



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 27 January 2015 and the information is correct at the time of publication (06:37 P.M., 27 January 2015). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

CONTENTS

ANSWERS 5
ATTORNEY GENERAL 5
Directors 5
BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS 5
Aerial Photography 5
Apprenticeships Review 6
Arms Trade 6
Coal: Export Credit Guarantees 7
Economic Situation: North of England 7
Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme 8
EU External Trade: USA 8
Fossil Fuels: Research 10
Freight: Industry 10
Further Education 11
Land: Wales 11
Minimum Wage 12
Offshore Industry: Kilmarnock 12
Property Searches 13
Renewable Energy 13
Royal Bank of Scotland 14
CABINET OFFICE 14
Civil Servants: Pensions 14
Jobseeker's Allowance: Thirsk 15
Low Pay: Females 15
Ministry of Defence Police 15
Unemployment 15
CHURCH COMMISSIONERS 16
Employment Tribunals Service 16
COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 16
Housing: Insurance 16
Legal Opinion 16
Private Rented Housing 17
Written Questions: Government Responses 18
CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT 18
Chief Scientific Advisers 18
Directors 18
European Capital of Culture 19
World War I: Anniversaries 19
DEFENCE 20
Armed Forces: Crimes of Violence 20
Armed Forces: Mental Health Services 24
Armed Forces: Recruitment 25
Army: Recruitment 26
Defence Equipment: Deployment 26

■ EU Common Security and Defence Policy	27	ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS	44
■ European Fighter Aircraft	27	■ Action with Communities in Rural England: Northamptonshire	44
■ Ministry of Defence Police	27	■ Birds of Prey	45
■ Staff	28	■ Business: Rural Areas	45
■ Tornado Aircraft	28	■ Common Agricultural Policy	45
■ Trident	29	■ Dairy Farming	46
■ Veterans: Mesothelioma	30	■ Dogs: Animal Welfare	46
■ Vetting	31	■ Employment: Rural Areas	47
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER	33	■ Farmers	47
■ Electoral Register	33	■ Forests	47
■ Electoral Register: Young People	33	■ Nature Conservation: Cybercrime	48
EDUCATION	34	■ Shellfish: Animal Welfare	48
■ Carers	34	■ Tourism: Rural Areas	48
■ Children: Day Care	34	■ Veterinary Services	48
■ Pupils: Bullying	34	FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	49
■ Schools: Asbestos	35	■ Bahrain	49
■ Schools: York	37	■ Burma	50
ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE	39	■ Colombia	51
■ Coal: Taxation	39	■ Democratic Republic of Congo	51
■ Energy Supply	39	■ Hamas	52
■ Energy: Finance	39	■ Libya	52
■ Energy: Prices	40	■ Palestinians	52
■ Fracking	41	■ Sri Lanka	53
■ Fracking: Christchurch	41	■ Turkey	53
■ Petrol: Prices	42	■ Turkmenistan	54
■ Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme	42	■ Wildlife: Smuggling	55
■ UK Coal	43	HEALTH	56
■ Wind Power: Seas and Oceans	44	■ Abortion	56

■ Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater Manchester	56	HOME OFFICE	76
■ Accident and Emergency Departments: Huddersfield	57	■ Asylum	76
■ Babies: Hereditary Diseases	57	■ Asylum: Deportation	77
■ Bile Duct Cancer	57	■ Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press Inquiry	78
■ Breast Cancer	58	■ European Arrest Warrants	79
■ Cannabis	59	■ Firearms: Seized Articles	81
■ Chronic Illnesses	59	■ Illegal Immigrants: Republic of Ireland	82
■ Clinical Trials	60	■ Immigrants: Detainees	82
■ Drugs: Internet	60	■ Marriage Certificates	82
■ Eyesight: Surgery	61	■ Members: Correspondence	83
■ General Practitioners	61	■ Naturalisation	83
■ General Practitioners: Dudley	63	■ Radicalism	84
■ Hospitals: Staff	65	■ Staff	85
■ Human Embryo Experiments	65	■ Tony Blair	85
■ In Vitro Fertilisation	66	■ Work Permits	85
■ Incinerators: Health Hazards	66	INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	86
■ Liver Diseases	66	■ Egypt and Middle East	86
■ Meningitis: Vaccination	67	■ Syria	86
■ Mental Illness: Children	67	JUSTICE	87
■ NHS: Insurance	68	■ Courts: Wales	87
■ NHS: Management Consultants	68	■ Prison Service: West Midlands	87
■ NHS: Staff	69	■ Prisoner Escapes	88
■ Orthopaedics: Young People	69	■ Prisoners: Suicide	88
■ Pain	69	■ Prisons: Civil Disorder	89
■ Prescriptions: Fees and Charges	73	■ Probation	90
■ Prescriptions: Females	75	■ Victim Support Schemes	91
■ Social Services: Greater Manchester	75	PRIME MINISTER	92
■ Tobacco: Packaging	76	■ Iraq Committee of Inquiry	92
■ Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	76	■ Public Inquiries	92
		TRANSPORT	93
		■ Aviation	93
		■ Chief Scientific Advisers	93

■ Cycleways	93	■ Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals	104
■ Driving Tests: Scotland	94	■ Unemployment	104
■ High Speed Two: Birmingham	94	■ Unemployment: Young People	104
■ London Gateway Port	95	■ Winter Fuel Payments	105
■ Railway Signals	95	■ Work Programme	105
■ Railways: Crawley	96	WRITTEN STATEMENTS	106
■ Railways: North of England	96	ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE	106
■ Rolling Stock: Procurement	97	■ Second Triennial Review of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CORWM)	106
■ Southeastern	98	FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	106
TREASURY	99	■ Gifting of non-lethal equipment to the Jordanian Armed Forces	106
■ New Businesses	99	HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION	107
■ Oil: Prices	99	■ House of Commons – Governance	107
■ Revenue and Customs	100	PRIME MINISTER	108
■ Welfare Tax Credits	100	■ The Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission	108
WORK AND PENSIONS	100	TREASURY	109
■ Access to Work Programme	100	■ ECOFIN : 27 January 2015	109
■ Disability Living Allowance	101		
■ Housing Benefit: Social Rented Housing	102		
■ Jobcentre Plus	102		
■ Personal Independence Payment	103		
■ Poverty	103		
■ Social Security Benefits	103		

Notes:

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

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

ANSWERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

■ Directors

Chris Ruane:

[\[221403\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, how many and what proportion of the Law Officers Departments' executive board were educated at (a) private and (b) state school.

Mr Robert Buckland:

The information requested is not collected.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

■ Aerial Photography

Mr James Arbuthnot:

[\[221332\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what the cost was of the Ordnance Survey's aerial photography programme in each of the last five years; and if he will make an estimate of the potential annual cost of licensing such photographs from other agencies and businesses.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 23 January 2015]: The costs for Ordnance Survey's aerial photography programme in each of the last five years are as follows:

2010/11 - £3.36m

2011/12 - £2.05m

2012/13 - £1.63m

2013/14 - £1.96m

2014/15 - £1.97m

These costs include capture of the imagery and it's processing to create ortho-imagery, which is used to update the Master Map of Great Britain.

As explained in the response to Question UIN 221333, Ordnance Survey requires full ownership of the Intellectual Property Rights of the aerial photography it acquires.

Ordnance Survey considered all options and decided to procure full rights to the data it required.

Mr James Arbuthnot:

[\[221333\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, if he will make it his policy to replace the Ordnance Survey's aerial photography programme with the licensing of such photographs from other agencies and businesses; and if he will make a statement.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 23 January 2015]: Ordnance Survey is an independent, non-ministerial government department with Executive Agency status operating as a Trading Fund under the Ordnance Survey Trading Fund Order 1999. As such, Ordnance Survey has delegated authority to make the decisions necessary to fulfil its Public Task.

An open procurement process is currently underway for a new contract to fulfil Ordnance Survey's remote sensing requirements. Ordnance Survey requires ownership of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of the aerial imagery for various reasons, including the ability to use the deliverables on an unrestricted basis and the need to be able to deliver changing Crown policy requirements.

■ Apprenticeships Review**Sir Bob Russell:**[\[221767\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Richard review of apprenticeships.

Nick Boles:

Employers of all sizes are fully engaged in Trailblazers, designing new apprenticeship standards to meet their skill needs. Over 1000 employers, in over 75 sectors, are already involved in Trailblazers. 73 new apprenticeship standards have been approved and a further 100 are in development. The first 300 apprentices training to the new standards started in September 2014.

The funding model currently being trialled with Trailblazer apprenticeships provides £2 of Government support for every £1 spent by employers on training. Extra payments are also available for smaller businesses; taking on a 16 – 18 year old; and on completion of an apprenticeship.

Giving employers' control of apprenticeship funding is a core and non-negotiable part of our reforms. Following feedback to the Technical Consultation, further work is being done before a final decision is made on which funding mechanism will be taken forward.

■ Arms Trade**Sir John Stanley:**[\[221258\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether he plans to publish the results of his call for evidence on the introduction of a pre-licensing register of arms brokers together with the Government's response in January 2015 at the latest.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 23 January 2015]: The results of the Call for Evidence are still subject to internal discussion across Government. The Government will publish a response as soon as feasibly possible, however this is unlikely to be before the end of January 2015.

■ Coal: Export Credit Guarantees

Caroline Flint: [\[220902\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what the (a) type and (b) value of support provided by UK Export Finance for projects, goods or services supplied to the coal mining sector was in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13 and (d) 2013-14.

Caroline Flint: [\[220903\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what the (a) type and (b) value of support provided by UK Export Finance was for projects, goods or services supplied to the coal mining sector in this financial year to date.

Matthew Hancock:

The table below shows the value and type of export credit financing support provided under its medium and long term products by UK Export Finance for projects in the coal mining sector in each year between 2010/11 and 2013/14.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Value (£)	0	13,551,029	53,627,280	0	0
Type of support	N/A	Guarantee	Guarantee	N/A	N/A

Further details of the support provided were published in UK Export Finance's Annual Report and Accounts for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Under its products aimed at supporting exports of goods and services sold on short terms of credit (e.g. light manufactured items), UK Export Finance does not routinely record the sector of the overseas buyer. However, to the best of its knowledge, UK Export Finance has not provided support under these products that directly relates to the coal mining sector.

■ Economic Situation: North of England

Dan Jarvis: [\[221486\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps he is taking to increase job creation and economic growth in the north of England.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: Supporting economic growth in the north of England is vital to the long term success of our economy

All LEPs in the North of England have benefitted from investment and devolution of powers, freedoms and flexibilities through Growth Deals and City Deals. In addition the Government recently agreed devolution of further powers with both Sheffield and Manchester.

■ Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Mr David Hanson: [\[221411\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, if his Department will undertake a review of the use of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme in response to the review announced by the Royal Bank of Scotland of its own practices relating to that scheme.

Matthew Hancock:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 January 2015 to Question UIN [220931](#).

■ EU External Trade: USA

Grahame M. Morris: [\[220750\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what discussions he has had on how the Government will consult the public about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

Matthew Hancock:

The Government regularly discusses the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with representatives from business, trade union, consumer and civil society groups. We will continue to seek to engage with all interested parties and provide information about the progress of discussions.

Grahame M. Morris: [\[220751\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what assessment he has made of the potential economic costs and benefits of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership for the North East of England.

Matthew Hancock:

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership could deliver a substantial economic boost for people living in the North East. For example the chemicals sector, which has a large presence in the region, could particularly benefit. Based on independent economic analysis, the Government estimates that the North East's share of increased exports could be up to £1.05 billion.

Grahame M. Morris: [\[220752\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, which organisations he has consulted on the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

Matthew Hancock:

The Government is committed to full and effective consultation on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and has discussed it with a broad range of stakeholders across the UK. Organisations consulted include business representative bodies, such as the CBI and the Federation of Small Business, and trades unions including the TUC, Unison, the GMB and others. We have also regularly consulted Which? to discuss the potential benefits to consumers and of a coalition of civil society

campaigners, including the Trade Justice Movement, Friends of the Earth, War on Want and the World Development Movement.

Mr David Nuttall: [221468]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether the Council of the European Union will act by unanimity or qualified majority when adopting decisions authorising the EU's (a) signature and, if relevant, provisional application and (b) conclusions of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 23 January 2015]: We expect the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) to be a mixed agreement. In that case, the Council would proceed by consensus, requiring the consent of every Member State, when considering the decisions authorising the EU's signature, provisional application (if relevant) and conclusion.

Mr David Nuttall: [221469]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether the Council of the European Union acted by unanimity or qualified majority when adopting the negotiating directives for the EU for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 23 January 2015]: As the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiating directives call for what would be a mixed agreement they were adopted by the Council by consensus, requiring the consent of every Member State.

The negotiating directives can be found at <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1162>.

Mr David Nuttall: [221494]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether the EU can apply parts of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership within EU competence after the Partnership has been signed when ratification of elements of the Partnership that fall within member states' competence has been refused by a member state.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: We expect the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) to be a mixed agreement. In this case, subject to an EU Council Decision, it would be possible for the EU to apply the parts of TTIP within EU competence provisionally, pending ratification by Member States. If, however, a Member State ultimately refused to ratify and comply with the agreement, negotiations would have to be reopened.

Mr David Nuttall: [221495]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, which provisions under negotiation for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership are not a matter of EU competence and will require ratification by each EU member state.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiating directives adopted by the Council call for an ambitious agreement which would include areas of Member State competence, such as parts of portfolio investment, aspects of taxation and protections against expropriation.

■ **Fossil Fuels: Research****Mr Mike Weir:**[\[221347\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much research and development funding has been directed towards the oil and gas sector since 2010; and what proportion that is of all UK research and development funding in that period.

Matthew Hancock:

The latest figures published by the Office for National Statistics for expenditure on research and development performed in business enterprises (BERD) can be found here: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_385959.pdf.

Relevant data extracted from this report on expenditure on R&D performed in the extractive industries product group over 2010 - 2013 is given in the table below.

YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013
BERD expenditure on R&D in extractive industries product group (£m)	114	194	215	225
% of total BERD expenditure on R&D in extractive industries product group	0.7	1.1	1.3	1.3

■ **Freight: Industry****Robert Ffello:**[\[221616\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, if the Government will consider extending the student loans system to cover training and apprenticeships for the freight industry.

Nick Boles:

Adult learners undertaking full Level 3 or Level 4 qualifications approved for public funding may be eligible for a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan. These include A Levels,

Access to HE Diplomas and other Certificates and Diplomas, many of which will be appropriate to the freight industry.

Apprenticeships are jobs with training. Funding for the training element of an apprenticeship is provided by the Government and the employer – not the apprentice. Student loans are therefore not appropriate for apprenticeships.

■ Further Education

Katy Clark: [\[221718\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the Answer of 6 May 2014 to Questions 196539 and 196540, how much of the funding for (a) adult further education and skills and (b) apprenticeships was spent in 2013-14.

Nick Boles:

A breakdown of programme expenditure for adult further education and skills is provided in the Skills Funding Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2013-14:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-funding-agency-annual-report-and-accounts-2013-to-2014>

Adult skills budget and adult (19+) apprenticeship expenditure is presented on page 73; expenditure on apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds is presented on page 75.

■ Land: Wales

Chris Ruane: [\[221369\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much and what proportion of land was registered in Wales in each of the last 10 years.

Matthew Hancock:

The information requested is provided in the table below. Data for Wales has only been collected since September 2005. In addition, total area figures shown for 2006 and 2007 are lower than the rest and this is due to an issue encountered with the Powys Administrative Area where the data was not being stored. The remaining years are correctly shown and include Powys.

DATE	TOTAL AREA, HA	REGISTERED		
		FREEHOLD, HA	REGISTERED	NOT REGISTERED
Total - Sep 2005	2,122,453	879,153	41.42%	58.58%
Total - 31 March 2006*	1,602,838	789,231	49.24%	50.76%
Total - 31 March 2007*	1,602,838	874,775	54.58%	45.42%
Total - 31 March 2008	2,122,453	1,229,649	57.94%	42.06%

DATE	TOTAL AREA, HA	REGISTERED FREEHOLD, HA	REGISTERED	NOT REGISTERED
Total - 31 March 2009	2,122,453	1,329,394	62.63%	37.37%
Total - 31 March 2010	2,122,453	1,418,316	66.82%	33.18%
Total - 31 March 2011	2,122,453	1,494,752	70.43%	29.57%
Total - 31 March 2012	2,122,453	1,541,732	72.64%	27.36%
Total - 31 March 2013	2,122,453	1,591,521	74.99%	25.01%
Total - 31 March 2014	2,122,453	1,653,802	77.92%	22.08%

*Figures do not include Powys

■ Minimum Wage

Paul Flynn:

[\[221724\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what provisions exist to prevent agencies providing staff to companies deliberately wrongly designating them as apprentices in order to pay them less than the minimum wage; and what instances of such practices have been brought to his attention.

Nick Boles:

The recruitment sector is regulated by the Employment Agencies Act 1973 and the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003 (the 'Conduct Regulations'). The Conduct Regulations require employment businesses to agree a number of terms with the work-seeker, including whether the work-seeker will be employed under a contract of service or apprenticeship, or a contract for services, and the rate of pay that will apply.

The Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate is not aware of any complaints about work-seekers being deliberately wrongly designated as apprentices.

■ Offshore Industry: Kilmarnock

Cathy Jamieson:

[\[220863\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency which are part of the supply chain for the oil and gas industry.

Matthew Hancock:

We do not hold specific information on the number of oil and gas supply chain jobs in Kilmarnock and Loudon constituency.

■ Property Searches

Toby Perkins:

[\[221557\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many local authorities were involved in trials of the new local land charges register scheme.

Matthew Hancock:

7 local authorities took part in the prototype exercise in 2013. They were;

Liverpool

Sefton

Denbighshire

Newark and Sherwood

Swindon

Watford

Havant

■ Renewable Energy

Mr Adrian Bailey:

[\[221316\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what estimate he has made of the cost of the Electricity Intensive Industries - Relief from the Cost of Renewables scheme.

Mr Adrian Bailey:

[\[221317\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what information his Department holds on which industrial sectors reach the preliminary threshold of seven per cent electricity intensity, but in which a majority of businesses do not meet the added 20 per cent electricity intensity threshold.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 23 January 2015]: The Government estimates that relief from the costs of the Renewables Obligation and Small Scale Feed in Tariffs scheme will be £1.2bn between 2016/17 and 2019/2020. However the exact cost will depend on the number of companies that apply for the relief; their electricity usage and levels of production.

While the Government has sector electricity data we have limited business level data from a small number of sectors. We do not therefore have an assessment of the number of sectors that pass the sector level test but fail the business level test.

■ Royal Bank of Scotland**Mr David Hanson:**[\[221260\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether he plans to meet the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland to discuss the review announced by that bank of its practices relating to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme.

Matthew Hancock:

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills maintains contact with Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) executives throughout the year covering a range of matters of mutual interest. His most recent meeting to discuss RBS's proposed course of action on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee was with Alison Rose, CEO of Commercial and Private Banking at RBS, on 14 January 2015.

CABINET OFFICE**■ Civil Servants: Pensions****John Healey:**[\[221438\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps he has taken to ensure that MyCSP tackles the reported backlog of problems and queries from individuals, and to ensure that payments to pensioners or their dependents will still be made promptly.

Mr Francis Maude:

MyCSP took on responsibility for the administration of the pensioner payroll from the previous supplier in September 2014 and inherited an unexpectedly large backlog of work, as well as long-standing legacy problems.

This caused a temporary dip in performance and some pension payments have been delayed as a result. Cabinet Office is working to support MyCSP. They plan to clear the high priority backlog and restore service levels before the end of February and clear the remaining lower priority backlog by early March.

MyCSP staff are working weekends and have also put in place additional resource to deal with the backlog as quickly as possible. Cases are being prioritised by last day of service to minimise the number of missed payments, and wherever possible interim payments are being made to avoid hardship to pensioners. MyCSP are committed to providing high quality service to retired civil servants with prompt payments and high levels of customer service.

MyCSP's transformation has improved productivity by 15% year-on-year since 2012, driven down staff absenteeism and improved staff engagement. It is enabling it to deliver a wider range of services (including on-line services) to higher standards whilst almost halving the cost of pensions administration within 10 years.

■ Jobseeker's Allowance: Thirsk

Miss Anne McIntosh: [\[221746\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many long-term unemployed people claim jobseeker's allowance in Thirsk and Malton constituency; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Rob Wilson:

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

Attachments:

1. ONS Letter to Member - Jobseekers Allowance [PQ 221746 ONS 20.pdf]

■ Low Pay: Females

Gloria De Piero: [\[221739\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what proportion of women earned less than two-thirds of the median hourly pay, excluding overtime, of all full- and part-time employees in each year since 2010.

