in aviation eligible for reward under the scheme.

Aviation: Security

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 23 May (HL174), what steps they are taking in particular to ensure that all employees at British airports with access to aircraft are vetted to ensure that they do not hold Islamist fundamentalist views. [HL283]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I would refer my noble friend to my Written Answer of 23 May (HL174) to his earlier question on this issue. Those staff undertaking aviation security duties are subject to additional security vetting following the minimum checks that must be completed. These arrangements, like our overall security

regime, are kept under close review in light of all current threats. For security reasons, we would not comment on specific staff vetting arrangements.

Bats

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 11 May (HL8096), how many bat bridges over roads are (1) currently under construction, and (2) planned for construction; and what is the (a) location, and (b) budgeted cost, of each. [HL171]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Highways England has no bat bridges currently on schemes under construction and none currently planned for schemes to be constructed.

BBC: Internet

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the reported decision by the BBC to discontinue the BBC Food website, and other services that digitally repurpose content that the BBC has already paid for, is in accordance with its vision of the future of the BBC. [HL32]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Decisions in relation to the BBC's online content are a matter for the BBC which is editorially independent of the Government.

Biofuels

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to increase the percentage of fuel made from used cooking oil and other waste products. [HL167]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) was amended in 2011 to provide double reward for biofuels derived from wastes.

Since the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) was established waste based biofuels have risen from 12% of total biofuel supply in the first year of the obligation 2008/09, to 50% based on the latest full year's data for 2014/15 (*Biofuels Statistics obligation year 7 2015/16-Report 6*). According to our latest but incomplete dataset, covering 2015/16, waste based biofuels have risen to 54% of total biofuel supply (*Biofuels Statistics obligation year 8 2015/16-Report 3*).

Used cooking oil from the UK was the most widely reported source under the RTFO for biodiesel in 2014/15 (by feedstock and country of origin) making up 19%. The latest available (incomplete) data for 2015/16 suggests used cooking oil from the UK has risen to 24% of biodiesel.

In addition we have made available a total of £25 million in match-funded grants to construct three

demonstration scale advanced biofuel plants in Swindon, Tees Valley and Grangemouth. These projects will convert low value waste to high value transport fuel.

Block Grant: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have agreed the reduction to the Block Grant for the Northern Ireland Executive as a result of the decision to introduce a lower rate of Corporation Tax in Northern Ireland from April 2018, and if so, what is the new Block Grant figure. [HL114]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: In 2015 the government legislated to make a lower Northern Ireland Corporation Tax rate possible. The Northern Ireland Executive are committed to introducing a rate of 12.5%, to be introduced in 2018.

Now Northern Ireland's own political leaders must press on with the reforms necessary to put the Executive's finances on the sustainable footing required to complete Corporation Tax devolution.

As set out in the Stormont House Agreement, the Executive would then meet the direct and behavioural costs of any reduction in corporation tax in Northern Ireland, and we are continuing to work with the Executive on the funding arrangements which would deliver this outcome.

Bus Services

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what types of data they envisage bus companies outside London will have to make available under the provisions of the Bus Services Bill. [HL162]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The provisions of the Bus Services Bill enable the creation of a single repository of information that could contain information about routes, timetables, fares and tickets, as well as live information about bus arrival times. The information would be open to the public and could be used by software developers to create, for example, information applications for mobile devices.

The detail of what information is to be provided, and in what format, will be developed through close consultation with bus operators, local transport authorities and potential users and will be included in secondary legislation subject to the affirmative procedure.

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require bus operators to collaborate to make bus journeys more integrated. [HL165]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Bus operators and local transport authorities can work together to improve bus services for passengers through voluntary arrangements

and statutory partnerships. The Bus Services Bill will improve the range of partnership options available to authorities and operators.

The Bill will make the statutory partnership schemes more attractive by removing the requirement that the scheme must involve the provision of specific facilities. The Bill will also create a new enhanced partnership arrangement. This will enable local transport authorities to set the frequency and timing of specific services, introduce a zonal ticketing scheme, mandate types of payment that must be accepted, and require certain information to be given to passengers. Any proposals must receive sufficient support from the bus operators before they can be introduced.

Bus Services: Disability

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require bus operators to make buses disability friendly. [HL164]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Single deck buses designed to carry over twenty two passengers on local and scheduled routes must already comply with the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR), including incorporating a designated wheelchair space and boarding facilities, priority seating and colour-contrasting hand-holds. Double deck buses must comply by the 1st January next year, and coaches by 2020. As at 2014/15, 95% of buses in England were low floor or had an accessibility certificate, compared to 80% in 2009/10.

Positive driver interactions and accessible on-board information also make a big difference for many disabled passengers. We are developing best practice guidance on providing disability awareness training for drivers, and have supported innovative approaches for providing next stop information on-board vehicles.

Bus Services: Fuels

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require bus operators to use greener fuel. [HL163]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: A series of measures have been brought in in recent years to encourage bus operators to use greener fuels.

Under the Green Bus Fund which ran from 2009-2014, £89m of Government funding helped purchase over 1200 buses. These vehicles met strict rules covering reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, compared with ordinary buses, taking into account both the production and consumption of the fuel. The Low Emission Bus Scheme (LEBS), announced last year, will provide over £30m to help buy several hundred more low emission buses.

The Government is also encouraging the uptake of greener vehicles through the Bus Service Operators Grant

low carbon emission bus incentive under which eligible services receive an additional 6p per kilometre.

The Bus Services Bill, which was introduced into the House of Lords on 19th May, will provide local transport authorities with new powers to specify the emission standards to be met by local bus services – including through franchising and, with sufficient support from bus operators, under enhanced partnership arrangements.

The Government has also invested over £26m since 2011 under the Clean Bus and Clean Vehicle Technology Funds for local authorities in pollution hotspots across England to retrofit 1000s of buses, and other vehicles, with pollution reducing technology. This includes converting some buses to either natural gas or to electric propulsion.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Asked by Baroness Featherstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was spent on the civil nuclear police force last year, and what is the budgeted expenditure on the force for each of the next four years. [HL187]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Civil Nuclear Constabulary is mostly funded by industry through arrangements for it to charge nuclear sites for provision of service to those sites, as set out in the Energy Act 2004.

The table below set out how much was spent on the force last year, via this mechanism:

2015/16	
Revenue Expenditure	£100.2m
Capital Expenditure	£3.9m
Total	£104.1m

The budgeted expenditure for future years is set out in the Civil Nuclear Police Authority's *Strategy and Business Plan 2016-2019* (copy attached).

Figures for 2019/20 are not provided because this is not yet forecast, given the current extent of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority's business planning.

Some costs that are not for provision of service to nuclear sites cannot be charged to industry, and are covered by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. In 2015/16 that amount was £213,000. It is difficult to predict in advance which costs might not be rechargeable, therefore we do not have a forecast for costs for future years.

Similar information was provided in January 2016 in response to a House of Commons named day parliamentary question (reference: 22582), which asked what expenditure has been allocated to the Civil Nuclear Constabulary in (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17, (c) 2017-18, (d) 2018-19 and (e) 2019-20.

The figures given in answer to that question and the figures given and referred to here, show some variation. The reason for this variation is partly that the previous

figures were based on indicative budgets whereas the figures given here are final budgets as approved by the Civil Nuclear Police Authority Board.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

CNPA Strategy and Business Plan 2016-19
[CNPA_Strategy_and_Business_Plan_2016-19.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-23/HL187>

Claims Management Services: Regulation

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their target date for the operation of a regulatory regime for claims management companies. [HL266]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: At Budget 2016 the Chancellor announced that the government accepts the recommendations of the independent review into the regulation of Claims Management Companies (CMCs). The new regime will be tougher and will ensure CMC managers can be held personally accountable for the actions of their businesses. In order to ensure that the new regulatory regime is implemented effectively, the government intends to transfer responsibility for regulating CMCs from the Ministry of Justice to the Financial Conduct Authority. The government intends to take forward the necessary primary legislation in due course.

Community Orders

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance has been issued to the courts to ensure that the option of a mental health Community Treatment Order is considered as part of a Community Sentence. [HL257]

Lord Faulks: The National Probation Service provides sentencers with advice on requirements that could form part of a court ordered community order or a suspended sentence order. Guidance has been produced by the National Offender Management Service that is aimed at all partners, including the National Probation Service and the courts, to support increased use of Mental Health Treatment Requirements. This guidance can be found in the document *Mental health Treatment Requirement – a Guide to Integrated Delivery*, published on gov.uk.

Crimes against Humanity

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to assist the International Criminal Court to bring to justice those who have been indicted for genocide or crimes against humanity, such as President

Bashir of Sudan, and what action they will take against those individuals, including British citizens, who provide support to, or aid and abet, such regimes. [HL364]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK is a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court (ICC); we continue to promote compliance with the arrest warrants for all those indicted, including President Bashir of Sudan. The UK has made it a domestic crime to commit any of the crimes in the ICC Rome Statute, including genocide and crimes against humanity. The legislation provides for ancillary offences including in respect of persons that aid, abet, counsel or procure the commission of a genocide, crime against humanity or war crime. Where such crimes take place in the UK, or elsewhere by UK nationals, UK residents or a person subject to UK Service jurisdiction, they can be prosecuted before the UK courts.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the US State Department's policy of training staff in embassies and consulates in countries considered to be at risk in how to identify incipient mass atrocities and how to act upon early warning signals, what consideration they have given to training a dedicated officer in each UK embassy and consulate in at-risk locations in order effectively to bring such issues to the notice of relevant officers at the FCO in London. [HL365]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently developing a training package on conflict and human rights which will include components on identifying, preventing and responding to mass atrocities and genocide. Staff serving in countries considered at risk will be expected to undertake this training as part of their overseas posting. This package will be accompanied by a set of wider training materials on these issues made available to staff.

Cyprus: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of the recent elections in the Greek Cypriot Republic of Cyprus on the UK's aims for the talks process on the reunification of Cyprus, and on their foreign policy position regarding that island. [HL319]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Following elections to the legislature in the Republic of Cyprus, the UK will continue to support strongly the efforts of the two communities to reunite Cyprus. We also look forward to continuing to work closely with the Republic of Cyprus across a range of shared interests, including security and defence issues, and reinforcing the values that underpin the Commonwealth.

Deportation: Algeria

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission to refuse the Home Office the right to deport six individuals, allegedly linked to al-Qaeda, to Algeria; and what is their current assessment of the total cost implications of complying with that ruling without further appeal. [HL221]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is disappointed by the 18 April 2016 decision of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission which relates to cases dating back over ten years.

There are no separately identifiable costs for complying with that ruling.

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government what, if any, extra security measures are being implemented, and at what cost, following the decision by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission to refuse the Home Office the right to deport six individuals, allegedly linked to al-Qaeda, to Algeria. [HL222]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We do not comment on security matters. However national security remains our primary consideration and we have taken, and will continue to take, all necessary measures to protect our national security.

Developing Countries: Education

Asked by Lord Low of Dalston

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the Department for International Development is taking to reach the ambition it set out in the 2015 discussion paper Delivering quality education in protracted crises. [HL168]

Baroness Verma: The UK has played a leading role in the development of Education Cannot Wait, a new fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises. The fund is designed to address many of the issues identified in the 2015 discussion paper – such as improving the co-ordination and funding of education in crises, and building evidence and data – with the aim of reaching 13.6 children and young people a year living in protracted crises and emergency affected countries by 2021.

The Secretary of State has recently announced a multi-year commitment of £30 million to the fund at the World Humanitarian Summit on 23rd May, as a founding donor to this important initiative.

Asked by Lord Low of Dalston

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the Department for International Development is taking to encourage other donors to fund the Education Cannot

Wait fund at its launch at the World Humanitarian Summit. [HL169]

Baroness Verma: The UK is working closely with UNICEF and other partners to encourage a broad funding base to Education Cannot Wait, including funding from non-traditional donors, private sector and philanthropic organisations. This includes via UK technical support to the fund's case for investment and other key communication and outreach products, to raise awareness of the fund with others.

Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to become a founding donor of the Education Cannot Wait fund for education in emergencies at its launch at the World Humanitarian Summit, and how much they intend to donate in 2016. [HL175]

Baroness Verma: The UK has played a leading role in the development of the Education Cannot Wait fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, which was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit on 23rd May. The UK has committed to provide £30 million in support over two years to the new fund as a founding donor, which was announced by the International Development Secretary at the fund's launch event at the World Humanitarian Summit.

Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that the Education Cannot Wait fund for education in emergencies will meet the objectives set by the Sustainable Development Goals of leaving no-one behind, and will focus on the most marginalised children, including girls, minority communities and children with disabilities. [HL176]

Baroness Verma: The UK is committed to all children benefitting from a quality education by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 4 and over-arching principle to leave no-one behind. For these reasons, the UK has played a leading role in the development of Education Cannot Wait.

A key focus for Education Cannot Wait will be on ensuring that marginalised children and young people are able to access a quality education. This includes refugees and internally displaced children, as well as children facing barriers to their education because of their gender, disability or other factors. This focus is reflected in the Fund's indicative headline results, which commits to providing "Inclusive education [that] reaches the most marginalised children and young people in crises" with a target of "100% of supported education opportunities demonstrate increase in education for girls, disabled and those in remote locations".

The UK will continue to engage closely during Education Cannot Wait's inception phase, to ensure that this commitment is fully reflected in its final design and results frameworks.

*Asked by **Baroness Goudie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make a multi-year funding commitment to the Education Cannot Wait fund for education in emergencies that represents an increase in real terms funding for education in humanitarian situations. [HL188]

Baroness Verma: The UK has played a leading role in the development of the Education Cannot Wait fund, which is designed to attract multi-year additional funding for education in emergencies and protracted crises. The UK has recently announced a new multi-year commitment of £30 million, over the first two years, to the Education Cannot Wait fund at the World Humanitarian Summit on 23rd May, as a founding donor to this important initiative.

*Asked by **Baroness Goudie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will take steps to support efforts to monitor the funding and transparency of the Education Cannot Wait fund for education in emergencies. [HL189]

Baroness Verma: The UK has played a leading role in the development of Education Cannot Wait, a fund for education in emergencies, announcing a £30 million commitment as a founding donor at its launch at the World Humanitarian Summit on 23rd May.

The UK will continue to engage closely during Education Cannot Wait's inception phase to ensure that the final design and results framework are underpinned by a transparent monitoring and evaluation system and robust financial reporting arrangements, to ensure that the UK and other donors have strong oversight of how funds are utilised and results achieved.

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what priority they are giving to ensuring that children of school age, who are refugees, displaced or migrants, receive continuous education regardless of their location; and whether they will discuss this issue, and the needs of refugee children not in school, at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. [HL202]

Baroness Verma: The UK is committing to providing long-term support for education in emergencies and crises, including education to refugees and internally displaced children. A key example is the Syria region. Through the No Lost Generation Initiative, we've announced a further £240m for education in Jordan and Lebanon over the next four years, on top of the £115 million already provided to give every child in the region access to education. The recent London Syria conference has resulted in international pledges to get every refugee and vulnerable child in the host countries bordering Syria, into quality education by the end of the next academic year. These commitments were re-emphasised at the World Humanitarian Summit through an event on *No Lost*

Generation: Empowering Youth Affected by the Syria Crisis.

In addition, the UK has been a leading force behind Education Cannot Wait – a new fund for education in emergencies, which was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit. A key focus for the fund will be on ensuring that all children and young people are able to access a quality education including refugees and internally displaced children. The International Development Secretary announced a £30 million UK commitment to the fund, as a founding donor to this important initiative.

*Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that the new Education Cannot Wait fund will focus on the most marginalised children, including girls and children with disabilities. [HL76]

Baroness Verma: The UK has played a leading role in the development of Education Cannot Wait – a fund for education in emergencies. A key focus for Education Cannot Wait will be on ensuring that marginalised children and young people are able to access a quality education. This includes refugees and internally displaced children, as well as children facing barriers to their education because of their gender, disability or other factors.

This focus is reflected in the Fund's indicative headline results, which commits to providing "Inclusive education [that] reaches the most marginalised children and young people in crises" with a target of "100% of supported education opportunities demonstrate increase in education for girls, disabled and those in remote locations".

The UK will continue to engage closely during Education Cannot Wait's inception phase, to ensure that this commitment is fully reflected in its final design and results frameworks.

Developing Countries: Health Services

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the inclusion of Universal Health Coverage as a target in the World Health Organization report *Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, published on 8 April 2016. [HL144]

Baroness Verma: The UK Government welcomes the report of the World Health Organisation, which highlights the integrated and indivisible nature of all the Goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the role of health among them, and presents Universal Health Coverage as a target in itself and a contributor to the other health targets

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take within the World Health Organization to ensure that targets on universal access to sexual and

reproductive health-care services and reproductive rights are treated on an equal footing with other targets in terms of implementation, financial support, follow-up and review. [HL145]

Baroness Verma: We support the World Health Assembly resolution that proposes to review, at future World Health Assemblies, the report of the Every Woman Every Child Independent Accountability Panel. The proposed accountability mechanism will review key indicators under the strategic themes of Survive, Thrive and Transform, including those on sexual and reproductive services (including for adolescents) and including rights.

UK officials are engaged in developing the rights component of the accountability mechanism.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they intend to make to ensure that decisions on follow-up and review of the World Health Organization's report *Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* are fully integrated into the work of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum when following-up and reviewing the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. [HL146]

Baroness Verma: The UK is fully engaged in the development of the follow up and review mechanisms for the United Nations High-Level Political Forum.

As these mechanisms become clearer we will promote alignment with the accountability processes for specific goals and themes in the 2030 Agenda, including the World Health Organization's report: *Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Developing Countries: Hepatitis

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place between the Department of Health and the Department for International Development regarding the draft Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis 2016–2021. [HL229]

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Department for International Development will support the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis 2016–2021 at the forthcoming World Health Assembly. [HL230]

Baroness Verma: The UK Government welcomes the development of this strategy for preventing, diagnosing and treating viral hepatitis. DFID works very closely with the Department of Health and we have a joint delegation to the World Health Assembly.

DFID supports improving the access to clean and safe water and hygiene promotion to reduce the risk of transmission of hepatitis A and E. We are the largest

donor to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which increases access to immunisation in low income countries. This includes protection against hepatitis B. The UK supports UNITAID, which is working to improve access to better diagnostics for Hepatitis C and we are supporting the Clinton Health Access Initiative to reduce prices and increase access to new treatments. In addition DFID supports comprehensive harm reduction programmes and strategies through its support to the Global Fund, which help reduce transmission of both HIV and Hepatitis C.

Disability Living Allowance

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the medical criteria behind the introduction of a walking distance of 50 metres as part of the assessment for Disability Living Allowance in 1992. [HL179]

Baroness Altmann: No walking distance was set when Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was introduced. The higher rate mobility component of DLA was always intended to be for those disabled people who were unable to walk or virtually unable to walk. The DLA regulations refer to the ability to walk out of doors being limited by reference to four factors; distance, speed, length of time or manner in which progress can be made without severe discomfort.

The lower rate mobility component was intended for people who are able to walk but need guidance or supervision because of severe mental or physical disability.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which is replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for working age claimants, was developed to provide a more equal recognition of both daily living and mobility needs of those with all disability and impairment types, including physical, mental health, cognitive and sensory.

Electoral Register

Asked by Lord Chadlington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that women in safe houses and refugees who need to keep their address anonymous are not prevented from voting. [HL11]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Electors who need to keep their name and address anonymous are able to submit an application for anonymous registration. As part of their application, electors must satisfy the Electoral Registration Officer that their safety, or that of people they live with, would be at risk if the register contained their name and address. For this purpose electors must provide either a court order or an attestation by a "qualifying officer", which includes senior police officers and chief social workers. The evidential threshold for applications for anonymous electoral registration is to ensure that it is available only to those whose personal safety would genuinely be at risk if their details appeared

on the electoral register, rather than for the purpose of gaining additional privacy.

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with ministers in the devolved administrations about improving the levels of voter registration. [HL25]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Following the May elections we look forward to working with the new Governments in Scotland and Wales on modernising and improving electoral registration. Electoral policy is not devolved in Northern Ireland but we are working with the Chief Electoral Officer to introduce digital registration. The Government is committed to helping ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote in polls is able to do so. Online registration makes it easier, simpler and faster for people to register to vote. Since the introduction of IER in Great Britain in 2014 there have been over 17 million applications to register to vote, with a majority of these applications online.

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to review the number of types of identification documents with which a person may register to vote. [HL26]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Ensuring the accuracy of electoral registers and taking steps to reduce fraud is critical to building confidence in the systems underpinning our democracy. In the majority of cases, applicants registering to vote will have their identity matched against government records or local data sources successfully. Where this is not possible, most applicants can be asked to provide supporting documentary evidence, which can be drawn from a wide range of sources and there are no plans to change this.

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and other victims of serious violence are aware that they can reregister to vote anonymously. [HL27]

Lord Bridges of Headley: Electors who need to keep their name and address anonymous are able to submit an application for anonymous registration. As part of their application, electors must satisfy the Electoral Registration Officer that their safety, or that of people they live with, would be at risk if the register contained their name and address. For this purpose electors must provide either a court order or an attestation by a "qualifying officer", which includes senior police officers and chief social workers. The evidential threshold for applications for anonymous electoral registration is to ensure that it is available only to those whose personal safety would genuinely be at risk if their details appeared on the electoral register. Domestic violence charities and other Non-Government Organisations may partner with

Individual Electoral Registration Officers to ensure those in their area who may need to register anonymously are able to do so.

Ethiopia: Floods

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing to the government of Ethiopia in dealing with the displacement of people as a result of the recent flash flooding in southern Ethiopia. [HL34]

Baroness Verma: Extensive spring rains have come at a time when Ethiopia is experiencing its worst drought in 30 years, which has already left 18 million people in urgent need of relief. Britain is scaling up its response to help the Government of Ethiopia provide lifesaving support to thousands of families in urgent need after severe flooding.

Emergency humanitarian supplies – including 34,000 shelter kits, 60,000 blankets, 30,000 kitchen sets, clean water devices and other equipment – have begun arriving in Ethiopia to help 150,000 people in immediate need cope with the aftermath of intense flooding.

The UK is already the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor in Ethiopia, and this new support, at around £3.5 million, brings our total funding to the current humanitarian response in Ethiopia to £145 million.

Ethiopia: Food Aid

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the current gap in donor funding to tackle the food shortages in Ethiopia, and what steps they are taking to encourage other donor countries to meet their obligations. [HL35]

Baroness Verma: Britain is working closely with the Government of Ethiopia and the international community to ensure adequate funding for drought response activities. Britain's overall funding for the drought to date is £145 million, making the UK the second largest donor.

In December, the Government of Ethiopia and the United Nations launched an appeal for 2016 to fundraise \$1.4 billion (~£923 million) to respond to the drought in Ethiopia. By the beginning of May, 66% of the required funds had been raised.

DFID is working closely with other donor governments to monitor the response and to lobby for support for the Government of Ethiopia and the UN appeal. Most recently, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Hurd discussed the current crisis with EU Commissioner Stylianides and in particular how to encourage others to step-up. DFID has also been working closely with the Ethiopian Government to support their leadership of the humanitarian response. To date, the Government of Ethiopia has allocated \$381 million (~£269 million) to address the crisis. This is commendable.

