



This report shows written answers and statements provided between Tuesday 21 July 2015 and Friday 31 July 2015 and the information is correct at the time of publication (06:21 P.M., 03 August 2015). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit:

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Notes:

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

Questions with identification numbers of **90000 or greater** indicate that the question was originally tabled as an oral question and has since been unstarred.

ANSWERS**ATTORNEY GENERAL****■ Data Protection**

Marie Rimmer: [\[7445\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what guidance he provides to (a) Government Legal Service personnel and officials in his Department and (b) others on the steps they (i) can and (ii) must take if they are or should reasonably be aware that data has been unlawfully processed by a data controller because that controller has not notified the Information Commissioner's Office.

Robert Buckland:

The Government Legal Department provides guidance to all its staff on the Data Protection Act, which requires staff to act in accordance with the legislation as it affects their work.

Staff in other parts of the Government Legal Service are governed by any guidance issued by the departments for which they work

Marie Rimmer: [\[7506\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what data protection training has been given to (a) the Treasury Solicitor, (b) the Head of Litigation, (c) the Head of the Bona Vacantia Division, (d) the Ministry of Justice Advisory SCS1 Team Leaders, (e) the Ministry of Justice Legal SCS2 Team Leaders and (f) Legal Aid Agency Senior Lawyers at Grade 6 or above since 1 July 2013.

Robert Buckland:

A comprehensive package of data protection training, developed with the Information Commissioner's Office, was provided between February and June 2015 to all Government Legal Department staff including, (a) the Treasury Solicitor, (b) the Head of Litigation, (c) the Head of the Bona Vacantia Division, (d) the Ministry of Justice Advisory SCS1 Team Leaders, (e) the Ministry of Justice Legal SCS2 Team Leaders and (f) Legal Aid Agency Senior Lawyers at Grade 6 or above.

The training consisted of a three part training programme including an ICO video, face to face interaction and online elements.

■ Government Legal Service: Data Protection

Marie Rimmer: [\[7382\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, what guidance he provides to Government Legal Service (GLS) personnel on compliance with the Data Protection Act by (a) the Government, (b) agencies and (c) clients of the GLS to ensure that (i) data is not sent to a data controller who is not registered under the Data Protection Act, but ought to have done so and (ii) secure data

handling procedures are operated by both the GLS and any external data controller to whom data is sent.

Robert Buckland:

The Government Legal Department provides guidance to all its staff on the Data Protection Act, which requires staff to act in accordance with the legislation as it affects their work. How data is handled when it arrives with an external data controller rests with the receiving organisation and not with GLD. Staff in other parts of the Government Legal Service are governed by any guidance issued by the departments for which they work.

Marie Rimmer:

[\[7444\]](#)

To ask the Attorney General, who in the Government Legal Service (GLS) has operational lead responsibility for ensuring that training is provided to officials of the GLS on compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 ICO guidance and Treasury Solicitor and GLS information security and data protection related policies and procedures; and what assessment (a) has been and (b) will be made on what date and by whom of the effectiveness of that training provision.

Robert Buckland:

The Treasury Solicitor, as Permanent Secretary, has overall responsibility for data protection within the Government Legal Department, which is the largest unit within the Government Legal Service. The Treasury Solicitor is supported in that role by a DPA co-ordinator and, in the provision of training, by the GLD people development team. Staff in other GLS teams are subject to the procedures and training in the departments for which they work, supported again by the GLD people development team. That team assesses the effectiveness of training by surveying course participants and through other feedback.

Comprehensive training, developed with the Information Commissioner's Office, was conducted between February and June 2015 and consisted of a three part training programme including an ICO video, face to face interaction and online elements.

The GLD people development team provide training within GLD, and support Government Legal Service (GLS) training. The people development team assess all training by surveying all course participants in the training they organise, and continually monitor the effectiveness of the training as a result of survey responses and general feedback.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS**■ Apprentices: Cumbria**

Mr Jamie Reed: [7627]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many apprenticeship starts there were in each business sector in (a) Copeland constituency and (b) Cumbria in each of the last six years.

Nick Boles:

Information on Apprenticeship starts by Parliamentary constituency and Local Education Authority since 2005/06, broken down by Sector Subject Area, is published online:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441033/apprenticeships-starts-by-geography-and-sector-subject-area.xls

Information is collected by Sector Subject Area, not by business sector.

■ Apprentices: Living Wage

Louise Haigh: [7222]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether he plans for the National Living Wage announced in his Summer Budget 2015 to apply to apprentices over the age of 25.

Nick Boles:

Currently, the Apprentice rate applies to apprentices over the age of 25 where they are in their first year of their apprenticeship. They then qualify for the age appropriate rate.

We will be implementing the National Living Wage through amendments to the National Minimum Wage regulations, in time for April 2016. We will consider how the Living Wage applies to the Apprentice rate as part of this process.

■ Apprentices: Qualifications

Roger Mullin: [7711]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what qualifications other than NVQs are required as part of apprenticeships.

Nick Boles:

As apprenticeships are a devolved matter, this answer refers to England only.

Currently apprenticeships which meet the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE) require qualifications that confirm competency in the occupational area and provide underpinning knowledge. Different qualifications may be used, for example NVQs, certificates or diplomas including BTEC HNCs or Ds. Apprenticeships also require

English and maths qualifications, usually Functional Skills or GCSEs (at a minimum level 1 for an Intermediate apprenticeship; or level 2 for an Advanced apprenticeship). Other qualifications, for example in ICT may also be required where relevant to the job. The apprentice is deemed to have completed their apprenticeship when they have met these individual qualification requirements.

The developer of the framework (usually a Sector Skills Council) will specify the particular qualification titles.

In future every apprentice will train towards the achievement of an employer-designed apprenticeship standard which sets out what the apprentice will know and be able to do by the end of their apprenticeship. The policy on mandatory requirements is currently being revised.

A list of the approved standards designed by employers is at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/apprenticeship-standards

■ Apprentices: Taxation

Nic Dakin: [7354]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether small businesses will be able to access funding from the proposed apprenticeship levy in order to recruit apprentices; and if he will make a statement.

Nick Boles:

Further details on the implementation of the apprenticeships levy will be set out later this year.

■ Arms Trade: Israel

Steve McCabe: [7621]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what military hardware and components the UK has sold to Israel in each of the last two years.

Anna Soubry:

The Export Control Organisation (ECO) only holds data on licences issued, refused or revoked that fall within strategic export controls. They are available to view on the GOV.UK website.

Steve McCabe: [7622]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what military hardware and components the UK has imported from Israel in each of the last two years.

Anna Soubry:

Firearms, firearms component parts and ammunition are the only items of military equipment subject to import licensing controls.

In 2013, BIS Import Licensing Branch issued 5 import licences for imports from Israel of 250 firearms and 70 firearms component parts. In 2014, BIS Import Licensing Branch issued 10 import licences for imports from Israel of 240 firearms and 2760 firearms component parts.

Steve McCabe: [\[7623\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many arms export licences have been issued for exports to Israel in each of the last two years.

Anna Soubry:

Information on arms export licences are published in the Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (e.g. Military, Other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. They are available to view at GOV.UK.

Steve McCabe: [\[7704\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, if he will review his Department's policy on arms export licence agreements with Israel.

Anna Soubry:

The Government has conducted a review of export licensing policy for Israel, the outcome of which was announced on 14 July 2014 on the GOV.UK website.

■ Business: Regulation

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7861\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many regulations were (a) introduced and (b) removed in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15.

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7862\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what estimate he has made of the cost of (a) introducing and (b) removing regulations in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2014-15.

Anna Soubry:

Over the last Parliament, the Statements of New Regulation set out the regulations introduced and removed, and the costs and savings this achieved for business. The Ninth Statement of New Regulation gives the overall account of measures introduced 2010-2015 and their costs and savings. This can be found on the Gov.UK website.

■ Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Birmingham

Liam Byrne: [\[7815\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the Answer of 16 July 2015 to Question 6219, which local spending bodies spend money for which the Permanent Secretary in his Department is the accounting officer.

Liam Byrne:

[7816]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the Answer of 16 July 2015 to Question 6219, which local spending bodies in the city of Birmingham spend money voted to his Department.

Liam Byrne:

[7817]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the Answer of 16 July 2015 to Question 6219, whether his Department holds information on (a) further education colleges, (b) apprenticeships providers, (c) local economic partnerships and (d) other local bodies which draw upon funds voted to his Department.

Joseph Johnson:

“Local spending bodies” is not a term that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) uses. For the purposes of this answer we are therefore providing information on:

1. BIS partner organisations that have an office in Birmingham.

These bodies spend money voted to BIS and have the BIS Permanent Secretary as their ultimate accounting officer. The following such organisations have offices in Birmingham:

- ACAS
- Insolvency Service
- Skills Funding Agency

1. The categories of body set out in PQ UIN 7817.

These bodies are part of the wider delivery chain and spend money voted to BIS that is allocated to these bodies through BIS Partner Organisations rather than from BIS directly. These bodies do not have the BIS Permanent Secretary as their accounting officer.

- a) Further Education colleges and b) apprenticeships providers

Details of further education providers and other training bodies receiving public funding are published and can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/378355/feandskills-learners-by-provider-local-authority-learner-characteristics-1314.xls

- c) Local economic partnerships

- The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Economic Partnership

- d) Other local bodies which draw upon funds voted to his Department

- Aston University
- Birmingham City University
- The University of Birmingham
- University College Birmingham

- Newman University
- Energy Systems Catapult

■ Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Directors

Hannah Bardell: [\[6917\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what his policy is on ensuring gender balance on his Department's board.

Anna Soubry:

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Departmental Board draws its membership from ministers, senior officials and non-executives. In accordance with the Code of Good Practice for Corporate Governance in Central Government Departments (2011), appointments to the Board are made on merit with due regard for the benefits of diversity, including gender. Of the current membership, 40% are women.

■ Electronic Equipment: Safety

Carolyn Harris: [\[6739\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps he is taking to prevent consumers purchasing unsafe second-hand electrical goods in the UK.

Anna Soubry:

There are two pieces of legislation relevant to second hand electrical goods; the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994, and the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, which implement the EU's General Product Safety Directive. They require that equipment must only be supplied which is safe. The Regulations are enforced by Local Authority Trading Standards Services, who regularly remove unsafe second-hand electrical goods from the market through their market surveillance activities.

■ European Fund for Strategic Investments

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7807\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what proposals his Department have put forward for projects under the EU Fund for Strategic Investments.

Anna Soubry:

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) is used to support projects that bear a higher risk than most of the European Investment Bank's (EIB) lending activities. The EIB is working directly with applicants and will be assessing project proposals through its normal processes, to establish which projects are most appropriate for support under

EFSI. EFSI does not require applicants to submit proposals through Government Departments.

■ Exports

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[\[7863\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps he is taking to implement a whole-of-Government approach to export support: and if he will make a statement.

Anna Soubry:

My Rt hon Friend the Prime Minister is leading a whole-of-government approach to increase UK exports. An Exports Implementation Taskforce has been established to monitor and drive delivery. Chaired by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Taskforce meets every two weeks and reports to the Prime Minister and Cabinet quarterly.

■ Further Education: Finance

Frank Field:

[\[7768\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to the adult skills budget on the long-term financial stability of the further education sector.

Nick Boles:

The financial health of further education colleges is under constant review by the Skills Funding Agency based on self-assessment information from colleges and the publication of college accounts. Colleges with inadequate financial health are subject to intervention led by the FE Commissioner.

Across all our grant, loan and capital support for adult FE, we are making available over £3bn in 2015-16 and our funding mechanism is designed to allow providers the freedoms and flexibilities to decide how best to use their allocation to respond to local learner and employer demand. As autonomous organisations it is up to colleges to manage their own budgets.

Apprenticeships are our priority for skills and colleges have been encouraged to expand their apprenticeship offer. As government funding has reduced, many colleges have responded well by looking at generating other income streams and creating sustainable business models for the future. This entrepreneurial approach will help ensure sustainable future business models with less reliance on government funding.

In order to address the significant financial pressures on institutions, a declining 16-19 population and the need to maintain very tight fiscal discipline in order to tackle the deficit, a major reform of post-16 education and training institutions is necessary. On 20 July the Departments for Education and Business, Innovation and Skills announced a programme of area-based reviews to review 16+ provision in every area. These reviews

will provide an opportunity for institutions and localities to restructure their provision to ensure it is tailored to the changing context and designed to achieve maximum impact.

■ Higher Education: Admissions

Mr David Lammy: [\[7408\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, if he will make representations to UCAS on releasing anonymised individual data on applications and admissions to universities for the purpose of research on access to higher education.

Joseph Johnson:

We encourage organisations holding relevant data, including the Higher Education Statistics Agency, UCAS, HEFCE and the Student Loans Company, to make it publicly available so it can be analysed and re-presented in a variety of formats to help students make informed choices about higher education.

I have asked the Chief Executive of UCAS, Mary Curnock Cook, to look into this and reply to the hon. Member.

■ Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Clive Betts: [\[7718\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what the statutory requirements are for local enterprise partnerships on the transparency of their operations and responsibilities; and what guidance he has issued on those requirements.

Anna Soubry:

Local Enterprise Partnerships are not public bodies – they are independent and voluntary partnerships between local authorities, businesses and other bodies. As such, there are no statutory requirements placed upon them.

Government has, however, set out very clear standards on transparency in the “Local Enterprise Partnerships Assurance Framework”, published in December 2014. Each Local Enterprise Partnership has prepared their own local assurance framework verified by their accountable local authority, setting out how they will operate and take decisions in a way which is consistent with the standards set out in the national assurance framework.

Mr Clive Betts: [\[7719\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps he is taking to increase the transparency of the operations of local enterprise partnerships.

Anna Soubry:

The Government has set out very clear standards on transparency in the “Local Enterprise Partnerships Assurance Framework”, published in December 2014. Each Local Enterprise Partnership has prepared its own local assurance framework verified by its accountable local authority, setting out how it will operate and take decisions in a way which is consistent with the standards set out in the national assurance framework.

We will continue to work with Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure that basic standards around transparency and value for money are upheld. However it is important that accountability for this rests with the Local Enterprise Partnership and its accountable local authority.

■ Met Office: Pay

Sammy Wilson: [\[7507\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much was paid in bonuses to Met Office staff in each of the last five years.

Anna Soubry:

An element of Met Office overall pay award for staff is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to reward excellence and drive high performance.

Met Office staff are eligible to receive performance related pay based on achievements against specific targets agreed and monitored by the Met Office Board, which are linked to the success of the Met Office at either individual, team or organisational level.

Payments are non-consolidated and represent part of Met Office staff remuneration which is at risk and needs to be re-earned each year.

The following table details the amount paid in performance related pay to staff employed at the Met Office in each of the last five years.

	<i>TOTAL PAID IN NON-CONSOLIDATED, PERFORMANCE RELATED AWARDS (£'000) ¹</i>
2014-15	4,279
2013-14	4,151
2012-13	4,579
2011-12	3,541
2010-11	4,233

¹ These are gross figures and include commercial team sales-related performance elements.

■ New Businesses: Government Assistance

Roger Mullin: [\[7714\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps he plans to take to enhance support for opportunity entrepreneurs to set up their own businesses.

Anna Soubry:

We continue to work hard to maintain the UK as the best place in Europe for people to set up and grow their own business.

Over 30,000 people have benefitted from over £155 million worth of Start-Up Loans and expert business advice provided by the Start Up Loans Company. Around 70,000 unemployed people have set up their own businesses with the help of the New Enterprise Allowance scheme. And the Business Support Helpline provides free expert advice to help people to start and grow their own business.

We are increasing the annual Employment Allowance from £2,000 to £3,000 from April 2016 which will make it easier for people setting up a new business to take on their first employee. And we are committed to cutting a further £10 billion of red tape which will make life easier for all businesses.

The Devolved Administrations provide their own tailored business support schemes. We work closely with them to share experiences and make sure start-up businesses get the support they need.

■ Postal Services: Compensation

Alex Cunningham: [\[7762\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what discussions he has had with representatives of Royal Mail on the adequacy of the postal compensation scheme; and if he will make a statement.

George Freeman:

We have had no such discussions. Royal Mail is required by regulation to ensure that it maintains fair and reasonable remedies and redress.

Ofcom, the postal regulator, monitors the effectiveness of compensation arrangements and, if necessary, can direct Royal Mail to modify its Postal Schemes which cover charges and terms and conditions for its universal service products and services.

■ Postal Services: Scotland

Margaret Ferrier: [\[7407\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what assessment he has made of the effect of the privatisation of Royal Mail on (a) residential properties and (b) businesses in Scotland.

George Freeman:

Royal Mail was privatised in October 2013. Regardless of ownership, Royal Mail as the designated Universal Service Provider for the United Kingdom is required to deliver the universal postal service in accordance with minimum requirements set by Parliament and quality of service standards set by Ofcom, the postal services regulator.

Royal Mail publishes reports on its quality of service each quarter on its website. Ofcom closely monitors Royal Mail's quality of service to ensure that service standards are maintained throughout the country.

■ Productivity

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[7261]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what assessment he has made of the effect of zombie companies on national productivity; and if he will make a statement.

Anna Soubry:

Zombie companies are companies that are allowed by banks to delay repayment of a loan so that they effectively only pay the interest due rather than the full loan amount. Bank of England analysis of this 'loan forbearance' suggests that only a relatively small proportion of small businesses are in receipt of any form of forbearance (around 6% of SME borrowers in 2013). The Bank concludes that forbearance by banks on loans to small businesses would therefore appear to account for only a small proportion of the weakness in aggregate UK productivity. The Bank's analysis was published in the Bank's quarterly bulletin which can be found on the Bank of England's website.

■ Student Loans Company: Complaints

Edward Argar:

[7190]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what recent discussions he has had with the Student Loans Company on the level of complaints it receives.

Joseph Johnson:

There have been no recent discussions between Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Ministers and the Student Loans Company on the level of complaints it receives.

BIS holds regular discussions on a range of issues with the Student Loans Company. This includes formal performance reviews at least twice a year which routinely include discussions on the level of complaints received by the Company.

■ Students: Grants

Gloria De Piero:

[7850]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many students (a) were in receipt of a full, (b) were in receipt of a partial and (c) did not receive a maintenance grant in each of the last 10 years.

Joseph Johnson:

Statistics showing the number of English domiciled applicants awarded Maintenance Grants for study at UK providers are published annually by the Student Loans Company (SLC) in the Statistical First Release '*Student Support for Higher Education in England*'.

<http://www.slc.co.uk/official-statistics/full-catalogue-of-official-statistics/student-support-for-higher-education-in-england.aspx>

The distribution of maintenance support grants awarded to English applicants at UK providers over the last ten years has been provided in the attached table. Complete data for the academic year 2014/15 will be published by the SLC in November 2015.

Attachments:

1. Support grants awarded to English applicants table [PQ-UIN-7850-table.pdf]

■ **Weather**

Sammy Wilson: [\[7238\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what information his Department holds on the number of sources from which data was gathered by the Meteorological Office to demonstrate that 1 July 2015 was the hottest July day recorded in the UK.

Anna Soubry:

The Met Office used temperature data from its network of UK weather stations, together with historical temperature records it holds dating back to 1853, to demonstrate that 1 July 2015 was the hottest July day recorded in the UK.

These sources show that temperatures in excess of 35 °C were recorded at a handful of weather stations in London and the south east on 1 July 2015, including 36.7 °C at Heathrow airport, the highest temperature recorded by the Met Office on a July day. Temperatures also exceeded 30 °C across the Midlands, East Anglia and parts of north-west and north-east England. In these areas July temperature records were also broken at a number of weather stations with long running records.

Sammy Wilson: [\[7239\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what information his Department holds on (a) the number of monitoring stations which recorded the reported temperature of 36.7 degrees Celsius on 1 July 2015 and (b) for how long each such monitoring station recorded that temperature that day.

Anna Soubry:

The maximum temperature reported by the Met Office's network of UK weather stations on 1 July 2015 was 36.7 degrees Celsius, which was recorded at Heathrow airport. The maximum temperature was recorded at 1413 GMT, with lower temperatures recorded at minute intervals either side of that time. This pattern is in line with the natural fluctuation of temperature and consistent with maximum temperature readings recorded by the Met Office in general.