Mr Rob Wilson:

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

Attachments:

1. ONS Letter to Member - Median Hourly Pay [PQ 221739 ONS 18.pdf]

■ Ministry of Defence Police

Gemma Doyle: [\[221774\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Ministry of Defence on Ministry of Defence Police pensions.

Mr Francis Maude:

As was the case under previous administrations details of internal discussions are not normally disclosed.

■ Unemployment

Andrew Bridgen: [\[221722\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many children there were in workless households in (a) 2010, (b) 2013 and (c) 2014.

Mr Rob Wilson:

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

Attachments:

1. ONS Letter to Member - Workless Households [PQ 221722 ONS 19.pdf]

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

■ Employment Tribunals Service

Ian Murray: [\[221769\]](#)

To ask the right hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, how much the Commissioners have spent on the Employment Tribunal action by the Reverend Mark Sharpe against the Bishop of Worcester and the Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance.

Sir Tony Baldry:

Owing to ongoing legal proceedings, the Church Commissioners are unable to comment on this case at present.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Housing: Insurance

Seema Malhotra: [\[221749\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the proportion of houses in England and Wales whose owners do not have household insurance; and if he will make an assessment of the number of households in the social and private rented sectors which do not have household insurance.

Brandon Lewis:

DCLG does not hold this information.

■ Legal Opinion

Hilary Benn: [\[221334\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to his letter of 18 January 2015 to Muslim faith leaders, what assessment he has made of the capacity of (a) LawWorks and (b) the Bar Pro Bono Unit to provide free legal advice to organisations experiencing problems with preachers of hate.

Hilary Benn: [\[221337\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to his letter of 18 January 2015 to Muslim faith leaders, what assessment he has made of whether all organisations that are at risk of experiencing problems with preachers of hate would meet the eligibility criteria applied by (a) LawWorks and (b) the Bar Pro Bono Unit for providing free legal advice.

Hilary Benn: [\[221338\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to his letter of 18 January 2015 to Muslim faith leaders, what recent discussions he has had with (a) LawWorks and (b) the Bar Pro Bono Unit on this matter.

Stephen Williams:

[Holding answer 23 January 2015]: My Department has had on-going discussions with the Bar Pro Bono Unit and LawWorks on this matter.

They were consulted on the letter to mosques and confirmed that the references to work of their organisations were acceptable to them before it was sent.

We will continue to maintain close contact with them in relation to this issue.

Eligibility for the service will be considered by the Bar Pro Bono Unit and LawWorks in accordance with their standard criteria on a case by case basis.

■ Private Rented Housing**Emma Reynolds:**[\[220713\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much of the funding allocated to tackle beds in sheds has been (a) allocated and (b) spent to date.

Emma Reynolds:[\[220714\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many times the beds in sheds taskforce has met since its inception; and on what dates.

Brandon Lewis:

[Holding answer 19 January 2015]: The Beds in Sheds Taskforce was a specific initiative in 2012 to 2013, to hold a set of summits to bring together councils and central government to ascertain best practice and barriers to be removed to help ensure co-ordinated action against illegal outbuildings.

Summits took place on 27 November 2012, 30 April 2013 and 1 July 2013. It was not an ongoing working group.

In July 2013, £2.6 million was subsequently allocated to nine local authorities to deal with the mainly London-based problem of beds in sheds, with a further £4.1 million of targeted funding to 23 local authorities in December 2013 to tackle rogue landlord behaviour (including beds in sheds).

Thanks to the lessons learnt and best practice adopted from these meetings in 2012 to 2013, we estimate there have been:

- 2,500 streets surveyed
- 30,000 inspections
- 1,100 raids
- 2,800 landlords facing prosecution
- 530 buildings prohibited, and
- 145 sheds demolished.

Following our 2012 publication, we will in due course be publishing refreshed guidance to local authorities on tackling beds in sheds and rogue landlords.

The Immigration Act 2014 contains a raft of measures which puts the law firmly on the side of those who respect it, not those who break it, by:

- stopping migrants using public services to which they are not entitled;
- reducing the pull factors which encourage people to come to the UK for the wrong reasons; and,
- making it easier to remove people who should not be here.

■ Written Questions: Government Responses

Emma Reynolds: [\[220939\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when he plans to answer Question 217220, tabled on 4 December 2014 by the hon. Member for Wolverhampton North East.

Emma Reynolds: [\[220940\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when he plans to answer Question 217219, tabled on 4 December 2014 by the hon. Member for Wolverhampton North East.

Brandon Lewis:

Question UIN 217219 and 217220 were answered on 23 January 2015.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

■ Chief Scientific Advisers

Mr Liam Byrne: [\[221581\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, for how many months since 2010 the role of Chief Scientific Adviser for his Department has been vacant.

Mrs Helen Grant:

At the DCMS, any scientific needs have been met by a Scientific and Research Advisory Committee since 2010. However the DCMS is currently in the process of reorganising this function and is soon to form a Science Advisory Council (SAC) in line with other Government Departments. This will establish how science needs can be met in a way that is proportionate to the size of the department. The DCMS currently has a Deputy CSA at Grade 5 Senior Civil Service level who represents the department with support from a principal scientific officer.

■ Directors

Chris Ruane: [\[221404\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many members of his Department's executive board went to (a) private school, (b) state school and (c) the universities of Oxford or Cambridge.

Mrs Helen Grant:

Details of members of the Executive Board can be found in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts.

■ European Capital of Culture**Greg Mulholland:**[\[221734\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what support his Department is providing for UK cities considering a bid for the title of 2023 European Capital of Culture.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The UK's selection competition for the title of 2023 European Capital of Culture is due to be launched before the end of 2016. The DCMS will consider how best to support potential bidders closer to the time. The award to Liverpool as a European Capital of Culture in 2008 has been of great benefit to the city, and we look forward to similar successes in the future.

■ World War I: Anniversaries**David Simpson:**[\[221365\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what progress his Department has made on refurbishment projects and national events announced in 2012 to mark the centenary of the First World War.

Mrs Helen Grant:

The DCMS leads the Government's programme to mark the centenary of the First World War. We organised three major events on 4 August 2014: the Service for the Commonwealth at Glasgow Cathedral; an Act of Reconciliation at St Symphorien Military Cemetery in Mons, Belgium and a Service of Commemoration at Westminster Abbey.

We have recently announced our plans to mark the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign on 24/25 April 2015. We are planning a further 4 national events to commemorate anniversaries: 31 May/1 June 2016 Battle of Jutland; 1 July 1916 Battle of the Somme; Summer 2017 Passchendaele and the end of the conflict.

In addition Government has:

- Helped fund the refurbishment of the Imperial War Museum London which opened its iconic new First World War Galleries in July 2014;
- Made funding available to restore the graves of Victoria Cross recipients buried in the UK and funding for restoration and repair of First World War Memorials and graves;
- Provided £1.6m for the restoration and enhancement of the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme;
- Established a £20m First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund to ensure that these buildings are in good repair to play their significant role in the First World War Centenary commemorations;

- Developed a programme to lay Commemorative Paving Stones in the home localities of Victoria Cross recipients;
- Established 14-18 NOW, a three year cultural programme which will deliver UK wide events that has so far included Dazzle Ships and Lights Out on the 4 August 2014;
- Developed with the football authorities the Football Remembers education programme to commemorate the 1914 Christmas Truce;
- Created a £5.3m educational programme to send two pupils and a teacher from every maintained school in England to the battlefields of the Western Front; and
- Facilitated the British Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities to run a programme of activities to honour the contribution of troops from the Indian subcontinent, focusing on the centenary of the Battle of Neuve Chapelle.

In addition, The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded a £12.2m grant to conserve and interpret HMS Caroline, Britain's last surviving warship that saw service at Jutland. This will be opened in time for the 100 th anniversary of the Battle of Jutland in 2016. Since April 2010 HLF has also awarded over £60 million to more than 1000 projects to enable communities to mark the Centenary.

DEFENCE

■ Armed Forces: Crimes of Violence

Emily Thornberry:

[\[201983\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he could place in the Library a table showing, for each branch of the Armed Forces Police, the number of cases of (a) rape, (b) sexual assault and (c) domestic violence that were (i) reported, (ii) referred to a prosecutor, (iii) directed for trial, (iv) led to a conviction, (v) led to an acquittal and (vi) led to a custodial sentence in each year between 2009 to 2013.

Anna Soubry:

[Holding answer 2 July 2014]: All allegations of rape, sexual assault and domestic violence made by or against members of the Armed Forces are thoroughly investigated. An investigation may be conducted by either the civil or Service Police.

The tables below show the number of alleged cases of rape and sexual assault (including assault by penetration) that were investigated by each branch of the Service police in each year from 2009 to 2013, the number referred to the Service Prosecuting Authority (SPA) and the result of those referrals. The SPA can receive formal referrals only from either Service Police or the Commanding Officer.

It should be noted that the SPA may receive referrals in one year which relate to allegations and investigations made in previous years and that such cases may be directed, disposed and/or tried in following years. There is therefore no direct correlation between investigations and referrals and the number of cases brought in any one year.

ROYAL NAVY POLICE (RNP) INVESTIGATIONS

Rape

YEAR	TOTAL INVESTIGATED BY RNP	TOTAL REFERRED TO SPA	DIRECTED FOR TRIAL	ACQUITTED	CONVICTED	CUSTODIAL SENTENCE
2009 (Figures in first column are from 1 Nov –figures in subsequent columns are for all of 2009)	0	0	0	0	0	0
2010	2	1	1	1	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0	0	0
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013	1	0	0	0	0	0

Sexual Assault (including assault by penetration)

YEAR	TOTAL INVESTIGATED BY RNP	TOTAL REFERRED TO SPA	DIRECTED FOR TRIAL	ACQUITTED	CONVICTED	CUSTODIAL SENTENCE
2009 (Figures in first column are from 1 Nov –figures in subsequent columns are for all of 2009)	3	3	1	0	1	1
2010	1	5	2	1	1	0
2011	10	5	4	1	3	1

YEAR	TOTAL INVESTIGATED BY RNP	TOTAL REFERRED TO SPA	DIRECTED FOR TRIAL	ACQUITTED	CONVICTED	CUSTODIAL SENTENCE
2012	3	0	0	0	0	0
2013	11	6	4	2	2	1

ROYAL MILITARY POLICE (RMP) INVESTIGATIONS

Rape

YEAR	TOTAL INVESTIGATED BY RMP	TOTAL REFERRED TO SPA	DIRECTED FOR TRIAL	ACQUITTED	CONVICTED	CUSTODIAL SENTENCE
2009 (Figures in first column are from 1 Nov –figures in subsequent columns are for all of 2009)	3	16	10	8	2	2
2010	19	20	8	2	5	5
2011	18	17	6	3	3	3
2012	22	18	9	6	3	3
2013	23	15	7	2	2	2

2013 – DIRECTED FOR TRIAL – 3 cases yet to go to trial

Sexual Assault (including assault by penetration)

YEAR	TOTAL INVESTIGATED BY RMP	TOTAL REFERRED TO SPA	DIRECTED FOR TRIAL	ACQUITTED	CONVICTED	CUSTODIAL SENTENCE
2009 (Figures in first column are from 1 Nov –figures	9	24	9	4	5	5

YEAR	TOTAL INVESTIGATED BY RMP	TOTAL REFERRED TO SPA	DIRECTED FOR TRIAL	ACQUITTED	CONVICTED	CUSTODIAL SENTENCE
in subsequent columns are for all of 2009)						
2010	64	42	24	3	21	13
2011	48	60	28	2	25	20
2012	36	26*	15	9	6	4
2013	43	34	17	6	8	7

2013 – DIRECTED FOR TRIAL – 3 cases yet to go to trial

* We previously advised this as being “28”, but on re-investigation realised we have included 2 other Service police referrals that were not for sexual assault.

ROYAL AIR FORCE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

Rape

YEAR	TOTAL INVESTIGATED BY RAFP	TOTAL REFERRED TO SPA	DIRECTED FOR TRIAL	ACQUITTED	CONVICTED	CUSTODIAL SENTENCE
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Figures in first column are from 1 Nov –figures in subsequent columns are for all of 2009)						
2010	3	0	0	0	0	0
2011	2	1	0	0	0	0
2012	2	2	1	0	1	1
2013	2	5	3	1	0	0

2013 – DIRECTED FOR TRIAL – 2 cases yet to go to trial

Sexual Assault (including assault by penetration)

YEAR	TOTAL INVESTIGATED BY RAFP	TOTAL REFERRED TO SPA	DIRECTED FOR TRIAL	ACQUITTED	CONVICTED	CUSTODIAL SENTENCE
2009 (Figures in first column are from 1 Nov –figures in subsequent columns are for all of 2009)	3	4	2	0	2	1
2010	9	4	1	0	1	0
2011	5	5	3	0	3	2
2012	4	5	3	0	3	1
2013	8	5	3	1	1	1

2013 – DIRECTED FOR TRIAL – 1 case yet to go to trial

Domestic violence is not a crime classification, but may be recorded under the crime classification of violence, for example battery, assault or grievous bodily harm. For the Service Police to establish which offences are as a result of domestic violence would require an individual review of all cases, which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

I apologise for not replying sooner; it has taken some time to ensure the accuracy of the data.

■ Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Dan Jarvis:

[\[221805\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the services currently available to military personnel suffering from mental illness.

Anna Soubry:

We take the mental health of our personnel very seriously, and are committed to ensuring that help is available for everyone who needs it. The Defence Medical Services

(DMS) have in place a variety of measures to identify, assess and treat issues at the earliest possible opportunity.

The effectiveness of these services is measured by a variety of formal processes. Our facilities are subject to regular Health Governance Assurance visits, from both internal Ministry of Defence (MOD) officials and independent external bodies such as the Healthcare Commission, in 2008, and its successor the Care Quality Commission, in 2011. Both of the latter organisations visited a representative selection of MOD's Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs), and reported favourably on the care and treatment which they provided.

Internally, the DCMHs regularly undertake patient satisfaction surveys, and carry out audits of patient care to ensure that they adhere to the guidelines set out by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). We also ensure that all staff are appropriately registered and subject to regular appraisals. We are always looking for ways to develop our governance processes, and recently devised mental health dashboards (in conjunction with Defence Statistics) to enable more effective analysis of individual patient data, including clinical improvement and occupational fitness.

■ Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr Kevan Jones:

[\[221646\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how much his Department spent on recruitment to each of the armed forces in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14 and (c) 2014-15 to date.

Mr Julian Brazier:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (Anna Soubry) on 23 June 2014, (Official Report, column 85W) to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson), for the most recent figures on recruitment spending available from the Department, given below;

Each branch of the armed forces has a distinctive brand that needs to be marketed separately in order to attract the best candidates.

Capturing the cost of recruiting across the armed forces is a complex and resource-intensive task. For financial year (FY) 2010-11, when both the recruitment budget and recruitment targets were below normal levels, these calculations were not carried out. The costs of recruiting programmes for FYs 2009-10, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are set out in the following table. The cost of recruiting in FY 2013-14 will be available in early 2015.

Financial year	Royal Navy	Army	RAF	Total
2009-10	41,475,281	138,743,300	51,298,179	231,516,760

2011-12	32,017,364	134,595,989	38,702,993	205,316,346
2012-13	33,228,059	122,756,649	35,430,723	191,415,431

As reductions have been made to force levels recruitment levels have been adjusted but not stopped as the Services are required to keep recruiting to maintain the right skills.

We hope to be able to provide figures for 2013-14 in the near future. Analysis for 2014-15 will commence when the current financial year ends.

■ Army: Recruitment

Chris Ruane: [\[221366\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department arising from the closure of the army recruitment centre in Rhyl.

Mr Julian Brazier:

The closure of the Army recruitment centre in Rhyl was part of a wider reduction in recruiting offices across the UK under the Recruiting Partnering Project (RPP) contract, which covers the entire recruiting and selection process for the Army. This was done to yield a number of benefits to Army recruiting, including new attraction and marketing methods, greater use of digital contact with candidates and centralised application processes. This enabled the redeployment of military recruiting staff to the front line.

Mr Kevan Jones: [\[221647\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2015 to Question 220095, how many personnel were recruited to the regular Army between April and December 2014; and what his Department's recruitment target for that period was.

Mr Julian Brazier:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: The recruiting target for regular Army personnel between April and December was 6, 718.

The total intake figure of regular Army untrained personnel between April -September was 4,180. Intake for figures for April - December will be reported on the pre-announced publication date of 12 February 2015.

■ Defence Equipment: Deployment

Alison Sebeck: [\[221534\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many vehicles within each group, included in his Department's contract made as a result of the sale of the Defence Support Group, need to be kept at readiness under that contract; whether the level of that readiness is decided by (a) the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre or (b) him; and whether that contract contains provisions to allow that number to be changed in response to changing security threat situations.

Mr Philip Dunne:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: The Department's contract made as a result of the sale of the Defence Support Group does not set readiness levels for keeping vehicles.

■ EU Common Security and Defence Policy

Mike Weatherley:

[\[221524\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he has taken to ensure that the Common Security and Defence Policy continues to increase Britain's capability in ensuring international security.

Mr Julian Brazier:

My right hon. friend the Defence Secretary and his Ministerial colleagues engage regularly with defence ministers from other EU Member States and with the EU institutions themselves to ensure that CSDP evolves in line with UK policy objectives.

As full members of both NATO and the EU, we continue to press for partners and Allies to invest more in the necessary capabilities and to work together in a complementary manner to deliver a comprehensive response to security challenges in the Euro-Atlantic region and further afield.

■ European Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson:

[\[221410\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when he expects testing of the collision warning system for Typhoon jets to be completed; what estimate he has made of the time and cost of installing that system; and when he expects to take a decision on installing that system.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The development of a collision warning system for the Typhoon aircraft is at the concept phase and no investment decisions have yet been made. It is too early to say what the time or cost of installing a collision warning system in Typhoon might be. By way of context, other than the installations on our Tornado fleet, we are not aware of any combat jet in the world fitted with a collision warning system, which have been designed for use on civil and commercial aircraft.

■ Ministry of Defence Police

Gemma Doyle:

[\[221773\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the proposals of the Defence Police Federation on Ministry of Defence Police pensions.

Gemma Doyle:

[\[221775\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the suitability of the new Civil Service Pensions Scheme for Ministry of Defence Police officers.

Gemma Doyle: [\[221803\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when he plans to confirm future arrangements for Ministry of Defence Police pensions.

Anna Soubry:

The review conducted by the Department on the likely effect of section 10 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 on the Defence Fire and Rescue Service and the Ministry of Defence Police which was laid before Parliament in December 2013 included an assessment of the impact of a higher normal pension age (a key change brought about by the Public Service Pension Act 2013) on Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) personnel.

Defence Ministers are consulting colleagues about the issues raised by the review. The proposals put forward by the Defence Police Federation in respect of MDP pensions have been fully assessed and reflected in these consultations.

We hope to be able to confirm the future arrangements for MDP pensions shortly.

■ Staff

Angus Robertson: [\[221405\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many nuclear-qualified and experienced personnel have been required by his Department in each of the last three years; and how many such posts were vacant at each location on the most recent date for which figures are available.

Mr Philip Dunne:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 May 2014, (Official Report, column 388W).

Attachments:

1. Hansard Extract 12 May 2014 [Nuclear Reactors.doc HOC 188387.doc]

Angus Robertson: [\[221406\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many suitably qualified and experienced personnel staff are currently required by his Department; and how many such positions for each role are vacant in (a) the Defence Support Group, (b) the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, (c) the UK Hydrographic Office and (d) Defence Equipment and Support.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

■ Tornado Aircraft

Angus Robertson: [\[221408\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 24 October 2014 to Question 210783, what the issues were that required resolution; whether those issues they have been resolved; and if he will publish the revised TCAS embodiment programme for the Tornado GR4 fleet.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Trials in the Tornado GR4 aircraft have revealed that modifications are required to existing aircraft hardware and software in order to ensure compatibility with the Honeywell Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System II (TCAS II). Work is continuing to resolve these issues and once further trials and testing has been completed we will be in a better position to determine when the full capability will be available. The Ministry of Defence is committed to obtaining early beneficial use of TCAS II and is embodying the system in as many Tornado GR4 aircraft as possible to operate, initially, in Traffic Advisory mode.

Angus Robertson:[\[221409\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 9 January 2015 to Question 219525, if he will place in the Library a copy of the document that has superseded Version 1.3 of the document 201110314 Collision Warning System Analysis.