EU Institutions

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy for enabling Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Kosovo to become members of as many European institutions as possible, with the minimum of delay and the maximum of co-operation. [HL121]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: I refer my noble Lord to my answer of 27 April (HL7662). The British Government supports the accession of Western Balkans countries to European institutions such as Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and Europol, as a means to deliver our rule of law and governance objectives in the region, once relevant criteria are met. Any decision to enlarge the EU requires the unanimous agreement of the governments of all existing Member States and ratification in accordance with each country's constitutional arrangements. In the case of the UK, under the EU Act 2011 ratification cannot take place without an Act of Parliament to approve the new accession. We can therefore ensure that our requirements are respected in any future EU enlargement.

EU Law

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each of the following European Union implementing acts, when those acts were due to be transposed into UK law; when they intend to have transposed each; why they have not yet done so; and what action the European Commission has taken against the UK government for any delay: (1) Implementing Regulation (EU) 909/2015 regarding charging and direct cost; (2) Implementing Regulation (EU) 545/2016 regarding framework agreements; (3) Implementing Regulation (EU) 171/2015 regarding licensing; (4) Implementing Regulation (EU) 10/2015 regarding applicants; (5) Implementing Regulation (EU) 869/2014 regarding the principal purpose and economic equilibrium test; (6) Implementing Regulation (EU) 429/2015 regarding noise differentiated track access charges; and (7) Implementing Regulation (EU) 1100/2015 regarding rail market monitoring. [HL109]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: These implementing Regulations are directly applicable and do not require transposition into UK law. Their legal effect in the UK derives from the European Committee Act 1972.

European Gendarmerie Force

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the operations of the European Gendarmerie Force. [HL344]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The European Gendarmerie Force is not a European Union force. It has its own separate treaty between the countries that participate, which does not include the UK, and is not part of the European Union framework. The Government notes the work of the European Gendarmerie Force, but has no plans to pursue membership.

European Union: Army

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the UK is committed to joining an EU army if one is formed and we are invited to do so. [HL345]

Earl Howe: The Prime Minister has been clear that the UK will never be part of a European Army. We have consistently said that we will oppose any measures which would undermine member states' competence for their own military forces, or lead to competition and duplication with NATO, which is the cornerstone of our defence.

Exercise

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government in what ways they are targeting the entire population to encourage them to take up physical activity, and not just those who are overweight or obese. [HL43]

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of research that shows that lack of physical activity is negatively affecting more people than obesity, whether they have a strategy on how to support grassroots attempts at getting citizens to take part in more and sustained physical activity. [HL44]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Government is determined to tackle physical inactivity. Around one in two women and a third of men in England may be damaging their health through a lack of physical activity. Ministers across government continue to work together to identify opportunities to get people active in a range of ways including active travel, health initiatives, planning and sport.

In December 2015 Government published 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation' - the first comprehensive government strategy for sport for 13 years - it sets out a new vision for a successful and active sporting nation. It has a strong focus on reaching inactive people and helping them to get moving in ways that suit them.

Sport England's new strategy 'Towards an Active Nation', published on 19 May, states that tackling inactivity is a major priority for the organisation, it is tripling its current investment to over £250 million over 4 years, making it the largest single national investor in tackling inactivity.

Financial Markets

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government who has regulatory responsibility for approving cross-margining agreements between central clearing houses and the determination of priority in the event of default. [HL348]

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last reviewed the risks posed to financial stability by central clearing houses; and whether such a review took account of the increasing practice of cross-margining linking two or more clearing houses. [HL349]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: Under European Regulation No 648/2012 (EMIR) CCPs in the UK are regulated by the Bank of England. For other information I refer the noble Lord to my written answers of 1 April (HL7153) and 26 April (HL7583, HL7584, HL7585, and HL7586).

Financial Services

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for prohibiting full transparency in transaction costs in fund management reporting. [HL243]

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy that entertainment expenses either given or received by individuals in fund management companies and their clients and suppliers should be disclosed, and whether they will encourage pension trustees to require such disclosures in their management contracts. [HL244]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government is committed to the principle that people should have access to appropriate and accessible investment options and understand the charges that they face.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is currently conducting a market study into asset management. We await the FCA's assessment of disclosure of costs and fees in fund management reporting, where these issues fall under the scope of the market study. The FCA expect to publish an interim report in summer 2016 and a final report in early 2017.

With respect to the disclosure requirements imposed on pension trustees, the Department for Work and Pensions and the FCA jointly undertook a Call for Evidence on disclosure of costs and charges in workplace pension schemes during 2015. We and the FCA are assessing the responses received and remain committed to making regulations and rules in this Parliament requiring publication of costs and charges, as per the legal duty in the Pensions Act 2014.

Gaza

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take, in the light of the recent deaths caused by the electricity crisis in Gaza, to (1) initiate discussions with other EU member states to end import restrictions, (2) assess the humanitarian situation first-hand, and (3) put forward a plan of action to rehouse citizens of Gaza who are forced to move owing to pollution. [HL65]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are concerned by the electricity shortage in Gaza and the serious impact it is having on the humanitarian situation. We, and the EU, regularly raise Gaza's energy and the need to ease movement and access restrictions with the Israeli authorities. Our staff who visit and work in Gaza assess the humanitarian situation frequently. We have not put forward a plan rehouse citizens of Gaza who are forced to move owing to pollution.

Glyphosate

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) view that three unpublished industry-sponsored carcinogenicity studies on mice played an important role in informing EFSA's decision that the herbicide glyphosate is not carcinogenic to humans. [HL134]

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place in the Library of the House the three unpublished industry studies of the safety of the herbicide glyphosate relied upon by the European Food Safety Authority when it reached its decision that glyphosate is not carcinogenic to humans, namely the 2001 study owned by the Israeli pesticides company ADAMA Agan Ltd Carcinogenicity Study with Glyphosate technical in Swiss Albino Mice, the 2009 study owned by the Australian pesticides company Nufarm Glyphosate technical: Dietary Carcinogenicity Study in the Mouse, and the 1997 study owned by the Japanese pesticides company Arysta Life Sciences HR-001: 18 month Oral Oncogenicity Study in Mice. [HL135]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The European Food Safety Authority concluded that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard in humans. This conclusion followed a very thorough consideration of a wide range of scientific data, including a number of studies on laboratory animals.

The mouse carcinogenicity studies were performed by independent testing laboratories and comply with the applicable OECD test guideline and Good Laboratory Practice. Carcinogenicity studies in mice are among the many EU data requirements for pesticides, and help to establish whether or not an active substance in a pesticide has carcinogenic potential.

Under the regulatory system for pesticides, studies are not published because of the danger that data may be wrongly used to support other rival applications for authorisation. However, requests to view the documents can be submitted to the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Golan Heights

*Asked by **Baroness Tonge***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take to protect the Golan Heights from further Israeli settlement expansion, discriminatory policies against the native Syrian population, and the extraction of natural resources from the area. [HL280]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government regards the Golan Heights – along with East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza – as Occupied Territory. We continue to call on Israel, as the Occupying Power, to uphold its obligations under international law in the Occupied Territories, including abiding by UN Security Council Resolution 497 (1981). We have been clear that Israel must comply with its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Government Departments: Procurement

*Asked by **Lord Hylton***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that central government procurement policies are used whenever possible to create jobs with training for people from disadvantaged areas or with individual handicaps. [HL85]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The Public Contracts Regulations (2015) allow Contracting Authorities to reserve contracts for sheltered workshops and suppliers whose main aim is the social and professional integration of disabled or disadvantaged persons, or provide for such contracts to be performed in the context of sheltered employment programmes.

Horse Riding

*Asked by **Lord De Mauley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of each of the issues raised in the response of the British Horse Society to their consultation on a draft cycling and walking investment strategy. [HL295]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are now analysing the feedback received during the draft Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy eight week consultation period, which closed on Monday 23 May. We expect to publish the final Strategy this summer along with a Government response to the consultation.

House of Lords: Fairtrade Initiative

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask the Chairman of Committees what plans are there to support Fairtrade fortnight. [HL214]

Lord Laming: Catering and Retail Services stock a range of Fairtrade products, including tea, coffee, cake, biscuits and bananas. Catering and Retail Services raised awareness of these lines during Fairtrade Fortnight this year and ran related promotions.

House of Lords: Sanitation

*Asked by **Lord Palmer***

To ask the Chairman of Committees how much it cost to refurbish the Cholmondeley Room toilets, and why those toilets were out of service so soon after their six-month refurbishment. [HL242]

Lord Laming: The works to the Cholmondeley Room toilets are not yet completed. They should be completed in the next month. The estimated budget is £650,000 (of which the Lords' share is 40%).

A number of unforeseen technical difficulties mean that the works are slightly behind schedule; although two of the toilets have re-opened, some underlying problems are still being resolved.

House of Lords: Zero Hours Contracts

*Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark***

To ask the Chairman of Committees how many staff in the House of Lords are employed on zero-hours contracts. [HL215]

Lord Laming: The House of Lords does not employ any staff on zero-hours contracts on an exclusive basis. It employs 28 staff on zero-hours contracts in the Catering and Retail Services department, primarily for banqueting events. These are roles where staffing demands vary significantly week to week and are often unpredictable. The House also employs 22 freelance Hansard reporters. In order to meet overnight publication deadlines for Grand Committee debates, Hansard needs to supplement its permanent team with temporary reporters

Zero-hours staff employed by the House of Lords are free to turn down shifts offered by the House. They have equivalent employment rights to full-time staff including pension and holiday pay entitlements, which are better than those of most agency staff. All staff in the House of Lords, including those on these contracts, are paid at least the London Living Wage.

Immigrants: Detainees

*Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many pregnant women are currently held in detention under the Immigration Act 2014. [HL108]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Home Office will not necessarily be aware that a woman is pregnant unless she chooses to make this known to us and a woman may not know herself that she is pregnant when she is detained. It may not always be appropriate for healthcare professionals to disclose information that the patient has asked not to be disclosed.

As of 19 May 2016 there were no pregnant women detained under Immigration Act powers in an immigration removal centre or residential short-term holding facility, subject to these conditions.

Institute for Apprenticeships

Asked by Lord Aberdare

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Institute for Apprenticeships will take over any of the functions carried out by Ofsted, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education or Ofqual, such as the inspection of apprenticeship provision or the regulation of qualifications, and if so, which. [HL2]

Asked by Lord Aberdare

To ask Her Majesty's Government what role the new Institute for Apprenticeships will have in regulating the quality of apprenticeships, and what powers it will have to undertake that role. [HL3]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The role of the Institute for Apprenticeships will be to ensure the quality of apprenticeship standards.

Apprenticeships will only attract funding from government or the levy if they are against an approved standard or framework. Each standard will contain a plan for how the apprenticeship will be assessed. Although this will be approved by the Institute, the Institute will not assess the apprenticeship training itself: the register of training providers is owned by the Skills Funding Agency and Ofsted will continue to inspect providers.

The Institute will, however, need to ensure there is consistency between the levels of assessment being applied, as part of its role in approving standards and assessment plans.

Insurance

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage better customer service in insurance companies that allow for consumers to make free claims. [HL268]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government is determined that insurers should treat customers fairly and firms are required to do so under the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) rules.

The FCA's Insurance Conduct of Business Sourcebook (ICOBS) sets the conduct standards required of insurance firms in relation to their business which aim to ensure

consumers are treated fairly. This includes provisions relating to the handling of claims by insurers. ICOBS states that insurers must handle claims fairly and promptly; provide reasonable guidance to help a policyholder make a claim, and appropriate information on its progress; not reject a claim unreasonably; and settle claims promptly once settlement terms are agreed.