CABINET OFFICE

■ **Conditions of Employment: Cumbria**

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7881\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people are employed on zero hours contracts in Cumbria.

Mr Rob Wilson:

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

Attachments:

1. UK Statistics Reply [PQ7881 UKSA reply.pdf]

■ **Government Departments: Reviews**

Martyn Day:

[\[7169\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what cross-departmental reviews are being undertaken by his Department; and what the extent and nature of the engagement with the devolved administrations is for each such review.

Mr Oliver Letwin:

[Holding answer 20 July 2015]: There are currently two cross-departmental review processes being run by the Cabinet Office. The first is focussed on National Security, refreshing the 2010 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review. The second is the Bribery and Corruption enforcement review.

The next iteration of the National Security Strategy and the Strategic Defence and Security Review will cover reserved matters. The Cabinet Office plans to consult a wide range of stakeholders, including the Devolved Administrations.

The Bribery and Corruption enforcement review has consulted widely, including with relevant agencies of the Devolved Administrations. These include the National Counter Corruption Unit of Police Scotland, and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

There are also a number of cross-departmental review processes being run, for example the 'Cutting Red Tape' programme and the Resilience Review. These reviews consult widely, including with relevant agencies of the Devolved Administrations where appropriate, usually via the Lead Government Departments.

I will write to the Honourable Member in the Autumn to provide a more detailed update of the cross-departmental review processes being undertaken by the Cabinet Office, and will place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

■ **House of Lords: Reform**

Greg Mulholland:

[\[7157\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what plans the Government has to reduce the number of peers in the House of Lords.

John Penrose:

The Government will continue to ensure that the House of Lords functions effectively, and will consider how to address issues such as the number of peers in the House.

■ National Security

Sir Nicholas Soames: [7870]

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if the Government will assess the vulnerability of the UK to economic and financial warfare when developing the National Security Strategy.

Mr Oliver Letwin:

The 2015 National Security Strategy, informed by the National Security Risk Assessment, is considering a wide range of risks including those to our economic and financial security.

TREASURY**■ Apprentices: Scotland**

Michelle Thomson: [7315]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he plans to make available to the Scottish Government additional resources as a result of plans to increase funding for apprenticeships in England.

Greg Hands:

Spending on apprenticeships in England will flow through the Barnett formula in the usual way. Skills policy is a devolved area, so the Scottish Government will continue to have complete flexibility over how to support businesses through training and apprenticeships.

■ Apprentices: Taxation

Imran Hussain: [6930]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had on the apprenticeship levy with (a) businesses, (b) the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, (c) the Secretary of State for Education and (d) organisations representing industry.

Greg Hands:

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Details of ministerial and permanent secretary meetings with external organisations on departmental business are published on a quarterly basis and are available at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm.

Chris Bryant: [7240]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the Summer Budget 2015, what criteria he plans to use to determine which employers are affected by the apprenticeship levy.

Greg Hands:

Employer investment in skills has been a problem since the 1990s and it needs to change. Large companies will now have direct control via the digital apprenticeship

voucher and firms that are committed to training will be able to get back more than the put in. Further details will be set at the Spending Review following a formal engagement with business.

Michelle Thomson: [\[7312\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what criteria he plans to apply when assessing which businesses will be required to pay the new apprenticeship levy.

Greg Hands:

Employer investment in skills has been a problem since the 1990s and it needs to change. Large companies will now have direct control via the digital apprenticeship voucher and firms that are committed to training will be able to get back more than the put in. Further details will be set at the Spending Review following a formal engagement with business.

Michelle Thomson: [\[7313\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make an estimate of the number of businesses in (a) Scotland and (b) the UK that will be required to pay the new apprenticeship levy.

Greg Hands:

The Barnett formula will apply to spending on apprenticeships in England in the usual way. Skills policy is a devolved area so the DAs will have complete flexibility over how to support businesses. Further details will be set at the Spending Review following a formal engagement with business.

Michelle Thomson: [\[7314\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of level of revenue that will be raised from the new apprenticeship levy; and what additional funding he plans will be available for apprenticeships in England.

Greg Hands:

The government has committed to 3 million apprenticeship starts over the Parliament. The new levy on large employers will fund the step change needed in starts and quality. Further details will be set at the Spending Review following a formal engagement with business.

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7551\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many companies will be required to pay the apprenticeship levy; and if he will make a statement.

Greg Hands:

Further details will be announced at the Spending Review following a formal engagement with business. Most importantly, firms that are committed to training will be able to get back more than they put in.

■ Balance of Payments

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7624\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to reduce the current account deficit; and if he will make a statement.

Harriett Baldwin:

Since 2010 UKTI has more than doubled the number of businesses it helps on an annual basis, whilst UKEF has provided £14.5bn of support for exports since 2010-11. The government's productivity plan set out further steps to build stronger trading links with emerging markets, especially China, India and Brazil, and to mobilise the whole of government behind exporting, working alongside a more effective UKTI and better export finance. The government's commitment to eliminate the budget deficit, combined with monetary activism, will also support a narrowing of the current account deficit.

■ Banks: Fines

Chris Bryant: [\[6991\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which parliamentary constituency each project referred to in paragraph 2.47 of the Summer Budget 2015 is based.

The majority of the recipient charities and good causes mentioned in paragraph 2.47 of the Summer Budget 2015 are Defence related and can be considered to be "National". The exceptions being:

- Ludlow Museum £0.25 million – to facilitate the publication online of the unique and historically important geological collections held in Ludlow - Ludlow;
- regeneration of the National Memorial Arboretum £2 million – to protect the long term future of the Memorial and to preserve it for the next generation – Lichfield;
- Clock Tower Foundation £3 million – to provide a bespoke rehabilitation centre to support the Special Forces – North Herefordshire; and
- Battle of Britain Bunker £1 million – to renovate and maintain the Battle of Britain Operations Room at RAF Uxbridge which coordinated the air defence of London and the South of England in WWII – Uxbridge.

■ Banks: Licensing

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7617\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which firms have relinquished a banking licence in the last 30 years.

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[\[7642\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, which firms have been granted a banking licence since April 1985.

Harriett Baldwin:

This is a matter for the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA), which is operationally independent from Government.

The question has been passed on to the PRA. The PRA will reply directly to the Member by letter. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

■ **Broadband**

Chris Bryant:

[\[6979\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to paragraph 1.318 of the Summer Budget 2015, HC 264, from which budget has the £10 million expenditure on broadband been found; how many more premises will be reached by broadband as a result of that expenditure; and whether national projects will be ineligible to bid for that expenditure.

Greg Hands:

To support connectivity in the South West, the government will allocate up to £10m to the broadband programme in the South West, commencing April 2016. The fund will be available for local projects to bid into, with priority given to those delivering ultrafast speeds of 100mbps and above. Broadband Delivery UK will start working with local projects immediately to determine the most effective way of delivering support.

This scheme begins in the financial year 2016-17, budgets for this year and beyond will be set at the forthcoming Spending Review. Government is working to determine the most effective way of delivering support, with further details published in due course.

■ **Business: Loans**

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[\[7615\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to improve competition in small and medium-sized enterprise bank lending; and if he will make a statement.

Harriett Baldwin:

The Government has driven a wide ranging programme of reforms to help Small and Medium Sized Enterprises to gain access to finance and to support competition in the SME lending market.

The Government introduced the Current Account Switch Service which is a free-to-use service for customers that makes it easier, quicker and more reliable for customers to switch banks. At Budget 2015 the scheme was extended to include 99% of SMEs.

This year the Government will lay final legislation requiring major UK banks both to share SME credit information with other lenders and to offer to share the details of SMEs rejected for a loan with online platforms that can match them to alternative finance providers. Alongside these reforms, the British Business Bank is increasing and

diversifying the supply of finance available to SMEs, and aims to facilitate up to £10 billion of finance by 2019.

■ Commodity Markets: Oil

Sir Nicholas Soames: [7871]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he has taken to reduce speculation in and improve the transparency and supervision of the oil futures market; and if he will make a statement.

Harriett Baldwin:

The EU Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID 2) will from 3 January 2017 bring in a new regime for the regulation of commodity derivatives, which will include limits on the size of positions a person can take and reporting obligations.

■ Financial Services: Terrorism

Sir Nicholas Soames: [7869]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the vulnerability of the financial system to terrorist actions; and if he will make a statement.

Harriett Baldwin:

This government considers the resilience of the financial sector to a range of security threats and natural hazards. While responsibility for the resilience of the financial sector is primarily for firms themselves, the government continues to support measures to strengthen the resilience of the sector, and in particular its critical systems, working closely with the Bank of England (BoE) the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), wider government and the sector.

■ Gaming Machines: Tax Yields

Mr Jamie Reed: [7798]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much revenue has been raised from the fixed-odds betting terminals tax.

Damian Hinds:

Total Machine Games Duty (MGD) receipts for the year ending 31 March 2015 are £565 million. This includes, from 1 March 2015, MGD payable at the higher rate (but this amount is not identified separately). The higher rate is forecast to raise an additional £75 million a year.

(<https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/Pages/TaxAndDutybulletins.aspx>)

■ Infrastructure

Mr Mark Williams: [7528]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he next plans to publish an updated National Infrastructure Plan.

Greg Hands:

The date for publication of the National Infrastructure Plan will be confirmed in due course.

■ Infrastructure: Capital Investment**Sir Nicholas Soames:**[\[7616\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to improve the UK's attractiveness to private investment in infrastructure; and if he will make a statement.

Damian Hinds:

The government has sought to make private investment in infrastructure more attractive through a number of initiatives.

The government established the UK Guarantees Scheme (UKGS) in 2012 to help infrastructure projects access capital market finance by enabling them to issue government-backed bonds. A total of £1.7bn has been guaranteed to date, supporting 7 projects with a combined capital value of approximately £4bn.

Platforms such as the Insurers' Infrastructure Investment Forum and the Pensions Infrastructure Platform have been set up to maximise institutional investment in infrastructure. In 2013, a group of six insurers agreed to aim to invest £25bn in UK infrastructure over 5 years – with over £5bn already invested they are on track to meet this goal.

The government's efforts to attract private investment in infrastructure were recognised in Nabarro LLP's Infrastructure Index, which assessed the UK as number one in the world for attracting investment in infrastructure.

The UK's National Infrastructure Plan is underpinned by a pipeline of projects worth £411 billion to 2020 and beyond. 64% of these projects are funded solely by the private sector. Further information can be found in the government's updated national infrastructure pipeline, which was published this month.

■ LIBOR**Chris Bryant:**[\[7100\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the reason is for the apparent disparity between paragraph 2.113 of Budget 2015, which states that the government has committed £75 million of LIBOR fines over the next five years to support military charities and other good causes and paragraph 2.47 of Summer Budget 2015, which states that the government has committed nearly £70 million of banking fines over the next five years to support military charities and other good causes.

Greg Hands:

The reason for the apparent discrepancy is that the documents refer to two separate figures in two separate budgets. Paragraph 2.113 of Budget 2015 allocated £75 million. Paragraph 2.47 of Summer Budget 2015 allocated a further £70 million of banking fines to military charities and good causes.

This takes it to a total of £145m committed in this calendar year.

■ Money Advice Service

Yvonne Fovargue: [\[7490\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to paragraph 2.10 of the Government's response to the independent review of the Money Advice Service, published in March 2015, when his Department plans to publish the terms of reference for and objectives of the review of the case for providing consumers with a breathing space.

Harriett Baldwin:

The Government will make an announcement on next steps in due course.

■ NHS: Fees and Charges

Owen Thompson: [\[7459\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many people will no longer be eligible for a NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate as a result of changes in the Summer Budget 2015.

Damian Hinds:

Any decisions on eligibility to NHS Tax Credits Exemption Certificates are matters for Health Ministers, including devolved administrations.

Owen Thompson: [\[7609\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make an assessment of the effect on the (a) NHS budget and (b) Barnett formula of reductions in the eligibility criteria for the NHS tax credit exemption certificate.

Damian Hinds:

There have been no changes to the eligibility criteria to an NHS Tax Credit Exemption certificate.

■ Pensions: Tax Allowances

Ian Blackford: [\[7180\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the total value of tax relief on pension contributions applicable to higher tax rate taxpayers was in 2014-15; and what the total value of tax relief on all pension contributions for all taxpayers was in that year.

Ian Blackford: [\[7717\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much tax relief was granted (a) to higher rate taxpayers and (b) in total in respect of (i) defined contribution and (ii) defined benefit pension schemes in 2014-15.

Damian Hinds:

This information requested is published in HM Revenue and Custom (HMRC) National Statistics table PEN6, available on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/registered-pension-schemes-cost-of-tax-relief>

■ Personal Income

Greg Mulholland: [\[7196\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to Table 1.8 of the Summer Budget 2015, which Office for Budget Responsibility inflation forecast was used to calculate the data in that table.

Harriett Baldwin:

Table 1.8 in the Summer Budget 2015 used OBR CPI forecasts as the measure of inflation.

■ Radio Frequencies

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7641\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much was raised from the sale of radio spectrum in each financial year since 2010-11; and how much he expects to accrue to the public purse in such ways in each financial year to 2019-20.

Greg Hands:

The following was raised from the sale of radio spectrum since financial year 2010-11:

FINANCIAL YEAR	SALE REVENUE (£)
2010-11	0
2011-12	0
2012-13	2,368,273,322
2013-14	0
2014-15	0
2015-16	0 (to date)

Ofcom may determine appropriate reserve prices for spectrum sales in future years and will advise Government on expected sale revenues as part of its preparations for spectrum auctions. Ofcom publishes an annual 'Section 400 Account Licence Fees and Penalties Account' which details spectrum fees arising from Wireless Telegraphy Act licences. Their most recent report can be found at

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/content/about/annual-reports-plans/1262041/annual-report-14-15/Ofcom_S400_2014-15_accounts.pdf.

■ Regional Planning and Development: North of England

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7614\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to include cities in the North East in the Northern Powerhouse initiative; and if he will make a statement.

Greg Hands:

The Government has made a firm commitment to our Northern Powerhouse initiative which is inclusive of the whole of the North of England and the North East. We have made a series of investments across transport, infrastructure, skills, and business enterprise, and detailed additional measures to support the region at Summer Budget. In addition, the Chancellor recently announced that the government has begun discussions with the North East Combined Authority on a potential devolution deal, including plans for creating a directly-elected mayor, in return for a transfer of powers to the region.

■ **Revenue and Customs****Charlotte Leslie:**[\[7332\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the effect of moving HM Revenue and Customs services online on people using such services who are without access to the technology required for online access.

Damian Hinds:

We recognise there will always be individuals who need extra support using digital channels and we acknowledge that the continued growth and development of our digital services cannot be at the expense of people who cannot use them, do not have the technology, or who struggle to use them. Our digital strategy incorporates principles for supporting people who need help and those who are digitally excluded.

The strategy can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-digital-strategy-2014/hmrc-digital-strategy-2014>

Paul Flynn:[\[7449\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will conduct a public consultation on the HM Revenue and Customs Building our Future programme.

Mr David Gauke:

Building our Future is an internal communications exercise in which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is having a conversation with its workforce about the future of the department, and how it can change its ways of working to meet customer needs and maximise tax compliance.

HMRC regularly engages with its stakeholders on the ways it is changing, which include investing in new digital services and data analysis to improve the customer experience and reduce tax error and fraud.

Its annual report for 2014-15 has just been published showing that HMRC has brought in record revenues of £517.7 billion last year, and sets out the department's future development plans.

■ Science: Research

Mr Roger Godsiff: [\[7611\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he intends to (a) maintain, (b) increase or (c) decrease scientific and medical research spending in real terms over the next (i) one year and (ii) five years.

Damian Hinds:

This Government has made a long term commitment to science capital funding which has risen to £1.1 billion in 2015-16 and will increase in line with inflation out to 2020-21.

Future funding allocations for science resource funding, including medical research, will be determined at the forthcoming Spending Review.

■ Students: Loans

Jonathan Edwards: [\[7618\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what Barnett consequential will accrue to Wales as a result of the planned saving of £2.5 billion of the decision to replace maintenance grants with maintenance loans for students in England.

Damian Hinds:

As the changes to maintenance arrangements will come into effect for the academic year 2016-17, they will be factored into the budget for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which will be set at the forthcoming Spending Review. The Barnett Formula will be applied to this settlement in the usual way.

Should the Welsh Government choose to offer students from Wales maintenance loans on a similar basis, the Treasury will make available a proportionate level of cover.

■ Treasury: Grants

Philip Davies: [\[7826\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the value was of grants approved by his Department under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 in each of the last five years; and what assessment his Department has made of the value for money and effectiveness with which funding so awarded has been spent.

Tables were placed in the library which provide information on awards made under Section 64 of the Health and Public Health Act 1968 for the financial years 2010-11 to 2014-15 in response to HL5149 answered on 5th March 2015.

The Treasury reviews value for money as part of the assessment process for each grant prior to its award. The full assessment includes consideration of the proposal against HM Treasury standard business case criteria which includes a Strategic Case, Economic Case, Financial Case, Commercial Case and Project Governance.

Each grant application is assessed on its own merits and approval is only given where it is expected the grant will provide value for money.

In October 2014 HMT agreed to a deemed consent arrangement for grants under £1,000,000 whereby the Department of Health Director of Group Finance has consent to approve grants up to this value unless they are novel, contentious or repercussive. The Department of Health agreed to provide details of grants approved under this arrangement on a regular basis.

Under this authority Treasury approval can be deemed in respect of grants or loans to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations where the Department of Health is able to confirm that:

- The grant or loan is affordable with DH's settlement;
- The grant or loan represents best value for money;
- The grant team has reviewed the case under the normal section 64 business case criteria.

Philip Davies:

[\[7827\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the job title is of the (a) official and (b) Minister in his Department with responsibility for approving grants made under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968; against what criteria such grants are awarded; and what the process is for considering applications for such grants.

Officials within the Health Spending team have responsibility for providing HM Treasury approval for grants made under the powers of Section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has overall responsibility for the decisions made by the Health Spending team.

HMT officials review an assessment of the proposal against HM Treasury standard business case criteria which includes a Strategic Case, Economic Case, Financial Case, Commercial Case and Project Governance.

In October 2014 HMT agreed to a deemed consent arrangement for grants under £1,000,000 whereby the Director of Group Finance at the Department of Health has consent to approve grants up to this value unless they are novel, contentious or repercussive. The Department of Health agreed to provide details of grants approved under this arrangement on a regular basis.

Under this authority Treasury approval can be deemed in respect of grants or loans to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations where the Department of Health is able to confirm that:

- The grant or loan is affordable with DH's settlement;
- The grant or loan represents best value for money;
- The grant team has reviewed the case under the normal section 64 business case criteria.

■ Welfare Tax Credits

Owen Thompson: [7188]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many people previously in receipt of tax credits will no longer receive them following changes covered in the Summer Budget 2015.

Damian Hinds:

The Government is making changes to tax credits and Universal Credit which will help put welfare spending on a more sustainable path. The Government wants to move from a low wage, high tax, and high welfare society to a higher wage, lower tax, and lower welfare society. That means more emphasis on supporting hardworking families on low incomes by reducing income tax through increases in the personal allowance and increasing wages, than on topping up low wages through tax credits.

The Government is focusing the tax credit system on those who need it most. Prior to 2010, 9 out of 10 families with children were eligible for tax credits and reforms in the previous Parliament reduced this to 6 out of 10. The measures announced in Summer Budget 2015 will result in 5 out of 10 families with children being eligible for tax credits support.

HMRC publishes information on the number of families receiving tax credits. The most recent available data is for 2013/14 and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-and-working-tax-credits-statistics-finalised-annual-awards-2013-to-2014>.

This information can be found in Table 1.1.

Dr Paul Monaghan: [7409]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the compatibility of changes to (a) child tax credits, (b) working tax credit reductions, (c) working tax credit restrictions and (d) restriction of working tax credit to two children with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Dr Paul Monaghan: [7410]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the compatibility of changes to (a) child tax credits, (b) working tax credit reductions, (c) working tax credit restrictions and (d) restriction of working tax credit to two children with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Dr Paul Monaghan: [7411]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the compatibility of changes to (a) child tax credits, (b) working tax credit reductions, (c) working tax credit restrictions and (d) restriction of working tax credit to two children with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Damian Hinds:

Ministers had regard to all relevant international obligations when formulating the welfare policies announced at the Budget and consider that these obligations have been complied with.