Mr Philip Dunne:

I have asked for a copy, redacted in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, to be placed in the Library of the House.

■ **Trident****Paul Flynn:**[\[221353\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to his statement of 20 January 2015, Official Report, column 105, on Trident renewal, that the UK has met its commitment to withdraw from deployment some of its nuclear weapons, whether an independent authority has been given access to verify that withdrawal of operational nuclear weapons; what his Department has done with those missiles withdrawn from deployment; what his Department has done with fissile material from those nuclear warheads withdrawn from deployment; and what international safeguards inspection measures have been applied to that fissile material.

Mr Philip Dunne:

As a recognised Nuclear Weapons State under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the UK is not obliged to seek an independent authority to verify the reduction in the number of operational missiles and nuclear warheads.

Non-operational Trident missiles are stored in accordance with agreed procedures. The 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review revision of the number of operational missiles did not change the UK entitlement to Trident missiles, which are supplied from a common pool in the US under a Government to Government arrangement.

Once processed, the fissile material from dismantled warheads is returned to the Ministry of Defence nuclear material stockpile.

As a recognised Nuclear Weapons State under the NPT, the UK is not obliged to place this material under international safeguards.

Paul Flynn:

[221394]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the section on Barrow Infrastructure in the United Kingdom's Future Nuclear Deterrent: 2014 Update to Parliament, how he calculated that £42 million would be saved by a different approach to financing the rebuild of new support facilities in the Central Yard at the Barrow shipyard; what the early implementation steel work to the New Assembly Shop consists of; and how the £55 million of planned expenditure for which no specific purpose is assigned will be used.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The expected £42 million reduction in cost results from changes to the way the Department pays for the Barrow facility improvements. The payment changes reflect a move from overhead recovery from BAE Systems to direct funding by the Ministry of Defence, and an associated reduction in the company's profit to reflect the reduced level of commercial risk.

Much of the plant and equipment within the new assembly shop will require upgrading and refurbishing from the existing stock to support the Successor submarine build programme. This includes presses, rotators and specialist welding equipment; the testing of this equipment will use steel from which test-pieces and prototypes will be manufactured.

The 2014 Update to Parliament explained that £261 million of funding has been re-profiled into the Assessment Phase. Of this, £206 million is to support Barrow infrastructure. The remaining £55 million is the £55 million referred to in the Long Lead Items section of the 2014 update.

■ **Veterans: Mesothelioma**

Mr David Anderson:

[221387]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to offer support to veterans diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Anna Soubry:

Veterans diagnosed with mesothelioma receive considerable support. The Ministry of Defence is committed to ensuring that all veterans and their families are provided with the support they need, and are treated fairly. Veterans UK, provides a package of welfare support for veterans through a free helpline, website and a national Veterans Welfare Service. Veterans UK also administer compensation payments for those injured or bereaved through service.

The existing War Pensions Scheme provides compensation for veterans and their dependants. It is a generous scheme with a low burden of proof, under which mesothelioma sufferers receive the maximum award, with dependants benefits.

■ Vetting

Mr Kevan Jones:

[\[221648\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 6 January 2015 to Question 216757, on vetting, what the average time to process applications has been in each month since January 2014; and what the cost of bringing in additional personnel to help deal with the high volume of applications has been.

Anna Soubry:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: The tables below give the average number of days taken to complete: Security Clearance (SC) and Counter-terrorist checks (CTC) - Table 1; and Developed vetting (DV) - Table 2, for both the Ministry of Defence and Other Government Departments. Each table gives performance against both routine cases and those specifically identified by the customer as requiring priority treatment. The tables show both the gross period of time taken, i.e. the time between initiating and completing the clearance and, within this, the net period, measuring the average number of days for which the case was being actively managed by Defence Business Services (DBS). The latter discounts periods when DBS is awaiting inputs from third party suppliers, and is the basis on which performance targets are set for DBS.

SC & CTC				SC & CTC			
ROUTINE	VOLUME	GROSS	NET	PRIORITY	VOLUME	GROSS	NET
January-2014	8,579	28	19	January-2014	253	9	2
February-2014	7,640	27	16	February-2014	202	11	2
March-2014	7,856	30	19	Mach-2014	216	12	3
April-2014	7,429	32	22	April-2014	131	17	3
May-2014	7,148	34	23	May-2014	111	15	3
June-2014	8,763	35	23	June-2014	146	18	3
July-2014	5,897	41	25	July-2014	105	24	3
August-2014	5,108	46	25	August-2014	108	24	3
September-2014	8,317	59	26	September-2014	161	45	2
October-2014	8,203	61	26	October-2014	173	41	4
November-	9,198	51	28	November-	154	27	6

SC & CTC ROUTINE				SC & CTC PRIORITY			
	VOLUME	GROSS	NET		VOLUME	GROSS	NET
2014				2014			
December-2014	6,720	46	28	December-2014	119	23	6
2014 Total	90,858	41	23	2014 Total	1,879	21	3

The performance target for SC and CTC cases is to process 85% of routine cases within 25 days (net), and 95% of priority cases within 10 days (net).

DV ROUTINE				DV PRIORITY			
	VOLUME	GROSS	NET		VOLUME	GROSS	NET
January-2014	860	98	73	January-2014	50	31	17
February-2014	795	96	74	February-2014	47	26	20
March-2014	927	98	76	March-2014	64	25	17
April-2014	720	111	85	April-2014	38	28	18
May-2014	586	118	84	May-2014	37	37	19
June-2014	603	123	88	June-2014	37	30	17
July-2014	682	120	83	July-2014	43	27	18
August-2014	650	120	81	August-2014	47	37	19
September-2014	890	147	114	September-2014	34	43	23
October-2014	945	143	108	October-2014	52	35	19
November-2014	982	133	95	November-2014	43	30	18
December-2014	972	122	92	December-2014	44	26	18
2014 Total	9,612	120	88	2014 Total	536	31	19

The performance target for DV cases is to process 85% of routine cases within 95 days, and 95% of priority cases within 30 days.

An additional £1.2 million has been spent on personnel costs by DBS to help manage the higher demand to reduce the impact on customers and the introduction of new services.

Mr Kevan Jones:

[221649]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, over what time period the contract between his Department and CGI to provide security vetting services will run; and what the cost of that contract will be per year.

Anna Soubry:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: The contract for building and running the National Security Vetting Solution with CGI was awarded on 22 December 2014, and began on 5 January 2015. The length of the contract is 60 months with a total value of some £11.93 million.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

■ Electoral Register

Chris Ruane:

[221348]

To ask the Deputy Prime Minister, pursuant to the Answer of 6 January 2015 to Question 219123, what proportion of people who initiated an online registration failed to finish that registration; and what information he holds on the main reason for failure to conclude the registration process.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Performance data relating to the online registration system is available at <https://www.gov.uk/performance/register-to-vote>.

■ Electoral Register: Young People

Chris Ruane:

[221159]

To ask the Deputy Prime Minister, whether the Electoral Commission has endorsed the inclusion of 17 year old attainers on the electoral register; and what assessment he has made of the effect of this inclusion on the number of 18 year olds registered to vote.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The Representation of the People Act 1983 provides for attainers to be included in the electoral register. The Electoral Commission has not been asked to endorse this. The government has made no assessment of the effect this inclusion has on the number of 18 year olds registered to vote.

EDUCATION■ **Carers**

Steve McCabe: [\[221698\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 7 January 2015 to Question 219582, how her Department monitors the progress of local authorities in meeting the requirement to develop easily accessible policies to describe how they will support children in the care of family and friends.

Mr Edward Timpson:

In July 2013, I wrote to all local authorities to remind them of the requirement set out in statutory guidance to publish policies setting out their approach to the provision of support for family and friends carers; To date, 144 of 152 (94%) of local authorities have sent us links to their policies.

The Department for Education has negotiated with the 'Family Rights Group' (FRG), one of the leading voluntary organisations supporting family and friends carers, to publish these links on its website.

FRG are now reviewing the content and quality of these policies and the Department plans to provide feedback to local authorities on the findings from work.

■ **Children: Day Care**

Richard Graham: [\[221586\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the number of new childcare places that will be created through the Childcare Business Grant scheme in 2015-16.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The 'Childcare Business Grant Scheme' has been running since 2013 and has so far distributed £1.4 million to new childcare businesses, supporting around 5,000 new child minders. In the Autumn statement it was announced that the scheme will be extended with an additional £2 million made available to new childcare businesses during 2015/16, to help parents access the childcare they need.

The 'Childcare Business Grant Scheme' is the responsibility of the Government Equalities Office and they have yet to finalise details of the extension to the scheme. The Department for Education has not yet made any such assessment or estimate of the number of childcare places that will be created.

■ **Pupils: Bullying**

Seema Malhotra: [\[221748\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the number of bullying incidents reported at schools in England but not recorded centrally in each of the last three years.

Mr Nick Gibb:

The Government believes that schools are best placed to decide how to prevent and tackle bullying based on their particular circumstances. There is no legal requirement on schools to record incidents of bullying but school staff should develop a consistent and effective approach to monitoring bullying incidents. For some schools, that will mean recording incidents while others prefer to take a different approach, such as surveying their pupils anonymously to identify trends in bullying and how safe young people feel at school. Schools are held to account on their approach to bullying by Ofsted.

Research results from the national Longitudinal Study of Young people (LSYPE), which is funded by the Department for Education, found that bullying among year 9 pupils has fallen in the period from 2004 to 2013. 30,000 fewer pupils said they had been bullied in the last twelve months. This is a reduction from 45 per cent of pupils to 40 per cent.

■ Schools: Asbestos**Toby Perkins:**[\[221608\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, which organisations and individuals were consulted as part of her Department's review of asbestos policy in schools.

Mr David Laws:

The following organisations responded to the Department for Education's call for evidence or were consulted in another way during the Department's review of its policy:

1. ASBESTOS IN SCHOOLS GROUP

2. Asbestos Support West Midlands
3. Asbestos Testing And Consultancy Association
4. Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum UK
5. Association of School and College Leaders
6. Belle Vue Girls' School
7. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
8. Bradford Asbestos in Schools
9. Brent Teachers Association
10. Brighton and Hove City Council
11. Clean Air in London
12. Clear Concepts
13. Clevedon School
14. Danum Academy

1. ASBESTOS IN SCHOOLS GROUP

15. Darlington Borough Council
16. Dinnington Comprehensive School
17. GMB
18. The Greetland Academy
19. Asbestos Review
20. Hazards Campaign
21. The Health and Safety Executive
22. Joint Union Asbestos Committee
23. Katharine Lady Berkeley's School
24. Kennet School
25. Kent County Council
26. Lancashire National Union of Teachers
27. London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
28. Local Government Association
29. Leeds NUT
30. Loreto College (St Albans)
31. NASUWT
32. National Association of Head Teachers
33. National Association of School Business Management
34. Nottingham County Council
35. NUT
36. NUT Wirral
37. NE area Asbestos Management Group
38. NUT Health and Safety Bradford
39. Portsmouth City Council
40. RB Asbestos Consultants

1. ASBESTOS IN SCHOOLS GROUP

- 41. Right to Know Wales Campaign
- 42. Slater and Gordon Lawyers
- 43. St Mary's Academy
- 44. Trafford Council
- 45. UNISON
- 46. UNITE
- 47. Voice
- 48. West Sussex County Council

A number of individuals were also consulted as part of the review. To protect their personal information they have not been included in this answer.

Toby Perkins:

[221609]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what her Department's policy is on the use of asbestos in school buildings.

Mr David Laws:

The use of asbestos in buildings in the UK was banned in 1999 and as such should not be used in the construction of new buildings. Existing asbestos in school buildings should be managed in line with the regulations set in the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. To help schools manage any asbestos present in schools the Department for Education currently publishes guidance, which is available online at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/asbestos-management-in-schools

The Department has undertaken a review of its policy on asbestos in schools, the results of which will be published shortly.

■ Schools: York

Sir Hugh Bayley:

[221784]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much capital the Government has provided for investment in York schools in each of the last 10 years.

Mr David Laws:

The following table shows capital funding for the financial years 2005-06 onwards.

£ MILLION

	City of York	
	Capital allocations 1	PFI (private finance initiative) credits 2
2005-06	10.7	—
2006-07	23	—
2007-08	19.3	—
2008-09	26.7	—
2009-10	23.1	—
2010-11	18.4	—
2011-12	8.0	n/a
2012-13	8.7	n/a
2013-14	8.5	n/a
2014-15 (provisional)	6.5	n/a

Notes 1. Capital allocations includes capital grant and supported borrowing allocations. 2. PFI credit allocations, where applicable are counted at financial close. PFI credits were not made after 2010-11.

3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000.

4. Capital allocations are made to York Unitary Authority for local authority maintained schools

5. — indicates that no funding was given in that year.

The capital figures provided show the capital funding allocated to York City Council and its schools through all of the Department for Education's capital programmes over the period requested. These figures include the formulaic capital allocations such as those for Basic Need and Capital Maintenance, and those for more targeted programmes such as the Primary Capital Programme and Building Schools for the Future.

Since the formation of the Education Funding Agency in April 2012 major efficiency savings have been made in the cost of building new schools. We have seen the cost of new schools cut by about 35% compared to schools procured under the Building Schools for the Future programme.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**■ Coal: Taxation**

Mrs Madeleine Moon: [\[221412\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, pursuant to the Answer of 16 January 2015 to Question 220505, on coal: taxation what estimate he has made of the amount collected through that levy.

Matthew Hancock:

These were business practices that ceased to be carried out almost 20 years ago and on that basis we are not in a position to estimate their financial scale.

■ Energy Supply

Caroline Lucas: [\[221110\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what information his Department holds on the extent of additional expenditure that will be incurred by EDF in order to meet its obligations under the capacity market regime.

Matthew Hancock:

EDF plants which gained a three year capacity agreement to carry out refurbishment work have had to declare at pre-qualification for the auction that they will incur a minimum capital expenditure of £125 per kW of de-rated capacity in respect of the refurbishment work, in order to qualify for a three year agreement. This applies in respect of Cottam Power station (1,760MW de-rated capacity) and three units at West Burton B power station (1,322MW de-rated capacity); equating to a minimum capital expenditure of £220m and £165m respectively (at 2012 price levels). The company has provided the department with examples of the type of work to be undertaken in providing reliable capacity over the period. However, details of the anticipated total project spend declared by EDF are held on a confidential basis by National Grid in its role as the delivery body for the Capacity Market and is not data held by the department or publically available.

Existing generation plants taking on one year capacity agreements are not required to demonstrate any additional expenditure. With regard to their other plants successful in the capacity auction, it is a commercial decision for EDF to have bid into the capacity market and commit to those plants being available in the 2018/19 delivery year. The on-going operating and maintenance costs specific to those plants is EDF's own commercial data.

■ Energy: Finance

Caroline Lucas: [\[220963\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, whether the definition of energy subsidies used by his Department is the same as the definition set out in the report, Subsidies and costs of EU energy: an interim report, published by the European Commission on 10 October 2014; and if he will make a statement.

Matthew Hancock:

The European Commission study on Subsidies and costs of EU energy notes the OECD's conclusion that there is "no universal definition of what constitutes a subsidy", hence the use throughout the study of the term "public interventions." The study was developed on the basis of information and data which has been estimated and utilised methodologies developed by the Commission's consultants which were not endorsed or assured by Member States prior to its publication. Accordingly its approach reflects the views of those consultants, not those of the UK or Member States generally.

■ **Energy: Prices****Steve McCabe:**[\[220887\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, pursuant to the Answer of 7 January 2014 to Question 219579, if he will make it his policy to direct energy suppliers to withdraw charges imposed on customers solely for the purpose of covering the cost of gas metering and billing where a customer does not use that service.

Matthew Hancock:

The standing charge element of the bill is commonly associated with covering the costs of, amongst other things, metering and billing as these are costs which the supplier will incur regardless of if any gas is consumed. These costs include the administrative costs of maintaining a customer account and providing bills and the cost of reading the meter and undertaking a periodic safety check. A supplier will also still be required to pay charges to the local gas network company for maintaining the connection and the distribution network which enables supply.

If a customer does not wish to pay a standing charge they can switch to a supplier with a tariff which features a standing charge set at zero.

Ofgem has been clear that consumers in vulnerable situations should not have to pay a standing charge if they are not consuming gas at all and should not have to pay for the removal of their meter, should this be appropriate, and has written to suppliers confirming this.

Jonathan Reynolds:[\[221398\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, how much his Department has spent on collective switching initiatives since 2010; and how many customers have switched specifically as part of those initiatives.

Matthew Hancock:

Since 2010, the Department has awarded £5,010,706 of support to collective switching schemes through the Cheaper Energy Together scheme. Over the short period that this fund was available between December 2012 and March 2013, the number of customers who switched was 21,641.

Since then local councils and consumers switching sites have continued to run schemes to help consumers switch together, saving them more than £10 million.

The Department has published an assessment of schemes supported by the Cheaper Energy Together scheme, which is available at this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/253862/Helping_Customers_Switch_Collective_Switching_and_Beyond_final_2_.pdf.

Attachments:

1. Helping Customers Switch
[Helping_Customers_Switch_Collective_Switching_and_Beyond_final__2_.pdf]

David Morris: [\[221785\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, if he will conduct an impact assessment on freezing energy bills on the energy sector and its potential effect on the workforce that sector employs.

Matthew Hancock:

Our overall assessment is that a price freeze would have a negative impact on energy prices by increasing regulatory risk, decreasing the incentives for companies to cut prices, and could also have a detrimental impact on investment. A more risk averse approach to investment could affect supplier decisions regarding the size of their workforce.

■ **Fracking**

Mr Frank Field: [\[221214\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what steps he has taken to ensure that the views of local residents are represented in decisions relating to drilling for shale gas.

Matthew Hancock:

Companies developing shale will speak with local communities, residents and other stakeholders at each of the three stages of operations – exploration, appraisal and production. This is as well as consultation through the planning application.

The planning process takes into account local considerations, there are multiple opportunities for the public to be consulted and permission can attach conditions for operators.

Communities that host shale development should share in the benefits. A community benefits package means that £100,000 is paid to local communities on exploration and a minimum of 1% of revenues from production.

■ **Fracking: Christchurch**

Mr Christopher Chope: [\[221279\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, which areas within Christchurch constituency are covered by existing Government licences permitting fracking.

Matthew Hancock:

There are currently no existing Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDLs) which contain acreage that falls within Christchurch constituency.

■ **Petrol: Prices****Iain McKenzie:**[\[221666\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require petrol wholesalers to publish the price at which they sell petrol; and if he will make a statement.

Matthew Hancock:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: Daily price reports of wholesale trading in transport fuels are available through commercial subscription services; with certain wholesale price information available publicly, for example from specialist press and motoring organisations.

■ **Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme****Mr Geoffrey Cox:**[\[221296\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what discussions he has had with Ofgem on its change of interpretation of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2011, as amended by the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2014, in respect of the definition of plant in relation to the eligibility criteria set out in Regulations 9, 11 and 12.

Amber Rudd:

Ofgem's interpretation of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) regulations is set out in its RHI Guidance Volumes 1 and 2.

This guidance was last revised in August 2014 and includes updated guidance on Ofgem's interpretation of regulations 9, 11 and 12.

Ofgem's definition of plant varies by technology. Regulation 11 refers to biogas plant. For biogas installations, Ofgem's interpretation of the definition of plant did not change as a result of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

Mr Geoffrey Cox:[\[221585\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, if he will take steps to ensure that both (a) Combined Heat and Power facilities where biogas production and combustion take place on the same site and (b) facilities that also produce biogas on the same site, but which generate their power from a combination of that biogas and some other energy source, receive equal treatment under the Government's proposal to amend the Renewable Heat Incentive Regulations.

Amber Rudd:

Heat produced from Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants may be eligible for renewable heat incentive scheme payments under the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2011 (as amended) ("the Non-domestic Scheme"), where the fuel

is biomass (including solid biomass contained in waste), biogas or geothermal energy, either in isolation or in combination. Decisions on whether or not individual installations meet the requirements of the Non-domestic Scheme are determined by Ofgem.

The draft Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendments) Regulations 2015, which are currently before Parliament for approval, make proposed amendments to the Non-domestic Scheme which are intended to introduce greater flexibility for CHP generators to use a mixture of fuels if each combustion unit burns a single fuel type. Generators are paid under the Non-domestic RHI Scheme based on the amount of eligible renewable heat used for eligible purposes.

■ UK Coal

Caroline Flint: [\[220904\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, with reference to the contribution of 6 November 2014 by the Minister of State in his Department, Official Report, column 949, what assistance the Department has made available to UK Coal for the preparation of an application for state aid.