Insurance Fraud Taskforce

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to report on the progress of the Insurance Fraud Taskforce and its role in dealing with fraudulent claims and the operation of claims management companies; and what assessment they have made of the implementation of the recommendations of the Insurance Fraud Taskforce: final report published in January. [HL247]

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings of the Insurance Fraud Taskforce that detected insurance fraud and undetected insurance fraud costs consumers up to £50 per year; and whether they plan to establish a unit (1) to track the return of those costs to the consumer, and (2) to monitor the performance of the insurance industry in tackling fraud and addressing the practices of claims management companies. [HL248]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: A Written Ministerial Statement was published on 26 May 2016 to announce that the Government accepts each of the recommendations addressed to it. We expect that all organisations tasked with taking forward recommendations do so with urgency. The Government will do what it can to assist and, in order to make sure that all of the recommendations are actively pursued, we will seek an update on progress later in the year.

The report highlighted the particular problem of fraud in relation to low value personal injury claims and the Government has established a programme of reforms in this area, particularly in respect of whiplash claims and regulation of claims management companies. We are pleased that the report's recommendations reflect and support that reform programme.

International AIDS Conference

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there will be UK ministerial attendance at the UN High Level Meeting for ending AIDS in June. [HL153]

Asked by Baroness Barker

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there will be UK ministerial attendance at the International AIDS Conference in Durban this year. [HL154]

Baroness Verma: The UK government will be represented at the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on ending AIDS at the UN headquarters in New York in June 2016 and the International AIDS Conference in Durban in July. Precise attendance has still to be finalised.

Iran: Capital Punishment

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Iranians have been executed since the visit of the Foreign Secretary to Iran and the re-opening of the UK embassy in Tehran last year, and what assessment they have made of whether that figure indicates any improvement in the human rights position of Iranian citizens. [HL224]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Iran believes that between 966 and 1,025 people were executed in 2015. The UK repeatedly calls on Iran to bring an end to the use of the death penalty.

Iran: Prisoners

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government what have been the practical benefits to the UK of the July 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran, and of the Foreign Secretary's visit to Iran in August 2015, in respect of obtaining the release back to the UK of prisoners such as Kamal Foroughi, and Nazanin Ratcliffe and her child. [HL223]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action applies only to Iran's nuclear programme, but offers a real opportunity for Iran to normalise its relations with the international community. Reopening our Embassies in August 2015 offers greater opportunity to discuss a range of issues, including consular cases. We regularly raise our concerns on all consular cases, both in London and Tehran. Most recently the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), raised them with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif on 17 May, and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), raised them with the Iranian Charge d'Affaires in London on 18 May.

Islam

Asked by Lord Lester of Herne Hill

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have evaluated the possible risks to national security and social cohesion of the spread of the Wahhabi ideology. [HL311]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: HM Government's Counter Extremism Strategy and Counter-Terrorism

strategy, CONTEST, set out approach to tackling the full range of factors that allow extremist and terrorist groups to grow and flourish. These include directly challenging ideologies, including those which have a theological basis.

Israel: Bedouin

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the demolition by Israeli forces on 16 May of seven donor-funded residential containers and the confiscation of materials for another three in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Jabal al Baba. [HL237]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We condemn the demolition of Bedouin homes at Jabal Al-Baba, which is a particularly vulnerable community in East Jerusalem. We have not specifically raised this issue, but we are extremely concerned at the large increase in demolitions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since the start of 2016, compared to the monthly average in 2015. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv raises our concerns about demolitions regularly with the Israeli authorities, most recently on 15 May. We call on Israel to provide a legal route for Palestinians to obtain building permits.

Israel: EU External Relations

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the violations of the conditions of the EU Association Agreement by the government of Israel, what discussions they have had with other members of the EU, and the EU institutions, concerning the suspension of that agreement. [HL62]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The EU Association Agreement provides an important framework to discuss the EU's human rights concerns, and we work with the EU and Israel to address these. The EU regularly raises its concerns with Israel in meetings at all levels through the structures of the Association Agreement.

Israel: Land Mines

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government in the light of the news that the HALO Trust has been granted approval to clear mines around the site of the baptism of Christ, what representations they plan to make to the government of Israel about clearing mines along the River Jordan that were laid during the 1967 war. [HL63]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We welcome the HALO Trust's work in the West Bank and are pleased that the UK has provided support to this. We will continue to liaise with Israeli and Palestinian authorities on these activities. The British Government has not lobbied the

Israeli government to clear mines laid in 1967 along the rest of Jordan River.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of video evidence of the killing of a wounded Palestinian in Hebron, what discussions they have had with EU partners concerning the accused soldier's charge being reduced to manslaughter. [HL141]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this case with EU partners. We note that the Israeli Defence Forces have investigated and understand that trial proceedings started on Monday 9 May. The UK is deeply concerned by the terrible human cost, to both sides, of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We are concerned by the use of force by Israeli security personnel in response to protests and security incidents and we regularly raise these concerns with the Israeli government, stressing the need for proportionality and proper accountability. We make clear that every effort should be made to exclude the use of live fire.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel following reports from Physicians for Human Rights in Israel that wounded Palestinians have been deliberately left untreated by Israeli medical orderlies for as long as two hours. [HL142]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: While we have not made representations to the Government of Israel about this particular issue, we have concerns about treatment of Palestinian detainees. We have raised these concerns with the Israeli authorities on many occasions, including at Foreign Minister, Attorney General and National Security Adviser levels. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly monitors this issue and meets with Physicians for Human Rights in Israel (PHRI). Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv met a group of Israeli civil society organisations, including PHRI, on 3 February.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding its decision to refuse to renew permits for Palestinian stone quarries on private land in Area C, while approving permits for 11 quarries under Israeli ownership in the same area. [HL143]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: While we have not discussed this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, we remain concerned about the restrictions the Israel's planning system places on Palestinian communities. We regularly call on the Israeli authorities to offer an accessible legal route to construction for Palestinian communities.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the destruction of crops and olive trees on Palestinian-owned agricultural lands near Nejehot settlement by Israeli forces. [HL234]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are aware of the difficulties facing Palestinian olive growers and of the particular sensitivities around olive trees given their status as a national symbol and the sole source of income for many Palestinian farmers. We have expressed our serious concerns to the Israeli Government and security officials about the destruction of olive trees on a number of occasions, whether by the Israeli authorities or extremist settlers. We hold the Israeli authorities responsible for enforcing the rule of law and providing the appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel concerning the banning of two Palestinians from accessing Al Aqsa Mosque on the grounds of their having been involved in protests against the entry of Israeli settlers to the site. [HL235]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Whilst we have not raised this specific issue with the Israeli authorities, it is vital that the longstanding status quo of the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif compound be preserved and we urge the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law as an occupying power in East Jerusalem.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the closure of all commercial crossings in the West Bank on 11 and 12 May, preventing permit holders from accessing Israel or East Jerusalem because of Israel's Commemoration and Independence Day. [HL236]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: While we are not planning to make any representations to the Israeli authorities on these specific incidents, we remain deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement between the West Bank and East Jerusalem. We continue to work closely with the Quartet and EU partners to call on Israel to ease access restrictions.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the targeting of Palestinian fishermen in the Gaza strip, including the sinking and confiscation of fishing boats on 15 May north of the Gaza strip. [HL238]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Whilst we have not raised this specific issue with the Government of Israel, officials from our Embassy in Tel Aviv have expressed our concern previously over the Israel Defence Forces' use of live fire against fishermen and also about the confiscation of their boats.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the demolition of Palestinian houses in al-Sowana neighbourhood and Shu'fat village. [HL278]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: Whilst we have not raised these specific demolitions, our Ambassador in Tel Aviv has raised our concerns on demolitions with the Israeli authorities, most recently on 15 May, and urged them to provide a legal route for Palestinians to obtain building permits.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Israel regarding the arrest of 13 Palestinian civilians at military checkpoints in the West Bank between 12 and 18 May. [HL279]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have no plans to raise these arrests with the Israeli authorities.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will call on the government of Israel to invite the UN Special Rapporteur on torture to visit places of arrest and holding of suspects in the West Bank, together with prisons and detention centres in Israel. [HL301]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have no plans to call on the Israeli authorities to invite the UN Special Rapporteur on torture to visit Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to participate in the initiative of the government of France for ending the conflict in Israel and Palestine. [HL64]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We will continue to work closely with the French government to ensure that their initiative makes a constructive contribution that encourages the parties to resume negotiations.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the firing of tear gas canisters at journalists in front of Ofer Prison. [HL66]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We have not raised this issue with the Government of Israel. However, the UK has repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding

concerns about the manner in which the Israeli Defence Forces police non-violent protests. We are clear that protection of the freedom of the media is an important part of respecting human rights.

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the firing of live bullets at Palestinians protesting against the Israeli incursion in al-Azza refugee camp, which wounded one protester. [HL67]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: While we have not made any representations to the Israeli authorities on this issue, we have an ongoing dialogue with the Israeli authorities about the Israel Defence Forces' use of live fire.

Israel: Torture

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report by a delegation of British lawyers *Children in Military Custody* published in June 2012 and the recommendations of the UN Committee against Torture published on 4 May, whether they will call on Israel (1) to incorporate the crime of torture in its penal code, as defined in Article 1 of the UN Convention Against Torture, (2) to remove the defence of "necessity" as a possible justification of torture in national legislation, (3) to ensure that interrogations by Israeli Security Forces are recorded in audio-visual format, and that such recordings are retained, and (4) to investigate allegations of harm caused by the Israeli Security Forces. [HL304]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of human rights in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as well as compliance with international humanitarian law. We regularly discuss implementation of those obligations with the Israeli authorities. We are aware that Israel is in the process of incorporating the crime of torture into national legislation.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funded and facilitated an independent report on *Children in Military Custody* by leading British lawyers in 2012. Ministers and our Ambassador in Tel Aviv have urged Israel to take action on the recommendations in this report. We remain concerned at the number of Palestinian minors held in Israeli detention and continue to push for further measures to ensure that international standards are upheld in regards to the treatment of those detained. We welcomed progress made in recent Israeli policy amendments, such as the increase of the age of majority from 16 to 18 years old, and the enactment of a special statute of limitations for minors. We continue to encourage Israel to introduce mandatory audio-visual equipment for all interrogations.

Kamuran Yüksek

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the arrest in Diyarbakir on 10 May of Mr Kamuran Yüksek of the Democratic Region Party and make appropriate representations to the government of Turkey. [HL300]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Kurdistan Workers' Party, a proscribed terrorist organisation in the UK as well as in Turkey, continues to mount deadly terrorist attacks in Turkey, particularly in the country's south-east. In the course of security operations in that region, a number of Democratic Regions Party officials have been detained, including Kamuran Yüksek. We regularly urge the Turkish authorities to respect human rights, including the right to freedom of expression, in the course of anti-terror operations, and to support the rule of law. We will continue to monitor these issues closely.

Lead Ammunition Group

Asked by Baroness Parminter

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 15 December 2015 (HL4104), when they intend to make public the report of the Lead Ammunition Group, which was submitted on 3 June 2015, and their response. [HL228]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The Government is still in the process of considering the report's findings and recommendations and will respond to it as soon as possible.

London Stock Exchange: Deutsche Borse

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they or the Financial Conduct Authority have commenced reviewing the regulatory conditions to be applied to the takeover of the London Stock Exchange by Deutsche Bourse, and whether that takeover can proceed without regulatory approval. [HL227]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: I refer the noble Lord to my written answer of 26 April (HL7583, HL7584, HL7585, and HL7586), and to the investor relations section of the London Stock Exchange Group website, which contains information about the proposed merger, including on the required regulatory approvals.

The timings of the regulatory notifications are a matter for the companies acting in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Ministry of Defence: Property Transfer

Asked by The Duke of Somerset

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered the longer-term advantages of selling

surplus Ministry of Defence property by leasehold rather than freehold, and if so, what conclusions they have drawn. [HL324]

Earl Howe: The Ministry of Defence largely sells its surplus estate freehold in accordance with the disposal process set out by the Treasury, in order to ensure best value for the taxpayer. However, if warranted, properties may be sold with a long-term leasehold in order to retain an element of influence over their future use and occupation.