TREASURY■ **Monetary Policy**

Ian Blackford:

[R] [\[6776\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the effect of the quantitative easing programme on (a) bank lending generally and (b) M4 lending.

Harriett Baldwin:

The UK's monetary policy framework, set out in the Bank of England Act 1998, gives operational responsibility for monetary policy to the independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

The MPC's macroeconomic policy tools, including quantitative easing, are designed to affect the economy as a whole, in order to meet the 2 per cent inflation target over the medium term.

The Bank of England's paper, "The United Kingdom's quantitative easing policy: design, operation and impact", published in 2011, notes that, "Asset purchases may also have a stimulatory impact...by influencing bank lending, though this channel would not be expected to be material during times of financial crisis."

■ **Social Security Benefits**

Frank Field:

[\[6694\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will publish a distributional impact analysis of each of the benefit and tax credit announcements made in the Summer Budget 2015.

Damian Hinds:

The Government set out its assessment of the impacts of most of the policies in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill on Monday 21 July, and the remaining impact assessment will follow in due course.

The Government published analysis of the impact of government policy across the income distribution alongside the Summer Budget, which included benefit and tax credit expenditure.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT■ **Affordable Housing: Construction**

Karin Smyth:

[\[6837\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what the (a) starting and (b) completion rates for affordable housing were in (i) Bristol, (ii) the South West and (iii) England in each of the last five years.

Brandon Lewis:

Statistics on house building starts and completions by tenure in each local authority district are published in the Department's live tables 253 (annual) and 253a (quarterly), which are available at the following link:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-house-building>

■ Bed and Breakfast Accommodation**Gloria De Piero:****[7855]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many families with children living in bed and breakfast accommodation have been so accommodated for more than six weeks; and how many families with children live in bed and breakfast accommodation in (a) each parliamentary constituency in the East Midlands and (b) England.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Latest published statistics show that 2,570 families with children were in bed and breakfast style accommodation in England as at 31 March 2015. Of these households, 920 had been in bed and breakfast style accommodation for more than six weeks (50 of which were pending review).

The statistics are not compiled on the basis of parliamentary constituencies.

The law is clear that bed and breakfast accommodation should be used to house homeless families only in an emergency, and then for no longer than six weeks. Practice varies significantly across the country with just 5% of councils accounting for 80% of the total number of families stuck in these unacceptable conditions for more than 6 weeks. We provided funding in 2013-14 so that authorities could develop innovative and sustainable approaches to tackle this issue.

■ Communities and Local Government: Research**Mr Clive Betts:****[3580]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what research reports his Department commissioned from external bodies between September 2010 and December 2014 have not been published; when each such report was commissioned; what the nature of the research commissioned for each such report was; from whom each such research report was commissioned; what the value of each such commission was; on what date each such report was received by his Department; for what reason each such report has not yet been published; and when he plans to publish each such report.

Mr Mark Francois:

[Holding answer 25 June 2015]: Details of research reports commissioned between September 2010 and December 2014 are in the attached table.

In addition, the Department commissioned several reports on the ability to respond to major incidents, such as potential terrorist incidents, which were not intended for publication.

Attachments:

1. Table of Unpublished Data [PQ 3580.xls]

■ Community Relations

Liam Byrne: [\[7872\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 15 July 2015 to Question 6223, which groups were awarded money for integration projects.

Mr Marcus Jones:

Pursuant to the Answer of 15 July 2015 to Question 6223 the organisations which were awarded money for integration projects and activities are shown in the attached table.

Attachments:

1. Table of Integration Projects [PQ 7872.docx]

Liam Byrne: [\[7873\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 15 July 2015 to Question 6223, what measures he has used to assess the results and performance of the £50 million invested through the integration strategy.

Mr Marcus Jones:

My Department monitors integration projects to ensure they deliver the agreed outcomes and milestones set out in their grant agreement. For example, our investment of £8 million since 2011 in the Near Neighbours programme has supported over 924 local projects that bring different faith and ethnic groups together, benefitting over 650,000 local people; while funding of £10 million has established over 600 new cadet units providing opportunities for over 11,000 young people.

■ Families: Disadvantaged

Stephen Timms: [\[6813\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in how many and what proportion of families supported by the Troubled Families Programme have unemployed family members entered employment.

Greg Clark:

[Holding answer 16 July 2015]: On 22 June 2015 we announced that local authorities had reported that 116,654 out of 117,910 families supported by the original troubled families programme had been 'turned around'. Of these, 11,921 families had seen an adult come off out of work benefits and into employment.

■ Housing

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods: [\[7625\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will make an assessment of the effects on housing supply and affordability of the practice of investors

selling on a house at a higher price to another investor immediately after purchase; and if he will make a statement.

Brandon Lewis:

The Government makes no assessment of this issue, it is the operation of the free market.

■ Housing: Construction

Karin Smyth:

[6838]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what the (a) starting and (b) completion rates for housing were in (i) Bristol, (ii) the South West and (iii) England in each of the last five years.

Brandon Lewis:

Statistics on house building starts and completions in England and in each local authority district, including Bristol, are published in the Department's live tables 253 (annual) and 253a (quarterly), which are available at the following link:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-house-building>

The house building statistics exclude other sources of housing supply such as conversions.

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods:

[7723]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to section 9.17 of Fixing the foundations: creating a more prosperous nation, published on 10 July 2015, Cm 9098, how he will implement a dispute resolution mechanism for section 106 agreements.

Brandon Lewis:

During the last Parliament we undertook a high level consultation on speeding up Section 106 negotiations, which concluded that these can be a significant delay in processing planning applications, impacting on the delivery of much needed housing and local economic growth. Building on consultation responses, we are developing a dispute resolution process to speed up the determining of planning applications enabling development to be built more quickly.

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods:

[7726]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to section 9.15 of Fixing the foundations: creating a more prosperous nation, published on 10 July 2015, Cm 9098, if he will issue guidance on the term zonal system, used in connection with brownfield sites; and if he will make a statement.

Brandon Lewis:

Our proposal is to grant permission in principle for identified sites in a new statutory brownfield register to move towards a zonal system similar to that seen in other countries. Further details on how the measure will work will be made available in the autumn.

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods: [7727]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to section 9.10 of Fixing the foundations: creating a more prosperous nation, published on 10 July 2015, Cm 9098, what steps he plans to take to ensure that there is adequate consultation with local people when imposing local plans on behalf of local authorities.

Brandon Lewis:

Our Ministerial Statement of 21 July, HCWS172, sets out our commitment to accelerate Local Plan production. We are clear that any intervention will not compromise effective community engagement.

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods: [7728]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to section 9.10 of Fixing the foundations: creating a more prosperous nation, published on 10 July 2015, Cm 9098, how much time his Department will allow local authorities to put in place local plans where they have not yet done so before his Department will intervene to enforce this.

Brandon Lewis:

I refer the hon. Member to the Written Ministerial Statement of 21 July 2015, HCWS 172.

■ Housing: Cumbria

Mr Jamie Reed: [7777]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many (a) homes and (b) affordable homes have been built in each local authority area in Cumbria in each of the last five years.

Brandon Lewis:

Statistics on house building completions by tenure in each local authority district are published in the Department's live tables 253 (annual) and 253a (quarterly), which are available at the following link.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-house-building>

More comprehensive statistics on affordable housing completions are published in the Department's live tables 1006, 1006a, 1007 and 1008, which are available at the following link:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-affordable-housing-supply>

These statistics include both newly built housing and acquisitions.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT■ **Advertising: Internet**

Chi Onwurah: [\[2557\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the Answer of 9 June 2015 to Question 1710, if he will make an assessment of the potential effect of internet advertising on network requirements over the current Parliament.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

As this is a matter for Ofcom, I will ask Ofcom to write to the Honourable Lady with their response.

■ **Air Traffic Control**

Graham Stringer: [\[7659\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what his policy is towards global frequency allocation from the International Telecommunications Union at the World Radiocommunication Conference in November 2015 for the support of satellite based automatic dependant surveillance broadcast.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Global tracking of aircraft is an important and complex issue and the Government believes that all options must be properly considered and evaluated. It is important that the World Radiocommunication Conference is able to consider this issue on the basis of a thorough analysis of the evidence. The Government is working closely with Ofcom, which represents the UK in international spectrum negotiations, and other stakeholders on this issue.

■ **Airbnb**

Mark Pritchard: [\[6546\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if he will hold discussions with Airbnb on ensuring that their suppliers comply with the requirement not to let their properties for more than 90 days each year.

Tracey Crouch:

I have no current plans to discuss this specific matter with Airbnb. The government is setting up an Emerging Industry Action Group for the sharing economy. Through this group it will engage with the whole sector, including companies such as Airbnb, to ensure that they and their suppliers understand and operate under an effective and proportionate regulatory framework that ensures consumers are protected.

■ **Arts Council England: Pay**

Philip Davies: [\[6918\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what the average pay was for Arts Council employees who were (a) male, (b) female, (c) white, (d) from an ethnic minority

background, (e) disabled and (f) non-disabled in the most recent year for which information is available.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Average pay for Arts Council employees who were (a) male, (b) female, (c) white, (d) from an ethnic minority background, (e) disabled and (f) non-disabled, for the financial year 2014/15 are set out in the table.

	AVERAGE SALARY
(a) male	£34,953
(b) female	£32,015
(c) white	£32,878
(d) from an ethnic minority background	£34,618
(e) disabled	£25,838
(f) non-disabled	£33,381

The ethnicity headings for those who classified themselves as either British white, Irish or other white background are included under the 'white' heading, and as such, all other employees are therefore deemed to be from an ethnic minority background. 15 employees declined to answer or no information was available.

For the disabled heading, 47 colleagues declined to answer so have been counted as non-disabled .

■ **Arts: Rural Areas**

Mr Jamie Reed:

[\[7632\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to encourage more young people in rural communities to pursue careers in the arts.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Arts Council England works closely with stakeholders to engage young people in rural areas. Working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs the Arts Council undertook a data and evidence review to identify strengths and challenges of the arts sector in rural England. Key findings from the report published in March 2015 were:

- People living in rural areas are more likely to be engaged with the arts than those living in urban areas (Taking Part Survey*)
- 19% of Grants for the Arts** activity; and 35% of National Portfolio Organisation*** touring in 2012/13 reached rural communities
- Applicants from rural areas made 13% of individual Grants for the Arts applications and 14% of organisational applications in the 2.5 years to August 2014.

*The Taking Part survey collects data on many aspects of leisure, culture and sport in England, as well as an in-depth range of socio-demographic information on respondents. In respect of the Arts, data is collected about the reasons for participating and not participating, barriers to participation, and the frequency of participation are also collected.

** Grants for the arts is the Arts Council's Lottery-funded grant programme for individuals, arts organisations and other people who use the arts in their work. Grants are available for activities carried out over a set period and which engage people in England in arts activities and help artists and arts organisations in England carry out their work.

***National Portfolio Organisations receive regular funding directly from the Arts Council.

■ BBC

Chris Bryant: [\[7342\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what estimate his Department made of projected BBC expenditure in each of the next years before the Summer Budget 2015.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Forecasts of projected BBC expenditure, before the Summer Budget 2015, were made in the Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook, published in March 2015. It can be found using the following link:

http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/March2015EFO_18-03-webv1.pdf

■ BBC: Royal Charters

Ms Gisela Stuart: [\[7062\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how he plans for the views of viewers and listeners to be represented on the BBC Charter Renewal advisory board he has appointed.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The role of the BBC Charter Review Advisory Group will be offer expert insights and experience on the range of issues involved in the Charter Review process. This will include taking account of the extensive public consultation exercise that I initiated on 16 July in publishing the BBC Charter Review Public Consultation. Members of the public, viewers and listeners are invited to respond to the consultation by 8 October 2015.

■ Betting Shops: Safety

Toby Perkins: [\[7097\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if he will make an assessment of the effect of single manning in bookmakers on the safety and security of (a) staff and (b) customers.

Toby Perkins: [\[7098\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether the Gambling Commission has a remit to promote safety in bookmakers for staff and customers as part of its work to promote responsible gambling.

Tracey Crouch:

There are no plans to conduct an assessment of the effect of single manning in bookmakers.

The Health and Safety Executive is responsible for the encouragement, regulation and enforcement of workplace health, safety and welfare, and for research into occupational risks in England and Wales and Scotland. The Gambling Commission does not have a remit to promote safety in bookmakers for staff and customers.

The Association of British Bookmakers' (ABB) 'Safe Bet Alliance' provides specific guidance on staffing security in bookmakers. This guidance was drafted with the input of the Metropolitan Police, Crimestoppers, and the Institute of Conflict Management and Community Union.

ABB members only operate single manning when a risk assessment has been undertaken. The guidance states that 'Operators should only allow lone working once a risk assessment has been carried out and where there is evidence to show that lone working at a particular time of the day is safe'.

■ Betting Shops: Staff

Toby Perkins: [\[7096\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what representations he has received on single manning in betting shops.

Tracey Crouch:

I have not received any representations concerning single manning in betting shops.

■ Broadband

Albert Owen: [\[5124\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what analysis his Department has undertaken of the benefits to the economy of superfast broadband access.

Albert Owen: [\[5126\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what analysis his Department has undertaken of the benefits to businesses of availability of superfast broadband across the UK.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The UK Broadband Impact Study - Impact Report (*November 2013*), an expert report by analysts SQW (with Cambridge Econometrics), estimated that the availability and take-up of faster broadband speeds since 2008 will add about £17 billion to the UK's annual Gross Value Added (GVA) by 2024. This level of uplift contributes an average of 0.07

percentage points to real annual GVA growth over this period. It also demonstrated that the benefits will be shared across the UK, helping the rebalancing of our economy.

■ **Broadband: Bradford**

Imran Hussain:

[6524]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to increase broadband coverage and speed in Bradford.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The West Yorkshire superfast broadband project, which covers Bradford, will provide superfast broadband coverage to nearly 59,000 homes and businesses. As of March 2015, the project had already provided superfast broadband coverage to over 46,000 premises.

■ **Broadband: Competition**

Neil Carmichael:

[5784]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to ensure competition between broadband infrastructure providers.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Ensuring there is competitive broadband market is a matter for Ofcom, although the Government has a keen interest in an efficient and effective market, capable of delivering users the level of service they require. Ofcom regularly monitors and regulates competition in electronic communications markets through market reviews. In June 2014 Ofcom published a Statement on its Fixed Access Market Reviews 2014 and announced a number of changes designed to promote competition in the markets. The Regulator also announced in March this year a Strategic Review of Digital Communications in the UK, in order to assess future issues around infrastructure and competition.

■ **Broadband: Cumbria**

Mr Jamie Reed:

[7022]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what estimate his Department has made of the number of homes in (a) Cumbria and (b) Copeland constituency that will not have access to superfast broadband by 2020.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Government remains committed to superfast broadband delivery. The Connecting Cumbria project is due to provide 92% of homes and businesses in both Cumbria and Copeland constituency with access to superfast broadband by the end of 2017. No estimate has been made of coverage by 2020 by constituency.

Mr Jamie Reed:

[7023]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what estimate his Department has made of the number of homes in (a) Cumbria and (b) Copeland constituency which do not have access to superfast broadband.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Current superfast broadband coverage is over 80% of UK premises and the Government remains committed to providing 95% coverage to homes and businesses by December 2017.

The commercially-funded delivery of superfast broadband in Cumbria is expected to cover over 111,000 premises. Phase 1 of the Connecting Cumbria broadband project aims to provide superfast coverage to a further 116,000 homes and businesses in Cumbria. As of 31 March 2015, this project had provided superfast coverage to approximately 59,000 premises. Assuming completion of the commercial programme, this would leave approximately 85,000 premises within Cumbria which do not yet have access to superfast broadband.

Comparable data is not available at constituency level. However, by the end of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Connecting Cumbria project, coverage in Copeland constituency is expected to reach 92% of premises.

■ **Broadband: Rural Areas**

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[6995]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what progress the Government is making in rolling out broadband in rural areas; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Government funded programme rollout of superfast broadband is progressing well and is on track to provide access to superfast broadband to 95% of the UK by the end of 2017. Over 2.5m premises now have access to superfast broadband for the first time and it is being made available to a further 40,000 homes and businesses every week.

■ **Cycling: Calderdale**

Craig Whittaker:

[5761]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what plans he has to promote cycling as a recreational activity in Calderdale.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Between 2014 and 2016, over £118,000 will have been invested by British Cycling and Calderdale council to get more people cycling in Calderdale. Calderdale is also part of the West Yorkshire Tour de France legacy, which is working with partners from sport, transport and health to get more people cycling in the local area. Further, in February 2015, the Government committed further funding to British Cycling to improve facilities in Yorkshire.

■ Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Buildings**Andrew Gwynne:**[\[3098\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, which buildings occupied by his Department are owned or part-owned privately; what the total value is of the rent paid to private landlords for the use of such buildings for official duties; and to whom such rent is paid.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport occupies one building that is owned or part-owned privately. The total rent per annum is £718,500 and is paid to Lazai Investment Ltd.

■ Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Living Wage**Chris Law:**[\[6658\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the Answer of 10 July 2015 to Question 2952, if he will make it his policy to secure accredited Living Wage Employer status for his Department from the Living Wage Foundation.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport pays all its directly employed staff the living wage and encourages all its sponsored bodies to pay the living wage as well. The department is currently exploring the Living Wage Accreditation with a view to a decision being made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

■ Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Press**Mr Mark Hendrick:**[\[5031\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, which periodicals and newspapers his Department subscribes to; how many of each such periodical his Department acquires; and what the cost of subscribing to such periodicals was in 2014.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Department purchases the following newspapers each week:

FINANCIAL TIMES M-F X 3

Times M-F X 3

Daily Telegraph M-F X 4

Independent M-F X 3

Guardian M-F X 3

Daily Mail M-F X 3

Daily Express M-F X 3

FINANCIAL TIMES M-F X 3

Daily Mirror M-F X 3

Racing Post M-F X1

Racing Post Saturday X 1

Racing Post Sunday X 1

Guardian Saturday X 1

Financial Times Saturday X 1

Independent-Saturday X 1

Daily Mail Saturday X 1

Daily Express Saturday X 1

Sun Saturday X 1

Times Saturday X 1

Daily Mirror Sat X 1

Daily Tele Saturday X 1

Sunday Times X 1

Sunday Telegraph X 1

Independent on Sunday X 1

Observer X 1

Mail On Sunday X 1

Sunday Express X 1

Sunday Mirror X 1

The Sun On Sunday X 1

Spectator X 3

New Statesman X 1

Arts Review X 1

The total amount spent on newspapers for Financial Year 2014-15 was £9659.16

■ **Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Public Expenditure**

Chris Bryant:

[\[7431\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to HM Treasury's press release, Chancellor announces £4.5 billion of measures to bring down debt, published on 4 June 2015, what amount of the £30 million additional savings from his Department will

consist of (a) underspends within the DCMS group, (b) reduction in core budget and (c) reductions in funding to arms-length bodies.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Of the £30m of in-year savings announced by the Chancellor: a) £24m related to underspends across the Group; b) there was a £1.5m reduction to core budgets; and, c) a £4.5m reduction in funding to arm's length bodies.

■ **Digital Broadcasting: Radio**

Mrs Madeleine Moon:

[\[5818\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment he has made of the quality of DAB radio coverage in Wales; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Government, BBC and commercial radio are jointly funding the long term expansion of the local DAB network across the UK with the building of 182 new digital transmitters and modifications and frequency changes at a further 49 sites by the end of September 2016. Ofcom has published detailed maps outlining the improvements to coverage in local areas across the UK. As a result of this new investment, according to Ofcom, it is expected that local DAB coverage in Wales will increase from 63% to 85.4% of households and from 46.7% to 66.3% of major roads.

Separately the BBC is rolling out its national DAB network to a further 162 transmitter sites across the UK by the end of 2015 . This programme will increase the coverage of its DAB network in Wales from 86% to 92% of homes.