Caroline Flint: [\[220906\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, with reference to the contribution of 6 November 2014 by the Minister of State in his Department, Official Report, column 949, what resources the Government is making available to UK Coal in support of the provision of state aid to UK Coal in respect of Thoresby and Kellingley coal mines.

Matthew Hancock:

I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Senior Officials from the BIS Yorkshire Humber North East Office were assigned to assist UK Coal following their interest in applying for additional government funding to extend the operation of their two deep mines. These officials provided feedback, advice and suggestions to help UK Coal prepare a case for Government support and met with them on several occasions throughout this process. On 16 January 2015, UK Coal submitted its request and supporting case for additional public sector support.

The Government is carefully considering the merits of this request including whether it represents acceptable value for money and is a good use of taxpayer's money. Should the Government decide to make the case to the European Commission that we should pay state aid to UK Coal we will assign a team across BIS and DECC to take this forward.

Caroline Flint: [\[220905\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, with reference to the contribution of 6 November 2014 by the Minister of State in his Department, Official Report, column 949, what his Department's policy is on the provision of state aid to UK Coal in respect of Thoresby and Kellingley coal mines.

Matthew Hancock:

UK Coal submitted a request for additional public sector support to extend the working life of the Thoresby and Kellingley coal mines on 16 January 2015. The Government is carefully considering this request including whether it represents acceptable value for money and is a good use of taxpayer's money.

If the Government concludes there is merit in supporting the new plan, it would need to ensure the plan is consistent with state aid rules applying to the coal sector and seek approval from the European Commission to pay aid to UK Coal.

■ Wind Power: Seas and Oceans**Ian Swales:**[\[221256\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what estimate his Department has made of the value and proportion of UK content of the forthcoming Race Bank offshore windfarm.

Amber Rudd:

The Department does not estimate the value and proportion of UK content of individual offshore windfarms.

Ian Swales:[\[221257\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, what the value and proportion of the UK content of each completed UK offshore wind farm is.

Amber Rudd:

The Department does not require Developers to submit to it the value and proportion of the UK content for each completed UK offshore wind farm. However, many Developers already report on the UK content of their wind farms and it is a priority for Government to support the development of a UK-based supply chain for offshore wind and to increase the UK content of wind farms.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**■ Action with Communities in Rural England: Northamptonshire****Andy Sawford:**[\[221789\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate she has made on the level of funding available for the Northamptonshire Action with Communities in Rural England.

Dan Rogerson:

No estimate has been made on the level of funding available for Northamptonshire Action with Communities in Rural England. That is a matter for discussion between ACRE, as the coordinating body for the Network, and Northamptonshire.

We support the valuable work the ACRE Network does to benefit rural communities. That is why we have confirmed that it will again receive over £2 million worth of funding in the coming year.

■ Birds of Prey

Jim Shannon:

[\[221382\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will discuss with the hon. Member for Strangford and Natural England the request for a licence to control buzzards by Mr Rodney McMorris.

George Eustice:

I cannot comment on individual licence applications to manage wildlife. These are a matter between applicants and the licensing authority, Natural England. Ministers are not involved in the decision making process.

■ Business: Rural Areas

Huw Irranca-Davies:

[\[221622\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to page seven of her Department's policy brief, How increased Connectivity is Boosting Prospects of Rural Areas, published in December 2014, what assessment she has made of the effect of the Skills and Knowledge Transfer Programme on business people in rural areas to date.

Dan Rogerson:

To date, the Rural Development Programme Skills and Knowledge Transfer Programme has provided training across England for 215,000 (non-unique) participants who have completed 220,000 training days. Delivery is still underway and an evaluation will be carried out.

■ Common Agricultural Policy

Mike Weatherley:

[\[221523\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government has taken to (a) return control of agricultural policy to member states and (b) reduce subsidies under the Common Agricultural Policy.

George Eustice:

The Government has consistently argued that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should provide best value for money for taxpayers, not impose undue burdens on businesses or administrations, and provide greater discretion for Member States in its implementation.

We continue to believe that expenditure on market price support and direct payments to farmers under Pillar 1 of the CAP represents very poor value for money. The UK has always made clear that we would like to move away from subsidies in the long run. However, we recognise that there is scope for using taxpayers' money to pay farmers for public goods that the market otherwise would not reward, such as protecting the

natural environment, supporting biodiversity and improving animal welfare. We will shortly be commencing preparation for the next round of CAP reform.

Within the EU budget for 2014-2020, CAP was allocated €362.8 billion (equal to circa €52 billion per year). This amounts to a real terms cut of 13% or €55 billion, which is roughly equal to the annual level of spending on the CAP budget. This was a significant development and made an important contribution to the overall reduction in the EU budget.

Most of the cut was delivered through a cut to Pillar 1 direct payments, which fell from €320 billion over 2007 to 2013 to €277.9 billion. Pillar 2 rural development received €84.9 billion, down from €98 billion.

■ Dairy Farming

Toby Perkins: [\[221564\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what proportion of milk sold in Britain comes from intensively farmed cows.

George Eustice:

Defra does not collect information on systems of milk production. It is difficult to define intensity in relation to dairy farms, as this can be measured in many different ways and levels of intensity change gradually rather than at specific predetermined points.

Toby Perkins: [\[221565\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if her Department will take steps to ensure that all milk labelling clearly states the farming methods used in production of that milk.

George Eustice:

Food labelling rules are set at EU level and require that food information must not mislead. There are currently no milk labelling rules or criteria that define the method of farming.

The Commission is due to publish a report into the feasibility of extending mandatory country of origin labelling to milk and milk products.

■ Dogs: Animal Welfare

Kate Green: [\[221293\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to ban the use of the captive bolt gun for the destruction of dogs; and if she will make a statement.

George Eustice:

Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal. Best practice to euthanize a dog is by intravenous injection of an overdose of barbiturates by a vet. However, where this option is not possible or available, other

humane alternatives may need to be used. Accordingly there are no proposals to ban or restrict the use of the captive bolt gun.

■ Employment: Rural Areas

Huw Irranca-Davies: [\[221619\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate she has made of the number of people who will (a) leave and (b) join the labour market in rural areas before 2025.

Dan Rogerson:

To inform Defra's policy brief on the rural economy published on 27 December 2014, an estimate was included for how much employment in rural areas could increase by 2025. This assumed employment could grow at the rate of projected population growth in rural areas (derived from Office for National Statistics population projections). Further details can be found in the policy brief:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/390767/policy-brief-rural-productivity-pb14252.pdf

■ Farmers

Huw Irranca-Davies: [\[221621\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to page seven of her Department's policy brief, How increased Connectivity is Boosting Prospects of Rural Areas, published in December 2014, what assessment she has made of the effect of UK RuralSkills on farmers' management and business skills to date.

Dan Rogerson:

Management and Business Skills forms one of a number of contracts awarded under the Rural Development Programme for England skills framework. The contract was awarded to Traineast, which works with its UK Rural Skills partners to provide coverage across England. To date, under the Management and Business Skills contract, 3,973 training days have been completed with 2,444 (non-unique) participants taking part in training. Evaluation completed by trainees following training indicates that 99.96% will put the skills gained into practice. Delivery under the skills framework is ongoing and an evaluation will be carried out.

■ Forests

Christopher Pincher: [\[221542\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what support her Department is giving to Natural England for its work to update the Ancient Woodland Inventory in (a) England and (b) Staffordshire.

George Eustice:

The Government provides funding and other support to Natural England to enable it to pursue its statutory functions and other responsibilities. This includes the work that it is currently undertaking with partners to update and improve the Ancient Woodland

Inventory. The Inventory currently identifies all ancient woodlands in England larger than two hectares, and the majority of those in the south east that are less than two hectares as well. It is hoped that in time the Inventory will cover ancient woodlands of less than two hectares across the rest of the country, including Staffordshire.

■ Nature Conservation: Cybercrime

Toby Perkins: [\[221569\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what targets the National Wildlife Crime Unit has been set for dealing with wildlife cybercrime.

George Eustice:

The National Wildlife Crime Unit does not set specific targets but focuses on information and intelligence on wildlife crime on the internet as part of its work to tackle the six UK wildlife crime priorities.

■ Shellfish: Animal Welfare

Richard Fuller: [\[221350\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to extend the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to crustaceans and decapods.

George Eustice:

There are no proposals to extend the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to crustaceans or decapods as we do not consider that there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate these animals can experience pain.

■ Tourism: Rural Areas

Huw Irranca-Davies: [\[221624\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to page seven of her Department's policy brief, How increased Connectivity is Boosting Prospects of Rural Areas, published in December 2014, what assessment she has made of the effect of Visit England's marketing campaigns on tourism to rural areas to date.

Dan Rogerson:

Tourism is one of the most important sectors of the rural economy. In recognition of this, the Government launched the Rural Tourism package aimed at growing the visitor economy in rural areas. Under that package, Visit England estimates that its promotional activity to attract visitors to the countryside has so far delivered an extra 1,851 full-time equivalent jobs and £100 million in visitor spend.

■ Veterinary Services

Simon Hart: [R] [\[221437\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what communication has been delivered to private veterinary practices and farmers regarding the recent changes

to the UK's veterinary surveillance network; and what plans her Department has to ensure that surveillance data from veterinary practices and non-APHA sources is being centrally collated and shared at a national level.

George Eustice:

The changes to the veterinary surveillance system in England and Wales have been delivered and communicated through the project called Surveillance 2014. There has been a broad range of different communications provided by APHA to private veterinary practices and farmers regarding changes to the veterinary surveillance network, including:

(a) Public consultation on the development of a new surveillance model, from December 2012 to February 2013, which gathered over 370 responses from vets, farmers, the livestock industry and other stakeholders.

(b) Visits to a total of 57 private veterinary practices in England and Wales from January 2014 to January 2015.

(c) A series of 19 regional meetings for private veterinary practitioners in different parts of England and Wales, running from December 2014 until March 2015.

(d) A total of 22 articles, letters or other forms of communication to private veterinary practices or farmers from February 2014 to date.

Details of the surveillance model are being finalised. It will be designed to enable central collation and sharing of surveillance information from Government bodies, private veterinary practices, abattoirs, livestock industry bodies, academia and other collaborative surveillance networks nationally and internationally.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

■ Bahrain

Richard Burden:

[\[221298\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to promote (a) press freedom and (b) other human rights in Bahrain.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

I welcome the steps taken by the Government of Bahrain in implementing its reform programme based on recommendations made by the Independent Commission of Inquiry. There is more to do, and I encourage greater progress in relaxing censorship and allowing the opposition greater access to the media. In 2014 the UK hosted a delegation from Bahrain's Ministry of Information to share best practice on media relations and press freedom. The British Government is supporting Bahrain's reform programme on a range of issues. Assistance is focused on strengthening human rights and the rule of law, including torture prevention and capacity building in the Ombudsman's Office for

the Ministry of Interior, which has responsibility for investigating allegations of detainee mistreatment.

■ Burma

Naomi Long: [\[221704\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department has taken in response to the increase in the number of political prisoners in Burma in the last year.

Mr Hugo Swire:

The UK actively pushes for the release of all political prisoners in Burma. The most recent official figures from the government of Burma suggest that 27 political prisoners remain in prison, having dropped from over 2,000 in 2011. However these figures are contested, and a leading local non-government organisation – the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) – suggest that as of January there are 160 political prisoners with another 203 facing trial.

Clearly, the UK is very concerned by the increase in political prisoners witnessed over the last year. Officials from our Embassy in Rangoon meet regularly with members of civil society on this issue, and we continue to raise our concerns with the government of Burma at Ministerial level. I raised our concerns over political prisoners with Deputy Foreign Minister Thant Kyaw in June 2014. Most recently, the Minister of State at the Home Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Ms Featherstone), raised this issue directly with the Minister for the President's Office, U Soe Thein, during her visit to Burma this month. We continue to lobby on individual cases. We also raise our concerns publicly in our Annual Report on Human Rights and in multilateral fora such as the UN General Assembly, where the UK co-sponsored a Resolution last year that called for the unconditional release of all political prisoners.

Valerie Vaz: [\[221792\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make it his policy to support the establishment of an independent, international inquiry to investigate allegations of crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and genocide in Rakhine State, Burma.

Mr Hugo Swire:

We remain deeply concerned by intercommunal violence in Burma, particularly in Rakhine State. While levels of violence have not been repeated on the same scale as in 2012, the situation remains fragile and sensitive. Our approach is to seek an end to all violations by encouraging a resolution of the underlying problems and de-escalating tensions. We have made clear to the government of Burma that allegations of human rights abuses must be dealt with through a clear, independent and transparent investigative and prosecutorial process that meets international standards. We have also put on record our view that an independent investigation, supported by appropriate technical assistance, would make a significant contribution to accountability and reconciliation.

■ Colombia

Jim Shannon:

[221442]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with Amnesty International on human rights in Colombia.

Mr Hugo Swire:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London held a roundtable meeting on 28 October 2014 with Amnesty International, ABColombia, Peace Brigades International, CORE Coalition as well as two Colombian community Leaders, Ms Yomaira Mendoza and Mr Enrique Cabezas, to discuss human rights in Colombia, including the threats against human rights defenders and land claimants.

Subsequently, on 28 November, an official attended Amnesty International's briefing on their report on the progress of the Land Restitution Law, entitled 'A Land Title is not Enough: Ensuring Sustainable Land Restitution in Colombia'. Our Embassy in Bogota has subsequently held several conversations with Amnesty International regarding the Afro-descendant community of La Toma, Cauca, which is affected by mining. Our officials will meet Amnesty International in London again this month.

■ Democratic Republic of Congo

David Simpson:

[221357]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent support the Government has given to the authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mr Hugo Swire:

The UK is making a significant contribution to international efforts to promote stability, development and greater democratisation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). DFID's programme in the DRC will spend £790 million over the years 2011-2016 and is committed to addressing the urgent needs of the most vulnerable and poorest people.

DFID's operational plan, updated in December 2014, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389482/DRC_Operational_Plan.pdf outlines how HMG will use its role as the second biggest bilateral donor in DRC to deliver support and expertise in a wide range of sectors; most notably in humanitarian assistance, security sector reform, education, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and private sector development.

We strongly support the role played by MONUSCO, the UN's biggest peacekeeping mission, in resolving the conflict in the eastern part of the DRC, and our contribution to MONUSCO in 2014-2015 is estimated to be £61 million. UK diplomatic influence supports efforts to build a stronger, more stable and more prosperous future in the DRC, making conflict and humanitarian crises less likely.

■ Hamas

Dr Matthew Offord: [\[221360\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department has taken in response to the decision of the General Court of the European Union on Hamas.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The EU General Court judgment is procedural and does not mean the EU and UK have changed their position on Hamas. The effects of the EU Hamas listing, including asset freezes, remain in place. We are studying the detail of the judgment carefully, and will work with partners to ensure that the Hamas listing at the EU is maintained. Hamas' military wing has been proscribed in the UK since 2001 under separate UK legislation. This is not affected by the EU General Court judgment.

■ Libya

Dr Matthew Offord: [\[221361\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what support his Department is providing to help the Libyan government bring peace and stability to that country.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The UK Government, working closely with our international partners, continues to support the people of Libya and the efforts of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Libya, Bernardino Leon, to resolve the political crisis. Since 2011, the UK has also funded much practical support to Libya. The current focus is on contributing to UN political settlement efforts through the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the Libyan Political Transition, Jonathan Powell. The UK is also providing expert advice to the Constitutional Drafting Assembly; helping to enhance the quality and coverage of media reporting of events in Libya; providing support in the areas of border controls and humanitarian demining; and helping Libyan institutions to effectively manage their public finances.

■ Palestinians

Mr Nigel Dodds: [\[221518\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect of the accession of the Palestinian Authority to the International Criminal Court on the prospects for further negotiations between Israel and that Authority.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office judged that Palestinian attempts to seek International Criminal Court jurisdiction over the Occupied Territories would make a resumption of negotiations more difficult. It is now for the Court to make its own decisions relating to its jurisdiction, in accordance with the Rome Statute. Our priority remains achievement of a two-state solution. We continue to believe that the best way

to achieve this, in reality and on the ground, is through negotiations, and encourage both parties to focus on steps that are conducive to peace.

■ Sri Lanka

Dr Matthew Offord:

[221359]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the election in Sri Lanka and the prospects for an independent war crime inquiry in that country.

Mr Hugo Swire:

The Sri Lankan Presidential Election was generally peaceful and well-managed with a high voter turnout. We commend Sri Lanka's Election Commission for its conduct of the election, and all Sri Lanka's political parties and people for accepting the final result and committing to the peaceful transfer of power. The result on the day reflected the will of the Sri Lankan people.

However, we also note the view of Commonwealth Observers that an inadequate electoral and legal framework coupled with an unequal pre-electoral environment, meant the election contest fell short of key benchmarks for democratic elections. We hope that this is something Sri Lanka will now address, with the support of the international community.

We are encouraging the new government to engage with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, including over the UN Human Rights Council resolution agreed in March 2014. This is consistent with the Prime Minister's, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), statement after the elections that the UK "encourages President Sirisena to support the ongoing UN Office of the High Commission for Human rights investigation into human rights abuses so that the issues of the past can be addressed and the country can move forward to a brighter, peaceful future where all Sri Lankan's can play a role."

■ Turkey

Tim Farron:

[221170]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to the Turkish government on freedom of speech.

Mr David Lidington:

We regularly raise human rights issues with the Turkish government and are, this week, contributing to the UN's Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights in Turkey. I raised concerns over media freedoms with my Turkish counterpart on 18 December 2014.

We continue to encourage Turkey to work towards meeting EU standards on human rights, especially in the areas of freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and minority rights. We welcome the progress to date including the implementation of a fourth Judicial Reform Package and the adoption of an Action Plan for the Prevention of Human Rights Violations in 2014.

There is more to be done. The EU's Annual Progress Report 2014 on Turkey underlines that further work is required to strengthen the human rights institutional framework and bring Turkish human rights legislation in line with European and international standards. The report highlighted areas of concern over the restrictions on the freedom of expression (including temporary bans on Twitter and YouTube), the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and the rule of law. We support this assessment and, together with our EU partners, expect Turkey as an EU candidate country, to respect all fundamental freedoms and remain committed to supporting further progress on its continuing reform agenda.

Dr Matthew Offord: [\[221362\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment his Department has made of the human rights situation in Turkey.

Mr David Lidington:

We and our EU partners monitor closely the human rights situation in Turkey. The UK supports the European Commission's assessment of human rights in Turkey, set out in its 2014 Annual Progress Report on Turkey's EU accession.

In 2014, Turkey made progress on its human rights reform agenda and adopted an Action Plan for the Prevention of Human Rights Violations. Turkey also continued to build the capacity of its human rights institutions. We welcome this progress and the continuing efforts of the Turkish government aimed at resolving the Kurdish issue.

However, as the EU's report has underlined, there is still much to do to implement action plans, strengthen further the institutional framework, and bring Turkish human rights legislation into line with European and international standards, including on rights for minority religious and ethnic groups. The report also highlighted areas of concern over the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, the rule of law, and restrictions on the freedom of expression, including temporary bans on social media imposed by the Turkish government. We will continue to work with our EU partners and international institutions, such as the EU and Council of Europe, to support Turkey in its continuing reform agenda.

■ Turkmenistan

Ann Clwyd: [\[221574\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether Turkmenistan remains a country of concern in relation to human rights; and when his Department's next annual Human Rights and Democracy Report will be published.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The annual Human Rights and Democracy Report for 2014 will be published before parliament is dissolved. Prior to publication, the status of all Countries of Concern is being reviewed. We continue to have significant concerns about the human rights situation in Turkmenistan.

■ Wildlife: Smuggling

Zac Goldsmith: [\[221599\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what plans he has to change the number of UK-based and locally-engaged staff of his Department working on tackling illegal wildlife trade; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Hugo Swire:

There are no current plans to change the number of staff working on the Illegal Wildlife Trade. We intend to review the arrangement after the Botswana conference.

Zac Goldsmith: [\[221600\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the extent of links between the illegal wildlife trade and (a) conflict and (b) terrorism in Africa; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Hugo Swire:

The Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) is an organised and widespread criminal activity, involving transnational networks. The proceeds are in some cases used to support other criminal activities, and have been linked to armed groups engaged in internal and cross border conflicts. There is a risk that terrorist and insurgent groups could benefit from this multi-billion dollar trade and that it fuels insecurity in fragile states.