Missing Persons: Guardianship

Asked by Lord Beith

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will bring forward a draft bill to make provision for guardianship of the property of missing persons. [HL82]

Lord Faulks: My Department is working to prepare the legislation necessary to create the new legal status of guardian of the property and affairs of the missing person. We will bring forward legislation when Parliamentary time allows.

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking in the case of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, who is currently detained in Iran, and what assurances they have received as to her wellbeing. [HL316]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) raised Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case with Foreign Minister Zarif on 17 May. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood), also raised the case with the Iranian Chargé d'affaires on 18 May. Iran does not recognise dual nationality and denies consular access on those grounds. We understand that Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe is able to call her family and we welcome the recent news that she was moved out of solitary confinement.

North Korea: Forced Labour

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any vessels of the Royal Navy fleet have been built or serviced at the Nauta shipyard in Poland; and whether the Government is aware of the use of North Korean labour at that shipyard. [HL358]

Earl Howe: I can confirm that no Royal Navy vessels have been built or serviced at the Nauta shipyard in Poland. We are aware of reports, however, that North Korean labour has been used at the shipyard.

Opening of Parliament

Asked by Lord Tyler

To ask the Chairman of Committees what have been the (1) security, and (2) other, costs to the House administration in preparing for and conducting the State Opening of Parliament in each of the last five years. [HL90]

Lord Laming: State Opening is the major ceremonial event of the parliamentary calendar and the Estate is significantly reconfigured for hosting it. Its traditions date back as far as the sixteenth century and it is the only regular occasion when the three constituent parts of Parliament meet: the Sovereign, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The event is broadcast to the nation by the main UK TV channels and also to many international networks with high viewing figures across the globe.

The security costs to the House administration in preparing for and conducting the State Opening of Parliament in each of the last five years are set out in the table below. These figures are additional to the fixed cost base for police officers and staff, tasked daily with protecting the Parliamentary Estate. They are indicative, due to the complex nature of police officer and staff allocation for a large scale operation.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (£)</i>
2012	c.15,000
2013	17,234
2014	10,300
2015	15,814
2016	c.15,000

Estimates of other costs are set out in the table below. These include supply and fit of additional structures, preparations of the interior, additional lighting, move and reinstallation of the vehicle security barrier, construction costs of reconfiguring the Lords chamber and Royal Gallery, building media facilities within the Palace of Westminster, storage of equipment throughout the year, and other domestic and administrative costs.

The costs for 2016 are based on estimates only at this stage, because not all invoices have yet been received from relevant suppliers. Some costs are annual rather than tied to a particular State Opening of Parliament; these annual costs have been attributed to the next State Opening.

Since 2015, a proportion of overtime has been captured specifically in relation to the State Opening of Parliament. This accounts for the apparent steep increase in overall 'other' costs for that and the subsequent year, but it should be noted that these costs always existed, but were assigned to separate budgets.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (£)</i>
2012	251,341
2013	261,504
2014	280,707
2015	325,937
2016	c.326,000

The House of Lords pays a proportion of these costs, many of which are costs from services shared with the House of Commons. This information does not represent the full cost of State Opening, as costs will also have been incurred by other bodies, which may include Westminster City Council, the Metropolitan Police and the Royal Household.

Asked by Lord Tyler

To ask the Chairman of Committees what is the capital value for which (1) ermine robes, and (2) other garments, used by Peers and Officers of the House during the State Opening of Parliament are insured. [HL91]

Lord Laming: The capital value of Members' robes donated to the House is £217,453 (as reported in the House of Lords Resource Accounts: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-information-office/2015/HL-resource-accounts-2014-15.pdf>). No public money was spent on acquiring these robes. The Administration does not capitalise other garments used by Members and staff of the House during the State Opening of Parliament. The House is self-insuring.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

House of Lords resource accounts 2014-15 [HL-resource-accounts-2014-15.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL91>

Palestinians: Detainees

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will raise with the Palestinian Authority the recent reported increase in arbitrary arrest and allegations of torture and ill-treatment of their detainees. [HL303]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We are deeply concerned by these reports, and have raised our concerns around the conduct of the security forces with the Palestinian Authority. Through our Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, we are working with the Palestinian Authority to support reform of the Palestinian security sector, aiming to strengthen civilian oversight and accountability of the security forces.

Palestinians: Syria

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about Palestinian refugees besieged by Government forces in Khan Eshieh near Damascus; and in particular, whether they intend to take action to press for a ceasefire to allow the evacuation of non-combatants, including women and children. [HL207]

Baroness Verma: The UK is extremely concerned about the volatile situation in southern Damascus in recent weeks. We strongly condemn the indiscriminate attacks in the Khan Eshieh camp on 17 May 2016, killing five Palestinian refugees and a Syrian. We are particularly concerned by reports that the Khan Eshieh area has been placed under siege, blocking essential supplies from entering and risking the lives of thousands of civilians. We continue to call on all sides of the conflict, and their supporters, to respect and ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law and protect civilians.

The UK will consider any option compliant with international law that might save lives in Syria. We do not think it would be feasible to broker a local ceasefire in Khan Eshieh, given the parties involved in the fighting there. However, though the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), we will continue to support the fulfilment of the cessation of hostilities and full humanitarian access.

The UK has given support to the UN and international NGOs since the start of the conflict to deliver aid to besieged and hard to reach areas. We will continue to use our position in the UN Security Council to push for humanitarian access across Syria. As a core member of the International Syria Support Group we agreed with other members of 11 February that humanitarian access should be opened to a number of priority areas as a first step to accelerating full and sustained access across Syria. Since then, UNRWA has delivered at least 25 convoys with multi-sectoral assistance to southern Damascus.

Passports

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of a letter from the Home Secretary, Theresa May, to Lord Marlesford, how a series of sophisticated search algorithms and the search systems incorporating them would be able to make the link between a UK passport holder's passport and a second passport of another nationality held by the same person if there is not a record of such second passports held by British passport holders held on a central UK government database available online to immigration officers. [HL173]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: It is longstanding policy not to disclose details of how search systems work, as to do so would not be in the interest of border and national security.

Peacekeeping Operations

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what they regard as the main objectives of the forthcoming autumn UN Peacekeeping Conference. [HL211]

Earl Howe: The Secretary of State for Defence will host a UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial at Lancaster House in London on 8 September 2016. This is a follow-on event to the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping hosted by President Obama last September. The event will be an opportunity to take stock of progress made on pledges since last year, as well as to focus on how we can improve peacekeeping and on the role and participation of women in peacekeeping.

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people, and of what nationalities, the UK is training as international peacekeepers; what is the form of such training; and by which UK personnel it is provided. [HL261]

Earl Howe: Her Majesty's Government makes a significant contribution to improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping forces through its training activities.

The Ministry of Defence delivers training to overseas militaries through the deployment of Short Term Training Teams (STTTs) and deployable experts, and via our overseas training establishments:

- British Peace Support Team (East Africa) (BPST(EA)), focused on delivering training to African Mission in Somalia contributing countries.
- British Peace Support Training (South Africa) (BPST(SA)), focused on training troops deployed to West Africa (Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Mali).
- British Military Advisory Training Team (Czech Republic) (BMATT Czech), providing Peace Support Operations (PSOs) training to partner nations including Slovenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, and Romania.
- Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC) (Sarajevo), delivering training to personnel from Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) and other countries including Austria, Croatia, Turkey, Tunisia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

These establishments provide training on a range of themes including theatre specific pre-deployment training, as well as courses on gender, Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI), and Human Trafficking. The training is carried out by a wide variety of UK Armed Forces personnel, most of whom are dedicated trainers in their fields. They also draw on the expertise of other specialists within the Forces.

In the last 12 months, BPST(EA) and deployed UK-based Short Term Training Teams have trained more than 7,000 soldiers and police from nine countries through 68

different training tasks. Training is adapted depending on the needs of the country. BPSTs adjust courses to include high-end technological intelligence training, logistics, counter-IED, and leadership and operational planning.

In the same period, BPST(SA) has trained 1,700 Malawian military personnel in preparation for their deployment to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO). In the coming year, 600-800 Zambian troops are due to be trained by BPST(SA) before their deployment to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

BMATT Czech has provided training in Peace Support Operations to 424 personnel from partner countries, a number of whom are now capable of delivering Peace Support Operation training in-country themselves.

PSOTC, now under command of BiH forces, supported by UK trainers, has trained 46 military personnel from a number of countries in preventing sexual violence in conflict.

Personal Independence Payment

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Altmann on 4 May (HL Deb, col 1503), what rate of support claimants of the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment will be guaranteed to receive if they cannot walk safely, to an acceptable standard, repeatedly, and in a reasonable time period, (1) for more than 20 metres, or (2) for more than 50 metres. [HL105]

Baroness Altmann: Claimants who can stand and then move no more than 20 metres will receive the enhanced rate of the mobility component of PIP. Claimants who can stand and then move more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres are guaranteed to receive at least the standard rate of the mobility component. In some cases, depending on the individual's circumstances, they may receive the enhanced rate. If they score points from the other mobility activity.

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for recording proceedings at Personal Independence Payment assessments. [HL181]

Baroness Altmann: The recording of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) consultations by assessment providers is not currently part of the contractual specification for PIP assessments.

However, claimants can ask to record their own assessment, provided they comply with the conditions put in place: they must:-

- Inform the provider in advance;

- Be able to provide a complete and accurate copy (CD/audio cassette only) of the recording to the health professional at the end of the consultation; and
- Sign a declaration agreeing that they will not use the recording for any unlawful purpose.

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will include the current mobility criterion of 20 metres in the next review of Personal Independence Payments. [HL182]

Baroness Altmann: The terms of reference for the next Independent Review of Personal Independence Payment will be announced in due course.

Personal Independence Payment: Appeals

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of cuts in the number of welfare rights officers and to legal aid, they will provide resources to Citizens Advice Bureaux, local mental health charities and disability organisations to provide support for disabled people who go to tribunal when appealing against their Personal Independence Payment assessment. [HL178]

Baroness Altmann: Tribunal proceedings are designed to be straightforward and accessible to all. The tribunal panel is trained and possess special expertise to ensure that all issues which have a bearing on the outcome of an appeal are investigated irrespective of whether or not they have been raised by the parties.

DWP does not provide funding for this purpose. Individual local authorities may provide funding for these types of organisations but it would be a matter for the individual local authority to decide.

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have undertaken of the results of successful appeals against Personal Independence Payment assessments. [HL180]

Baroness Altmann: The Department gathers information on the reasons why Personal Independence Payment (PIP) decisions have been overturned from DWP Presenting Officers and the summary reasons from the Tribunal hearing. Internal Management Information for 2015/16 indicates that either new oral or documentary evidence supplied at the hearing are the leading reasons for PIP decisions being overturned in 75% of cases.

These figures are from internal DWP systems, where only one of possible multiple reasons can be recorded. They are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics standard.

Philippines: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to request reports from the UN and from human rights groups on the existence in the Philippines of death-squads and their use to murder alleged criminals and victims of mistaken identity. [HL86]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We do not plan to make such a request at this time as we are already aware of reports by groups such as Human Rights Watch on instances of extra judicial killings. Our Embassy in Manila is in frequent contact with human rights groups and the UN in the Philippines on these and a range of other human rights issues. We also work closely with our EU partners to press for investigations into instances of abuse, and to encourage the protection of human rights defenders. The British Government's view on the importance of the rule of law is clear, consistent and well known in the Philippines. Our Ambassador wrote an Op-Ed on this subject in the Philippine Star newspaper on 19 May 2016

Police: International Organisations

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they co-operate with police authorities to promote service by police personnel with the UN and other international bodies. [HL262]

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential value in career development of service by police on international deployments. [HL263]

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have in place to publish the details of police, law enforcement specialists and other relevant civilian experts in service in UN operations and at the UN Headquarters. [HL264]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The National Police Chiefs' Council has established the new Joint International Policing Hub to triage requests for international police assistance through a single point. The Hub joins up the police at a national level and with Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office and is intended to promote the UK model of policing by consent. Decisions on who to recommend to deploy, and where, lies with Chief Constables, in conjunction with their Police and Crime Commissioners.