■ **Digital Technology: Disability**

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[\[7874\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to ensure that people with sensory loss can share in the benefits of (a) on-demand television services and (b) new social media.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Government remains committed to seeing an improvement in the provision of access services for video-on-demand (VoD) services and will continue to monitor progress. If the Authority for Television on Demand's (ATVOD's) 2015 annual survey of VoD Services indicates that significant progress has not been made then, as stated in the Connectivity, Content and Consumers Paper (July 2013), we will consider legislation in 2016. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not have policy responsibility for sensory loss for new social media.

■ **Digital Technology: Training**

Imran Hussain:

[\[5773\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding for digital skills.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Digital skills provision in maintained schools, taught within the computing curriculum, is funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is the responsibility of the Department for Education. Public funding for digital skills in Further Education and Skills and Higher Education is the responsibility of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Department for Education and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills regularly speaks to Her Majesty's Treasury about all aspects of funding for schools, Higher and Further Education.

■ Economic Situation: Bradford**Imran Hussain:**[\[6592\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment he has made of the contribution to Bradford's economy made by the (a) digital sector, (b) animation industry, (c) fashion and textiles industry and (d) games industry.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

While there are little economic statistics available on individual cities such as Bradford broken down by detailed industries there are estimates of employment from the ONS Business Registers and Employment Survey (BRES). This survey reports that in 2013 there were around 6,200 jobs in Bradford the digital sector (which incorporates ICT and Media) and 1,400 in the manufacture of textiles, clothing and footwear. Employment figures for animation and the computer games industry in Bradford are not available.

Bradford has a rich textiles history, particularly for the production of fine wool fabric. The textiles sector is still important to Bradford today with companies engaged in a wide range of activities – from spinning and weaving to the production of high performance and high value added goods. I am pleased Government has been able, through the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) programme, to support the creation and safeguarding of jobs in textile businesses through the national Textiles Growth Programme. 11 Bradford-based businesses have been assisted to date, with investment in capital projects, skills training and research and development. The Textiles Growth Programme was granted a further tranche of RGF funding earlier this year – bringing total Government investment to £32.3m – giving more Bradford companies the opportunity to secure support for innovation and growth.

■ Football**Mr David Crausby:**[\[5006\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what recent meetings he has had to discuss the role of local authorities in the future of grassroots football.

Tracey Crouch:

On 7th July I met with Councillor Stephens from the Local Government Association and I am always open to engaging with local authority representatives on this important subject. Local authorities have a very important role in ensuring people from all

backgrounds are able to participate in sport. They own or manage a large amount of sporting infrastructure in the country and have a responsibility to make sure that facilities and infrastructure are available and accessible. The Government, through Sport England, works closely with a wide range of local authorities, providing expert advice and funding to sustain and increase the number of people playing sport regularly.

■ Gambling

Mark Pritchard:

[5799]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if he will take steps to ensure that (a) high stakes gambling takes place only in (i) casinos and (ii) other highly supervised premises, (b) Fixed Odds Betting Terminals are not located in bookmakers and (c) casinos have more appropriate numbers of slot machines.

Tracey Crouch:

High stakes gambling' is a relative term and may be open to different interpretation. The Gambling Act 2005 and associated regulations establish the types and levels of gambling permitted in a range of licensed environments and the controls required to be put in place to keep that gambling fair and safe for all.

Regardless of the level of stakes, the Gambling Commission requires all operators providing facilities for gambling to adhere to the licence conditions and codes of practice relevant to their activity designed to minimise harm generated by gambling.

Under the 2005 Act fixed odds betting terminals are permitted in casinos and bookmakers. High street betting shops are limited to four machines per premises. The Act also set the current gaming machine entitlements for casinos.

The Government recently introduced new regulations in April which ended unsupervised stakes above £50 on FOBTs in betting shops. We will want to assess the impact of these measures before we consider any further legislative options.

Any discussion about changes to gaming machine entitlements in casinos would need to be accompanied by robust proposals from the industry for managing any additional risk of harm to players that may arise.

■ Gaming Machines: Copeland

Mr Jamie Reed:

[7797]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many fixed-odds betting terminals there were in Copeland constituency in each of the last five years.

Tracey Crouch:

A betting premises licence issued under the Gambling Act 2005 authorises its holder to make up to 4 gaming machines available for use. This entitlement is limited to gaming machines terminals which fall within sub-categories B2 (what we commonly think of when we refer to FOBTs), B3 and B4, and categories C and D.

Industry data shows that the constituency of Copeland has for all categories of gaming machines:

54 terminals in 2015

50 terminals in 2014

49 terminals in 2013

46 terminals in 2012

There are no figures for 2011.

■ Horse Racing: Prize Money

Philip Davies: [7767]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what information his Department holds on the total prize money dispersed in horse racing in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of how much the betting industry has contributed to horse racing through (a) levy payments, (b) media rights and (c) sponsorship in each of the last five years.

Tracey Crouch:

The total amount of prize money distributed in horseracing over the past 5 years is as follows:

CALENDAR YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Amount (£m)	98.96	93.89	97.78	114.2	123.2	130.8 (estimate)

Source: BHA Fact Book 2014 for 2010-2013 inclusive; BHA press notice of 14 January 2015 for 2014 and 2015

Notes:

a) Prize money comes from three main sources – the Levy Board, Racecourses (including sponsor contributions) and Owners (via entry fees).

b) The sport of horseracing is organised by calendar year.

Total yield in the past 5 financial years from betting operators via the Levy Board, comprising statutory Levy payments and contributions made voluntarily, is as follows:

FINANCIAL YEAR	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Amount (£m)	59.9	74.7	74.3	78.0	71.8

Source: Horserace Betting Levy Board

Notes:

a) Levy Schemes follow the financial year.

b) Offshore remote operators do not pay Levy unless they choose to do so through voluntary arrangements.

The Department holds no annual breakdowns of information about betting industry payments to racing by way of media rights. *The Economic Impact of British Racing 2013* (Deloitte) notes that relevant media companies received a total income of £153m in 2012 compared with £104m in 2008 (p.12). After deducting media companies' operating costs, £88m of this was paid to the racecourses in 2012 (2008: £57m).

The Department holds no annual breakdowns of information about betting industry payments to racing by way of sponsorship. The total amount of sponsorship received by racing in 2012, from all sources, amounted to £38.6m, of which £31m went to racecourses. 41% of sponsored races were sponsored by betting companies (up from 37% in 2005). The total prize money of those races was £31.8m, but not all of this can be attributed to contributions from the betting industry (*The Economic Impact of British Racing 2013* p.44).

■ Internet

Chris Bryant: [\[5788\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what proportion of internet customers have made an active choice on filters.

Chris Bryant: [\[5790\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what progress he is making on steps to ensure that internet service providers are (a) meeting commitments to deliver unavoidable choice to parents on setting network level filters at home, (b) providing family-friendly wifi in public places and (c) tackling concerns about over-blocking.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

This Government continues to prioritise actions to improve children's safety online. Under the auspices of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), Government meets key partners on a quarterly basis to drive and oversee progress.

In the Autumn, Ofcom will report on progress made by BT, Sky, Talk Talk and Virgin to roll-out family friendly filters. These four ISPs provide internet services to around 90% of the UK's fixed-line customers. Ofcom has already delivered three reports on progress in this area, and will be delivering a final report later this year. Whilst we await Ofcom's findings, we understand from the ISPs that collectively, over 95% of customers have now made an active choice on filters, or had filters applied to their accounts.

We estimate that around 90% of public wifi is provided by six providers, all of whom apply filters which block adult content and illegal child sexual abuse material by default in areas that children are likely to be unsupervised by a parent. The recently-established UKCCIS Filters Group, which evolved out of a previous group dedicated to overblocking, will keep Government informed as to progress in this area, and is continuing to look into ways to address concerns about over-blocking.

■ Internet: Advertising

Chi Onwurah: [\[7668\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether regulations are in place on the length and frequency of internet advertising; and whether Ofcom or his Department has had discussions with the Advertising Standards Authority on the regulation of such advertising.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Advertising online is already subject to the UK Code of Non-broadcast Advertising, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing which is administered robustly by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).

The rules (which apply across media) require that online ads do not contain anything that is likely to be misleading, harmful or offensive and that they are prepared in a socially responsible way. The rules place a particular emphasis on protecting children from inappropriate or harmful content.

The ASA's online remit covers paid for search results, pop-ups, banner ads as well as (since March 2011) extending to cover marketing claims that appear on websites. The Code also applies to marketing on social media such as via Twitter, YouTube or on Facebook pages.

There are no rules regulating the length or frequency of internet advertising and the ASA and the Committee of Advertising Practice do not have plans to introduce any.

■ Internet: Rural Areas

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7651\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if he will extend the Internet of Things competition for UK cities launched on 13 July 2015 to rural communities.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The competition will establish a demonstrator in a "city region" which can include less densely-populated areas and solutions will not necessarily all be based in the central urban area. The competition will also establish internet of things applications and solutions which are at scale and replicable in other areas.

■ Journalism

Chris Bryant: [\[7343\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what information his Department holds on the number of journalists employed (a) in total and (b) at national newspapers in each of the last five years.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Department does not collect this information. However, the Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey does collect data on the number of "journalists,

newspaper and periodical editors" in employment. The figures for the last 5 years can be found in the table below.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Journalists, newspaper and periodical editors	63,000	62,000	65,000	70,000	60,000

Source: The Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey, Employment by Occupation

■ Local Broadcasting: Television

Chris Bryant: [\[6244\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many local television stations were created between May 2010 and May 2015; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Local television services started in November 2013 with the launch of Estuary TV in Grimsby. To date, Ofcom has awarded licenses to 34 local TV stations in two phases. 18 out of 19 Phase One stations have started broadcasting. The first of the Phase 2 stations is due to launch before the Autumn.

■ Lotteries: Exemptions

Chris Bryant: [\[5789\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if he will introduce the Exempt Lotteries Legislative Reform Order in 2015.

Tracey Crouch:

I intend to lay the LRO later this year.

■ Members: Correspondence

Drew Hendry: [\[7243\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, when the Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy plans to respond to the letter to him of 29 June 2015 from the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The letter was not received and a duplicate has been requested.

■ Mobile Phones

Albert Owen: [5122]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what analysis his Department has undertaken of the relative benefits to the economy of access to (a) 2G, (b) 3G and (c) 4G mobile coverage.

Albert Owen: [5125]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what analysis his Department has undertaken of the relative benefits to businesses of access to (a) 2G, (b) 3G and (c) 4G mobile coverage.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

No such specific analysis has been done but the Government commissioned research by RAND to assess the value of the provision of mobile coverage in not-spot areas. It noted that there were perceived economic benefits associated with mobile coverage and the value of this varied with the size of business in question. The findings can be accessed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/412201/Mobile_network_not_spots_final_report.pdf

Ofcom's 2014 Infrastructure Report also noted that mobile communication is vital to businesses and that 79% of small and medium-sized enterprises now use mobile phones.

Improving mobile coverage is a priority for the Government it secured a landmark agreement in December 2014 with the four mobile network operators (MNOs) to provide voice and SMS text coverage to at least 90% of the UK landmass by 2017. As a result of this legally binding obligation we also expect data coverage to improve. Furthermore, Telefonica has a licence obligation to deliver indoor 4G coverage to 98% of premises in the UK by 2017. Other MNOs have indicated that they will match this commitment. Taken together these obligations will be significantly improve coverage in the UK to benefit businesses and the digital economy.

■ Museum of London

Chris Bryant: [7338]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to paragraph 1.325 of the Summer Budget 2015, whether the Government plans to provide financial support for the move of the Museum of London.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Museum of London's aspiration to move to a new site was supported by the Government at the Summer Budget. However, at this stage there are no plans to provide direct Government funding.

■ Olympic Games 2012: North West

Mr Jamie Reed:

[\[7636\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to promote the legacy of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games in the North West.

Tracey Crouch:

Since 2012, Sport England has invested over £64 million of Lottery and Grant-in-Aid funding in projects in the North West to get more people playing sport. Sport England's Satellite Club programme brings community sport clubs into schools and colleges. In the North West over 1,000 Satellite Clubs have been set up, getting more than 46,000 young people playing sport

Sportivate is Sport England's Olympic and Paralympic Legacy programme which introduces young people to sport through a six week coaching course. In the North West, there have been over 5,000 projects with 77,000 young people completing their Sportivate course

The delivery of London 2012 showed that the UK can successfully hold the biggest sporting events and has helped attract more major events to this country. Manchester is one of the most significant current hubs of major events activity in the UK – along with London and Glasgow. In the period 2013-19, a total of 9 UK Sport-supported major events have either been held or secured for the city, with around £1.4m of UK Sport investment generating an estimated £3.3m of economic impact. The meta-evaluation of the impacts of London 2012, carried out for DCMS by an independent consortium led by Grant Thornton and published in July 2013, estimated that the net economic benefits to the North West region related to London 2012 over the period 2004 to 2020 would be between £1.77bn and £2.46bn (Gross Value Added at 2009 prices)

■ Public Service Broadcasting

Chris Bryant:

[\[7339\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he plans to take in response to Ofcom's Third Review of Public Sector Broadcasting, published in July 2015.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

We welcome publication of Ofcom's review and statement on Public Service Broadcasting. We will be considering the evidence and recommendations alongside the Charter Review process and in light of responses to our consultation on balance of payments and electronic programme guides.

■ Radio Frequencies: Sales

Chris Bryant:

[\[5791\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how much spectrum below 5GHz has been released since 2010.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

62 MHz of spectrum under 5 GHz has been already released. Ofcom expects to auction up to 190 MHz of additional spectrum at 2.3 GHz and 3.4 GHz in this financial year.

■ **Sports: Expenditure**

Gloria De Piero:

[\[7849\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how much his Department has spent on sport in (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire, (c) East Midlands and (d) England in each of the last five years.

Tracey Crouch:

Figures in the first three tables below (for Ashfield, Nottinghamshire and East Midlands) show Sport England direct investment in local projects in these areas only. The figures in the final table (for England) include additional money being spent on grassroots sports by national governing bodies and other national partners in which Sport England is investing to get more people playing sport across England.

Ashfield awards (both Exchequer and National Lottery investment)

FINANCIAL YEAR	TOTAL (£)
2010/2011	15,748
2011/2012	13,480
2012/2013	68,792
2013/2014	2,360
2014/2015	60,000
Total	160,380

Nottinghamshire awards (both Exchequer and National Lottery investment)

FINANCIAL YEAR	TOTAL (£)
2010/2011	1,399,537
2011/2012	2,187,292
2012/2013	2,551,077
2013/2014	4,427,169
2014/2015	3,712,752
Total	14,994,369

East Midlands awards (both Exchequer and National Lottery investment)

FINANCIAL YEAR	TOTAL (£)
2010/2011	6,230,847
2011/2012	10,221,762
2012/2013	12,723,793
2013/2014	10,780,211
2014/2015	21,822,545
Total	61,779,158

England total awards (both Exchequer and National Lottery investment, and all investment in National Governing Bodies)

FINANCIAL YEAR	TOTAL (£)
2010/2011	173,624,416
2011/2012	235,770,284
2012/2013	199,462,828
2013/2014	402,635,902
2014/2015	312,592,975
Grand Total	1,324,086,405

These are the most up-to-date figures. Awards are updated each quarter with new commitments, decommitments and adjustments. Delivery postcodes are also, on occasion, updated to be more accurate. This is why there are differences in the figures for the PQ above and the answer given to PQ 169026 from Gloria De Piero MP of 8 October 2013.

■ Sports: Facilities

Nusrat Ghani:

[\[5943\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to promote the provision of local sporting facilities for (a) women and (b) general use.

Tracey Crouch:

Having safe and better sporting facilities can make a significant difference in getting more women active. Sport England invests to improve the quality and features of all

types of facilities, from small local clubs to major projects. Between 2013 and 2017 its total investment in facilities will be over £300 million.

Sport England's experience has shown that the quality of changing facilities has a significant impact on women and girls' inclination to play sport. In the last round of its Inspired Facilities fund (Round 7) Sport England invested £2.7 million to help local sports clubs upgrade and improve their changing facilities.

Sport England has a statutory planning role which means it has to be consulted on all planning applications that affect playing fields.

In 2012/13, 94 per cent of the applications resulted in the places where people play sport being improved or safeguarded. (Published in December 2014, these are the most recent figures available, due to the length of time individual planning processes can take to complete.)

■ Sports: Governing Bodies

Chris Bryant: [\[5792\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what proportion of members of national sports governing bodies are women.

Tracey Crouch:

Sport England does not hold the demographic data for national sports governing body members. However, the organisation Women in Sport collects data regarding the executive board members of national sports governing bodies and the proportion who are female in their regular report 'Trophy Women'. When the first report was published in 2009, 20% of board members across NGBs were female and one quarter of NGBs had no women in their board positions. The most recent figures shown an improvement – in 2014 27% of board members across NGBs are female and the number of NGBs with no women in board positions has reduced to 3.

■ Telecommunications

Chris Bryant: [\[2036\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to the Digital communications infrastructure strategy, published on 18 March 2015, how much public sector spectrum has been released since 2010.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

62 MHz of spectrum has been already released. Ofcom expects to auction up to 190 MHz of additional spectrum at 2.3 GHz and 3.4 GHz in this financial year (2015/16).

Chris Bryant: [\[2037\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to the Digital communications infrastructure strategy, published on 18 March 2015, which Department will be responsible for operational management of public sector spectrum; and how the release target will be reset.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Details of how the central management of spectrum used by the public sector might best be achieved are under discussion between Departments. The release target will be reset in the light of the Government's manifesto commitment to release more spectrum from public sector use to allow greater private sector access.

Chris Bryant:[\[2045\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to the Digital communications infrastructure strategy, published on 18 March 2015, how many full-time equivalent officials are working on reviewing the use of IPv6; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The use of IPv6 is a cross-departmental matter. As outlined in the Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy, the government has commissioned an independent review of the use of IPv6 in the UK. We are in the final stages of this review and the outcomes will inform future policy making in this area. We intend to publish the outcome of the Review in due course.

Ian C. Lucas:[\[6621\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions he has had with the mobile network operators on (a) digital infrastructure and inclusion and (b) reform of the Electronic Communications Code since May 2015.

Ian C. Lucas:[\[6760\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions he has had with mobile network operators on (a) digital infrastructure and inclusion and (b) reform of the Electronic Communications Code since May 2015.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Secretary of State regularly meets with all stakeholders across the telecoms industry to discuss a variety of relevant issues including the reform of the Electronic Communications Code. The Government is committed to reforming the current Code in ways that will promote network connectivity, expand coverage and take into account the legitimate interests of all parties. By enabling the rollout of telecommunications infrastructure, Code reform will provide more consumers across the country with a range of high quality digital services.

Dr Paul Monaghan:[\[7195\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that all households have access to efficient digital communication networks and that broadband is available to all households at data transfer rates greater than 2 Mbit/s before the end of 2015.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

According to Ofcom only 3% of premises in the UK had access to speeds of less than 2Mbps in June 2014 (down from 11% in 2010). The government estimates that by the end of 2015 this will be around 1% as a result of the BDUK broadband programme.

The government will ensure that the remaining premises have access to speeds of at least 2Mbps by the end of 2015 by making available the option of satellite broadband connections, which will have the capability of delivering superfast speeds for those who want it.

■ Television Companies: Political Parties

Philip Davies: [6919]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how much was spent by (a) the BBC and (b) Channel 4 under each cost heading at the party conferences of each political party in 2014.

Philip Davies: [6920]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how much was spent by (a) the BBC and (b) Channel 4 on hospitality and screening of (i) opera and (ii) brass band performances in each of the last three years.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Department for Culture Media and Sport does not hold this information.

■ Television: Licensing

Chris Bryant: [5820]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if he will publish all correspondence he has had with the BBC on the agreement announced on 6 July 2015 that the BBC will fund the provision of television licences for those aged over 75.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

Correspondence on the agreement has been published on the BBC's website and the BBC Trust's website (here: <http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/tony-hall-letter-coe-scms.pdf>; http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/news/press_releases/2015/chancellor_sos).