Zac Goldsmith: [\[221602\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what funds his Department allocated to tackling the illegal wildlife trade in each financial year since 2010; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Hugo Swire:

Prior to 2013, work to tackle the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) was handled by individual geographical teams working with Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts across the world. Therefore, an aggregate figure for funds allocated to this matter during this time is not available. In 2013, a dedicated IWT team was established. £113,000 was allocated in financial year 2013-14 towards the costs of the London Conference on IWT held in February 2014. Funds were also contributed towards the conference by other government departments. No specific stand-alone project funds have been allocated by the FCO in financial year 2014-15, on top of staff costs.

Zac Goldsmith: [\[221603\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, which British embassies and high commissions include tackling the illegal wildlife trade in their business plans; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Hugo Swire:

A small number of posts include tackling the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in their business plans. Posts also respond to specific pieces of work as required by the central IWT team based in the Prosperity Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Our efforts are focussed in Asia and Africa.

Zac Goldsmith: [\[221604\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many foreign UK-based and locally-engaged staff of his Department worked (a) part-time and (b) full-time on tackling the illegal wildlife trade in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15 to date; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Hugo Swire:

Prior to 2013, work on the illegal wildlife trade (IWT), in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) was handled by individual geographical departments and figures on staffing are not available without disproportionate cost. In 2013 a dedicated illegal wildlife trade team of three full-time staff, including one funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), was set up in the FCO. This team was responsible for organising the London Conference on IWT in February 2014, working closely with Defra, the lead government department. Following the London Conference, this team was reduced to one full-time staff member. Since July 2014, in the run up to the Botswana Conference, two staff members in the FCO have been working predominantly on IWT, supported by a number of others working part-time.

In the FCO's overseas network, several UK based and locally engaged staff work part time on IWT. It is not possible to provide a breakdown without disproportionate cost. From January to March 2015, there has been one UK based member of staff working full time on the IWT temporarily seconded to support the government of Botswana.

HEALTH

■ Abortion

Fiona Bruce: [\[221694\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether it is his Department's policy that Government funds paid to external organisations to provide abortions and ancillary services are not used to campaign for changes in UK law.

Jane Ellison:

The Department is not directly funding any external organisations to provide abortions and ancillary services.

■ Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: [\[221480\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what contingency plans he has for hospitals in Greater Manchester failing to meet the Government's A&E target.

Jane Ellison:

The Government has made £700 million – the highest ever figure – available to the National Health Service specifically to help with winter pressures, and to support emergency departments.

Clinical commissioning groups in Greater Manchester, as system leaders, are working with NHS England and local partners including local authorities and NHS trusts to implement local winter initiatives to ensure performance is maintained and patients continue to receive high quality healthcare.

Across Greater Manchester, £30 million has been provided with local plans for this to fund over 70 doctors, 300 nurses and 200 extra beds.

■ Accident and Emergency Departments: Huddersfield

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[221388\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to reduce A&E waiting times in Huddersfield and Kirklees.

Jane Ellison:

My Rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health meets NHS England on a weekly basis and discusses a wide range of topics, including accident and emergency performance data.

The Government has made £700 million – the highest ever figure – available to the National Health Service specifically to help with winter pressures.

In Calderdale and Greater Huddersfield over £3.4 million has been provided. The local NHS plans for this to fund over 40 extra staff and 160 extra beds. Local clinical commissioning groups are working with NHS England and partners, including local authorities, to implement winter initiatives.

■ Babies: Hereditary Diseases

Mr Nigel Dodds: [\[221553\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether he has discussed with Ministers in the devolved administrations the merits of extending to their jurisdictions the recently-announced programme to screen newborn babies in England for four rare genetic disorders.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

It is for each United Kingdom country to decide how to respond to advice from the UK National Screening Committee. We have not had discussions with Ministers in the devolved administrations regarding the implementation of the extension to the screening programme for newborn babies.

■ Bile Duct Cancer

Henry Smith: [\[221396\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what research his Department has commissioned into cholangiocarcinoma.

George Freeman:

The Department has not commissioned any research relating specifically to cholangiocarcinoma. The National Institute for Health Research Imperial Biomedical

Research Centre has a £3.6 million gastroenterology and hepatology research theme (2012-17). This includes research on cholangiocarcinoma biomarkers and imaging.

■ Breast Cancer

David Simpson:

[\[221399\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to provide support to the NHS in assisting patients with breast cancer.

Jane Ellison:

In *Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer*, published in 2011, the Government set an ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives per year from cancer by 2015. Our strategy invested £750 million in improving cancer services, including £450 million of additional funding to achieve earlier diagnosis of cancer. Latest projections show that we are on track to save an extra 12,000 lives each year.

On 11 January NHS England announced a new independent cancer taskforce to develop a five-year action plan for cancer services to improve survival rates and save thousands of lives.

The taskforce has been set up to produce a new national cancer strategy for the next five years to 2020, building on NHS England's vision for improving cancer outcomes set out in the NHS Five Year Forward View. The taskforce will be set up in partnership with the cancer community and other health system leaders, and will be chaired by Dr Harpal Kumar, Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK. The new strategy will cover prevention, early and faster diagnosis, better treatment and care for all, recovery, reablement and living with and beyond cancer. The strategy will also cover research and innovation, end-of-life care, data and metrics, and workforce. The taskforce will produce a statement of intent by March, and will aim to publish the new strategy in the summer.

NHS England also launched a major early-diagnosis programme, working jointly with Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support to test new approaches to identifying cancer more quickly. These include offering patients the option to self-refer for diagnostic tests, lowering the threshold for general practitioner (GP) referrals, and setting up multi-disciplinary diagnostic centres, so that patients can have several tests done at the same place on the same day. NHS England's aim is to evaluate these innovative initiatives across more than 60 centres around England, in order to collect evidence on approaches that could be implemented from 2016-17.

Since 2010-11, the Department has run a series of Be Clear on Cancer (BCOC) campaigns to improve public awareness of the symptoms of cancer, including breast cancer, and to urge people with relevant symptoms to visit their GP promptly. In April 2013, responsibility for the BCOC campaigns was transferred to Public Health England, which continues to work on them in partnership with the Department, NHS England, including NHS Improving Quality, and other stakeholders, including charities.

■ Cannabis

Mr Charles Walker:

[\[221547\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when his Department conducted its most recent study into the potency of skunk cannabis; and if he will commission a new potency study with respect to that drug.

Jane Ellison:

In 2008, the Home Office Scientific Development Branch published 'Home Office Cannabis Potency Study 2008', which noted that skunk cannabis was "on average, 2-3 times that of imported herbal cannabis or cannabis resin."

In August 2011, the Department published 'A summary of the health harms of drugs', which summarises the scientific evidence about the risk factors associated with a range of licit and illicit substances, including skunk, commonly used in the United Kingdom. It notes that the:

"health effects of increases in the potency of cannabis products are not clear; may depend on the impact on routine use, however there is evidence of binge use among some users increasing the risk of dependence and psychotic symptoms"

■ Chronic Illnesses

Andrew Bingham:

[\[221345\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of long-term conditions which entitle patients to free prescriptions are curable.

George Freeman:

The list of medical conditions that give entitlement to apply for a National Health Service prescription charge medical exemption certificate are:

- a permanent fistula (including caecostomy, colostomy, laryngostomy, or ileostomy) which requires continuous surgical dressing or requires an appliance forms of hypoadrenalism (including Addison's disease) for which specific substitution therapy is essential;
- diabetes insipidus or other forms of hypopituitarism;
- diabetes mellitus (except where treatment of the diabetes is by diet alone);
- hypoparathyroidism;
- myasthenia gravis;
- myxoedema (that is, hypothyroidism requiring thyroid hormone replacement);
- epilepsy requiring continuous anti-convulsive therapy;
- continuing physical disability which prevents the patient from leaving his residence without the help of another person; and
- patients undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer or the effects of current or previous cancer treatment. (From 1 April 2009).

Clinical advice from NHS England is that the majority of these conditions are considered to be permanent, incurable conditions. Only in exceptional cases would a person have the possibility of curative treatment for one of these conditions.

■ Clinical Trials

Robert Ffello:

[221733]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the Written Statements of 18 December 2013, Official Report, column 110WS and of 20 November 2014, WS14, and pursuant to the Answer of 20 November 2014 to Question 214789, what his policy is on the role of clinical trials in ensuring the safety and efficacy of innovative treatments; and what Departments are responsible for the regulation of such trials.

George Freeman:

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is responsible for the regulation of clinical trials of medicinal products carried out under the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004, which implements the Clinical Trials Directive 2001/20/EC. The Regulations do not cover innovative treatment services.

The Regulations define a clinical trial as:

“clinical trial” means any investigation in human subjects, other than a non-interventional trial, intended—

(a) to discover or verify the clinical, pharmacological or other pharmacodynamic effects of one or more medicinal products,

(b) to identify any adverse reactions to one or more such products, or

(c) to study absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of one or more such products,

with the object of ascertaining the safety or efficacy of those products.

Clinical studies of certain treatments may fall within the remit of other regulators but that will depend on the nature of the study.

■ Drugs: Internet

Mr Charles Walker:

[221540]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will update the FRANK website to include information on skunk cannabis and links between that drug and psychosis.

Jane Ellison:

Since the FRANK website was launched in 2003 it has included information about skunk and other forms of cannabis and the harms that cannabis can cause. This includes the link between using cannabis and mental illnesses.

■ Eyesight: Surgery

Jim Shannon:

[\[221380\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people underwent laser eye surgery in the last five years.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

Laser eye surgery is a very broad term and can be used to describe specific laser surgery performed for the correction of vision such as short-sightedness or any other laser procedures used to treat ophthalmic conditions such as retinal detachment or glaucoma.

Corrective laser eye surgery is not routinely provided on the National Health Service. It is usually performed by the independent sector for which we do not collect data.

The following table provided by the Health and Social Care Information Centre shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a main or secondary operative procedure on the eye where a laser was used in England between 2008 and 2013.

YEAR	COUNT OF FCEs 1
2008-09	38,007
2009-10	43,438
2010-11	49,289
2011-12	40,875
2012-13	39,168

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre

1 Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

■ General Practitioners

Ian Austin:

[\[221732\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many GPs per head of population were in practice in (a) Dudley, (b) the Black Country and (c) England in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics show the number of general practitioners (GPs) at 30 September each year.

The latest available statistics are for 30 September 2013, with the statistics for September 2014 to be published on 25 March 2015.

The information requested is provided in the tables below.

GPs PER HEAD OF POPULATION BY SELECTED REGION IN ENGLAND, AS AT 30
SEPTEMBER 2013

Headcount

	GPs (including retainers and registrars)	GPs (including retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population
England	40,236	74.7
Black Country Total	936	71.0
NHS WOLVERHAMPTON CCG	163	64.8
NHS DUDLEY CCG	226	71.9
NHS SANDWELL AND WEST BIRMINGHAM CCG	342	71.2
NHS WALSALL CCG	214	78.6

Full Time Equivalent

	GPs (including retainers and registrars)	GPs (including retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population
England	36,294	67.4
Black Country Total	860	65.2
NHS WOLVERHAMPTON CCG	146	58.1
NHS DUDLEY CCG	195	62.2
NHS SANDWELL AND WEST BIRMINGHAM CCG	312	65.1

GPs PER HEAD OF POPULATION BY SELECTED REGION IN ENGLAND, AS AT 30
SEPTEMBER 2013

NHS WALSALL CCG 206 75.6

Sources:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Office for National Statistics (ONS), Mid-Year Population Estimates (2011 census based)

Notes:

Figures as at 30 September 2013.

GP workforce statistics are available by NHS organisations only. The Black Country is covered by the four clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) provided here. West Birmingham is not part of the Black Country but can not be separated from Sandwell in Sandwell And West Birmingham CCG.

Population figures are the latest available ONS Resident Population figures. These may differ from published figures if estimates have been updated since the publication of the 2013 GP Census.

■ **General Practitioners: Dudley**

Ian Austin: [\[221730\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to increase the availability of GP appointments for people in Dudley.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

The vast majority of patients can get appointments and are satisfied with their general practitioner but we know more needs to be done. This is why, nationally, we are offering 7.5 million more people extra evening and weekend appointments as well as email and Skype consultations. Seven practices in Dudley alone are open every Saturday morning during this winter.

Ian Austin: [\[221731\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many GPs there were in Dudley in (a) 2010 and (b) each year since 2010.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics show the number of general practitioners (GPs) at 30 September each year. The latest available statistics are for 30 September 2013, with the statistics for September 2014 to be published on 25 March 2015. The number of GPs in Dudley, both headcount and full time equivalents, in the years 2010 to 2013 are given in the following tables.

ALL GPs AND GPs (EXCLUDING RETAINERS AND REGISTRARS) IN DUDLEY: HEADCOUNT AND FTE 2010-2013

Headcount

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Dudley Primary Care Trust (PCT)				
All GPs	221	225	229	..
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	196	201	199	..
Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)				
All GPs	..	..	..	226
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	..	..	..	202

Full Time Equivalent

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Dudley PCT				
All GPs	199	201	201	..
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	176	180	174	..
Dudley CCG				
All GPs	..	..	..	195
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	..	..	..	174

Source: The Health and Social Care Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Notes:

'..' denotes not applicable

Data is presented by NHS organisations that were in operation at the time of the relevant census

■ Hospitals: Staff

Sir David Amess:

[\[221678\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether his Department has issued guidance on the appropriate ratio in hospitals of permanent staff to locum staff.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

The Department has not issued guidance on staffing ratios in hospitals.

The Department commissioned the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to provide guidelines to support safe staffing and endorse safe staffing tools.

In July 2014 NICE issued the first of their guidelines to the National Health Service on how to make the right decisions about nursing staff requirements to provide safe care for patients on adult inpatient wards in acute hospitals. Endorsement of the first toolkit followed in October 2014. Further guidelines for safe staffing in maternity services, accident and emergency and mental health will follow from 2015 onwards.

This guidance and the endorsement of related tools will ensure that all providers have what they need to make decisions on staffing levels locally.

■ Human Embryo Experiments

Fiona Bruce:

[\[221752\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the Answer of 24 February 2014 by Earl Howe on 24 February 2014, Official Report, columns WA174-5, how many human embryos have been destroyed in the UK; and how many of those embryos were generated by (a) somatic cell nuclear, (b) pronuclear and (c) spindle-chromosomal complex transfer.

Jane Ellison:

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended) provides that human embryos created by in vitro fertilisation that are not transferred to a patient, cannot be allowed to develop beyond a maximum of 14 days. At that stage, the embryos are about the size of the head of a pin.

The 1990 Act also provides that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) cannot licence research using human embryos unless the research is necessary or desirable for the purposes specified in the Act and the use of embryos is necessary.

The HFEA has advised that the current total number of embryos that were allowed to perish in 2012 is 166,631.

The HFEA has also advised that it does not hold records of those embryos that have been generated by somatic cell nuclear transfer, pronuclear transfer, and spindle-chromosomal complex transfer.

■ In Vitro Fertilisation

Fiona Bruce: [\[221693\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2015 to Question 220130, which member of the expert panel convened by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority had an email exchange with one of the authors of the research published in *Fertility and Sterility*; how that member of the expert panel shared this information with other members of the expert panel; and for what reason it would not be appropriate for this correspondence to be placed in the Library.

Jane Ellison:

I have nothing further to add to my previous reply of 12 January 2015 to Question [220130](#).

■ Incinerators: Health Hazards

Derek Twigg: [\[221507\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 8 September 2014 to Question 208139, when he expects the results of the Health Protection Agency findings on the health effects of emissions from municipal waste incinerators to be published.

Jane Ellison:

The results of the study are anticipated to be published towards the end of 2015. A methodological paper was published in 2013[1].

Public Health England's position that well run and regulated modern municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health remains valid, and the study is being carried out to extend the evidence base and to provide further information to the public on this subject.

[1] Ashworth, D.C., Fuller, G.W., Toledano, M.B., Font, A., Elliott, P., Hansell, A.L., and de Hoogh, K. *Journal of Environmental and Public Health*, Volume 2013, Article ID 560342

■ Liver Diseases

David Simpson: [\[221356\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to support patients with cirrhosis liver conditions.

Jane Ellison:

NHS England, Public Health England (PHE) and the Department are working jointly with stakeholders to make sure that patients with liver disease, including cirrhosis, are supported. This work includes taking forward the recommendations of the recent Lancet Commission report on liver disease in the United Kingdom. In addition, PHE is working with stakeholders to develop a liver disease framework.

We are also taking action to prevent people developing liver disease in the first place by tackling two of the main causes of liver disease – obesity and alcohol misuse. This includes:

- our Call to Action on Obesity, which sets out two national ambitions for a downward trend in level of excess weight in children and adults by 2020;
- our Alcohol Strategy, which aims to cut the number of people drinking above the lower-risk guidelines; and
- PHE's five outcome focussed priorities which includes helping people to live longer and more healthy lives by reducing preventable deaths and the burden of ill health associated with, amongst others, alcohol.

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence is developing clinical guidance on the assessment and management of cirrhosis. The guidance is due to be published in May 2016.

■ Meningitis: Vaccination

Luciana Berger:

[221807]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, on what date negotiations on the price of the new meningitis B vaccine began; and whether an end date has been set for those negotiations.

Jane Ellison:

Negotiations between the Department and the manufacturer for the supply of the meningococcal B vaccine, Bexsero[®] began on 27 August 2014. The most recent meeting took place on 8 December 2014 and negotiations are continuing.

■ Mental Illness: Children

Dan Jarvis:

[221804]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what his estimate is of the number of children under the age of 16 who have been diagnosed with mental health problems in each year since 2010.

Norman Lamb:

This information is not centrally collected.

A new child and adolescent mental health services minimum dataset is in development which will contain data on the number of children and young people diagnosed with a mental health problem. Our current estimate is that data will be collected nationally from spring 2016.

The Department is in the process of commissioning a new prevalence survey of children and young people's mental health. The prevalence survey, when completed, will provide data on the prevalence of mental health disorders in children and young people. The Department hopes to announce the procurement phase of the survey in the near future.

■ NHS: Insurance

John Pugh: [\[221606\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of potential financial loss to the NHS arising from failure to claim reimbursement from insurance companies.

John Pugh: [\[221607\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that the NHS is maximising its entitlement to reimbursement from insurance companies.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

The Department interprets the two questions as relating to the NHS Injury Cost Recovery scheme. The Department implements the recovery of National Health Service treatment costs through this scheme for patients injured as a result of third party negligence.

Reimbursement of NHS treatment costs are sought for every notification received as a result of a personal injury compensation claim. Therefore, there is no financial loss attributable to the failure to claim.

To ensure the NHS maximises on its entitlement to claim reimbursement, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Compensation Recovery Unit, who administer the scheme on behalf of the NHS, undertake a substantial amount of compliance work with key stakeholders within the insurance industry. DWP inspectors also have the right to examine the records of compensators to verify that they are complying fully with provisions of the legislation.

■ NHS: Management Consultants

Sir David Amess: [\[221680\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance he has issued to hospitals on their use of management consultants.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

The Department has not issued guidance to trusts on their use of management consultants.

We expect National Health Service organisations to keep a firm grip on their workforce planning and management and keep any use of management consultants, for example supporting short-term strategic reviews or providing interim management solutions, to a minimum. NHS organisations must also follow HM Treasury guidance on the engagement of staff off-payroll, including the requirement to put the most senior staff engaged for more than six months on their permanent staff payroll.

■ NHS: Staff

George Hollingbery: [\[221392\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many doctors and nurses, including agency staff and locums, are working in the NHS in England; and what the equivalent figure was in 2009-10.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

Between May 2010 and October 2014, the official statistics published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre show that the full-time equivalent (FTE) number of National Health Service directly employed doctors, including locums, increased by 9,300 and the number of NHS directly employed nurses, midwives and health visitors increased by 5,800.

In addition, over the same period, it is estimated that service from agency nurses increased by approximately 6,000 FTE. The use of agency doctors remains unchanged.

■ Orthopaedics: Young People

Andrew Bingham: [\[221374\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he has taken to provide care and respite funding for young adult amputees.

Dr Daniel Poulter:

Information on specific funding for young adult amputees is not held centrally.

NHS England has advised that the rehabilitation and re-ablement of all patients is provided by a specialised Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) which should be consultant led. The needs of patients of all age groups are addressed including physical, psychological, social, emotional and spiritual with the emphasis on individual outcomes, independence and prevention keeping patients dexterous, mobile and safe. Secondary injuries should be minimised.

The NHS Standard Contract for Complex Disability Equipment – Prosthetics, which applies to all ages, sets out how the specialist centres should operate and the required level of service delivered. It also recognises that children, young adults, veterans and other patients require a flexible model of care which provides longer term involvement with the full MDT. The specification also recognises that child growth is a recognised clinical need.