As the first professional body for all of policing in England and Wales, the College of Policing develops standards and guidance for policing. The College is considering flexibility and the structure of entry, exit and re-entry of officers. It is also considering routes for

officers to gain external experience, such as secondments, as part of the Leadership Review.

The Government has no plans to publish the details of police, law enforcement specialists and other relevant civilian experts in service in UN operations and at the UN Headquarters. Any personnel deployed as part of a national contingent are listed on the UN website: http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/2016/apr16_4.pdf

Political Parties: Finance

Asked by Lord Tyler

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to reallocating public funds presently allocated to (1) candidate and party election addresses, and (2) government advertising, to enable a cost-neutral package of reform of the rules on political party finance, including a cap on donations. [HL89]

Lord Bridges of Headley: The Government is open to dialogue on practical measures to reform the funding of political parties. This can only be achieved by cross party discussions from the political parties themselves.

Poverty

Asked by Lord Ouseley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for social and community cohesion of people living in poverty. [HL287]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Building a strong economy and increasing employment are the surest way to lift people out of poverty and build strong and cohesive communities. The latest figures show a record 31.6 million people are now in work making a real difference to families on the ground with the number of children in workless households at a record low.

Britain has a claim to be the most successful multi-faith, multi-racial democracy in the world. The Community Life Survey 2014-15 shows a well-integrated society with 87 per cent of people reporting they belong strongly to Britain and 86 per cent that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. But we know deep seated inequalities remain between some minority groups and the majority population, and have set in train work to address these inequalities:

- a review by Louise Casey into boosting opportunity and integration in the most isolated and deprived communities to inform a major new Cohesive Communities Programme;
- a 2020 vision to increase Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic opportunities, such as take up of apprenticeships and employment; and

- plans to publish a Life Chances Strategy, announced in January, setting out a comprehensive plan to fight disadvantage and extend opportunity.

Probation

Asked by Lord Ramsbotham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the percentage of short-term prisoners in receipt of satisfactory probation supervision; and how that is being assessed. [HL88]

Lord Faulks: We assess the standard of supervision for all offenders, including those sentenced to under 12 months, through a range of service levels and, for Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), through a robust contract management process. Performance information for the National Probation Service and CRCs against these service levels is published quarterly. The most recent statistics were published on 28 April.

Radioactive Waste

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they are making in identifying the most geologically suitable site for the future storage of nuclear waste. [HL127]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The 2014 Implementing Geological Disposal White Paper set out three initial actions for Government and the developer (Radioactive Waste Management) to provide greater clarity on issues such as geology, development impacts and community representation.

In April 2016 Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) published National Geological Screening Guidance which sets out how they intend to bring together, present and provide authoritative and existing information on UK geology relevant to the long term safety of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

RWM are applying this Guidance and have started gathering existing information on the UK's geology which will help communities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland better understand their potential suitability to host a GDF. It will not, however, determine if a particular location, region or area can definitively host a GDF.

Formal engagement between the developer and potential host communities will start in 2017 once the Government and RWM have delivered the initial actions, including the national geological screening outputs. Good progress is being made in the short term with a clear long term goal of delivering safe and secure final disposal of all our radioactive waste.

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they are making in identifying the most appropriate

means for the short- and medium-term storage of lethal and hazardous nuclear waste. [HL128]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The UK Government has clear policies for the safe and secure short and long-term management of radioactive waste.

The UK Government published a Policy Statement for the management of Low Level Waste (LLW) in 2007. In accordance with it an updated UK Nuclear Industry LLW Strategy was published by DECC in February 2016. It requires the application of the waste management hierarchy. It means disposal of LLW should be a last resort and waste avoidance, recycling and reuse of waste should be considered first. This will preserve capacity in the UK's national LLW repository in West Cumbria so it can continue to dispose of the highest priority LLW only.

The policy for higher activity waste is contained in the Implementing Geological Disposal White Paper published by DECC in 2014. The policy is that higher activity waste from nuclear facilities will be held in safe and secure interim storage facilities on nuclear licensed sites until a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is available for final disposal.

Railway Track

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 11 May (HL8205), whether they hold information on the number of single line tracks on passenger lines in their records; and if not, why not. [HL136]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Department for Transport does not hold detailed records of track layouts. These records are held by the Infrastructure Operators. The information is provided to the Department on request and is also available in commercial map publications at specialist railway bookshops.

Railways: Exhaust Emissions

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many primary school sites in London exceeded EU limit values of NO₂ due to diesel train emissions in each of the last five years. [HL240]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We do not hold information on the number of primary schools sites in London exceeding NO₂ limit values due to diesel train emissions.

Asked by Lord Freyberg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have carried out into levels of NO₂ emissions by diesel trains in urban areas, and whether they intend to apply similar control measures for diesel trains as have been agreed for road vehicles. [HL241]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide we published in December 2015 sets out a comprehensive approach to improving the UK's air quality, reducing health impacts, and fulfilling our legal obligations. The analysis undertaken for the plan took account of the emissions from rail travel as part of the assessment of emission sources.

Whilst emissions from the rail sector are relatively low, the air quality plan set out that UK is committed to reducing them even further, along with some of the steps we are taking. For example, the Government has committed to a major rail electrification programme that will see a significant number of diesel trains progressively replaced with electric equivalents.

Rapid Transit Systems: South Yorkshire

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the reasons are for the delay in the start of operation of the South Yorkshire Tram Train service. [\[HL138\]](#)

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action has been taken, by whom, and when, to ensure that Network Rail deals with the slippage of the start date of the South Yorkshire Tram Train service. [\[HL139\]](#)

Asked by Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the South Yorkshire Tram Train service will be operational. [\[HL140\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Department for Transport and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, the joint funders of the tram train pilot project, have been advised that Network Rail has initiated a review of the current programme of works needed to adapt their infrastructure to operate the tram train vehicles between Meadowhall South and Rotherham Parkgate.

The Department understands that Network Rail has encountered significant issues with the approval of new bespoke electrification equipment needed to operate the tram train vehicles. The joint funders are clearly disappointed by this further delay.

Refugees: Children

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional financial resources and staff are being made available to assist unaccompanied children coming to the UK from refugee camps (1) in Europe, and (2) outside Europe. [\[HL111\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our Syrian resettlement programme is working well and local authorities across the country have been closely involved in this. Alongside this programme we will consult local authorities on how best to implement the resettlement scheme for children at

risk announced on 21 April and the provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 for the admission to the UK of unaccompanied refugee children from elsewhere in the EU. This will be done as part of our wider discussion with local authorities and other partners, including non-governmental organisations, about unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK and claim asylum here and about the implementation of new arrangements to relieve the pressure on particular local authorities by transferring these children to the care of other local authorities. The Home Office funds local authority care for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and funding arrangements form part of the ongoing discussion with local authorities. We are determined to ensure that no local authority is asked to take more unaccompanied children than local services are able to deal with and that impacts are managed in a fair and controlled way.

Refugees: EU Law

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK is still bound by the provisions of Directive 2005/85/EC on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status despite having not opted in to the recast Directive 2013/32/EU on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection. [\[HL157\]](#)

Asked by Lord Green of Deddington

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK is still bound by the provisions of Directive 2004/83/EC on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted, despite having not opted in to the recast Directive 2011/95/EU on standards for the qualification of third country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted. [\[HL158\]](#)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains bound by the provisions of the Procedures Directive 2005/85/EC and the Qualification Directive 2004/83/EC and not the recast Directives.

Religious Hatred: Islam

Asked by Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so when, they intend to instigate an independent inquiry into Islamophobia in politics at all levels. [\[HL233\]](#)

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Everyone in Britain has the right to feel safe and at ease in the place where they live. There is no place for hatred against people because of their race, gender, ethnic origin, faith, sexual

orientation, age or disability. This includes anti-Muslim attacks which are unacceptable in Britain.

The Government is already taking a number of steps to counter Islamophobia and does not intend to carry out an independent inquiry. We fund Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) to encourage reporting of these crimes and to support victims. We have also set up the first cross Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group to raise awareness of Islamophobic attacks. In addition, the police began to disaggregate hate crime by religion in April 2016. This will help the police to build community trust, target their resources and enable the public to hold them to account.

Research Councils

Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Strategic Advisory Group for the Research Councils will be established, what will be its membership, and what are its terms of reference. [HL151]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government encourages Research Councils to work closely with other Research Councils and their communities. With regards to the Global Challenges Research Fund, Research Councils are establishing an advisory group - as they do with other areas of research. Details of the group can be found on the Research Councils UK website: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/media/news/160526/>.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Advisory group announcement [Initial appointments made to GCRF Strategic Advisory Group - Research Councils UK (P).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL151>

Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they plan to take in the light of the findings of the independent review of the handling by the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust of concerns raised by and related to Mrs Haynes-Kirkbright. [HL196]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the independent review of the handling by the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust of concerns raised by and related to Mrs Haynes-Kirkbright did not inquire into wider governance concerns raised as part of the review when its terms of reference allowed it to report on other relevant matters that arose during the course of the review. [HL197]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the new review into the governance of the Royal

Wolverhampton NHS Trust will take account of evidence submitted to the independent review of the handling by the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust of concerns raised by and related to Mrs Haynes-Kirkbright. [HL198]

Lord Prior of Brampton: These are matters in the first instance for NHS Improvement. The Verita report, *Independent review of the handling by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust of concerns raised by and related to Mrs Haynes-Kirkbright*, was commissioned by the NHS Trust Development Authority – a forerunner organisation – independently of Government.

NHS Improvement is commissioning a governance review to consider issues highlighted by the Verita report. A copy of the terms of reference for the new governance review are attached.

Verita was originally requested (under specific terms of reference) to review and provide a dedicated report on the handling by the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust of concerns raised by and related to Mrs Haynes-Kirkbright. Governance issues that fell outside of those terms of reference will be considered in the new review, to ensure thorough investigation.

The new review will take into account evidence provided by Mrs Haynes-Kirkbright and others in the course of the Verita review.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Terms of Reference
[The_Royal_Wolverhampton_governance_review_-_ToR.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-23/HL196>

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timetable for the new review into the governance of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. [HL199]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish in full the findings of the new review into the governance of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. [HL200]

Lord Prior of Brampton: This is a matter for NHS Improvement, which advises that it is currently undertaking a tender process to appoint a provider for the governance review of the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust. It is expected that the review will begin in July 2016 and will report in the autumn.

NHS Improvement advises that it will publish the final review report in full.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the decision to delay inquiring into wider governance issues at the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and the role that the Trust is being asked to play in helping the re-

configuration of services in Staffordshire are connected, and if so, how. [HL201]

Lord Prior of Brampton: NHS Improvement advises that Verita's report *Independent review of the handling by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust of concerns raised by and related to Mrs Haynes-Kirkbright* was undertaken and published independently of Government and of any role the Trust played in the reconfiguration of services in Staffordshire. The review did not relate in any way to the reconfiguration.

The content and timing of the review into wider concerns about governance at the Trust will not be affected in any way by the Staffordshire reconfiguration.

Saudi Arabia: Cluster Munitions

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether UK cluster bombs have been sold to the government of Saudi Arabia; and if so, when. [HL294]

Earl Howe: The Governments of the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed an agreement in August 1986 that covered the supply of BL-775 cluster munitions to the Royal Saudi Air Force. The last of these were supplied in early 1989. We are not aware of the sale of any other UK cluster munitions to Saudi Arabia.