Paul Flynn: [5955]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether the BBC has undertaken that free TV licences for over-75s will continue beyond 2020.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The policy for continuation of free television licences for over-75s is set out in the published government and BBC agreement, which says that, at the BBC's request, the BBC will take responsibility for the policy following this Parliament.

Chris Bryant: [6503]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether it is his policy to retain the BBC Licence fee (a) until 2020 and (b) for the entirety of the next Charter period.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

I am aware of the range of opinions that have been expressed over the future of the licence fee. This is one of many issues which will need to be looked at as part of the Charter Review. I will make an announcement on the process for Charter Review in due course.

Chris Bryant:

[7340]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what information he holds on how the BBC will enforce payment of the licence fee by people watching iPlayer.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

We are seeking views on the practicalities of enforcement of modernising the licence fee in order to cover public service broadcast catch-up TV as part of BBC Charter Review public consultation published on Thursday 16 July.

The current TV Licence Fee enforcement regime, which includes live or nearly live broadcast television content on any electronic device including via iPlayer, has been reviewed independently. The report has been published and is available via this link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445212/166926_Perry_Review_Text-L-PB.pdf

■ UK City of Culture

Mr Jamie Reed:

[7631]

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if he will introduce a UK Community of Culture Award to allow non-cities to experience the same benefits as cities awarded UK City of Culture awards.

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The UK City of Culture competition is open to areas that have a clear urban focus, which could include a city or large town, two or more neighbouring cities or towns, or a closely linked set of urban areas. While the Government has no plans to introduce a UK Community of Culture award, we recognise the importance of culture in rural communities: how it can impact on health, social cohesion and personal development, as well generating tourism, jobs, and wealth.

DEFENCE

■ Afghanistan: Armed Conflict

Tom Watson:

[R] [7772]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 7 July 2015 to Question 5927, if he will commission a lessons learned post-Afghanistan review to inform future military strategy.

Michael Fallon:

No decisions have yet been taken by the Government on a wider post- Afghanistan review. We have been learning the tactical lessons of our operations in Afghanistan throughout the campaign.

■ **Armed Conflict: Yemen**

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7820\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, on which dates and in what locations British precision-guided missiles, licensed for export, have been used in the current conflict in Yemen.

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7824\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what information his Department holds on whether any British-licenced weaponry has been used by Saudi Arabia to bomb Saada province in Yemen.

Michael Fallon:

The use of equipment and weapons supplied to the Saudis is an operational matter for the Saudi military authorities. The Saudis have assured us that British-supplied munitions will be used in compliance with international humanitarian law and we continue to engage with them on these assurances.

■ **Defence**

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7548\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to develop the UK's technological edge in military capabilities; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Philip Dunne:

This Government is committed to a 1% increase above inflation in the equipment budget until the end of this Parliament, investing over £160 billion in the next decade. This includes investing in new joint strike fighter jets, surveillance aircraft, hunter killer submarines, two aircraft carriers and the most advanced armoured vehicles. The Ministry of Defence also invests over £400 million annually in research to access cutting-edge technologies.

■ **Mediterranean Sea: Refugees**

Stuart McDonald: [\[7650\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many migrants his Department has rescued from the Mediterranean sea each week since (a) HMS Bulwark and (b) HMS Enterprise commenced operations in that area.

Penny Mordaunt:

The total number of migrants rescued each week by HMS BULWARK since she commenced search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean in May 2015 are:

WEEK COMMENCING	NUMBER OF MIGRANTS RESCUED
04-May 2015	100
11-May 2015	617
18-May 2015	0
25-May 2015	739
01-June 2015	1,449
08-June 2015	0
15-June 2015	915
22-June 2015	927
29-June 2015	0
Total	4,747

The figure of 4,747 corrects the figure of 4,752 given in the answer I gave on 13 July 2015 to Question 6011 to the hon. Member for Kettering (Philip Hollobone). This was due to a counting error.

HMS ENTERPRISE has not rescued any migrants since deploying to the Mediterranean to support the Common Security Defence Policy operation EUNAVFOR Med.

■ Ministry of Defence: Public Expenditure

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7269\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's Chart of Account for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Michael Fallon:

A copy of the 2014-15 Chart of Account Manual will be placed in the Library of the House. I expect the 2015-16 Chart of Account Manual to be available within the next two months and a copy will also be placed in the Library.

■ Research: Expenditure

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7550\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how much his Department spent on (a) intermural and (b) extramural research in each financial year between 2010-11 and 2014-15.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Information on intramural and extramural expenditure for financial years (FY) between 2010-11 to 2013-14 (inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at current prices) is shown

below. Expenditure for financial year 2014-15 is currently being compiled and will be available later this year following clearance by the Office of National Statistics.

RESEARCH	FY 2010-11 (£ MILLION)	FY 2011-12 (£ MILLION)	FY 2012-13 (£ MILLION)	FY 2013-14 (£MILLION)
Gross Expenditure on Research	575	553	565	586
Of which:				
Intramural	163	106	101	111
Extramural	412	447	464	475
Receipts	41	0	0	0
Allocated:				
Intramurally	40	0	0	0
Extramurally	1	0	0	0
MOD expenditure on Research	534	553	565	586

■ Russia: NATO

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[\[7549\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the balance between NATO and Russian (a) naval, (b) air, (c) ground and (d) nuclear forces; and if he will make a statement.

Penny Mordaunt:

The Government keeps its assessments of Russian naval, air, ground and nuclear forces under appropriate review. Further details cannot be provided in the interests of national and international security.

■ Saudi Arabia: Guided Weapons

Mr Andrew Smith:

[\[7888\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many precision guided missiles have been exported from the UK to Saudi Arabia since the start of the recent conflict in Yemen.

Michael Fallon:

I AM WITHHOLDING THE INFORMATION AS ITS DISCLOSURE WOULD, OR WOULD BE LIKELY TO, PREJUDICE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ANOTHER STATE.

■ Syria: Armed Conflict

Brendan O'Hara: [\[7778\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many operations British armed forces personnel have been involved in Syria since 30 August 2013; and from which branch of the armed forces each such personnel was deployed.

Michael Fallon:

Personnel from all three Services have been involved in Operation SHADER, the name given to UK operations to counter-ISIL in Iraq and Syria. The UK has permission to fly manned Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, as well as Reaper unmanned aircraft, over Syria.

In addition, a number of UK personnel are embedded with our coalition partners; these personnel are operating as members of those nations' military.

Brendan O'Hara: [\[7779\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many British combat aircraft have been deployed in Syria since 30 August 2013.

Michael Fallon:

None.

Brendan O'Hara: [\[7780\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many British ground assets have been deployed in Syria since 30 August 2013.

Michael Fallon:

None.

Brendan O'Hara: [\[7791\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what reports he has received since 30 April 2013 on involvement of British military personnel in actions in Syria.

Michael Fallon:

I receive regular briefings on UK operations, including surveillance flights, over Syria.

When necessary, I am informed of the actions of UK personnel embedded with other coalition forces.

Brendan O'Hara: [\[7841\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he was informed of the deployment of British military personnel in military action in Syria prior to the debate on Britain and International Security on 2 July 2015.

Michael Fallon:

Yes. My predecessor and I authorised a small number of UK personnel embedded with US and Canadian forces to deploy with their units on operations in Iraq and Syria.

EDUCATION■ **Carers: Young People****Mr Jamie Reed:**[\[7795\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent steps her Department has taken to (a) identify and (b) support young carers.

Edward Timpson:

We have changed the law to improve how young carers and their families are identified and supported. Changes introduced through the Children and Families Act 2014 consolidate and simplify the legislation relating to young carers' assessments, making rights and duties clearer to both young people and practitioners. They extend the right to an assessment of needs to all young carers, regardless of who they care for or what type of care they provide. They make it clear to local authorities that they must carry out an assessment of a young carer's needs for support on request or on the appearance of need. These new duties came into effect in April 2015.

We know that schools play a very important part in identifying pupils who are young carers and in offering them appropriate support. The Department for Education has worked with the Children's Society and the Carers Trust since 2011 to share existing tools and good practice. Since 2011 we have provided grant funding and contracts worth over £3.4m to help support schools and local authorities in the identification and support of young carers. This includes over £500,000 we are providing to Carers Trust in 2015-16 to work with local authorities to develop models for identification, assessment and support services which specifically address the needs of young carers. DfE are also providing over £110,000 of grant-funding to Suffolk Family Carers to run a local project which aims to raise awareness of young carers amongst teachers, non-teaching staff and school nurses, supporting Suffolk County Council's strategy on young carers. The Department of Health is also training school nurses to be champions for young carers. They will speak up on their behalf and help head teachers and governors decide how best to support them at school.

I am also familiar with and welcome two initiatives led by the voluntary sector. The Big Lottery Fund are financing The Children's Society's "Young Carers in Focus" programme and The Queen's Trust, too, are funding the Carers Trust to develop and test best practice on young carer support in schools. We are also grateful to the National Governors' Association and Ofsted for their help in raising awareness of the impact of caring on school attendance and attainment and sharing resources amongst governors and inspectors.

We will continue to encourage schools to use the resources that are already freely available to them and to make links to their local young carers support groups.

We recognise that consistent identification of young carers remains challenging. DfE has commissioned a research study into the lives of young carers in England which aims to provide firmer information on the numbers and needs of young carers and their families. The research will be completed in spring 2016.

■ Children in Care and Young Offenders

Julian Knight:

[7808]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will introduce legislative proposals to place a legal responsibility on local authorities to notify their neighbouring authorities when they place 16 to 21 year olds leaving (a) care and (b) young offender institutions in that area.

Edward Timpson:

Our statutory guidance, 'Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers' sets out local authorities' responsibilities when care leavers are placed out of area. In these circumstances, the placing local authority must remain in close contact and take responsibility for planning the young person's transition to adulthood. The guidance explains that local authorities should work together with relevant agencies such as health and adult social care services when planning a young person's transition to adulthood.

Where a care leaver is placed in custody, pathway planning must continue. The young person must be visited on a regular basis by a personal adviser from the placing authority. It is good practice for the personal adviser to carry out a review of the pathway plan at least a month before release in order to give sufficient time for pre-release planning. This should include plans for the care leaver to move into suitable accommodation, with the right kind of support, on release from custody.

A copy of the guidance is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397649/CA1989_Transitions_guidance.pdf

■ Classroom Assistants: East Midlands

Gloria De Piero:

[7854]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many teaching assistants there were in schools in (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) the East Midlands in each of the last five years.

Nick Gibb:

The requested information on the number of full-time equivalent teaching assistants in state-funded schools is in the table below:

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN STATE-FUNDED SCHOOLS FOR ASHFIELD PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND EAST MIDLANDS REGION: NOVEMBER 2010 TO 2014.

(THOUSANDS)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ashfield	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Nottinghamshire	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.4
East Midlands	14.8	19.1	19.7	20.8	21.6

Source: School Workforce Census.

Notes:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

■ **Education: Fraud**

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[7121]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to make it easier for whistleblowers to come forward when rules are broken by teachers, students and schools in SATS tests, GCSEs and A-levels.

Nick Gibb:

Ofqual is a prescribed body within the meaning of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 for matters falling within its jurisdiction, which would include qualifying disclosures of malpractice in public examinations (such as GCSEs and A levels).

I have asked its Chief Regulator, Glenys Stacey to write directly to the hon. Member on this issue. A copy of her response will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

In relation to Standard Assessment Tests (SATs), the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) do not require the name of an individual or contact details to undertake an investigation against a school. STA maladministration processes protect whistleblowers by ensuring that allegations are not shared in detail during or after an investigation. Information published on the GOV.uk website details how an individual or body can raise a concern with STA and that the STA will protect the whistleblower's identity.

Ofqual's policy for addressing concerns raised by whistleblowers is published online at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-malpractice-or-wrongdoing-to-ofqual

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[7122]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what representations she has received on cheating by students and teachers in GCSE and A-level examinations and coursework.

Nick Gibb:

The Secretary of State for Education has received no representations on cheating by students and teachers in GCSE and A level examinations and coursework.

■ **GCSE**

Gloria De Piero:

[7851]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many schools and academies in (a) Ashfield, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England did not meet the standard of 60 per cent of pupils achieving five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics, and also had a below median score for the proportion of students making expected progress, in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15.

Nick Gibb:

Information is not published at Parliamentary constituency level. The remaining information requested can be derived from published key stage 4 school performance tables data for 2010 to 2014. [1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

[1] www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/archive/schools_10/england.shtml

[2] File labelled KS4 XLS files at:

www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/2011/download_data.html

[3] File labelled KS4 XLS files at:

www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/2012/download_data.html

[4] File labelled KS4 XLS files at:

www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/2013/download_data.html

[5] File labelled KS4 XLS files at:

www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/download_data.html

Gloria De Piero:

[7856]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals achieved five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in (a) Ashfield, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England in each of the last five years.

Nick Gibb:

Information is not published at Parliamentary constituency level. The remaining information requested is published in Table 5 of the 'GCSE and equivalent attainment by pupil characteristics: 2014' statistical first release. [1]

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gcse-and-equivalent-attainment-by-pupil-characteristics-2014>

Gloria De Piero: [7857]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of pupils achieved five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in (a) Ashfield, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England in each of the last five years.

Nick Gibb:

Information is not published at Parliamentary constituency level. The remaining information requested is published in Table 16 of the 'Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England: 2013 to 2014' statistical first release. [1]

[1] www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2013-to-2014

■ GCSE: Nottinghamshire

Gloria De Piero: [7832]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many schools rated outstanding or good in (a) Ashfield and (b) Nottinghamshire (i) did not meet the 60 per cent standard pupils achieving five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics and (ii) had a below median score for the proportion of students achieving expected progress in each of the last five years.

Nick Gibb:

Information is not published at Parliamentary constituency level. The information requested can be derived from published key stage 4 school performance tables data for 2010 to 2014 [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] and Ofsted data. [6]

[1] www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/archive/schools_10/england.shtml

[2] File labelled KS4 XLS files at:
www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/2011/download_data.html

[3] File labelled KS4 XLS files at:
www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/2012/download_data.html

[4] File labelled KS4 XLS files at:
www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/2013/download_data.html

[5] File labelled KS4 XLS files at:
www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/download_data.html

[6] File labelled 'Inspection data for open maintained schools at 31 August 2014 (provisional)' at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/maintained-schools-and-academies-inspections-and-outcomes-sep-2013-to-aug-2014

■ Gifted Children: Copeland

Mr Jamie Reed: [7633]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children in Copeland constituency have been identified as gifted and talented in each of the last 10 years.

Nick Gibb:

The table below shows the number of pupils identified as gifted and talented in the Copeland constituency for the years in which data is available. The data was not collected until 2007 and has not been collected since 2011.

YEAR	NUMBER OF GIFTED & TALENTED PUPILS	TOTAL PUPILS IN CONSTITUENCY	PERCENTAGE GIFTED & TALENTED
2007	1,114	12,838	8.7
2008	1,112	12,187	9.1
2009	1,035	11,918	8.7
2010	1,003	11,461	8.8
2011	1,047	11,116	9.4

■ Headteachers

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[\[7640\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to improve the leadership skills of head teachers; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

As part of our programme to develop a school-led system, the government supports the development of excellent school leadership, together with high-quality teaching. Professional development for schools leaders, to support and develop excellent leadership, is therefore important.

The National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) enables headteachers to develop their skills in areas such as leading and improving teaching, leading an effective school and leading change for improvement. A range of short programmes are also available to headteachers to support their development, either through school-led providers of the NPQH or through self-study modules available via the National Archives located within the GOV.uk website.

The National College for Teaching and Leadership recently piloted a Multi-Academy Trust Leadership Programme. This had a heavy emphasis on high-level business and strategic finance skills in recognition of the fact that the need for leadership and business skills varies considerably between leading a single school, and running a chain of five or more schools.

A review of headteacher standards, chaired by Dame Dana Ross-Wawrzynski, was launched by the Department for Education on 17 April 2014. It brought together a group of respected professionals, including headteachers, to create new standards for the sector. The standards set out the behaviour, qualities and knowledge expected of today's headteachers. The new National Standards of Excellence for Headteachers were

published in January 2015 and are available online at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-of-excellence-for-headteachers

System leaders also provide support for improving the leadership skills of headteachers. For example, 'local leaders of education' work outside their own school, providing support to another headteacher and their school. The two headteachers work together to plan and implement improvements.

■ Languages: Education

Joan Ryan: [7419]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what representations she has received from (a) schools, (b) community groups and (c) other organisations on the future of examinations in (i) Turkish, (ii) modern Greek and (iii) other community languages.

Joan Ryan: [7420]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department (a) has made and (b) plans to make of the benefits of pupils learning (i) Turkish, (ii) modern Greek and (iii) other community languages.

Joan Ryan: [7421]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if her Department will launch an immediate consultation into securing the future of examinations in (a) Turkish, (b) modern Greek and (c) other community languages.

Nick Gibb:

I have recently met representatives of communities and schools in which these languages are spoken, to hear their concerns and consider how we can work with the awarding organisations and Ofqual to maintain a range of languages at GCSE and A level, including Turkish, modern Greek and other languages.

The number of pupils studying for a modern language GCSE has increased by 20% since 2010 due to the introduction of the English Baccalaureate. Studying a foreign language provides an opening to other cultures, fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. It also equips pupils to study and work in other countries. There are considerable benefits to learning a second language and the government is keen to see the range of languages at GCSE and A level preserved.

The Department for Education does not promote the teaching of one foreign language over another and has not made an assessment of the benefits of pupils learning Turkish, modern Greek or other community languages.

The department is currently working with awarding organisations and Ofqual to consider how best to enable as wide a range of languages as possible to be maintained at GCSE and A level. The government has been clear that it wants to see all pupils provided with the opportunity to take a core set of academic subjects, including modern foreign languages.

The Secretary of State wrote to exam boards in April 2015 to express her concern about awarding organisations' decision to stop awarding qualifications in some languages, and to ask those organisations to work with Ofqual on the future of these qualifications. We are actively exploring the best approach, in close discussion with those organisations, and in consultation with community representatives.

■ Languages: Qualifications

Joan Ryan:

[\[7418\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many pupils were entered into (a) GCSE and (b) A-levels in (i) Turkish, (ii) modern Greek, (iii) Spanish, (iv) French and (v) German in the last five academic years.

Nick Gibb:

The requested information is provided in the table below. The information for Spanish, French and German is published in the 'GCSE and equivalent results in England'[1] statistical first releases (SFRs) and the A level and other level 3 equivalents SFR[2] for the years[3] required:

	YEAR	GCSE ENTRIES IN SELECTED MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES			
	Turkish	Modern Greek	Spanish	French	German
2009/10	1,116	357	58,230	160,598	65,822
2010/11	1,207	339	58,681	141,749	58,299
2011/12	1,277	308	63,345	135,547	54,793
2012/13	1,326	366	82,733	161,821	60,320
2013/14	1,535	466	87,554	160,953	58,521

Source: Key Stage 4 attainment data

	YEAR	A-LEVELS ENTRIES IN SELECTED MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES			
	Turkish	Modern Greek	Spanish	French	German
2009/10	308	90	6,564	12,324	5,055
2010/11	326	69	6,398	11,490	4,554

	YEAR	A-LEVELS ENTRIES IN SELECTED MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES			
2011/12	342	71	6,197	10,871	4,208
2012/13	393	77	6,516	9,878	3,774
2013/14	407	98	6,617	9,078	3,716

Source: Key Stage 5 attainment data

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

[2] www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-attainment-at-19-years

[3] Data for all years is final.

■ Mathematics: GCSE

Jon Trickett: [\[6999\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department has taken to monitor the availability in schools of additional mathematics GCSE.

Jon Trickett: [\[7192\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance her Department issues on the teaching of additional mathematics GCSE in schools.