■ Pain

Andrew Bingham: [\[221346\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the average waiting time is for pain management in each region.

Norman Lamb:

The information requested is shown in the following table. These data are from hospital episode statistics and measure the time waited between decision to admit and

admission to hospital. They are not the same as referral to treatment waiting times, which measure waiting times from referral to the start of consultant-led treatment by 18 treatment functions (subdivisions of consultant main specialties), but which do not include condition specific information.

The average (median) number of days waited for pain management treatment, 2012-13

	AVERAGE (MEDIAN) WAITING TIME (DAYS)	
	Admissions	First Outpatient Attendances
Area Team of Residence		
Cheshire, Warrington And Wirral Area Team	59	46
Durham, Darlington And Tees Area Team	65	52
Greater Manchester Area Team	64	42
Lancashire Area Team	55	38
Merseyside Area Team	58	50
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne And Wear Area Team	44	49
North Yorkshire And Humber Area Team	57	55
South Yorkshire And Bassetlaw Area Team	41	26
West Yorkshire Area Team	84	54
Arden, Herefordshire And Worcestershire Area Team	49	49
Birmingham And The Black Country Area Team	47	52
Derbyshire And Nottinghamshire Area Team	47	29
East Anglia Area Team	61	50
Essex Area Team	56	55
Hertfordshire And The South Midlands Area Team	84	68

	AVERAGE (MEDIAN) WAITING TIME (DAYS)	
Leicestershire And Lincolnshire Area Team	63	54
Shropshire And Staffordshire Area Team	64	61
Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon And Wiltshire Area Team	56	60
Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset And South Gloucestershire Area Team	18	50
Devon, Cornwall And Isles Of Scilly Area Team	77	49
Kent And Medway Area Team	58	49
Surrey And Sussex Area Team	66	59
Thames Valley Area Team	69	56
Wessex Area Team	65	48
London Area Team	70	63
England	63	51

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre

Notes:

The data provided are finished admission episodes (FAEs) and outpatient first attendances where the treatment specialty was either pain management or paediatric pain management. An FAE is the first period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year or month in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the period. Attendances at outpatient clinics. Includes first and follow-up attendances and telephone consultations, excludes did not attend and cancellations. Area Team of Residence is the area team containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another area for treatment. The treatment specialty is the specialty under which the consultant responsible for care of the patient is working, which may be different to the specialty under which the consultant is registered. Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as "acute"). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific

diagnoses, operations or other recorded information. The median, rather than the mean, time waited is given as the mean can be affected by a relatively small number of records with a long time waited, however the median is less affected by this issue.

Andrew Bingham: [\[221370\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what research his Department has commissioned into complex regional pain syndrome.

George Freeman:

The Department has not commissioned specific research into complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) but a range of related research is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

The NIHR Clinical Research Network is currently recruiting patients to two studies relating to CRPS:

- Development of an Electrical Sensory Discrimination Therapies device for the relief of chronic pain in CRPS. A proof of concept study
- An Intervention Trial to Investigate the Effectiveness of Visual Illusions in Manipulating Body Perception Disturbances to Reduce Chronic Pain and Improve Movement Performance

There is also an active Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Researcher-Led project (which is funded by the Medical Research Council and managed by NIHR):

- Low-dose Intravenous Immunoglobulin Treatment for Complex Regional Pain Syndrome ('LIPS') Randomised Controlled Trial.

Other research, carried out within the last two years, includes:

A Health Services and Delivery Research project:

- Meeting the support needs of patients with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome through innovative use of wiki technology

CRN studies:

- A Multi-Centre International Study Exploring the Patients' Definition of Recovery from Complex Regional Pain Syndrome
- Visually Manipulating Body Perception Disturbances to Treat Chronic Pain: An Exploratory Study

NIHR Career Development Fellowships:

- Understanding sensorimotor integration and its role in pain. Feasibility study to evaluate the potential of multi-modal imaging systems in CRPS
- Sensorimotor conflict and its relationship to behavioural and neurophysiological variables in CRPS, FMS, arthritis and healthy volunteers

Andrew Bingham:

[221393]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what progress his Department has made in treating pain since the Chief Medical Officer's annual report in 2008 called for the issue to receive greater priority.

Norman Lamb:

In response to the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO's) report 2008 report, the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership working with The British Pain Society and Dr Foster undertook the first ever National Pain Audit, which launched in 2009. The findings from the three year study, which appeared in three reports, highlighted variation in service provision and made a number of recommendations for the National Health Service to improve quality of care for patients suffering from chronic pain.

Since 1 April 2013, NHS England became responsible for the commissioning of specialised pain services for patients with chronic pain. NHS England has published a service specification for patients with chronic pain that sets out what providers must have in place in order to deliver evidence-based, safe and effective services. It supports equity of access to a nationally consistent, high quality service for patients. The specification can be found at the following link:

www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/d08-spec-serv-pain-mgt.pdf

In the time since the CMO report, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has produced a range of guidance to support clinicians to diagnose and treat a range of conditions causing ongoing pain, most recently publishing the 2013 guideline Neuropathic pain: The pharmacological management of neuropathic pain in adults in non-specialist settings. Finally, the British Pain Society collaborated with the Map of Medicine to produce a range of evidence-based pain care pathways, published in October 2014. These support NHS commissioners, providers and patients to access to high-quality, practice-informed care pathways that map the journey from initial presentation through to ongoing management of chronic pain. This can be accessed on the NHS Choices website at the following link:

<http://www.nhs.uk/aboutNHSCchoices/aboutnhschoices/partners/MapofMedicine/Pages/introduction.aspx>.

■ Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Andrew Bingham:

[221363]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have been fined for falsely claiming free prescriptions in each of the last five years.

George Freeman:

The Prescription Exemption Checking Service is delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) as commissioned by NHS England. NHSBSA assumed the responsibility for this service from 17 September 2014. Prior to this date it was the responsibility of primary care trusts and NHS England Area Teams, for which no data is held.

From 17 September 2014 to 16 January 2015 5,572 patients have paid a penalty charge in full with a further 2,252 patients opting to pay the penalty charges in instalments.

Andrew Bingham: [\[221364\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will make it his policy that the NHS Business Unit should contact GPs when a certificate of entitlement to free prescriptions is due to expire.

George Freeman:

We do not believe it would be appropriate for the NHS Business Services Authority to contact general practitioners about renewal of medical exemption certificates. Information is already sent directly to patients about the validity of these certificates, which includes the date of expiry printed on the certificate and a reminder sent to the patient one month before the certificate expires. The wording of the declaration on the prescription form is also a prompt to a patient to check that their certificate is valid.

Andrew Bingham: [\[221372\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many patients with long-term health conditions which entitle them to free prescriptions have been fined for not renewing their certificates in each of the last five years.

George Freeman:

The Prescription Exemption Checking Service is delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) as commissioned by NHS England. NHSBSA assumed the responsibility for this service from 17 September 2014. Prior to this date it was the responsibility of primary care trusts and NHS England Area Teams, for which no data is held.

From 17 September 2014 to 16 January 2015 a total of 1,475 patients who have declared they hold a valid certificate which indicates that they are entitled to free prescriptions due to a long-term health condition have paid a penalty charge in full with a further 898 patients who have opted to pay the penalty charge by instalments.

The NHSBSA cannot identify from the exemption checking process which patients claiming medical exemption have been sent a penalty charge notice as a result of the patient not renewing their medical exemption certificate.

For those patients who have paid a penalty charge the cause for the incorrect claim for free prescriptions is not known. There are various reasons which could include:

- expiry of current medical exemption certificate; and
- never been in receipt of a medical exemption certificate.

Andrew Bingham: [\[221373\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he has taken to publicise the fact that certificates of entitlement to free prescriptions for chronic and incurable conditions are time-limited.

George Freeman:

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) sent all English pharmacies and general practitioner practices a supply of posters and booklets entitled 'Claiming free prescriptions?' in October 2014 as part of the centralisation of the prescription exemption checking process within the NHSBSA. The poster warns patients of the consequences of claiming free prescriptions incorrectly and directs them to the booklet for more information on eligibility, which states that medical exemption certificates are valid for five years. The poster and booklet are also published on the NHSBSA website at:

<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/4666.aspx>

The covering letter sent to patients by the NHSBSA along with their medical exemption certificates also references that certificates are liable for renewal, and the expiry date is printed on the certificate itself. The letter also directs recipients to the NHSBSA website and the NHS Help with Health Costs Facebook page where more information is available. The NHS Choices Help with Health Costs pages also contain information about eligibility for free prescriptions, including details on medical exemptions and certificate duration.

■ Prescriptions: Females**Jim Shannon:**[\[221379\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to reduce the level of prescription drug-taking among women.

George Freeman:

Decisions on appropriate treatments for individuals are a matter for the clinician who is caring for them in consultation the individual themselves and their carers, as appropriate. It is important that patients should have access to the medicines their clinicians feel is best suited to treat them.

■ Social Services: Greater Manchester**Andrew Gwynne:**[\[221479\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions his Department has had with local authorities in Greater Manchester concerning changes to capacity in adult social care.

Norman Lamb:

The Department has not had any discussions with local authorities in Greater Manchester on this issue. It is for local authorities to decide how best to commission and deliver care services in their area.

However, the Department recently held discussions with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to agree how best to allocate additional funding to the worst affected local authorities in England to help address delayed discharges from hospitals to the social care system.

As a result Manchester City Council and Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council have each received a one-off grant of £325,000 in 2014/15 to be spent for these purposes.

■ Tobacco: Packaging

Mark Garnier: [\[221536\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to revise the impact assessment for the proposed introduction of standardised packaging of tobacco in response to the analysis of that impact assessment by the Regulatory Policy Committee; and what plans he has to commission research to support such a revision.

Mark Garnier: [\[221538\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he plans to take in response to the request of the Regulatory Policy Committee that compensation be included as a transition cost in a revised impact assessment of the proposed introduction of standardised packaging.

Jane Ellison:

A final impact assessment, reflecting available evidence and the summary report of consultation responses will be published in due course.

Mark Garnier: [\[221537\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to commission or conduct research on the potential cost of compensation to the intellectual property sector for the proposed introduction of standardised packaging of tobacco.

Jane Ellison:

The Government has carefully considered all issues relevant to the introduction of standardised packaging of tobacco products, including legal aspects.

■ Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Derek Twigg: [\[221505\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many elected operations were cancelled by Warrington and Halton NHS Foundation Trust in (a) November and (b) December 2014.

Jane Ellison:

This information is not available. The latest period for the Cancelled Elective Operations Collection, covering October to December 2014 will be published by NHS England on 13 February 2015.

HOME OFFICE

■ Asylum

Richard Burden: [\[221467\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have (a) applied and (b) successfully resettled in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme to

date; what the origin was of each applicant; which local authorities are participating in the scheme; and what the cost of the scheme has been to date.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 23 January 2015]: We launched the Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme to help particularly vulnerable displaced Syrians, for whom relocation to the UK is the only option. In particular, the programme prioritises survivors of torture and violence, women and children at risk and those in need of medical care. We are working closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify potential cases for relocation to the UK and it is not therefore open to individuals to apply for places on the scheme.

Ninety people were relocated to the UK under the VPR scheme between the first group of arrivals on 25 March and the end of September. This is the latest publicly available figure, as numbers are released as part of the Home Office official statistics each quarter. The number of arrivals under the scheme up to December 2014 will be published on 26 February. Those we have relocated so far have come from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Our main focus remains the vulnerability of individuals rather than where they came from.

There are a number of local authorities already supporting the scheme and more who have expressed an interest, with whom we are in discussion. We therefore remain confident that we can continue to meet the needs of arrivals in the UK under the scheme as planned but we welcome further offers of support from other local authorities as the scheme progresses. However, as the scheme is based on vulnerability it would not be appropriate for us to release specific details of where individuals are being placed, as this risks undermining their privacy and recovery.

The cost of the VPR scheme will depend on the particular vulnerabilities of those brought to the UK, and we are keeping costs under close review. Central government is responsible for the overall funding of the scheme, but we will recover costs wherever possible, including from international aid funding schemes and potential EU funding schemes. We have put forward proposals to obtain funding from the new EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and are hopeful of a positive outcome. The UK's National Programme is yet to be agreed and until this is signed off by the EU Commission, costs to the Home Office specifically will not be finalised.

■ **Asylum: Deportation**

Mr Nigel Dodds:

[\[221539\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were returned to their country of origin in each year since 2010.

James Brokenshire:

The table below provides the total number of people who have claimed asylum and been removed or departed voluntarily from the UK to their country of origin in each year since 2010.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE CLAIMING ASYLUM WHO HAVE BEEN REMOVED OR VOLUNTARY DEPARTURED FROM THE UK TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 2010 TO 2013 (1)(2)(3)

Year	Total enforced removals	Total voluntary departures
2010	4,911	3,328
2011	4,736	3,513
2012	4,267	3,196
2013	3,944	3,555

(P)

(1) Destination as recorded on source database; all nationals returned to their home country.

(2) Removals are recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

(3) Recorded on the system as having claimed asylum at some point.

(P) These figures are provisional and may subsequently differ when the tables are revised, due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures are readily available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: July – September 2014, from the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>. Data for 2014 will be available from 26 February 2015.

■ Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press Inquiry

Mr Philip Hollobone:

[221692]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it remains her policy that Part 2 of the Leveson Inquiry into the relationship of the police and the press will take place; and when she expects that part of the inquiry to begin.

Mike Penning:

The Government has been clear that a decision on whether to undertake Part 2 of the Leveson Inquiry will not take place until after all criminal investigations and trials related to Part 1 are concluded. As these are still ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment further.

■ European Arrest Warrants

Pete Wishart:

[\[221757\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) requests, (b) arrests and (c) surrenders have been made relating to people wanted from the UK or wanted by the UK for human trafficking offences through the European Arrest Warrant since that mechanism was introduced.

Karen Bradley:

For the financial years 2009-10 to 2013-14, the following table sets out the numbers of a) requests, b) arrests and c) surrenders relating to people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland wanted by other EU Member States for human trafficking and immigration and human trafficking offences, under a European Arrest Warrant.

REQUESTS TO ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	TOTAL
Human Trafficking	0	0	0	0	100	100
Immigration & Human Trafficking	117	196	414	344	144	1,215
Arrests in England, Wales and Northern Ireland	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Human Trafficking	0	0	0	0	2	2
Immigration & Human Trafficking	28	23	30	31	31	143
Surrenders from England, Wales and Northern Ireland	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Immigration	21	22	21	23	28	115

REQUESTS TO
ENGLAND,
WALES AND
NORTHERN
IRELAND

2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	TOTAL
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------

& Human
Trafficking

Since 2012, in addition to the figures above, ten requests were made to Scotland, three people were arrested and three people were surrendered from Scotland to other EU Member States for human trafficking offences under a European Arrest Warrant.

For the financial years 2009-10 to 2013-14, the following table sets out the numbers of a) requests, b) arrests and c) surrenders relating to people who are wanted in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from other EU Member States for human trafficking and immigration and human trafficking offences, under a European Arrest Warrant.

REQUESTS TO
OTHER EU
MEMBER
STATES

2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	GRAND TOTAL
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------------

Human Trafficking	0	0	0	0	9	9
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Immigration & Human Trafficking	1	6	12	7	8	34
---------------------------------	---	---	----	---	---	----

Arrests in other EU Member States	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Grand Total
-----------------------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------------

Human Trafficking	0	0	0	0	3	3
-------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Immigration & Human Trafficking	3	5	6	6	2	22
---------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	----

Surrenders to England Wales and Northern Ireland	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Grand Total
--	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------------

REQUESTS TO OTHER EU MEMBER STATES	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	GRAND TOTAL
Human Trafficking	0	0	0	0	1	1
Immigration & Human Trafficking	2	0	10	4	3	19

Since 2012, in addition to the figures above, no people were arrested or surrendered to Scotland from other EU Member States for human trafficking offences under a European Arrest Warrant.

Prior to the financial year 2013-14, figures for human trafficking offences were not collected separately from immigration offences for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

■ Firearms: Seized Articles

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[221309\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal firearms were confiscated by UK customs officials at border checks in each of the last five years.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 23 January 2015]: This government is doing more than any previous government to disrupt organised crime and protect the security of the border. Border Force was split from the failing UK Border Agency in 2012 and re-established security as the priority.

Border Force adopts an intelligence-led approach to all of its customs activity, including searching for firearms, so that resources can be deployed as effectively as possible. This work is a key aspect of the Government's approach to tackling organised crime and countering terrorism. The National Crime Agency and Border Force work tirelessly to target the criminal groups behind smuggling.

The most up to date figures for the number of illegal firearms seized is as follows:

YEAR	NUMBER OF FIREARMS SEIZED (UNITS)
2013/14	283
2012/13	463
2011/12	197
2010/11	83

The numbers of firearms seized at the border fluctuates on a yearly basis. This can be attributed to a range of factors including the fact that organised crime groups regularly change which countries they seek to smuggle weapons into. Any changes in the numbers of firearms seized at the border does not mean there has been a corresponding increase or decrease in the numbers that enter the UK after not being detected at the border.

■ **Illegal Immigrants: Republic of Ireland**

Mr Gregory Campbell: [\[221444\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps are being taken to increase surveillance and resources in Northern Ireland to prevent people from illegally entering the UK from the Republic of Ireland.

James Brokenshire:

Immigration Enforcement and Border Force, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and other UK police forces all work together to counter the risk of illegal entry to the UK through the Republic of Ireland. The Home Office conduct regular intelligence led operations to detect those individuals who abuse the provisions of the Common Travel Area by entering the UK illegally through the Republic of Ireland. The frequency and level of such operations is kept under review to provide a suitable response to this risk.

■ **Immigrants: Detainees**

Sarah Teather: [\[221493\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she intends to publish the findings of the follow-up audit of reports made under Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: The results of the audit of Rule 35 processes are being considered at present. We will consider how best to make them available in due course.

■ **Marriage Certificates**

Caroline Lucas: [\[221750\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 19 January 2015 to Question 219638, whether the potential timelines for legislative change to allow the mothers of brides and grooms to be named on marriage certificates include an option for the change to be made before the 2015 general election.

James Brokenshire:

We are continuing to develop the options that will allow mothers' names to be recorded on marriage certificates as soon as practicable.

■ Members: Correspondence

Toby Perkins:

[\[221566\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to respond to enquiries emailed to her office by the constituent of the hon. Member for Chesterfield, Gillian Norman, on 28 September, 13 October, 21 October 2014 and 9 January 2015 concerning allegations of heavy-handed treatment by security officials at Manchester Airport.

James Brokenshire:

The Home Office apologises for the delay in dealing with this correspondence. Matters pertaining to airport security are responded to by the Department for Transport and your letter has been passed to them for reply.

Sir Gerald Kaufman:

[\[221742\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department intends to reply to the letter to the Immigration and Security Minister dated 16 December 2014 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr M Ilyas.

James Brokenshire:

I wrote to the Rt. Hon. Member on 27 January 2015.

■ Naturalisation

Richard Fuller:

[\[221349\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of naturalisation applications took (a) less than 6 months, (b) between 6 and 9 months, (c) between 9 and 12 months and (d) more than 12 months to be concluded in each of the last three years.

James Brokenshire:

The information requested is set out in the table below:

	2012	2013	2014
Less than 6 months	96.38%	98.05%	97.76%
6-9 Months	2.77%	1.36%	1.68%
10-12 Months	0.50%	0.29%	0.23%
Over 12 Months	0.34%	0.30%	0.33%

Note: Figures for 2014 include cases decided up to and including September 2014, in line with published data.

■ Radicalism

Stephen Barclay: [\[220831\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to paragraph 2.3 of the report of the Prime Minister's Task Force on Tackling Radicalisation and Extremism, published in December 2013, which organisations have received support and advice to exclude extremists; and what funding for that purpose each such organisation has received.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 19 January 2015]: The Home Office works alongside local partners and organisations in a range of sectors to challenge and disrupt extremism. There are Prevent programmes in place in all key sectors, including, local government, health, education, prisons, youth justice, immigration and charities.

We do not comment on the funding arrangements for individual organisations.

Greg Mulholland: [\[221195\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the threat of far right radicalisation.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 22 January 2015]: The threat of a terrorist attack in the UK from groups motivated by Far Right extremist ideologies is currently assessed as being LOW (i.e. that an attack is unlikely). The threat from Lone Actors motivated by any ideology is harder to assess.

The threat posed by Far Right extremists is assessed by the Police and Security Service as part of the same process as that from all other forms of extremism (including Islamism) and is managed according to the threat that it is deemed to pose.