Schools: Location

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the site selection and assessment process of the Education Funding Agency, and how much weight is given to local public opinion during that process. [HL273]

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there are guidelines for local consultations in the Education Funding Agency site selection process, and if so, what those guidelines are. [HL275]

Lord Nash: The Education Funding Agency makes a value for money assessment of each site identified for a new free school. This takes into account factors such as the demand for places in the area and the suitability of the site, including any concerns from local residents.

Local consultations should take place during the selection of the site and the views of residents are factored in at several stages of the process.

Secondary Education

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure that existing secondary schools in areas where a new school is planned do not suffer from inappropriate competition for places or other disadvantages. [HL274]

Lord Nash: The Department for Education's published document 'Free schools applications: criteria for assessment' sets out the criteria which will be used to assess proposals to establish new free schools. This document is attached.

Prior to the school opening, the Secretary of State considers the impact the new school will have on all schools in the area in which the institution is proposed.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Free_schools_applications_criteria [HL274 attachment.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-24/HL274>

Select Committee Reports

Asked by Lord Sharkey

To ask the Leader of the House what was the average time in (1) the 2015–16 Session, and (2) each of the last five Sessions before that, between the publication of a select committee report and its being debated; and how many select committee reports published in the 2015–16 Session and the previous five Sessions were undebated (1) 12 months, and (2) six months, after publication. [HL53]

Baroness Stowell of Beeston: My office does not hold the information requested.

My Noble Friend the Government Chief Whip makes regular offers of time for debates on Select Committee reports to the Committee Office. The Committee Office then coordinate among Chairmen to determine which reports are debated on such occasions and in what order.

Sixteen select committee reports were debated in the last session and debates on nine reports have been arranged thus far this session.

Sheep Dipping

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the group led by Tom Rigby can expect a response to their question about the advice that was received by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food from the Health and Safety Executive and the National Poisons Unit immediately prior to the end of compulsory dipping following the Revocation Order of 4 June 1992. [HL133]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Defra officials have been investigating this issue since the meeting with the Sheep Dip Sufferers Group in November and sent information to Tom Rigby on 26 May.

The information follows up the actions from the meeting and includes news releases from MAFF and the Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) from 1992 and 1993. These explain why the decision was taken to end

compulsory dipping, and the conclusions of the VPC reviews of organophosphate sheep dips at the time.

A note of agreed actions from the meeting was also provided.

Shipping

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking (1) to reduce air pollution from shipping in and around UK ports, and the use of local electrical power by ships moored in those ports, and (2) to promote the use of clean fuel by ships as they approach UK ports, as is the practice in other countries including the US and China [HL195]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Through the National Policy Statement for Ports, the Government has encouraged ports and shipping companies to examine the opportunities available for shore-side electricity connection, particularly in areas identified as having poor air quality.

The Government has implemented the international requirements which control emissions from ships. These require that ships in an emission control area (the North Sea, including the Channel) must either use fuel with a sulphur content which does not exceed 0.1% or use an equally effective alternative compliance method.

Moreover, ships that are berthed for at least two hours are not allowed to use fuel with a sulphur content which exceeds 0.1%.

Slaughterhouses: Animal Welfare

Asked by Lord Trees

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require all abattoirs to have CCTV recordings of the slaughter process in the interests of animal welfare, and to require storage of such recordings and access to them by third parties. [HL147]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The primary responsibility for protecting animal welfare in slaughterhouses rests with business operators, who must have operating procedures in place to prevent animals suffering avoidable pain, suffering and distress. Business operators must also have appropriate monitoring procedures in place.

The vast majority of animals are slaughtered in slaughterhouses which have CCTV present, so the Government is not currently persuaded of the case for introducing regulation which would require all abattoirs to have CCTV, but we are keeping the issue under review.

In their report last year, the Farm Animal Welfare Committee recommended that CCTV should be retained, by the slaughterhouse, for a period of at least three months and the Government supports that recommendation. Official Veterinarians of the Food Standards Agency are present in all approved

slaughterhouses to monitor and ensure operators comply with strict animal welfare regulations and have the power to seize CCTV footage if they suspect a breach of welfare standards.

Small Businesses: Billing

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the Australian model for payment disputes could help small UK suppliers. [HL57]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: In establishing the UK Small Business Commissioner through the Enterprise Act 2016, the Government has taken inspiration from the Australian Small Business Commissioner (now the Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman) and Small Business Commissioners at state level in Australia. These bodies provide advice and access to alternative dispute resolution to small businesses involved in a variety of disputes, which may include some payment disputes.

The UK Small Business Commissioner will focus on payment disputes between small and larger businesses and encourage a change in how businesses deal with each other – a long lasting cultural change to promote fair treatment for all. He or she will act as a disincentive to unfavourable payment practices, and build the confidence and capabilities of small businesses to help them to assert themselves in contractual disputes and negotiate more effectively. The Commissioner will provide general information and advice, direct small businesses to existing dispute resolution services (eg, mediation services and ombudsmen) and handle complaints from small businesses about payment issues.

Social Security Benefits and Taxation: EU Nationals

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 18 February (HL5912), when information about taxes paid by and benefits paid to EU migrants which was not available in February became available, and why that answer was not updated with the requested information. [HL183]

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether VAT paid by EU migrants is included in the recently announced figures of taxes paid by EU migrants, and if not what is the estimate of such payments. [HL186]

Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The analysis on recently arrived non-UK EEA nationals subject to income tax and National Insurance contributions or receiving HMRC administered benefits became available on 12 May 2016 when it was published on HMRC's publications page on GOV.UK.

No estimate of VAT paid by EU Nationals is held. VAT is levied on most goods and services, with the person's nationality not generally recorded.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have allocated £22 million to hire new presenting officers to support them at disability benefit tribunals. [HL177]

Baroness Altmann: The government is increasing the number of Presenting Officers from 2017, to help the department present its case more effectively and gather valuable feedback from the Tribunal.

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is (1) the role, and (2) the annual cost, of presenting officers employed by the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to benefit appeals. [HL80]

Baroness Altmann: The role of the Presenting Officer is to present the Department's case effectively thereby helping the tribunal reach the right decisions and to gather feedback from the tribunal for its decision makers.

The year to date costs for existing DWP Presenting Officers (to January 2016) is approx. £1.5m.

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the annual saving in legal aid costs as a result of the withdrawal of legal aid in relation to benefits appeals. [HL81]

Lord Faulks: Legal aid for welfare benefits appeals is limited to advice and assistance on a point of law in the Upper Tribunal, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, including applications to the Upper Tribunal for permission to appeal. Legal aid is also available for judicial reviews of welfare benefit decisions and claims about welfare benefits relating to a contravention of the Equality Act 2010.

Given the need to focus limited resource on the highest priority matters, legal aid is no longer generally available for other welfare benefits matters. Although many people rely on benefits, these cases primarily concern financial entitlement and, as such, do not raise such fundamental issues as cases concerning liberty or safety.

The Impact Assessments published at the time LASPO received Royal Assent provided estimates for the reductions in legal aid spending for matters within the welfare benefits category. It was estimated that volumes would fall by 135,000 or 98% and spend by £25m or 97%. As part of the LASPO Post Implementation Review, the department will make an assessment of whether this reduction has been achieved. The impact assessments published alongside LASPO are available on the gov.uk website.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the tasks and role of the UK military personnel committed to service in Somalia. [HL213]

Earl Howe: The UK currently has 27 military personnel deployed in Somalia. Of those, 25 personnel are supporting the UN and EU Missions, providing training, mentoring, and logistical support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and developing the Somali National Army. The purpose of those Missions is to counter the terrorist threat from Al Shabaab and to help strengthen security and stability within Somalia and the wider East Africa region. The 25 includes the first eight personnel committed by the Prime Minister to the UN in Somalia at the UN General Assembly session in September 2015. The total current UK deployment of 27 military personnel is completed by a Defence Attaché and Assistant Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Mogadishu.

South Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the tasks and role of UK military personnel committed to service in South Sudan. [HL212]

Earl Howe: The UK currently has five military personnel deployed in South Sudan. Of those, four personnel serve as staff officers within the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and contribute to delivering the UNMISS mandate. The total current UK deployment is completed by a Defence Attaché at the British Embassy team in Juba. In addition, the UK is working with the UN on the details of a further UK military deployment to support UNMISS, following the Prime Minister's commitment at the UN General Assembly session in September 2015.

South Sudan: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what communication the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has had with the South Sudanese Transitional Government of National Unity. [HL14]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge), wrote to President Salva Kiir Mayardit, First Vice President Dr Riek Machar Teny and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Deng Alor Kwol on 6 May. He welcomed the formation of the transitional government and urged them to secure peace, tackle the economic crisis and address the humanitarian situation. Our Embassy in Juba is also in direct contact with

members of the transitional government and will continue to press for the full implementation of the peace agreement.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the aerial bombing of the Heiban locality in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions on 1 May, what assessment they have made of (1) the willingness, and (2) the capability, of the government of Sudan to distinguish between civilians and combatants. [HL77]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the aerial bombing of the Heiban locality in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions on 1 May, what representations they have made to the government of Sudan about reducing conflict and bringing about a ceasefire. [HL78]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the aerial bombing of the Heiban locality in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions on 1 May, what assessment they have made of whether the government of Sudan is now in breach of international humanitarian law. [HL79]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The reported aerial bombardment of civilians in the Heiban locality of South Kordofan is appalling. Targeting of civilians would be a clear breach of International Humanitarian Law. We continue to make clear to the Government of Sudan that they have a responsibility to protect citizens, distinguish between combatants and non-combatants and uphold International Humanitarian Law.

We consistently raise the importance of ending the conflicts in South Kordofan and Blue Nile directly with both the Government of Sudan and the Opposition; most recently, the UK Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan raised this issue during his visit to Khartoum earlier this month. We continue to call on all sides to end the violence and believe that the Roadmap proposed by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel represents a viable way forward.

Tidal Power

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the future contribution of tidal lagoons to meeting the UK's energy requirements and decarbonisation targets. [HL307]

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government recognises the potential that could exist in harnessing tidal energy around the coastline of the UK. That is why we have commissioned an independent strategic review to

assess the case for tidal lagoons and consider whether they could represent value for money for the consumer. Charles Hendry will lead the independent review.

The review is underway and the Government will carefully consider the recommendations from the review before making decisions on future development of tidal lagoons.

Trade: Statistics

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to improve trade data for the next calendar quarter. [HL58]

Lord Price: Increasing exports is a key factor in the Government's long-term economic plan. Government departments are working together to support UK businesses looking to take advantage of overseas opportunities and to create a strong business environment that allows them to flourish both at home and overseas.

A key part of this work is to identify export opportunities, many of which are based around the needs of high-growth and emerging markets. We are making those opportunities available to UK businesses through the Exporting is GREAT campaign which has elicited over 25,000 responses to the 7,000 export opportunities published online since it launched in November 2015.

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Asked by Lord Jopling

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Price on 10 May (HL8062), whether that answer assumes that the United States Congress will accept a "fast-track" procedure for ratifying the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership; and what assessment they have made of the likelihood of such a procedure being either endorsed or withdrawn by the new Congress in 2017. [HL23]

Lord Price: Legislation to re-authorise Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) – sometimes called "fast track" – the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, was signed into law by President Obama on 29 June 2015. It will apply to certain international trade agreements – including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – if agreement is reached before 1 July 2018.

Trident Submarines

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the total cost of Trident renewal over the lifespan of the Successor-class submarines, including in-service costs and decommissioning. [HL328]

Earl Howe: As stated in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, our latest cost estimate for manufacturing the four submarines of the Successor submarine programme is £31 billion, plus a contingency of £10 billion. This includes an assessment of the likely inflation over the lifetime of the programme and the risks appropriate for a project at this stage.

Once the new fleet of ballistic missile submarines comes into service, we expect that the in-service costs of the UK's nuclear deterrent, which include the costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment, basing and disposals, will be similar to the current system, at around six per cent of the defence budget.

While we have no plans to replace the current Trident D5 missile, we are participating with our US partners in a programme to extend their lifespan to the 2060s. The estimated cost is around £250 million.