Nick Gibb:

Some schools have historically offered additional qualifications to complement the mathematics GCSE and provide stretch and challenge for the most able students. We have not issued any explicit guidance on the teaching of these qualifications and we do not directly monitor their availability in schools. From September 2015 a new mathematics GCSE will be taught in schools which will be more challenging, ambitious and rigorous, and will ensure that children have the mathematical skills vital to continue in higher education, training and employment. For the most able students, it will provide greater stretch while better preparing them to move on to A levels in mathematics and further mathematics

Final decisions about whether to offer additional mathematics qualifications for the most able students following the introduction of the new GCSE rest with schools. We believe that schools and teachers are best placed to make such decisions if they consider it to be in the best interests of their students.

■ Musculoskeletal Disorders

Jason McCartney: [\[7557\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many days of absence were reported to her Department on grounds of musculoskeletal injury in the (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14 and (c) 2014-15 school year.

Nick Gibb:

The Department for Education does not hold information on absences resulting from musculoskeletal injury.

■ Primary Education: Assessments

Catherine West: [\[7181\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many primary and infant schools have signed up to (a) the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring, Durham University, (b) Early Excellence and (c) the National Foundation for Educational Research for provision of reception baseline assessment; how many primary or infant schools signed up to a provider which was unsuccessful in gaining approval as providers of such assessments; and how many primary and infant schools have not signed up to any provider.

Nick Gibb:

The Department for Education does not have final numbers of primary and infant schools signing up for the reception baseline. Schools are still able to sign up to their preferred choice from the list of three approved reception baselines ahead of the new academic year starting in September.

■ Schools: Admissions

Liam Byrne: [\[7416\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure pupils' names are not removed from school admission registers without an adequate explanation of the child's whereabouts.

Nick Gibb:

As recently announced, we are taking immediate steps to strengthen the regulations about the information schools must collect when a pupil is taken off the admissions register.

■ Schools: Cumbria

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7794\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the current status is of schools placed in special measures in (a) Copeland constituency and (b) Cumbria.

Edward Timpson:

As of 20 July, there are six schools in Special Measures in Cumbria. Of these:

- Five are local authority maintained, of which three are currently in the process of becoming sponsored academies;
- One is currently a sponsored academy.

There are no schools currently in Special Measures in Copeland.

■ Schools: Nottinghamshire

Gloria De Piero: [\[7848\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many of the schools and academies assessed by Ofsted in (a) Ashfield and (b) Nottinghamshire in each of the last five years were rated as (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) requiring improvement and (iv) inadequate.

Nick Gibb:

This is a matter for Ofsted. I have asked Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, to write to the hon. Member with the information requested. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House library.

■ Schools: Playing Fields

Gloria De Piero: [\[7852\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much revenue has accrued to the public purse through the sale of sports fields in (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire, (c) the East Midlands and (d) England in each of the last five years.

Edward Timpson:

This government will only give local authorities and schools permission to dispose of school playing fields if the sports and curriculum needs of the school can continue to be met. All proceeds of any sales must be put back into improving sports or educational facilities.

It is not the government or the department that instigates the disposal of school playing fields. It is the schools themselves and their local authorities that propose to convert these often surplus or unused fields to invest in school sport or education.

Details of school playing field sales are not held centrally. Schools and local authorities only need to seek consent from the department to dispose of a school playing field. Disposal includes leasing to a third party provider.

■ Schools: Standards

Mr Peter Bone: [\[7231\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what benchmarks are used to compare attainment in UK schools and the schools of comparable countries.

England participates in three research studies that enable international benchmarking of the performance of our pupils against the performance of their peers in other countries:

- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which compares the

mathematics, science and reading competence of 15-year-olds across participating countries. Further information can be found online at:

www.oecd.org/pisa/

- The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), which compares the mathematics and science abilities of pupils in year 5 and year 9 in England with their peers in comparable grades in participating countries. More information can be found online at: www.iea.nl/timss_2015.html
- The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), which compares the reading ability of pupils in year 5 in England with their peers in comparable grades in participating countries. This is available online at: www.iea.nl/pirls_2016.html

Northern Ireland also participates in each of these three studies, and all four UK countries participate in the OECD's PISA study.

In England and Wales, schools can also access the OECD's PISA-based test for schools, which provides schools with a tool to benchmark the performance of their 15-year-old pupils within and beyond local and national borders, and is available online at:

www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/pisa-based-test-for-schools.htm

■ Schools: Technology

Jason McCartney:

[7542]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent meetings she has had with civil society groups on potential adverse health effects of introducing more technology in schools.

Edward Timpson:

The Secretary of State has not met with any civil society groups to discuss the potential adverse health effects of introducing more technology in schools.

■ Schools: VDUs

Jason McCartney:

[7555]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will introduce lessons on managing the risk of injuries related to digital screen use to school curriculums.

Nick Gibb:

The national curriculum sets out the essential skills and knowledge that children must be taught at school. Schools have the freedom to teach subjects or topics beyond the national curriculum to ensure that their pupils receive a rounded education.

Using technology safely is covered at each key stage in the computing curriculum, which is compulsory for all pupils aged 5-16 in maintained schools.

The programmes of study for the national curriculum in computing are published online at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-computing-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-computing-programmes-of-study

Jason McCartney: [7556]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many legal cases are being brought against schools in the UK related to injuries caused by digital screen use.

Nick Gibb:

The Department for Education is not aware of any legal cases that have been brought, or are in the process of being brought, against schools in the UK in relation to injuries caused by digital screen use.

■ Students: VDUs

Jason McCartney: [7558]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what research her Department has undertaken on the potential effect of digital screen use on students in the last five years.

Edward Timpson:

There has been no specific research undertaken by the department on the potential effect of digital screen use on students in the last five years.

■ Teachers

Sir Nicholas Soames: [7638]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what her policy is on introducing chartered teacher status within the education profession; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

The government has no plans to introduce Chartered Teacher status. We are committed to supporting the work to establish a College of Teaching, an independent professional body for teachers. A consortium of education organisations is working to establish the College, and is considering whether the College could award Chartered Teacher status to members who have completed a programme of professional development. However, such operational decisions are the responsibility of the independent organisation itself, and not for the government to determine.

Sir Nicholas Soames: [7639]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to improve skills within the teaching profession; and if she will make a statement.

Nick Gibb:

The government is improving the capacity for schools to take the lead in training and developing their teachers through the national network of Teaching School Alliances. This network is leading collaboration between schools and helping to make professional development more effective, which in turn is helping teachers to improve.

The government expects teachers' professional development to be increasingly led by schools and teachers. Schools and headteachers are best placed to determine which development activities will be most beneficial for their schools. To help them do this, the government has established an independent Teachers' Professional Development Expert Group – chaired by David Weston, Chief Executive of the Teacher Development Trust – to develop a new standard for teachers' professional development. The new standard will complement the existing 'Teachers' Standards', and help teachers and schools to understand what makes professional development most effective.

■ Teachers: Shortages

Philip Davies:

[7193]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of shortages of teachers of each subject in (a) Bradford district area, (b) West Yorkshire and (c) England.

Nick Gibb:

The Department for Education does not assess the demand for teachers by subject at the regional or district level. We recruited 94% of our postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) target in 2014/15, reflecting the continuing popularity of teaching. The latest 2015/16 figures show that we have exceeded our postgraduate recruitment target for primary trainee teachers and are making good progress in secondary recruitment. The teacher vacancy rate remains low, at less than 1%, with the number and quality of teachers in England's classrooms at an all-time high.

We recognise the importance of encouraging the best and brightest to join the profession. That is why we have increased scholarships and bursaries to attract top graduates in priority subjects and supported the growth of Teach First. We announced a £67 million package to recruit an additional 2,500 mathematics and physics teachers, and improve the knowledge and skills of 15,000 existing teachers. From 2016/17 ITT providers will have greater freedom to recruit as many trainees as they need within recruitment controls set by the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

■ Energy: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero:

[7853]

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, if she will estimate the average annual energy bill for a typical family in Ashfield constituency in each of the last five years.

Andrea Leadsom:

Estimates of average energy bills by region can be derived from data in tables 2.2.4 and 2.3.4 of DECC's publication Quarterly Energy Prices (QEP)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/annual-domestic-energy-price-statistics> .

Estimates for Ashfield constituency are not available but the table below shows the average annual bill per household for the East Midlands from 2010. These estimates are based on the combined average standard electricity and gas annual bills based on fixed consumptions of 3,800kWh/year for electricity and 15,000 kWh/year for gas. The bills provided are averaged across all methods of payment and expressed in cash terms.

YEAR	AVERAGE ANNUAL BILL (£)
2010	1,017
2011	1,114
2012	1,206
2013	1,277
2014	1,305

As set out in the 2014 Prices and Bills report ^[1] increases in wholesale energy costs, which make up around half of a household energy bill, have been the biggest factor behind rising energy bills over recent years.

We are supporting consumers by taking measures to increase competition in the market, make it quicker and easier to switch and by providing support for vulnerable consumers. Changes to social and environmental levies and a government-funded rebate, also cut £50 off the average household energy bill in 2014.

[1] Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/estimated-impacts-of-energy-and-climate-change-policies-on-energy-prices-and-bills-2014>

■ Fuel Poverty: Children

Karin Smyth:

[6735]

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, how many children were living in households classed as being in fuel poverty in (a) Bristol South constituency, (b) Bristol, (c) the South West and (d) England in each year since 2010.

Andrea Leadsom:

Fuel poverty is measured at the household level rather than the individual level and detailed data on the age of household occupants is not available at the sub-regional level.

The table below shows the number of fuel poor households which contain at least one child under the age of 16 in (a) England and (b) the South West, in each year since 2010.

Number and proportion of fuel poor households with at least one child under 16

	ENGLAND		SOUTH WEST	
	(000s)	%	(000s)	%
2013	1064	45	115	42
2012	1101	47	77	35
2011	1029	42	74	33
2010	988	40	74	29

Government is committed to supporting fuel poor households in line with our fuel poverty obligations. For example, the Energy Company Obligation supports around 260,000 households per year on low incomes or in low income areas with insulation and heating measures to bring their bills down. Further, the Warm Home Discount provided support to over 2 million low income households with £140 discounts on their electricity bill last winter.

■ Wind Power: Subsidies

Mr Mark Williams:

[\[7883\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, whether windfarms that were subject to appeal or judicial review at the time of her announcement on ending the onshore wind subsidy on 18 June 2015 will qualify for that subsidy.

Andrea Leadsom:

Following my rt hon Friend's the Secretary of State's Written Ministerial Statement and Oral Statement to Parliament on 18 (HCWS40) and 22 June (Column 617) 2015 respectively, DECC is engaging with the onshore wind industry and other stakeholders to hear their views on our proposed grace period criteria as we frame the terms of the legislation. The precise grace period eligibility requirements will be determined through the legislative process and are subject to approval by Parliament. It will be for the developer of each individual project to determine in due course whether they meet those eligibility requirements and to apply for the grace period.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

■ Agriculture: Diplomatic Service

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[\[6916\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which UK diplomatic posts have an Agriculture and Food Counsellor; and if she will make a statement.

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[6988\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether she plans to increase the number of Agriculture and Food Counsellors at British embassies; and if she will make a statement.

George Eustice:

The overseas Embassy network plays a central role in the promotion of food and drink exports. Most Embassies have staff working on food and drink.

In view of the potential market in China, especially for animals and animal products, Defra and the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board have created a dedicated Agriculture and Food Counsellor post in the Embassy in Beijing; this is the first of its kind. We are exploring with UKTI and FCO, who are responsible for our posts overseas, how we can build on this model and make best use of the network to provide clear leadership to boost our food and drink exports.

■ **Animal Welfare: Circuses**

Mr Chuka Umunna: [\[7524\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on how many occasions in each of the last five years there were cases of animals in travelling circuses not being licensed under the Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (England) Regulations 2012; and what animals were involved in each such case.

George Eustice:

Since January 2013, when the Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (England) Regulations 2012 came into force, there have been no cases of wild animals being used in a travelling circus without the licence required by the Regulations.

■ **Bees: Conservation**

Mr Chuka Umunna: [\[7526\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of factors contributing to decline of the honeybee population; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the National Pollinator Strategy.

George Eustice:

UK honey bees and other pollinators play an essential role in ensuring our food security and sustaining the health of the natural environment. To help inform Defra's National Pollinator Strategy (NPS), published in November 2014, the department commissioned a report on the 'Status and Value of Pollinators and Pollination Services'. The report reviewed evidence on threats to pollinators, including the honey bee, and highlighted the many pressures pollinators face. These include aspects of land-use intensification (landscape alteration, cultivation in monocultures and agrochemical use) as well as urbanisation, invasive alien species, the spread of diseases and parasites, and climate change.

The NPS forms a framework for collective action to help manage and raise awareness of the pressures facing pollinators. The strategy seeks to address key gaps in our understanding about the status of pollinators, identifies specific policy and evidence actions for the Government and others, and identifies actions that everyone can take to help expand food, shelter and nest sites; increasing forage will have definite benefits for honey bees. The pressures honey bees face may have been offset by a recorded increase in beekeeping activity since 2008.

The National Pollinator Strategy is a 10 year plan which was launched less than a year ago. It is therefore too soon to be assessing its effectiveness. The Implementation Plan which will set out how the National Pollinator Strategy is to be delivered is to be published soon.

■ Covent Garden Market Authority

Chris Heaton-Harris:

[\[7620\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what representations she has received from tenants of the New Covent Garden market Authority on that market's redevelopment in the last five years.

Rory Stewart:

Defra Ministers have received various representations from New Covent Garden Market tenants in the past five years about the market redevelopment.

These have taken the form of formal correspondence and face to face meetings between the Covent Garden Tenants Association (CGTA) and the Minister, held at Defra and at New Covent Garden Market.

The representations have addressed a broad range of concerns about the plans for the redevelopment, its implementation and the role of the CGMA.

Chris Heaton-Harris:

[\[7644\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what expenses have been claimed by the directors of the New Covent Garden Market Authority in the last five years.

Rory Stewart:

The total expenses claimed by the Board of the Covent Garden Market Authority for each of the last five years were:

2010/11 £9,394

2011/12 £11,139

2012/13 £9,791

2013/14 £5,345

2014/15 £6,451

The amounts predominantly relate to travel and accommodation expenses associated with attendance at Board and Committee meetings.

Chris Heaton-Harris: [\[7712\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what receipts the New Covent Garden Market Authority has received from the sale of land in the last five years; who bought the land in each such case; and for what purpose the land was sold in each such case.

Rory Stewart:

There has been no sale of land by CGMA in the last five years.

However, as part of the development of the new Northern Line extension, London Underground Limited has occupied CGMA's former office building, Covent House, under a Transport and Works order which allows them to do so on a temporary basis. CGMA has entered into a Transport and Works Agreement with London Underground Limited, conditional on the issue of a general vesting declaration to effect the sale of the land to London Underground Limited. It is anticipated this will complete in August 2015. CGMA will receive £10.4m for the sale of Covent House and the full amount will subsequently be transferred to Defra.

Chris Heaton-Harris: [\[7761\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether any members of staff involved in the sale of land by the New Covent Garden Market Authority have left that Authority and subsequently been employed by the land purchaser.

Rory Stewart:

There have been no sales of land by the Covent Garden Market Authority (CGMA) in the last five years. Covent House, CGMA's former office building, will be sold to London Underground Limited (LUL), a subsidiary of Transport for London, on 31st July 2015, under a Land and Works Agreement dated 29th October 2014. This was in order to effect a Compulsory Purchase of the land, necessary for the Northern Line extension of London Underground. The current Project Director of Covent Garden Market Authority is due to join Transport for London later this year. The CGMA Board has been informed of the appointment and was given an opportunity to raise issues or concerns about his move from CGMA to Transport for London. The Board has not raised concerns.

■ New Covent Garden Market

Chris Heaton-Harris: [\[7707\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how much the demolition and rebuilding of the car park in New Covent Garden Market is forecast to cost.

Rory Stewart:

The existing Multi storey car park has been assessed by structural engineers from both the Covent Garden Market Authority (CGMA) and by CGMA's Private Development Partner who consider the structure to be in a satisfactory condition to be retained and refurbished rather than demolished and rebuilt. However, due to the age of the car park, additional works are required to bring the user environment and services up to current standards. As such, repairs are being carried out to the concrete decks and walls,

all surfaces are being treated with specialist paint finishes, new handrails are being installed and all electrical and mechanical services including two passenger lifts are being replaced. Externally, as required by a planning condition, a green wall is being installed to half of the surface area.

The contracts to undertake the work will be let by the Private Development Partner, VSM (NCGM) Limited. Some of these contracts have yet to be finalised and as such cost information is commercially confidential and cannot be disclosed at this time.

Chris Heaton-Harris:

[7884]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what options other than demolition and rebuilding her Department considered for the redevelopment of the car park in New Covent Garden Market; and what the estimated cost was of each such option.

Rory Stewart:

It is not intended to demolish and rebuild the existing multi-storey car park at New Covent Garden Market. The existing car park has been assessed by structural engineers from both the Covent Garden Market Authority (CGMA) and by CGMA's Private Development Partner who consider the structure to be in a satisfactory condition to be retained and refurbished rather than demolished and rebuilt.

The option to demolish and rebuild was considered as was extension of the existing car park. Neither of these options was considered cost effective.

The contracts to undertake the work will be let by the Private Development Partner, VSM (NCGM) Limited. Some of these contracts have yet to be finalised and as such cost information generated in assessing the options is commercially confidential and cannot be disclosed at this time.

■ Plants: Allergies

Jim Shannon:

[7255]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to increase awareness of plants that can cause severe allergic reactions.

George Eustice:

Defra already provides focussed information on certain plants which can cause severe allergic reactions. For example, information on the dangers of Giant Hogweed can be found on the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat website at:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=152>.

In addition, for ragwort, a native plant that can in specific circumstances be toxic to grazing livestock, Defra has worked with the British Horse Society in increasing awareness that draws on our published Code of Practice on the management of ragwort.

■ Rural Areas: Productivity

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[6957\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to improve productivity in the rural economy; and if she will make a statement.

George Eustice:

Defra is improving productivity in the rural economy through a number of measures, including:

- through the Rural Development Programme in England investing in rural businesses and supporting the farming, food and forestry sectors to access new technology;
- working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to achieve the Government's commitment to treble the number of apprenticeships in food, farming and agri-tech;
- working across Government, investing around £780m in the Superfast Broadband Programme to provide 95% of UK premises with superfast broadband by the end of 2017. We are exploring options to extend superfast coverage beyond the current 95% target;
- supporting Food Enterprise Zones, which will help unlock the potential of local food and farming businesses, boosting local economies and attracting more investment; and
- enabling food producers to further benefit from their local roots by supporting the expansion of Protected Food Names and the expansion of Country of Origin Labelling.

Boosting productivity in the rural economy, investing in a strong economy, and infrastructure such as roads, rail, and high speed broadband will also bring businesses closer to market.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE**■ Andargachew Tsege**

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7789\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations to his US counterpart urging President Obama to raise the case of detained British national Andargachew Tsege with the Ethiopian government during President Obama's forthcoming visit to that country.

Grant Shapps:

We have not asked for President Obama to raise the case of Andargachew Tsege with the Government of Ethiopia during his visit. The Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon friend, the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Philip Hammond MP) and the Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service, my Rt Hon friend, the Member for Witney (David Cameron MP) have

raised the case directly and at the highest levels of the Ethiopian government and will continue to do so.

■ **Burma: Rohingya**

Liam Byrne: [\[6923\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate he has made of how many Rohingya have died in violence this year; and if he will make a statement.

Liam Byrne: [\[6924\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to broker a regional solution which would provide a safe haven for the Rohingya.

Liam Byrne: [\[6925\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure the government of Burma admit UN investigators and allow them to freely investigate alleged atrocities perpetrated against the Rohingya.

Liam Byrne: [\[6926\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure the government of Burma acts against those perpetrating violence against the Rohingya.

Liam Byrne: [\[6928\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure the government of Burma provides citizenship for the Rohingya.

Mr Hugo Swire:

The situation of the Rohingya in Burma's Rakhine State remains of grave concern. It is clear that desperate living conditions are driving many people to make the dangerous journey to other countries in the region, fuelling the humanitarian crisis we have seen this year in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. We continue to urge the Burmese authorities to tackle this situation by working towards a long-term solution that brings peace and reconciliation and ensures the civil and human rights of all communities within Rakhine State, including full citizenship for the Rohingya. We are playing our part to resolve the situation in Rakhine. Since 2012, the UK has been one of the largest bilateral humanitarian donors there, investing over £18m in humanitarian support, including an additional £6.2m this year.