The National Domestic Extremism and Disorder Intelligence Unit (NDEDIU), managed by the Metropolitan Police on behalf of all forces, lead on the development of the national intelligence picture on all forms of domestic extremism including the Far Right and works closely with the national Police Counter-Terrorism Network.

The Government's Prevent strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, addresses all form of extremism, including far right extremism. The Channel programme, a key part of the Prevent strategy, provides support to those identified at risk of being drawn into terrorism. Since national rollout in April 2012, there have been over 2000 referrals to Channel; hundreds of individuals have been offered support. A proportion of those offered support were referred for far right concerns.

Mr Jeffrey M. Donaldson: [\[221489\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the involvement of psychologists is in the Government's de-radicalisation programme.

James Brokenshire:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: Channel is the Government's programme to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. Local agencies work together to

assess the risk and where necessary provide tailored support; panels may include mental health services such as psychologists if considered appropriate for a particular case.

■ Staff

Pamela Nash:

[\[221227\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much her Department spent on (a) recruitment agency fees, (b) outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff and (c) staff training in each of the last five years.

Karen Bradley:

[Holding answer 22 January 2015]: The Home Department does not hold centrally details of expenditure on recruitment agency fees so this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Expenditure on outplacement agency fees for displaced or redundant staff for the financial years prior to 2014/15 was not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. The fully audited figures for 2014/15 will be available in July 2015.

The total staff training costs for the financial years 2010/11 to 2013/14 are set out below:

2010-11 - £13,598,237 2011-12 - £14,860,807 2012-13 - £16,986,868 2013-14 - £24,715,417

The full-year audited figures for total staff training expenditure for 2014-15 will be available in July 2015.

■ Tony Blair

Andrew Bridgen:

[\[221719\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the public purse has been of providing security for Tony Blair and his office in respect of (a) accommodation within the UK, (b) hospitality on foreign visits, (c) air and train travel to and from government-related appointments, (d) local transportation overseas, (e) accommodation at UK embassies and hotels overseas, (f) attendance at official receptions and (g) catering since Mr Blair left office.

James Brokenshire:

We do not comment upon matters of personal protective security and their associated costs. Disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect the security of the individual concerned.

■ Work Permits

Mr Liam Byrne:

[\[221579\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many roles were added to the Tier 2 shortage occupation list in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013 and (e) 2014.

James Brokenshire:

The independent Migration Advisory Committee advises the Government on suggested changes to the Shortage Occupation List.

There were no additions to the Shortage Occupation List in 2010, 2012 or 2014.

In 2011, 33 roles were added to the list and 29 roles were removed.

In 2013, 28 roles were added to the list and 27 roles were removed.

The number of roles on the list at any one time is not an accurate measure of the extent of skills shortages in the UK economy, as some roles may be more specialised or more narrowly defined. The Migration Advisory Committee estimates that roles on the current list employ around 180,000 people in total (resident workers as well as migrants) compared to around 500,000 people in roles on the list in 2010.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT■ **Egypt and Middle East****Tim Farron:**[\[221695\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to support refugee camps in (a) Jordan, (b) Lebanon, (c) Turkey, (d) Egypt and (e) Iraq.

Justine Greening:

The UK has pledged £700 million in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and the region, of which £360 million has been allocated to support refugees in Syria's neighbouring countries. This has provided food, access to water, shelter, sanitation and hygiene services, medical consultations and other relief items, and education to hundreds of thousands of refugees, many of whom live in camps, in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

■ **Syria****Tim Farron:**[\[221696\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what discussions she has had with Saudi Arabia on supporting Syrian refugees.

Justine Greening:

Through the Top Donor Group for Syria, chaired by the Government of Kuwait, HMG representatives have regular dialogue with the Saudi authorities. We also have discussions with the Saudi Fund for Development on common priorities and support for Syrian refugees.

JUSTICE

■ Courts: Wales

Chris Ruane:

[\[221368\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department arising from the closure of (a) Rhyl family court and (b) Denbigh magistrates' court.

Mike Penning:

Rhyl County Court, which deals with family work, remains open.

Denbigh Magistrates' Court closed in September 2013. The estimated savings arising from this closure are £230,000.

■ Prison Service: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[221674\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prison officers staffed prisons in the West Midlands in each of the last five years.

Andrew Selous:

The number of full time equivalent prison officers who staffed public sector prisons in West Midlands as at 31 March, 2010 - 2014 can be found in the table below. National Offender Management Service is not responsible for staff numbers in the contracted estate, and does not routinely hold these figures centrally.

Table: Number of Full Time Equivalent Officers in West Midland Prisons as at 31 March, 2010-2014

YEAR	BAND 3-4 / PRISON			ALL OFFICERS
	OFFICER (INCL SPECIALISTS)	BAND 4 / SUPERVISING OFFICER	BAND 5 / CUSTODIAL MANAGERS	
2010	1570	310	80	1960
2011	1540	290	80	1900
2012	1130	230	40	1400
2013	1060	210	40	1310
2014	850	100	80	1030

Note: The large reduction in Officers in 2012 was due to the transfer of HMP Birmingham from the public sector to a private contractor.

■ Prisoner Escapes

Mr Jim Cunningham: [\[220581\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prisoners are unlawfully at large having escaped since June 2010 from escorts conducted under the Prison Escort and Custody Services contract where the prisoner had not previously been received into NOMS' custody; and of what offence those prisoners had been convicted or charged.

Andrew Selous:

Procedures governing the escort of prisoners are constantly under review to help reduce the risk of escape. In the four year period between April 2010 and March 2014 41 prisoners escaped from Prison Escort and Custody Services (PECS) supervision either from escort or at court. This compares to 62 escapes from PECS supervision in the 4 year period prior to April 2010.

It is not possible to answer this specific question as data is not available to distinguish those prisoners unlawfully at large who had not previously been received into the custody of NOMS at the time of the escape.

■ Prisoners: Suicide

Dan Jarvis: [\[221788\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of suicides within prisons in England and Wales.

Andrew Selous:

Every death in custody is a tragedy, and the Government is committed to reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prisons.

All prisons are required to have procedures in place to identify, manage and support people who are at risk of harm to themselves. Building on this, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has put in place additional resources for safer custody work in prisons and at regional level. These staff support safer custody work in prisons and share good practice across establishments. NOMS will be conducting a review of the operation of the Assessment Care in Custody & Teamwork (ACCT) process in 2015.

Young adults are a particularly challenging and vulnerable group, and that is why we have commissioned an independent review into the deaths of 18 to 24-year-olds in prison custody. This review will report in the Spring.

Strenuous efforts are made to learn from every self-inflicted death, and we have accepted and acted on the vast majority of recommendations from recent investigations by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

Data on deaths in custody is published quarterly in the Safety in Custody Statistics Bulletin, available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/safety-in-custody-statistics.

■ Prisons: Civil Disorder

Sadiq Khan:

[\[217818\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) charges, (b) prosecutions and (c) convictions there have been for the offence of prison mutiny in each of the last five years.

Andrew Selous:

Disruptive behaviour has no place in prison and we take swift and robust action against anyone who attempts any kind of disorder. All serious incidents are referred to the police for prosecution.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of offences related to prison mutiny in England and Wales from 2009 to 2013 can be viewed in the table.

DEFENDANTS PROCEEDED AGAINST AT MAGISTARTES COURTS AND FOUND GUILTY AT ALL COURTS OF OFFENCES RELATING TO PRISON MUTINY (1) , ENGLAND AND WALES, 2009 TO 2013 (2)(3)

Outcome	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Proceeded against	#	#	-	7	-
Found guilty	-	2	2	5	3

'-' = Nil

'#' - prosecution statistics for this offence for these years collected as part of a miscellaneous grouping and can only be separately identified at disproportionate cost

(1) An offence under S1 Prison Security Act 1992

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

(3) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

DEFENDANTS PROCEEDED AGAINST AT MAGISTARTES COURTS AND FOUND GUILTY AT ALL COURTS OF OFFENCES RELATING TO PRISON MUTINY (1) , ENGLAND AND WALES, 2009 TO 2013 (2)(3)

Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Ref: PQ 217818

Please note, however, that proceedings data for 2009 and 2010 are part of a miscellaneous grouping, which can only be separately identified at disproportionate cost.

Charging data is not held by the Ministry of Justice

■ Probation

Sadiq Khan: [\[221776\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether the Transforming Rehabilitation contracts with Tier 1 providers state (a) that people on short prison sentences must be supervised and (b) the date from which such supervision must be provided.

Sadiq Khan: [\[221777\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, on what dates the Transforming Rehabilitation contracts with (a) Tier 1, (b) Tier 2 and (c) Tier 3 providers were signed.

Sadiq Khan: [\[221778\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, on what date the successful bidders will assume control of the Community Rehabilitation Companies.

Sadiq Khan: [\[221779\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, on what date the supervision of people on short prison sentences by Community Rehabilitation Companies will begin.

Sadiq Khan: [\[221780\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, by what date all the Transforming Rehabilitation contracts with (a) Tier 1, (b) Tier 2 and (c) Tier 3 providers will be signed.

Andrew Selous:

Contracts were signed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice with the new owners of the 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) on 18 December 2014. There was strong competition for these contracts in all regions, and all of the new owners have experience working with offenders or across the Criminal Justice System. On 1 February 2015, new owners will assume control of the CRCs and we will transition to the delivery of probation services under the new contracts.

The remaining provisions of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 will also come into force on 1 February, including those which extend supervision after release to offenders released from sentences of more than 1 day but less than 12 months. The latter provisions apply to any offender whose offence was committed on or after 1 February

2015. As a result, there will be a gradual increase after that date in the number of offenders eligible for post-release supervision as cases flow through the courts.

Contracts with the CRCs will require them to supervise, and provide services to, any offender released from custody in their cohort on licence – including both offenders released from custodial sentences of 12 months or more and any released from shorter custodial sentences on licence.

Under the new contracts, CRCs are required to enter into subcontracts with the pre-approved Tier 2 or 3 providers named in the contracts, as soon as reasonably practicable after 1 February 2015 (and in any event within 6 months of that date). Additional Tier 2 and 3 providers may be added to the CRCs' supply chains over time as needed, subject to the subcontracting arrangements stated in the contracts. To provide continuity of service provision, existing contracts have been novated to CRCs.

The mobilisation and transition phase of the Programme is being carried out in a controlled way that gives time for new processes to bed in and to ensure public safety at every stage.

■ Victim Support Schemes

Grahame M. Morris:

[\[221319\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to ensure there is consistent, co-ordinated and efficient access to victim support services in the UK.

Mike Penning:

This Government is committed to ensuring that victims of crime have access to high-quality, effective and timely support to help them cope with and, as far as possible, recover from the effects of crime.

In September last year, the Government published "Our Commitment to Victims", which included a commitment to establish a new nationwide Victims' Information Service. This will provide the first 'one stop shop' to ensure better information and support is available and easily accessible to any victim of crime— whether they are searching for local support services or want to find out more about what to expect from the Criminal Justice System.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has made more money than ever before available for victims' support services in England and Wales, increasing the contribution offenders make to the costs of providing support and almost doubling the budget in previous years from £50m to £100m, with the majority allocated to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to ensure local provision matches local need. As part of this MoJ is working closely with PCCs to ensure that the Victims' Information Service and nationally commissioned services such as the court based witness service work with local services, to provide joined-up support to victims.

Grahame M. Morris:

[\[221320\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent representations he has received on the future funding of victim support services.

Mike Penning:

This Government is committed to ensuring that victims of crime have access to high-quality, effective and timely support to help them cope and, as far as possible, recover from the effects of crime. We have made more money than ever before available for this purpose, increasing the contribution offenders make to the costs of providing support and almost doubling the budget in previous years from £50m to £100m.

Locally accountable Police and Crime Commissioners are now responsible for the provision of support services in their areas and PCCs will receive the bulk of the available funding with which to do so – at least £60.8m in 2015/16.

Ministers and officials regularly receive correspondence and representations on the funding of victims' services.

There have also been a small number of individual representations from organisations on funding which are currently being considered by the Ministry of Justice.

PRIME MINISTER■ **Iraq Committee of Inquiry****Sir David Amess:**[\[221681\]](#)

To ask the Prime Minister, what recent discussions he has had with the Chair of the Iraq inquiry on the publication of the findings of that inquiry.

Mr David Cameron:

I refer my hon. Friend to my exchange of correspondence with Sir John Chilcot on 20 January 2015, copies of which are available on the Inquiry website. I have attached copies of the correspondence here and placed in the Library of the House.

Attachments:

1. 2015 01 20 Cameron to Chilcot [2015-01-20 Cameron to Chilcot.pdf]
2. 2015 01 20 Chilcot to Cameron [2015-01-20 Chilcot to Cameron.pdf]

■ **Public Inquiries****Sir David Amess:**[\[221679\]](#)

To ask the Prime Minister, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to empower Ministers to compel public inquiries to publish reports by a given date.

Mr David Cameron:

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for North East Fife (Sir Menzies Campbell) on 21 January 2015, *Official Report*, column 215.

TRANSPORT■ **Aviation**

Jim Fitzpatrick: [\[221712\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to update the Government's Aviation Policy Framework following the publication of the Airports Commission Final Report; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The Airports Commission is set to publish its final recommendations in the summer of 2015. It will be for the Government of the day to decide how to respond to those recommendations and whether to update the Aviation Policy Framework.

■ **Chief Scientific Advisers**

Mr Liam Byrne: [\[221582\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, for how many months since 2010 the role of Chief Scientific Adviser for his Department has been vacant.

Claire Perry:

The role of the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department was vacant for a fifteen month period between 1 October 2010 and 15 January 2012.

The role became vacant again from 1 June 2014, but we are currently advertising for this position. The application deadline was originally due to close on 19 January 2015 but has been extended to 2 February 2015 with permission from the Civil Service Commissioner who is chairing the recruitment panel and permission of the hiring manager, Director General, Resources and Strategy at DFT.

■ **Cycleways**

Steve McCabe: [\[221703\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many miles of cycle lanes were created on (a) the strategic road network and (b) other roads in (i) England and (ii) Birmingham in 2014.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

For the Strategic Road Network (SRN), in 2014, two schemes that were specifically designed to improve provision for cyclists were built: 8.7 miles of cycleway in Hull and 0.3 miles on the A51111 Raynesway in Derby. Therefore, this gives a total of 9 miles for cycling-specific schemes for cyclists on the SRN in 2014. Cycle lanes that were included in both small improvements and major road projects will be additional to this, but we do not routinely keep a central record of these.

In 2014 the government announced a £100 million investment over the next five years to improve the conditions for both cyclists and walkers travelling alongside and crossing the SRN, and so the number of cycle lanes will noticeably increase in the short to medium term.

For other roads, local authorities are responsible for the delivery of cycle lanes on their highway network. The government does not keep a central record of how many miles were created.

■ Driving Tests: Scotland

Mr Angus Brendan MacNeil: [\[221635\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2015 to Question 220504, if he will provide information equivalent to that in the Answer for the other 58 parliamentary constituencies within Scotland, for the period 1 January 2014 to 20 January 2015.

Claire Perry:

This information is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Mr Angus Brendan MacNeil: [\[221636\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2015 to Question 220504, what the average number of postponements of driving and motorcycle tests was in parliamentary constituencies in Scotland between 1 January 2014 and 20 January 2015; what the principal reasons for postponement were; and what average length of time it took for tests to be rescheduled.

Claire Perry:

This information is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring a disproportionate cost.

■ High Speed Two: Birmingham

Mrs Cheryl Gillan: [\[221771\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he plans to relocate officials from his Department to Birmingham to work alongside officials from HS2 Ltd.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

There are currently no plans to relocate officials from my Department to Birmingham to work alongside officials from HS2 Ltd.

Mrs Cheryl Gillan: [\[221801\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the budget is for relocating HS2 Ltd to Birmingham; how many HS2 Ltd staff will be relocated; what the annual cost is of the premises to be occupied by HS2 Ltd; and what the address and square footage of those premises is.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

HS2 Ltd have acquired (through DfT), 97,858 square feet (9,091 square metres) on four floors at

Two Snowhill

Birmingham B4 6GA

at an annual cost of £4.0m consisting Rent, Business Rates and Services Charges.

HS2 Ltd is about to commence a consultation exercise to determine how many existing staff will need to be relocated from London. As HS2 Ltd is yet to recruit the majority of its workforce, recruitment of new staff will be directly into their place of work.

Budgetary provision of £2.4m will be made to cover potential relocation costs over the next three years.

Mrs Cheryl Gillan:

[\[221802\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, from whom are the new premises into which HS2 Ltd are relocating being let.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The lease for HS2 Ltd's new Birmingham premises at Two Snowhill, Birmingham is in the name of the Secretary of State for Transport.

The landlord of Two Snowhill, Birmingham is:

M&G Real Estate,

City Place House,

55 Basinghall St,

London,

EC2V 5DE

■ London Gateway Port

Lyn Brown:

[\[221626\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to integrate the London Gateway port with inland transport modes.

Mr John Hayes:

Inland connectivity and the efficient integration of transport modes is a key issue for a significant port development. The London Gateway planning consents require various inland infrastructure works to take place in order to aid modal integration.

This includes works on the A13, Junction 30 of M25, and rail freight links that are to be undertaken when specified threshold levels of port development, and for the associated logistics park, are reached. The Government is therefore liaising with the key stakeholders undertaking the works, such as DP World, Thurrock Council, and others to ensure that the transport works are appropriately coordinated.

■ Railway Signals

Jonathan Lord:

[\[221429\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what progress his Department has made with the implementation of the European Rail Traffic Management System.

Claire Perry:

Network Rail is funded to deliver the national rollout of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) and they are working closely with cross-industry stakeholders to do so. The first routes where ERTMS will be used the core section of the Thameslink route in mid 2018 and the East Coast south (from Kings Cross to Peterborough) from 2018. In addition we will secure the train fit part of ERTMS as part of our new franchise program. Both the new Thameslink Southern Great Northern (TSGN) and East Coast franchisees are obligated to work with Network Rail to deliver train services under ERTMS control as the system gradually rolls out.

■ Railways: Crawley**Henry Smith:**[\[221384\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what funding his Department provided to upgrade railway stations in Crawley constituency (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13 and (d) 2013-14.

Claire Perry:

£53 million was spent on a project at Gatwick Airport Station in the Crawley constituency over the period from 2010-11 to 2013-14. Network Rail completed work in January 2014 on the scheme, which was designed to improve reliability and punctuality of journeys and increase capacity with a new seventh platform. The project was jointly funded by Network Rail as part of their Railway Control Period 4 plans, and Gatwick Airport Limited.

In addition, the Access for All small schemes programme provided funding of £116,000 for three new height adjustable ticket office windows 2012/13 and £47,400 for a number of accessibility improvements in 2013/14.

The Stations Commercial Projects Facility provided £559,023 towards a Southern Railway and Network Rail project to enhance the retail environment at Three Bridges station. This work was completed in 2012.

■ Railways: North of England**Lisa Nandy:**[\[221735\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many responses have been received to the consultation on the future of the Northern Rail and TransPennine Express franchises.

Lisa Nandy:[\[221737\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what organisations responded to the Northern Rail and TransPennine Express franchise consultation; and whether those responses are publicly available.

Claire Perry:

We received over 20,000 responses to the Northern and TransPennine Express consultation; this included responses from Local Authorities, Rail User Groups, Community Rail Partnerships, local businesses, trade unions and other organisations, as

well as responses from individual members of the public. Of those 20,000 responses, 9,315 were identical postcards from RMT members that highlighted concerns about a variety of franchise-related areas. Summaries of the responses we received and a breakdown of response numbers will be provided in the Stakeholder Briefing Document that will be published alongside the Invitations to Tender in this quarter.

Lisa Nandy: [\[221736\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many responses to the Northern Rail and TransPennine Express franchise consultation (a) supported and (b) opposed driver-only operation.

Claire Perry:

We did not ask specific questions about Driver Only Operation (DOO) in the Northern and TransPennine Express consultation, so analysis of responses relating to DOO has not been carried out in this way. A range of views on DOO were expressed by those who responded to the consultation. We also received 9,315 identical postcards from RMT members that highlighted concerns about a variety of franchise-related areas, including DOO.

Lisa Nandy: [\[221738\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when the invitations to tender will be issued for the Northern Rail and TransPennine Express franchises.

Claire Perry:

The Invitations to Tender for the Northern and TransPennine Express franchises will be published this quarter. The date will be announced in due course.

■ Rolling Stock: Procurement

Ian Lavery: [\[221299\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the specification was for (a) catering services, (b) guards' cabin and (c) catering staff accommodation in the mock-ups of Intercity Express Programme train sets.