Tunisia: Security

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last discussed with the government of Tunisia the security improvements required before the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's current advice against all but essential travel to Tunisia can be lifted. [HL313]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: We discuss progress on improving security with the Tunisian government on a very regular basis, both bilaterally and through the G7, most recently on 25 May. We still consider the threat level to be specific enough to advise against all but essential travel. Our Travel Advice is under constant review and we will change it as soon as the security situation and the threat level permit.

Turkey: EU Accession

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support Turkey joining the EU, and what pre-conditions they believe should attach to such admission. [HL226]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government supports the process of Turkey's EU accession, which remains the most effective means of encouraging reform, stability and democracy in Turkey. But as the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), has made it clear that the question of Turkey actually joining the EU is 'not remotely on the cards', indeed that he does not believe it will happen 'for decades'. Every Member State has a veto, at every stage of the process.

Turkey would need to undergo substantial reform before we could consider Turkish accession to the EU, particularly in terms of rule of law, freedom of speech, and socio-economic convergence with EU standards. Furthermore, the Government will not agree to any further EU enlargement without new arrangements for transitional controls on freedom of movement. We do not

want to take the risk, as we did in 2004, of very large movements of people after a new accession. Under the European Union Act 2011, any new Accession Treaty would require parliamentary approval by primary legislation before it could be ratified.

Asked by Lord Renwick of Clifton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they continue to support the admission of Turkey to the EU. [HL232]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Government supports the process of Turkey's EU accession, which remains the most effective means of encouraging reform, stability and democracy in Turkey. But as the Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), has made it clear that the question of Turkey actually joining the EU is 'not remotely on the cards', indeed that he does not believe it will happen 'for decades'. Every Member State has a veto, at every stage of the process. It is the Government's policy not to agree to any further enlargement of the EU without a new system of controls on the movement of workers being put in place. Under the European Union Act 2011, any new Accession Treaty would require primary legislation before it could be ratified.

Turkey: Immigrants

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reports they have received concerning the welfare of refugees and migrants removed from Greece to Turkey, in the light of reports that some are being detained in camps at Düzici and elsewhere, without access to legal advice or medical services. [HL84]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government takes very seriously any allegations of the inappropriate treatment of migrants or refugees, and we would urge any evidence substantiating the allegations to be made available to us and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). We note Turkey's strong assurances about the treatment of migrants and refugees in its camps and removal centres. And also note the recent agreements reached between Turkey, the European Commission and the UNHCR, providing them with access to the Düzici Camp and Kırklareli Removal Centre, and the UNHCR's positive view following its initial visit. We will be following the outcome of future visits closely.

Turkey: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Turkey about the planned removal of parliamentary immunity from a large number of elected deputies in the Grand National Assembly, in particular from the Peoples' Democratic Party; and whether they plan to

make representations to the government of Turkey about its obligations as a member of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and NATO. [HL299]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The lifting of parliamentary immunity is a matter for the Turkish parliament. As a modern democracy and candidate for EU accession, we would expect Turkey to undertake any subsequent legal processes transparently and fully respect the rule of law.

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect on relations between the UK and Turkey of the decision in the Turkish Parliament to strip parliamentary immunity from 124 deputies. [HL320]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The lifting of parliamentary immunity is a matter for the Turkish parliament. As a modern democracy and candidate for EU accession, we would expect Turkey to undertake any subsequent legal processes transparently and fully respect the rule of law.

Uber

Asked by Lord Hunt of Chesterton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that Uber drivers in London and other cities hold genuine driving licences and valid insurance; what penalties are applied by the police and others to Uber drivers who fail to meet those requirements; and what measures are being taken to ensure that owners of Uber vehicles pay the same level of taxes as owners of black cabs and minicabs. [HL194]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The licensing of private hire vehicles, operators and drivers is the responsibility of local licensing authorities, including Transport for London. The Department for Transport issues Best Practice Guidance to assist with this but it remains a licensing authority's responsibility to enforce its licensing conditions. Driving without a valid driving licence or valid insurance are both offences, for which penalties, including fines and points on a licence, are ultimately a matter for the courts. Uber drivers have the same tax liability as any other self-employed person.

UK Membership of EU

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the remarks by the Prime Minister on 9 May regarding the "risk" to "peace and stability on our continent" should the UK vote to leave the EU, what contingency plans they are preparing for deploying Army Reserves. [HL7]

Lord Bridges of Headley: In his speech on 9 May, the Prime Minister was clear that the UK will be stronger, safer and better off by remaining a member of the EU. If

the UK were to leave the EU, the withdrawal negotiation would need to address a wide range of difficult issues, including co-operation on foreign policy.

UK Trade with EU

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the proportions, by value, of British exports of goods to EU member states invoiced in (1) sterling, (2) US dollars, and (3) euro, in 2015. [HL107]

Lord Price: The data requested is not available. HM Revenue and Customs collects data on the currency of invoice for trade with non-EU countries but businesses are not required to declare the currency of invoicing for trade with EU member states.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Asked by Lord Jopling

To ask the Leader of the House how many Questions for Written Answer were put to each Government department and answered within the target 10 working days in each month in the 2015–16 Session, together with the relevant percentages in each case. [HL24]

Baroness Stowell of Beeston: In line with the practice established in the last session, following the commitment made by my predecessor (HL Deb 8 May 2014, col 1575), I will continue to publish annually the performance of departments on their promptness in dealing with Questions for Written Answer. My office will also continue to work with all departments to ensure prompt and comprehensive responses to all Questions for Written Answer.

The statistics for the 2014-15 session are available as a Written Statement (HLWS39). I will shortly publish data on departmental performance for the 2015-16 session.

Yemen: Armed Conflict

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to support the establishment of independent international monitoring mechanisms in Yemen to investigate human rights violations on all sides of the conflict. [HL252]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The UK supported a UN Human Rights Council resolution in October 2015, which called on the UN to provide technical assistance to the Government of Yemen, assist the Yemeni National Independent Commission of Inquiry, and report back to the next session of the Human Rights Council. The UK welcomes Yemen's commitment to cooperate with the UN on protection of human rights. It is important to continue to support this process until the Commission has reported back to the Human Rights Council in September 2016 where the discussions about the need for any alternative measures can be properly informed.

Yemen: Banks

*Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are providing support to the central bank of Yemen to avert financial collapse. [HL253]

Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) is a key Yemeni institution. We have made sure that the economy and the state of the CBY are not ignored during the peace talks in Kuwait. We continue to lobby the Government of Yemen and the Houthis and Pro-Saleh General People's Congress at the highest levels to emphasise the seriousness of the economic situation, including pressing for all Yemeni parties to cooperate, take ownership of the issues, and ensure key institutions such as the CBY are protected.

Yemen: Humanitarian Aid

*Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to aid agencies working in Yemen. [HL250]

Baroness Verma: The UK is the 4th largest donor to the crisis in Yemen and has more than doubled its support over the last year to £85 million for 2015/16 in response to the humanitarian crisis. UK aid is focused on the most urgent life-saving needs, and has so far helped more than 1.3 million Yemenis who have been affected by the conflict with food assistance, medical supplies, water, and emergency shelter.

We work with partners such as UN agencies and NGOs who have good access and a strong track record of delivering and monitoring assistance in difficult and dangerous places. The security situation in Yemen is, however, impacting the ability of humanitarian organisations to access populations to deliver assistance, and to make assessments of their needs. The UK continues to urge all parties to the conflict to take all reasonable steps to facilitate rapid and safe access for humanitarian agencies to all people in need in Yemen.

UK aid is also supporting the UN to co-ordinate the international humanitarian response and to facilitate the delivery of aid in Yemen including; the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN Humanitarian Air Service and the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism to improve supply of essential goods into Yemen.

*Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that aid and humanitarian help is able to gain access to Sa'ada and Hajjah. [HL251]

Baroness Verma: The UK is the 4th largest donor to the crisis in Yemen and has more than doubled its support over the last year to £85 million for 2015/16 to respond to

the humanitarian crisis. UK aid is focused on the most urgent life-saving needs, and has so far helped more than 1.3 million Yemenis who have been affected by the conflict with food assistance, medical supplies, water, and emergency shelter. Through our support to UN agencies and NGOs working in Sa'ada and Hajjah, people in need in these Governates are being provided with water, sanitation and hygiene support, health and nutrition assistance, shelter kits and cash to help address emergency food needs.

We work with partners such as UN agencies and NGOs who have good access and a strong track record of delivering and monitoring assistance in difficult and dangerous places. The security situation across Yemen is, however, impacting the ability of humanitarian organisations to access populations to deliver assistance, and to make assessments of their needs. The UK continues to urge all parties to the conflict to take all reasonable steps to facilitate rapid and safe access for humanitarian agencies to all people in need in Yemen.

UK aid is also supporting the UN to co-ordinate the international humanitarian response and to facilitate the delivery of aid across Yemen according to where needs are greatest including to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN Humanitarian Air Service and the Verification and Inspection Mechanism.

Yemen: Malnutrition

*Asked by **Baroness Hodgson of Abinger***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of increased malnutrition and starvation in Yemen. [HL254]

Baroness Verma: The United Nations report that 14.4 million people in Yemen are facing food insecurity, of which 7.6 million are facing severe food shortages, as cited in the UN's 2016 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan. The UK government uses this UN report as one of its primary data sources. A number of humanitarian organisations have recently highlighted the acute food security and livelihood needs in Yemen, and the fact that food insecurity is likely to continue at a critical level in the coming months.

The security situation in Yemen is impacting the ability of humanitarian organisations to access populations to deliver assistance, and to make assessments of their needs. The UK continues to remind all parties to the conflict to take all reasonable steps to facilitate rapid and safe access for humanitarian agencies to all people in need in Yemen. This is essential to ensure that the international community has an accurate understanding of the levels of need in the country, including food insecurity.

The UK is the 4th largest donor to the crisis in Yemen and has more than doubled its humanitarian support over the last year to £85 million for 2015/16. We work through

UN agencies and NGOs, including the World Food Programme who provide emergency food support to over 570,000 people, through direct delivery of food or the provision of cash or food vouchers. We have also provided £21.7 million in 2015/16 to UNICEF for the provision of health and nutrition services through hospitals and mobile clinics. We are also funding the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism to improve the supply of essential commercial goods, including food, into Yemen.

Zimbabwe: International Assistance

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their representatives at the IMF and other international financial institutions will make clear that international financial assistance should not be made available to the government of Zimbabwe unless and until it enacts and implements the provisions of the constitution of Zimbabwe in full. [HL36]

Baroness Verma: The UK continues to emphasise that any future financial assistance to Zimbabwe from the international financial institutions will need to be based on evidence of comprehensive reforms.

We welcome the inclusion of the commitment to align legislation with the Constitution in the package of reforms being discussed with the IMF and the Government of Zimbabwe's letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund Board.

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likely efficacy of international financial assistance to the government of Zimbabwe in the light of the decision by the Reserve Bank to start issuing bond notes. [HL37]

Baroness Verma: If Zimbabwe clears its arrears to the International Financial Institutions, any future financing would need to be based on comprehensive reforms and a firm commitment to sound macroeconomic management. The UK shares concerns that the introduction of bond notes could be damaging to confidence in the Zimbabwean economy, if not managed appropriately by the Government of Zimbabwe.

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the signals that would be sent to the government of Zimbabwe were the IMF and other international financial institutions to resume financial assistance to Zimbabwe, in the light of the current activities of the Zimbabwe Republic Police and other elements of the security forces there. [HL38]

Baroness Verma: Donors have consistently made clear that resumption of financial assistance to Zimbabwe from the international financial institutions would need to be based on the Government of Zimbabwe's commitment to make significant process across a broad range of reforms, including rule of law and constitutional alignment. It is of course vital that the right signals are sent to both the government and the people of Zimbabwe.

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