While we have not this year seen intercommunal violence, as witnessed in 2012, the situation remains fragile. 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 an independent and transparent investigative and prosecutorial process that meets international standards. The UK was instrumental in securing the strong UN

Resolution on Burma at the Human Rights Council in March, which extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma, Professor Yanghee Lee. We very much support Professor Lee's investigations into the human rights situation in Burma, including in Rakhine, and the reports she has issued on these.

■ Central African Republic: Armed Conflict

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7698\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent steps the Government has taken to fulfil its Responsibility to Protect in the Central African Republic.

Mr David Lidington:

The security and humanitarian situation remains grave in the Central African Republic and continues to have a severe impact on the civilian population and their human rights. The UK government underlined our concerns about this in our statement to the UN's Human Rights Council in July. The UK co-funded the African Union's 2014 deployment of experts to the Central African Republic to support victims of sexual violence. The deployment facilitated the rehabilitation of three health facilities, provided protection and assistance to victims of sexual violence and established a national network of government and community stakeholders, in the prevention and response to sexual violence. The UK welcomes efforts by the government of the Central African Republic and the UN to set up a Special Criminal Court to address war crimes and crimes against humanity committed since 2012. The UK welcomes the positive outcome of the Bangui Forum in particular the agreement signed between the armed groups, UN and transitional government to release all children from the ranks of the armed groups. It is important that these children are offered assistance and helped to reintegrate into society. The signing of an agreement on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is an important step but it is critical for the agreement to be applied and for international forces to enforce the commitments made by the signatories of this agreement.

■ Central African Republic: Elections

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7539\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to support the Central African Republic in its preparations for national elections in 2015.

Mr David Lidington:

Elections are crucial for the Central African Republic's future stability and push towards reconciliation. It is important that these elections are free, fair and inclusive. The UK welcomes the decision of the Constitutional Court that all citizens of the Central African Republic, including internally displaced people and refugees in neighbouring countries, have the right to vote in upcoming elections. The UK is supportive of an EU Election Mission to the Central African Republic.

■ Central African Republic: EU Aid

Mr Andrew Smith:

[7697]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic supports reconciliation and peacebuilding activities.

Mr David Lidington:

The UK is supportive of the EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic and its support for peacebuilding and reconciliation activities. The UK's bilateral funding to the Central African Republic is currently focussed on meeting urgent humanitarian needs.

■ Central African Republic: Peace Negotiations

Mr Andrew Smith:

[7613]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to build sustainable peace in the Central African Republic.

Mr David Lidington:

The UK's focus in the Central African Republic is on working with the international community to improve security throughout the country. We will support the Transitional Authorities to prepare for elections, and assist with justice, governance and state administration, so institutions can start delivering basic services to the people of the Central African Republic.

The UK co-sponsored a UN Security Council Resolution authorising the deployment of a UN Peacekeeping Operation, MINUSCA, which launched in September 2014. The operation is focussing on restoring stability, preventing human rights abuses, and promoting reconciliation. The UK has also supported the EU Military Advisory Mission to the Central African Republic which launched in March 2015. The operation is focussing on providing the government of the Central African Republic with expert advice, with a view to reforming the military to make it into a professional army, democratically accountable and representative of the entire nation.

■ Defence: Finance

Mr Kevan Jones:

[7386]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how much his Department will receive from the Joint Security Fund for each year to 2020.

Mr David Lidington:

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in Budget 2015 the creation of a joint security fund of £1.5 billion by the end of the parliament.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review will decide how the fund should be best used. The Review will be published towards the end of this year.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Buildings

Andrew Gwynne: [\[7059\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 26 June 2015 to Question 3103, when 1 Carlton Gardens was last used as an official residence.

Mr David Lidington:

No1 Carlton Gardens is used for official events and functions in support of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and wider government objectives. It was last used as an official residence by the right hon. William Hague until he stepped down as Foreign Secretary in July 2014. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) uses the property for official meetings and events with visiting Ministers from overseas. As with any government asset, whether leased or owned, usage and expenditure are carefully monitored to ensure that the building represents value for money for the taxpayer and supports the FCO's and Her Majesty's Government's core business.

Andrew Gwynne: [\[7099\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2015 to Question 3103, what the total rent payable is on (a) 1 Carlton Gardens and (b) Lancaster House; and for what purpose each such building is rented.

Mr David Lidington:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently pays the following annual rent on:-

(a) 1 Carlton Gardens – £482,341 (b) Lancaster House - £720,000 Lancaster House is used to provide business hospitality services as well as conference and meeting facilities across the whole of government. It is also used for a limited amount of commercial hire to corporate clients to help off-set running costs.

1 Carlton Gardens is the official residence of the Foreign Secretary, and is used for official events and functions in support of FCO and wider government objectives.

We reviewed the Lancaster House and Carlton Gardens rent in 2013. Following negotiation, the agreed rent in both cases was less than the landlord had proposed. In 2015 we successfully obtained a reduction in the rateable value for Lancaster House. This resulted in a rebate in business rates covering the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2015 of £1.57 million and future annual rates saving of approximately £500,000.

Government Departments: Wines

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7637\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent estimate he has made of the value of wine in the Government wine cellar.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

I refer the Honourable Member to the Written Ministerial Statement on the Annual Statement of the Government hospitality wine cellar 2014-15 (Written Ministerial Statement of 16 July 2015, HCWS142), a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

■ Human Rights**Ann Clwyd:**[\[7246\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when he next plans to publish his Department's quarterly updates on human rights conditions in countries of concern.

Mr David Lidington:

Updates were published online on 15 July. We did not publish quarterly updates in April 2015 due to purdah constraints. Instead, the 15 July updates covered the period 1 January - 30 June. For future updates we will release our Annual Human Rights and Democracy Report plus a mid-year update on human rights priority countries. This will be a more efficient process allowing us to dedicate more time to tracing and influencing events.

Kerry McCarthy:[\[7537\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what his Department's human rights priorities are for the current Parliament.

Mr David Lidington:

[Holding answer 21 July 2015]: We are currently reconfiguring our work on human rights around three pillars to promote greater focus, boost our impact, and increase our ability to respond to international developments.

These pillars are:

- (i) Democratic values and the rule of law; (ii) The rules-based international system and,
- (iii) Human rights for a stable world.

These will accommodate everything our Embassies, High Commissions and multilateral missions currently prioritise, in locally appropriate ways.

■ Human Rights: Annual Reports**Ann Clwyd:**[\[7689\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department plans to continue to publish detailed analysis of the human rights situation in countries of concern in an annual human rights report.

Mr David Lidington:

We will publish detailed analysis of the human rights situation in priority countries either as part of the Annual Human Rights and Democracy Report or as online updates. We

will review our human rights priority countries and options for the content and format of the Annual Report in the Autumn, as we do each year.

Ann Clwyd: [\[7690\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he proposes to change the (a) length and (b) format of his Department's annual report on human rights and democracy; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Lidington:

We intend to restructure the Annual Report for greater impact and accessibility, focusing it on the previous year's key human rights developments. We will consider a range of options in the autumn.

■ Human Rights: Older People

Heidi Alexander: [\[1791\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will take steps to include the rights of older people in his Department's work on human rights and consider how such rights may be protected globally.

Mr David Lidington:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is responsible for coordinating cross-Government positions at the UN on the rights of older people. Our long-held position, shared with EU partners, is that the focus should be on the implementation of the existing Human Rights framework, which applies to all individuals without distinction.

■ Ilois: Resettlement

Henry Smith: [\[6996\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when he plans to announce the Government's decision on possible resettlement of the British Indian Ocean Territory by Chagos Islanders.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The member for Crawley will note from the written answer of 23 June 2015 (British Indian Ocean Territory: Written question – 2386) given by my honourable friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge MP), that steady progress is being made on the further analysis of resettlement of BIOT. There is no date yet when an announcement on possible resettlement will be made.

■ Immunity from Prosecution

Ann Clwyd: [\[7645\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department is able to grant special mission immunity status to a person in the UK subject to an European arrest warrant.

Ann Clwyd: [\[7646\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many people from which countries were granted special mission immunity status in 2015 after entering the UK without that status.

Ann Clwyd: [\[7647\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what criteria are used to assess a request for special mission immunity status for a person who entered the UK without that status.

Ann Clwyd: [\[7648\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department can grant special mission immunity status to a person who entered the UK without that status.

Ann Clwyd: [\[7649\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what powers he has to re-assess special mission immunity status after entry; and on what grounds such a request made prior to entry can be refused.

Grant Shapps:

The Government set out its position in respect of special mission immunity status in the former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs' Written Ministerial Statement of 4 March 2013 [Official Report, column 55WS].

■ **Romania: Corruption**

Jim Shannon: [\[7317\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with the government of Romania on tackling corruption in the business sector of that country.

Mr David Lidington:

The UK closely monitors the implementation of Romania's National Anticorruption Strategy which covers tackling corruption in the business sector. The UK has provided financial assistance to the Centre for Legal Resources to research ethics and compliance in the Romanian business sector, some of the results of which were subsequently included in Romania's National Anticorruption Strategy.

In April 2015 the British and American Chambers of Commerce in Romania and the Romanian Ministry of Justice organised a conference on business integrity, bringing together Government, businesses, non-governmental organisations and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development representatives to discuss the most effective ways to improve integrity of businesses in Romania.

During his visit to Romania in January 2015, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), met President Klaus Iohannis and set out the important

work Romania needed to take on tackling corruption, improving predictability of legislation and the positive impact this would have on Romania's business environment.

■ Russia: Sanctions

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7860\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of sanctions against Russia; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Lidington:

EU sanctions are delivering a significant cost to Russia for its actions in Ukraine. The fall in the global oil price has driven an economic slump in Russia, including a shrinking economy and sharply declining currency. The wide-ranging restrictions of EU and US economic sanctions are exacerbating these negative trends. Russian sovereign debt has been downgraded to junk status by two ratings agencies and forecasters predict that the Russian economy will contract by between 3.5% and 5% during the current year. Sanctions are an important element of the range of diplomatic measures we are undertaking to effect a change in Russia's behaviour, including to compel Russia to fulfill its obligations under the Minsk agreements. EU member States stand ready to impose additional measures if necessary.

■ UK Membership of EU: Referendums

Stephen Gethins: [\[7392\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to schedules 1 and 2 to the European Referendum Bill, for what reason the maximum custodial sentence for a person who contravenes the Offence Provisions is six months in Northern Ireland and 12 months in other parts of the UK.

Mr David Lidington:

The offences in Schedules 1 and 2 to the EU Referendum Bill follow precedents set by existing law in relation to sentencing.

For these offences the maximum penalties in each part of the UK are the same on conviction on indictment. Where there are differences in the maximum custodial sentence on summary conviction, this reflects existing differences in sentencing powers of the courts that try cases summarily in different parts of the UK.

For summary convictions in England and Wales, the Bill provides that references to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months should be read as 6 months for offences committed before section 154(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 is commenced.

Jim Shannon: [\[7686\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his Irish counterpart on the implications of a potential UK vote to leave the EU.

Mr David Lidington:

I have discussed the Government's plans for a renegotiation of the UK's membership of the EU and referendum with my Irish counterpart, most recently in a visit to Dublin on 26 May. The Government will not speculate on post referendum scenarios. The Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron) is focused on success: he believes he can and will succeed in reforming and renegotiating our relationship with the EU and campaigning to keep the UK in the EU on that basis.

Stephen Gethins:[\[7703\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, for what reasons the offence provisions in schedules 1 and 2 of the European Referendum Bill provide for the same custodial penalty whether an accused person is convicted on indictment or on summary complaint.

Mr David Lidington:

The offences in Schedules 1 and 2 to the EU Referendum Bill follow precedents set by existing electoral and wider law in relation to sentencing.

Where a custodial sentence can be imposed, until section 154(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 is commenced, the maximum custodial sentence on summary conviction in England and Wales is 6 months compared to 12 months for conviction on indictment. In Northern Ireland the maximum custodial sentence on summary conviction is 6 months compared to 12 months for conviction on indictment. In Scotland, the maximum custodial sentence is 12 months on summary conviction or for conviction on indictment.

The maximum custodial sentences on summary conviction reflect existing differences in sentencing powers of the courts that try cases summarily in different parts of the UK.

■ Yemen: Armed Conflict**Mr Andrew Smith:**[\[7887\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect of the conflict in Yemen with Al-Qaeda on (a) global security and (b) security in the Arabian Peninsula; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We remain extremely concerned about the situation in Yemen and the risk that terrorists groups may exploit the ongoing instability. The recent death of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's leader and Al Qaeda Core's Deputy, Nasir al Wuhayshi, was a severe blow to Al Qaeda but it has not reduced the threat it poses. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula continues to threaten the UK and Western interests in Yemen, and poses a global security risk. We are committed to supporting the Yemeni government in establishing a stable and secure Yemen and we continue to work with regional and international partners to tackle the threat posed by AQAP.

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7889\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what support the Government is providing to the Saudi Arabian coalition operations in Yemen; and in what circumstances that support would be withdrawn.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

We are not participating directly in Saudi Arabian led military operations in Yemen, but we are providing technical support, precision-guided weapons and exchanging information with the Saudi Arabian armed forces through pre-existing arrangements. In addition to the personnel who continue to provide support for equipment supplied, we have a small number of liaison personnel in Saudi Arabia and coalition air and maritime headquarters. This includes personnel in the Maritime Coalition Coordination Centre in the region supporting the delivery of humanitarian aid into Yemen.

HEALTH

■ Action on Smoking and Health: Finance

Philip Davies: [\[7774\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2015 to Question 5566, what steps his Department took following receipt of the Freedom of Information requests in May and June 2014 on the use of grant funding by Action on Smoking and Health.

Jane Ellison:

Replies to the Freedom of Information requests in May and June 2014 were sent back to the recipient with documents and information that related to the award of a Section 64 grant to Action on Smoking and Health in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. The Freedom of Information request related to factual information, so specific follow up action from the Department was not required.

The Department continually strives to improve the Grants application process, as part of routine business.

Philip Davies: [\[7775\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2015 to Question 5566, if he will place in the Library a copy of the assessment undertaken in the awarding of all grants to Action on Smoking and Health by his Department; and what the job title is of the official responsible for making recommendations to Ministers on the awarding of such grants.

Philip Davies: [\[7776\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2015 to Question 5566, on what basis his Department reached its conclusion that Action on Smoking and Health was the only charity in this area with the appropriate national record and forms;

whether his Department gave consideration to organisations or bodies within (a) the NHS and (b) local government providing such services; and if he will make a statement.

Jane Ellison:

The assessments undertaken in the awarding of grants to Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) contain policy advice to Ministers and so are not made public. The Deputy Director, Tobacco Control and Responsibility Deal, was the official responsible for making recommendations to Ministers on the awarding of such grants.

The Department reached its conclusion that ASH was the only charity in this area with the appropriate national reach and focus, and appropriate standing in the international arena, based on an assessment of the information contained in the grant application and other relevant information.

Philip Davies:

[7806]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether any application for grant funding from Action on Smoking and Health has been refused in the last five years; and what the date and reasons for such refusal were in each such case.

Jane Ellison:

An application for grant funding from Action on Smoking and Health has not been refused in the last five years.

Philip Davies:

[7814]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, in what month in each of the last 10 years a decision to award a grant under Section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 to Action on Smoking and Health has been made.

Jane Ellison:

The Department is only required to retain documents relating to grants for the six years following the end of the grant. The months which the grant award letters were sent to Action on Smoking and Health in the previous years are:

2008/09 - 2010/11: March 2008

2011/12: October 2011

2012/13: August 2012

2013/14: September 2013

2014/15: October 2014

■ Allergies: Health Services

Mr Barry Sheerman:

[7453]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent representations he has received from (a) charities, (b) medical professionals and (c) patient groups on detection and treatment of allergic diseases.

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7455\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to improve the detection and treatment of (a) food and (b) other allergies.

Jane Ellison:

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has produced a range of allergy related guidance including food allergy, anaphylaxis, drug allergy, bee and wasp allergy, eczema and asthma. NICE provides guidance on best practice in the diagnosis and management of disease as well as assessing specific interventions and procedures.

Whilst the vast majority of patients with allergies can be successfully managed through routine access to primary and secondary care, NHS England commissions certain elements of specialised care that may be needed. Specialised care providers offer multidisciplinary team support and involve a range of clinical specialities.

Correspondence records indicate that since the beginning of the year, Ministers of the Department have received less than five letters from allergy organisations. No letters from patient groups or medical professionals were identified.

■ **Allergies: Research**

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7454\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what research his Department has commissioned or conducted on allergic diseases.

George Freeman:

The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funds a wide range of research relating to allergic diseases through its programmes, fellowship schemes, research centres and units, clinical research facilities and the NIHR Clinical Research Network.

Major current investments include:

- £2.5 million for the South Manchester respiratory and allergy clinical research facility;
- £2.2 million for the research theme on environment, respiratory health and allergy at the biomedical research centre at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London;
- £1.9 million for a trial to determine whether skin barrier enhancement with emollients can prevent eczema in high risk children;
- £1.4 million for a trial of a behavioural change package to prevent hand dermatitis in nurses working in the NHS; and
- £1.3 million for a trial of the effectiveness of the nocturnal use of a temperature controlled laminar airflow device in adults with poorly-controlled, severe allergic asthma.

■ Antibiotics

Nic Dakin:

[7608]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the potential merit of the production of NICE evidence summaries for new and emerging antibiotics as a means of supporting the decisions of local stewardship and medicines management committees.

Jane Ellison:

The Government is determined to use the best available evidence and guidance to support the policy of improving antibiotic prescribing. To this end, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) will be publishing guidance this summer on systems and processes for effective antimicrobial medicine use. In addition, NICE is developing a new Quality Standard on Effective Antimicrobial Stewardship. Consultation on this new Quality Standard will begin in November 2015 with final publication scheduled for April 2016.

■ Autism and Learning Disability: Care Homes

Norman Lamb:

[7452]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people with (a) learning disabilities and (b) autism were in institutional care for each of the last six months; and how many such people currently resident in institutional care (i) have care plans in place and (ii) have a planned date for leaving such care.

Alistair Burt:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) has responsibility for collecting data for the Transforming Care Programme since February 2015. Prior to this, data was collected by NHS England from clinical commissioning groups. There was, however, no data collection in January 2015 due to the transfer from NHS England to the HSCIC and the data for June is not yet available.

The following table shows the number of patients who have learning disabilities and/or autism who were receiving inpatient care since February 2015 in an institutional setting. February figures are lower due to data errors as this was during the period that the collection was transferred from NHS England to HSCIC.

	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
Learning disability or autism	1,015	1,470	1,490	1,500
Autism only	190	295	305	315
Learning disability and autism	400	540	555	565
None of the above, but part of the	70	90	95	95

	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
Transforming Care Programme				
All patients	1,675	2,395	2,445	2,475

The following table shows the available information on the number of patients with an agreed transfer date. This information is currently not available broken down by the diagnosis of learning disabilities and/or autism.

	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
Agreed transfer date	1,055	1,205	1,150	1,165
Not agreed	620	1,190	1,290	1,315

On 3 July 2015, NHS England's Transforming Care Delivery Board published its progress report *Transforming Care for People with Learning Disabilities - Next Steps*.

Care plans for patients in hospital settings were reviewed using Care and Treatment Reviews (CTRs). This showed that by the end of May 2015, there were over 1,700 people in hospital settings who had received a CTR, with over 650 patients discharged into care and support which best suits their individual needs.

■ Bacterial Diseases: Mortality Rates

Julian Sturdy:

[\[7619\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the Answer of 25 November 2014 to Question 215524, when Public Health England intends to publish data on the mortality rate for deaths in 2013 involving (a) *C. difficile* and (b) MRSA in (i) England and (ii) each NHS trust.

Ben Gummer:

Public Health England intends to publish 30-day all-cause mortality following methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia, methicillin sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA) bacteraemia, *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia and *Clostridium difficile* infection in the autumn. Data will be broken down by National Health Service region and patient age and gender.