Claire Perry:

The specification for catering services, guard's cabin and catering staff accommodation was designed by the train operators. They specified a large kitchen for hot meals in first class and a trolley point for an at seat service to standard class customers. Two fold down seats and tables have been specified for the crew accommodation, again following input from the train operators. The IEP has a flexible interior that can be re-fitted to meet specific train operator requirements.

Ian Lavery: [\[221300\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, which organisations his Department consulted on the design specifications used for mock-ups of Intercity Express Programme train sets.

Claire Perry:

The following organisations were consulted during the design of the InterCity Express Programme Mock Up: ASLEF, TSSA & RMT, CTC, Sustrans & Cycle-Rail Working Group, Members of the Young Railway Professionals, ORR, NoBo Interfleet and Lloyds Register, Passenger Focus, First Great Western, Inter City East Coast, bidders for the East Coast Franchise, Transport Scotland, Network Rail, ATOC, the NAO, Rail Future, the Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), British Transport Police (BTP) and groups representing passengers with restricted mobility, the blind and partially sighted.

Ian Lavery:[\[221329\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, which organisations have inspected mock-ups of Intercity Express Programme train sets.

Claire Perry:

Industry representatives who have inspected the InterCity Express Programme (IEP) Mock Up include; ASLEF, TSSA & RMT, CTC, Sustrans & Cycle-Rail Working Group, Members of the Young Railway Professionals, ORR, NoBo Interfleet and Lloyds Register, Passenger Focus, First Great Western, Inter City East Coast, bidders for the East Coast Franchise, Transport Scotland, Network Rail, ATOC, the NAO, Rail Future, the Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), British Transport Police (BTP) and groups representing passengers with restricted mobility, the blind and partially sighted.

I also had the pleasure of inspecting the IEP Mock Up on 15 October 2014, where I met with DfT Officials, Hitachi Directors, the Design Agency and a group of young transport professionals embarking on their career in engineering. I satisfied myself that the design of the IEP has been an inclusive and collaborative approach reaching out to very many in industry and across the wider transport community.

■ Southeastern**Clive Efford:**[\[221617\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many 12-carriage trains Southeastern rail has provided since work was completed to extend the platforms through (a) Eltham, (b) Plumstead and (c) New Eltham; and if he will make a statement.

Clive Efford:[\[221618\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many platforms at stations need further improvements to accommodate 12-carriage trains on the railway lines that run through (a) Eltham, (b) Plumstead and (c) New Eltham; and if he will make a statement.

Claire Perry:

All platform works to accommodate 12-car trains were completed on time. At Woolwich Dockyard it is not physically possible to extend the platforms and therefore was never intended to be part of those works.

Southeastern's new timetable (from 12 January) plans to operate the following Monday-to-Friday 12-car peak time services:

- Eltham 12-car service:

0938 Barnehusrt to Cannon Street via Bexleyheath

- Plumstead 12-car services:

0844 Cannon Street to Cannon Street via Greenwich & Sidcup

0836 Cannon Street to Barnehusrt via Greenwich

- New Eltham 12-car services:

0456 Gravesend to Cannon Street via Sidcup

0728 Gravesend to Cannon Street via Sidcup

0844 Cannon Street to Cannon Street via Greenwich & Sidcup

1721 Cannon Street to Gravesend via Sidcup

1832 Gravesend to Charing Cross via Sidcup

All stations on these routes are now 12-car capable (excepting Woolwich Dockyard)

TREASURY

■ New Businesses

Mr Henry Bellingham:

[\[907256\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment he has made of the effect of small business start-ups on the wider economy; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Gauke:

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, and the UK is a great place to start a business. At the start of 2014 there were 5.2 million small businesses in the UK, an increase of 760,000 since 2010. These small businesses employ 12.1 million people – 48% of total UK private sector employment – and have a combined annual turnover of £1.2 trillion: 33% of the UK private sector total. The government has backed small businesses, including with 25,000 Start Up Loans, tax incentives for investment, and the £2000 Employment Allowance which means 450,000 businesses now pay no employers NICs.

■ Oil: Prices

Stephen Phillips:

[\[907253\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the effect of falling oil prices on the rural economy.

Danny Alexander:

The sterling oil price has fallen by around 50% since the middle of last year. The IMF have forecast that world GDP could be boosted by up to 0.7% as a result of the fall.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the benefits of these price falls are passed through to households in rural areas of the UK, which combined with the

Government's action to help these hardworking families, will boost real household incomes in these areas.

Our rural communities rely on their cars, with 93% of households in the most rural areas owning one or more vehicle. The recent falls in pump prices will therefore be benefitting these rural communities more than those in towns and cities.

■ Revenue and Customs

Greg Mulholland: [\[907254\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of training available to staff at HM Revenue and Customs.

Mr David Gauke:

The effectiveness of training is assessed using a range of methods including skills assessments, examinations, and feedback from Managers on Business Performance.

Standards for learning are matched against the Professional standards set by the Association of Accountancy Technicians and Manchester Metropolitan University.

These external bodies monitor the learning to ensure that it meets the standards set.

■ Welfare Tax Credits

Nick Smith: [\[907257\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what proportion of recipients of tax credits are in employment.

Priti Patel:

I refer the hon. Member to the Exchequer Secretary's earlier response to Question 14.

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ Access to Work Programme

Kate Green: [\[221576\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many recipients of Access to Work support packages are deafblind; and what the average cost to the public purse is of packages for those people.

Mr Mark Harper:

The requested information is not available.

Kate Green: [\[221577\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many deafblind recipients of Access to Work support have had a reduction in their support package in the last 12 months.

Mr Mark Harper:

This data is not available.

Kate Green: [221578]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how often his Department reviews the cost and availability of technologies that support deafblind people to work; and whether Access to Work applies a limit to the amount of funding available for assistance technologies in support packages.

Mr Mark Harper:

Access to Work provides holistic assessments where a qualified professional will undertake the assessment of need and provide recommendations on the latest technologies available to overcome disability work related needs. Access to Work considers recommendations from these assessments and makes an award that is appropriate after discussions with the individual and the employer. This is the minimum need and the employer/individual will be responsible for procurement of that item(s) that we have agreed to fund.

■ Disability Living Allowance

Mr Ian Davidson: [221781]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people in receipt of disability living allowance (a) have had their rate of entitlement changed, (b) have lost any entitlement and (c) no longer receive the mobility component since the transition to personal independent payments.

Mr Mark Harper:

The latest available data on the number of successful or unsuccessful claims to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) by claimants previously in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) are available from the data tables accompanying the latest statistical release and published on Gov.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/personal-independence-payment-april-2013-to-october-2014>.

The Department intends to provide more detailed breakdowns of DLA to PIP reassessment outcomes in due course. The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity.

Mr Ian Davidson: [221783]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average length of time is for the completion of the mandatory reconsideration of disability living allowance claims in the latest period for which figures are available.

Mr Mark Harper:

Detailed Information on DLA Mandatory Reconsideration clearance times is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

■ Housing Benefit: Social Rented Housing

Derek Twigg: [\[221506\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment he has made of the number of people affected by the under-occupancy penalty in Halton Borough council area.

Mr Mark Harper:

The information requested for people in Halton Unitary Authority affected by the under-occupancy penalty, is published and available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/number-of-housing-benefit-claimants-and-average-weekly-spare-room-subsidy-amount-withdrawal>

This information is also published at:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

Guidance on how to extract the information required can be found at:

https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Stat-Xplore_User_Guide.htm

■ Jobcentre Plus

Stephen Timms: [\[221791\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Jobcentre Plus staff were subject to disciplinary action in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013 and (e) 2014.

Esther McVey:

The number of Jobcentre Plus staff subject to disciplinary action in 2010 and 2011 is recorded in the table below. For completeness, I have included the total number of Department for Work and Pensions staff subject to disciplinary action in each of the past five calendar years.

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF SUBJECT TO	
	DISCIPLINARY ACTION	ATTRIBUTABLE TO JOBCENTRE PLUS
2010	2,051	1,546
2011	2,521	1,484
2012	2,055	-
2013	1,951	-
2014	1,411	-

Jobcentre Plus ceased to exist as a separate organisation in October 2011 and was consumed within the wider Department for Work and Pensions. Information for Jobcentre Plus is therefore not available beyond September 2011 and Jobcentre Plus information for 2011 is a part year figure only.

■ Personal Independence Payment

Katy Clark: [\[221397\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many requests for mandatory reconsideration on claims for Personal Independence Payments were made in the 12 months to October 2014.

Mr Mark Harper:

The information requested is not available at this time.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. We intend to publish official statistics on PIP mandatory reconsiderations in the future in line with our publication strategy <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/personal-independence-payment-release-strategy> and will pre-announce our intention to do so in line with UK Statistics Authority protocols.

■ Poverty

Andrew Bridgen: [\[221721\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many households were in relative poverty in (a) 2010, (b) 2013 and (c) 2014.

Esther McVey:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 07 July 2014 to Question UIN [202925](#).

■ Social Security Benefits

Mr Douglas Carswell: [\[221478\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will reduce the benefit cap further.

Esther McVey:

The level of the benefit cap was recently reviewed as part of the annual up-rating process and the level is not being changed for 2015/16. The rates of benefits and pensions for 2015/16, including the cap, were announced at the time of the Autumn Statement and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proposed-benefit-and-pension-rates-2015-to-2016>.

The Government will continue to regularly review the level of the benefit cap and a future Conservative government would, as announced by the Chancellor at the 2014 Conservative Party conference, lower the cap to £23,000.

■ Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Mike Weatherley: [\[221521\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps the Government has taken to gain greater control over the type and amount of benefits paid to EU nationals who reside in the UK but are not in employment.

Esther McVey:

Over the last year, the UK Government has introduced a number of restrictions to benefits which are designed to ensure that our welfare system focusses support towards those who have come to the UK and are contributing to our economy.

Since December 2013 EEA nationals have had to take a stronger, more robust Habitual Residence Test (HRT) if they want to claim income-related benefits. If they pass the HRT, EEA job seekers must have been living in the UK for three months before they can claim income-based Jobseeker's Allowance. If they satisfy these requirements, they are only able to claim Jobseeker's Allowance for three months.

From 1 April 2014 new EEA job seekers have been unable to access Housing Benefit, even if they were in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance.

■ Unemployment

Stephen Timms: [\[221787\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the change in the inactivity rate recorded in the Office of National Statistics Labour Market statistics issued on 21 January 2015.

Esther McVey:

Latest figures show that for the period September to November 2014, excluding those not looking for work because they are students, inactivity was 16.6% of the 16-64 population. This was unchanged compared to the same period in 2013 and down 1.3 percentage points compared to 2010.

■ Unemployment: Young People

Stephen Timms: [\[221545\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what further plans he has to reduce youth unemployment.

Esther McVey:

[Holding answer 26 January 2015]: The youth claimant count is at its lowest level since the 1970s. Work coaches are offering all claimants tailored support from day one of their claim and we are on target to deliver an extra 250,000 work experience or sector based work academy places by March 2015. This provision will continue in 2016.

We also want to help young people who may be at risk of long term unemployment and we are testing additional skills support for 18-21 year olds: those at start of their claim

who lack basic skills in numeracy and literacy; and those who will benefit from a work related opportunity from 6 months in their claim. The pilots started in November 2014 and will be complete by March 2016.

■ Winter Fuel Payments

Steve McCabe:

[221740]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the eligibility criteria are for a UK pensioner living in France to receive winter fuel payments.

Steve Webb:

This year, all EU residents, with a genuine and sufficient link to the UK, qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment if they are born on or before 5 July 1952 and satisfy the conditions of the qualifying week, 15 to 21 September 2014.

Full details of eligibility and how to make a claim for a Winter Fuel Payment is available at GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/eligibility>

From the 21 September 2015, Winter Fuel Payments will no longer be payable to individuals in Portugal, Spain, Greece, France, Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus, where the average winter temperature is warmer than the warmest region of the UK.

■ Work Programme

Mr David Ward:

[221782]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to provide an appropriate level of support to people with mental health problems on employment and support allowance participating in the Work Programme.

Esther McVey:

Work Programme providers have the flexibility to design an innovative and personalised approach to help people into work. Many providers offer mental health and well-being support, either in house or through specialist sub-contractors.

In 2013 the Department set up an independently chaired group to share best practice amongst our providers, sub-contractors and representatives from the voluntary sector and national charities. The Best Practice Report was published last month and includes a focus on supporting the harder to help, including those with mental health issues. The Department has accepted the vast majority of recommendations within the report and has begun to implement them.

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

■ Second Triennial Review of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CORWM)

Minister of State for Energy (Matthew Hancock): [\[HCWS222\]](#)

My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Baroness Verma) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement today.

Triennial Reviews are part of the Government's commitment to ensuring that non-departmental public bodies continue to have regular independent challenge.

The review will examine whether there is a continuing need for CoRWM's function and its form and whether it should continue to exist at arm's length from Government.

If there is evidence of a continued need for the body, the review will also examine whether CoRWM's control and governance arrangements continue to meet the recognised principles of good corporate governance.

I will inform the House of the outcome of the review when it is completed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

■ Gifting of non-lethal equipment to the Jordanian Armed Forces

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Philip Hammond): [\[HCWS224\]](#)

I have today laid a departmental Minute proposing the gifting of non-lethal equipment to the Jordanian Armed Forces.

My right honourable Friend, the former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague) informed the House on 6 March 2013 (Official Report, column 961) that he intended to provide additional non-lethal equipment to the Syrian opposition in order to help save lives. He then laid a departmental Minute on 15 April 2013 and issued a Written Ministerial Statement containing details of that gift which included, amongst other equipment, five 4x4 vehicles with ballistic protection. The equipment was due to be donated to the Syrian opposition National Coalition's Assistance Coordination Unit based in Turkey. Although we have been able to deliver some of the equipment, regrettably, we have been unable to deliver the five 4x4 vehicles as planned.

There are two reasons for this:

(1) only the US government and United Nations have been granted permission by the Turkish government to use such vehicles in Turkey; and

(2) the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) was not a registered entity at the time and therefore the ACU would have only been permitted to store and use the vehicles within Syria.

Our assessment is that delivering the vehicles to Syria carries too much of a risk of them ending up in the wrong hands. For example, on 7 December 2013 the Islamic Front raided the Syrian Military Council's headquarters in Bab al-Hawa and took some of their equipment. We therefore now consider that the best option is to gift the vehicles to the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF). The JAF would use them in their efforts to manage current insecurity on their border with Syria, including cross-border smuggling activity. This option represents the least risk of the vehicles falling into the wrong hands and is most cost-effective to the taxpayer given that the vehicles are already stored in Jordan.

This gift has been scrutinised to ensure that the provision of this equipment is consistent with export controls and complies with our international obligations. Recipients have been carefully selected to prevent equipment being given to those involved in extremist activities or human rights violations.

The value of these vehicles is £386,375.70 which will be met by the Government's Conflict Pool Fund.

The Treasury has approved the proposal in principle. If, during the period of fourteen parliamentary sitting days beginning on the date on which this minute was laid before the House of Commons, a Member signifies an objection by giving notice of a Parliamentary Question or a Motion relating to the minute, or by otherwise raising the matter in the House, final approval of the gift will be withheld pending an examination of the objection.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

■ House of Commons – Governance

Member representing the House of Commons Commission (John Thurso):
[\[HCWS223\]](#)

On 22 January the House of Commons agreed a motion supporting the recommendations in the report of the Select Committee on House of Commons Governance. The House of Commons Commission held an additional meeting on 26 January to ensure a speedy start to implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

At its meeting, the Commission agreed a specification for the position of Clerk of the House that incorporates the job description set out in Annex A to the Governance Committee's report. The Commission also agreed a recruitment process in line with the Committee's recommendations. Details will be published in the brief for candidates when the recruitment is launched. The intention is that the recruitment process should be completed before the dissolution of Parliament on 30 March.

The Commission has also taken two other initial decisions:

- It has agreed that implementation of the Committee's recommendations will assume no change to the membership of the Members Estimate Committee (option 'A' in paragraph 152 of the Committee's report).
- It has agreed to write to the House Committee to propose a first joint meeting of the Commission and the House Committee in October 2015. This will provide time for the Commission to be established in its new form and for an appointment to the new post of Director General of the House of Commons. (See paragraph 128 of the Committee's report.)

The Commission is next meeting on 9 February when, amongst other matters, it expects to consider the job specification and recruitment process for the position of Director General of the House of Commons.

PRIME MINISTER

■ The Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission

Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron):

[\[HCWS226\]](#)

Today I am publishing the report of the Holocaust Commission, as attached, and copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

On this poignant Holocaust Memorial Day, seventy years on from the liberation of Auschwitz, Britain's Promise to Remember sets out the steps this country will take to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust is preserved and its lessons are never forgotten.

The Commission's work was informed by a Call for Evidence which received nearly 2,500 responses. This included one of the largest ever gatherings of British Holocaust survivors at Wembley Stadium; a youth essay competition with more than 700 entries; and a wide range of consultation events and meetings, including at the White House and United Nations.

The Commission found widespread dissatisfaction with the existing Holocaust memorial in Hyde Park, which was felt to be hidden out of sight and offer no context, information or opportunity to learn more. The strength of feeling on this was very clear, particularly from many of Britain's Holocaust Survivors.

The Commission drew on emerging findings from the world's largest study of young people's knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust – conducted by UCL's Institute of Education. This found that the majority of our young people do not know some of the most fundamental facts that explain how and why the Holocaust happened, even after studying it at school. The Commission also reported inadequate support for regional projects, compounded by a lack of long-term funding for Holocaust education. And it identified the urgent need for the recording and appropriate preservation of the testimony of survivors and liberators.

So the Commission made four main recommendations. First, Britain should have a striking and prominent new National Memorial in Central London, to make a bold statement about the importance our country places on preserving the memory of the Holocaust and to stand as a permanent affirmation of the values of our society.

Second, there should be a world-class Learning Centre to accompany the National Memorial. This would be a must-see destination that would draw on the latest technology to engage and inspire vast numbers of visitors. The new Learning Centre would also bring together a nation-wide network of Holocaust organisations and support headteachers to champion Holocaust education throughout the country.

Third, there should be an endowment fund to secure the long-term future of Holocaust education for ever. This would cover the running costs of the Learning Centre and also support Holocaust education around the country, including through local projects and travelling exhibitions.

Fourth, the Commission recommends an urgent programme to complete the task of recording and preserving the first hand testimony of British Holocaust survivors and liberators. The Commission proposes a new independent body to deliver all these recommendations and wants to see testimony work completed this year, the creation of the National Memorial in 2016/17 and the Learning Centre within the next Parliament.

With the support of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition I am accepting these recommendations. I am today setting up the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation, under the leadership of Sir Peter Bazalgette, to get on with this urgent work. In support of this, and to kick-start a society-wide fundraising effort, the government will commit £50 million towards the delivery of the new National Memorial, Learning Centre and endowment fund.

I would like to express my thanks to Mick Davis and to all the Commissioners – including the Rt Hon Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), the Rt Hon Member for Morley and Outwood (Ed Balls) and the Rt Hon Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) who have given this work the cross-party status it so profoundly deserves.

Today we stand together - whatever our faith, whatever our creed, whatever our politics. We stand in remembrance of those who were murdered in the darkest hour of human history. We stand in admiration of what our Holocaust survivors have given to our country. And we stand united in our resolve to fight prejudice and discrimination in all its forms.

We will keep Britain's Promise to Remember. Today, tomorrow and for every generation to come.

Attachments:

1. Holocaust Commission Report [Holocaust Commission Report.pdf]

TREASURY

■ ECOFIN : 27 January 2015

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne):

[\[HCWS225\]](#)

A meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 27 January 2015. Ministers are due to discuss the following items:

Investment Plan for Europe

The Commission will present its proposal on the European Fund for Strategic Investment, a key element of the Investment Plan for Europe, following by a first exchange of views.

Current Legislative Proposals

The Council will receive an update from the Presidency on on-going work on financial services dossiers.

Presentation of the Presidency Work Programme

The new Latvian Presidency will present to Council its six-month work programme in the ECOFIN area.

Presentation of the Commission Work Programme

The new Commission will present its Work Programme for 2015, focusing on the economic and financial agenda.

Economic Governance

The Council will hold an exchange of views on two Commission Communications on economic governance: firstly, on the Economic Governance Review and secondly, on clarifying the existing flexibility in the Stability and Growth Pact.

Preparation of the G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Governors on 9-10 February 2015 in Istanbul

The Council will adopt terms of reference in view of the G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Governors in February in Istanbul.