■ Blood: Contamination

Dr Paul Monaghan:

[7788]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what arrangements have been made to distribute the £25 million of additional compensation to people infected with contaminated blood; when he plans to report progress on this matter to the House; and if he will make a statement.

Jane Ellison:

On 25 March, the Prime Minister announced that £25 million would be allocated to support transition to a reformed scheme. A written ministerial statement ([HCWS146](#)) was given on 20 July, stating that no decision has yet been made but it will be used appropriately to support any transitional arrangements once we have consulted on how a new scheme might be structured.

■ Breast Cancer: Screening

Jim Shannon:

[7316]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to increase the incidence of screening for breast cancer; and if he will make a statement.

Jane Ellison:

In England, Public Health England is working with NHS England to develop a system of performance improvement through the use of performance floors, and strengthened governance for screening. The aims of the performance floors are:

- Improving performance and equity of service over time by reducing the range of variation at a local level.
- Enabling easy identification of poor performance and the setting of objectives and plans for local action, to reduce variation and improve performance.

The breast screening age extension randomisation trial began in 2008 and is investigating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of extending the programme to women aged 47-49 and 71-73. Over two million women have been randomised as part of the trial so far, and we expect that the trial to report in the early 2020s.

■ Carers: Living Wage

Mr Clive Betts:

[7771]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate his Department has made of the additional annual costs to councils of paying the National Living Wage to care workers employed by private firms to provide adult social care services for local authorities from April 2016.

Alistair Burt:

The impact of the new National Living Wage on local authority finances will be considered during the Spending Review as part of an overall assessment of spending pressures on local authorities.

■ Community Care

Norman Lamb: [\[7434\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the responses to consultation on the Green Paper, Strengthening rights and choices for people to live in the community; what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to implement changes proposed in that Green Paper; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt:

The consultation *No voice unheard, no right ignored* closed on 29 May and received 468 responses, including a substantial number from service users and carers. The Department will set out its response and next steps in the autumn. However, a number of proposals to amend police powers under the Mental Health Act 1983 will be taken forward as part of the Policing Bill later this year.

■ Dental Services

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7810\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people and what proportion of patients in each region of England have not seen a dentist in the last two years.

Alistair Burt:

Information is not available on the number of patients who have not seen a dentist in the last two years because the Department does not collect information on private dental treatment.

Gloria De Piero: [\[7828\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people were registered with NHS dentists in (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England in each year since 2008.

Alistair Burt:

The National Health Service does not collect information about registration and so this is not available.

Gloria De Piero: [\[7835\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many NHS dentists were registered in (a) Ashfield, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England in each year since 2008.

Alistair Burt:

The table below provides the numbers of dentists with National Health Service activity for each year since 2008 in England. Nottinghamshire and Ashfield is broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trusts (PCTs) up to year ending 2012/13. Figures are available for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) for year ending 2013/14.

Number of dentists with NHS activity for each year ending 31 March

NATIONAL	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
England	20,815	21,343	22,003	22,799	22,920	23,201	23,723
STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY/PRIMARY CARE TRUST							
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
East Midlands SHA	1,741	1,770	1,829	1,930	1,895	1,911	..
<i>of which</i> <i>Nottinghamshire</i> <i>organisations</i>							
Nottingham City PCT	145	142	147	164	158	173	..
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	307	322	331	335	318	312	..
NHS ENGLAND AREA TEAM/CCG							
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team	..	..	..	..	..	..	915
<i>of which</i> <i>Nottinghamshire</i> <i>organisations</i>							
NHS Mansfield and Ashfield CCG	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
NHS Newark and Sherwood CCG	..	..	..	..	..	..	50

NHS ENGLAND							
AREA							
TEAM/CCG	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
NHS Nottingham City CCG	192
NHS Nottingham North and East CCG	107
NHS Nottingham West CCG	57
NHS Rushcliffe CCG	65

Sources : Health and Social Care Information Centre, NHS Dental Services of the NHS Business Services Authority

Notes:

1. Dentists are defined as performers with NHS activity recorded by FP17 forms.
2. Dentists will be counted more than once if they have a contract in more than one organisation. England totals exclude duplication.
3. Data consists of performers in General Dental Services, Personal Dental Services and Trust-led Dental Services.
4. '..' denotes data not applicable
5. As at 1 April 2013 Area Teams and CCGs replaced SHAs and PCTs. Data are not directly comparable.

■ Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Gloria De Piero:

[7829]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people were on waiting lists to be registered with NHS dentists in (a) Ashfield constituency, (b) Nottinghamshire and (c) England in each year since 2008.

Alistair Burt:

The data on waiting lists to see a dentist in England is not held centrally. Some practices may hold waiting lists for patients wanting to access a National Health Service dentist, but these will be held at practice level. However, since 2010, the Dental Statistics from the GP Patient Survey provide information on the number of people who tried to make an appointment with an NHS dentist in the previous two years and said they had been successful. The information can be found in the attached table.

Attachments:

1. Successful NHS dental appointments 2010-15 [Successful NHS dental appointments 2010-15.xlsx]

■ Department of Health: Buildings**Andrew Gwynne:**[\[7060\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to renew the lease on Skipton House, London SE1.

Jane Ellison:

The Department has appointed professional advisors to work on the business case for the renewal of the Skipton House lease from 2016. They will be seeking the best deal for the Exchequer.

■ Ealing Hospital: Paediatrics**Mr Virendra Sharma:**[\[7769\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans his Department has to (a) close and (b) reduce services at the pediatric department at Ealing Hospital.

Ben Gummer:

This is a matter for the local National Health Service.

As the hon. Member is aware, under the *Shaping a Healthier Future* reconfiguration programme, maternity services are being concentrated at consultant-staffed, 24-7 maternity units in six locations across North West London. The decision to move births away from Ealing Hospital was endorsed by an independent advisory panel and then the Health Secretary in October 2013.

In planning for these changes, clinical leaders examined the inter-dependent services at Ealing Hospital, and recommended that in-patient paediatric services will also need to move in order to maintain the staffing levels required to deliver high-quality services in line with quality standards to improve patient outcomes.

We are advised that the current proposal is for in-patient paediatric services to continue to be provided at Ealing Hospital until 30 June 2016.

There will be improvements to those paediatric services that will remain in place at Ealing Hospital after 30 June 2016. This includes the introduction of a new seven-day-a-week Rapid Access Clinic, which is expected to be operational by autumn 2015. The

clinic will enable general practitioners to obtain same day specialist paediatric opinion for patients, where they believe it to be appropriate.

We are advised that Ealing Hospital will continue to provide a full paediatric outpatient service and a day-case service.

■ Eating Disorders: Young People

Jim Shannon: [7321]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate his Department has made of the number of (a) men and (b) women aged 18 to 25 who have eating disorders.

Alistair Burt:

The data requested are not available.

The Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey (2007) found 6.1% of males and 20.3% of females aged 16-24 who responded to the survey screened positively for an eating disorder. The Survey does not translate these data to national estimates on the prevalence of eating disorders in adults.

■ Eyesight: Testing

Mr Jamie Reed: [7809]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people applied for free NHS sight test vouchers in each of the last five years; and how many such applications were successful.

Alistair Burt:

Only data on free National Health Service sight tests actually provided is collected. Eligible patients may apply, and receive an NHS sight test, at any optical practice holding an NHS contract, providing the sight test is clinically necessary.

The table attached shows the number of NHS sight tests provided in England between 2009/10 and 2013/14. This information has been extracted from the report, *General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England – 2013/14*. This report is available on the Health and Social Care Information Centre website at:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/searchcatalogue?productid=15062&topics=1%2fPrimary+care+services%2fEye+care+services&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1#top>

Attachments:

1. NHS sight tests, England 2009-10 to 2013-14 [NHS sight tests by patient eligibility.docx]

■ General Practitioners

Mr Jamie Reed: [7630]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many GP practices in each pathfinder area have signed up to care.data.

George Freeman:

The care.data pathfinder clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are, Blackburn with Darwen, Leeds North, Leeds West, Leeds South and East, West Hampshire and Somerset.

The number of general practitioner practices who have signed up as pathfinders across West Hampshire, Somerset and Blackburn with Darwen is over 70%.

The numbers are as follows:

Blackburn with Darwen – 23

Somerset - 47

West Hampshire - 31

The three Leeds CCGs are still recruiting practices.

■ General Practitioners: Contracts**Emily Thornberry:**[\[7783\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many new (a) General Medical Services, (b) Personal Medical Services and (c) Alternative Provider Medical Services contracts were agreed with GP practices in (i) England, (ii) London, (iii) the London Borough of Islington and (iv) Islington South and Finsbury constituency in each of the last five years.

Alistair Burt:

This information is not collected centrally.

In terms of the total for England, numbers of new contracts agreed with GP practices is not collected nationally.

■ General Practitioners: Finance**Emily Thornberry:**[\[7782\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and what proportion of GP practices in (a) England, (b) London, (c) the London Borough of Islington and (d) Islington South and Finsbury constituency have received funding from (i) the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund and (ii) the Primary Care Infrastructure Fund.

Alistair Burt:

The numbers and proportions of general practitioner (GP) practices that are part of a wave one or wave two Prime Minister's GP Access Fund (known formerly as the PM Challenge Fund) scheme are:

(a) In England – 2637, which is 33.5% of the number of practices at 30 September 2014

(b) In London – 724, which is 51% of the number of practices at 30 September 2014

(c) In the London borough of Islington – 33, which is 92% of the number of practices at 30 September 2014

(d) In the Islington South and Finsbury constituency – 16, which is 89% of the number of practices at 30 September 2014

The numbers and proportion of GP practices with indicative funding approval from the Primary Care Infrastructure Fund in 2015/16 are as follows:

(a) In England, 721 – which is 9.2% of the number of practices at 30 September, 2014

(b) In London, 182 – which is 12.4% of the number of practices at 30 September, 2014

(c) In the London Borough of Islington (Islington Clinical Commissioning Group), 2 – which is 5.6% of the number of practices at 30 September 2014

(d) In the Islington South and Finsbury Constituency, 1 – which is 5.6% of the number of practices at 30 September 2014

■ General Practitioners: Overseas Workers

Emily Thornberry: [\[7785\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the number of UK-trained GPs who opted to practice overseas on completing their training in each of the last 10 years.

Ben Gummer:

The Department does not collect this information.

■ General Practitioners: Resignations

Emily Thornberry: [\[7786\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the number of (a) male and (b) female GPs who left the profession, for reasons other than retirement, in each of the last 10 years.

Ben Gummer:

No estimate has been made of the number of male and female general practitioners who left the profession, for reasons other than retirement, in each of the last 10 years.

■ General Practitioners: Wales

Emily Thornberry: [\[7787\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to monitor the introduction in Wales of an 18-month training placement for general practice during which trainees will be salaried directly by the Welsh NHS; and whether he plans to introduce such measures in England.

Ben Gummer:

Health services are a devolved matter with each United Kingdom country responsible for ensuring they have a workforce that is equipped to deliver high quality patient care. However, the four UK countries are committed to working together to ensure, where appropriate, Workforce Education and Training policies are aligned.

General practice trainees in England are already required to undertake 18 month placements in general practice as part of their postgraduate specialty training. Currently, general practices that provide training do not contribute to that trainee's salary, which is

funded by Health Education England. General practices are also given a general practitioner trainers grant to contribute towards the cost of training.

■ **General Practitioners: West Yorkshire**

Greg Mulholland: [7397]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many GP appointments were available in (a) West Yorkshire and (b) Leeds in each of the last five years.

Alistair Burt:

The data requested are not collected centrally.

Greg Mulholland: [7398]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many GPs were employed in (a) West Yorkshire and (b) Leeds in each of the last five years.

Ben Gummer:

The information for all general practitioner (GP) numbers (full-time equivalent) is shown in the following table and is available in *General and Personal Medical Services Statistics* on the Health and Social Care Information Centre website at:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB16934>

All GPs by selected area in England: Full-time equivalent; for years 2010 to 2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
West Yorkshire	1,497	1,516	1,513	1,540	1,508
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	394	391	384	.	.
Calderdale PCT	115	113	119	.	.
Kirklees PCT	232	250	246	.	.
Leeds PCT	506	514	516	.	.
Wakefield District PCT	250	248	248	.	.
NHS Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG	.	.	.	110	109

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NHS Bradford Districts CCG	.	.	.	249	234
NHS Calderdale CCG	.	.	.	115	117
NHS Leeds North CCG	.	.	.	123	135
NHS Bradford City CCG	.	.	.	62	55
NHS Greater Huddersfield CCG	.	.	.	150	141
NHS Leeds West CCG	.	.	.	216	212
NHS Leeds South and East CCG	.	.	.	164	169
NHS North Kirklees CCG	.	.	.	93	92
NHS Wakefield CCG	.	.	.	258	243
Leeds	506	514	516	502	517
Leeds PCT	506	514	516	.	.
NHS Leeds North CCG	.	.	.	123	135
NHS Leeds West CCG	.	.	.	216	212
NHS Leeds South and East CCG	.	.	.	164	169

Source: The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Notes:

1. Data as at 30 September for each year.
2. Full-time equivalent GPs are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) replaced primary care trusts (PCTs) in April 2013. Accordingly, data are provided for the five PCTs that cover the West Yorkshire area for years 2010-12 and the 10 CCGs that cover the West Yorkshire area for years 2013-14. It must be noted that because of the transition between PCTs to CCGs, mapping may not be coterminous in all instances.
4. '.' denotes not applicable.

Data quality:

The HSCIC seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level, figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

■ **General Practitioners: Woking**

Mr Jonathan Lord:

[\[6901\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many GPs there were employed in the (a) Primary Care Trust and (b) Clinical Commissioning Group serving Woking constituency in each year since 2010.

Ben Gummer:

National Health Service workforce data is not available at constituency level. Such information is available in the following table. Due to differences in boundaries, primary care trust (PCT) data from 2010 to 2012 is not comparable to clinical commissioning group (CCG) data in 2013 and 2014.

General practitioners (GPs) by selected area in England: Headcount and full-time equivalent 2010-2014

HEADCOUNT	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Surrey PCT					
All GPs	906	906	880	.	.
GPs (excluding Retainers and	758	770	743	.	.

HEADCOUNT	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Registrars)					
NHS North West Surrey CCG					
All GPs	.	.	.	238	229
GPs (excluding Retainers and Registrars)	.	.	.	222	222
Full-Time Equivalent					
Surrey PCT					
All GPs	805	811	789	.	.
GPs (excluding Retainers and Registrars)	679	696	682	.	.
NHS North West Surrey CCG					
All GPs	.	.	.	224	216
GPs (excluding Retainers and Registrars)	.	.	.	211	211

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

Notes:

Data as at 30 September 2014 for each year. NHS workforce data is not available at constituency level. Woking constituency is contained within and serviced by NHS North West Surrey CCG. Prior to 1 April 2013, Woking constituency was contained within and serviced by Surrey PCT. Due to the differences in boundaries, PCT data from 2010-2012 is not comparable to CCG data in 2013 and 2014.

The HSCIC seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

■ Genito-urinary Medicine: Finance

Mike Freer: [\[7131\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what his policy is on the level of future funding for open access to sexual health services which local authorities are obliged to provide under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Mike Freer: [\[7132\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of the Government's proposed £200 million reduction in the local government public health grant will apply to public health funding in each local authority area.

Jane Ellison:

We will shortly publish a consultation on how best to implement these savings in ways that minimise any impact on services.

Spending decisions on particular services, such as sexual health services, will remain for local authorities to make in the light of their local priorities. They are best placed to assess local needs and prioritise the deployment of their available resources accordingly.

■ Glaucoma: Medical Treatments

Jim Shannon: [\[7319\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether his Department has had discussions with the Royal Colleges on the provision of treatment for glaucoma using hypodermic needles; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt:

No discussions have taken place between the Department and the Royal Colleges about the provision of treatment for glaucoma using hypodermic needles.

Clinical commissioning groups are responsible for the commissioning of secondary care services to meet the needs of their local population.

■ Headaches

Jim Shannon: [\[7320\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information his Department holds on the number of people who have suffered from migraine in each of the last five years.

Jane Ellison:

Information concerning the number of people diagnosed as suffering from migraine on an annual basis is not collected.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guideline, *Headaches: Diagnosis and management of headaches in young people and adults*, published in 2012, sets out best practice for healthcare professionals in the care, treatment and support of people who suffer from headaches. The guideline includes specific information on the management of migraines, such as the prescribing of appropriate pain-relief medication.

■ Health Professions: Regulation

Karin Smyth: [7174]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions (a) Ministers, (b) special advisers and (c) officials in his Department have had with other Government departments on introducing the Law Commission Bill on regulation of health and social care professions for parliamentary consideration; and if he will make a statement.

Ben Gummer:

Ministers, special advisers and officials have had a range of discussions with their counterparts in other Government departments, in particular the Department for Education and the Cabinet Office. The Government is considering how the Law Commissions' work can best be taken forward.

■ Health Services

Marie Rimmer: [7702]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many (a) NHS establishments, (b) private and medical establishments and (c) registered medical practitioners operate in the UK; how many such establishments or practitioners process personal data for which notification or registration with the Information Commissioner is required; and what estimate he has made of how much revenue has been generated by registered medical practitioners in the UK from processing personal data in each of the last three years.

George Freeman:

The Care Quality Commission regulates health and adult social care providers in England and has published data about the number of organisations it regulates in its business plan, which is available at:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/business-plan-shaping-future>

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires every organisation in England that processes personal information to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), unless they are exempt.

Information about the number of health and care organisations required to register with the ICO is not held centrally.

Information about how much revenue has been generated by registered medical practitioners in the United Kingdom from processing personal data is not held centrally.

■ Health Services: Data Protection

Marie Rimmer:

[7701]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what support and guidance has been provided by his Department and the NHS to ensure that (a) NHS establishments, (b) private and medical establishments, (c) registered medical practitioners and (d) medical practitioner regulatory bodies are aware of their obligations under the Data Protection Act; and what plans he has to provide such support and guidance to each of those entities.

George Freeman:

Each National Health Service organisation, private medical organisation and general practitioner (GP) practice is a Data Controller and responsible for ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

In addition to their legal responsibilities, these organisations are also subject to contractual obligations for data protection. Most NHS organisations, including non-NHS organisations providing NHS services are required to complete an annual assessment of information governance practice using the Department's online Information Governance Toolkit to provide assurance of compliance. The Health and Social Care Information Centre provides an online Information Governance Training Tool which covers the Data Protection Act as well as other relevant law and legislation. This Training can be found at:

<https://www.igtt.hscic.gov.uk/igte/index.cfm>

Members of the public can view an organisation's annual report.

NHS England has provided specific Data Protection Act guidance to commissioners and GPs/primary care on data processing for risk stratification, invoice validation, fair processing, identity verification (for patient on-line services) and safeguarding. Specific NHS England programmes include work on Data Protection, alongside other relevant issues. Further guidance is in development to support organisations delivering primary care innovation under the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund. NHS England also provides dedicated Information Governance support for this programme to deal with day to day issues and strategic direction.

Medical practitioner regulatory bodies are independent of Government and it would be inappropriate for the Department to influence their work in this area.

■ Health Services: Social Services

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[7864]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what data his Department collects on the state and quality of health and social care co-ordination; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt:

Currently, an integrated health and social care scorecard on the MyNHS website shows performance on the four core metrics used for the Better Care Fund:

- Total non-elective admissions (general and acute) per 100,000 population;

- Total permanent admissions to residential and nursing care per 100,000 population of people aged 65 and over;
- Proportion of older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services; and
- Delayed transfers of care (total delayed days) from hospital.

The scorecard can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/performance/Results?ResultsViewId=1041>

The data presented here relates to the performance of health and social care services provided within the area covered by each of the 151 Health and Wellbeing Boards.

On 1 July during the Local Government Association annual conference, my Rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health announced a new set of unified metrics for the integration of health and social care.

The metrics will consist of a range of indicators that can measure how areas are progressing in relation to the integration of health and care services, including the impact of integration on service provision and individual experience. They will be used as a tool for areas to check on their progress towards a fully integrated health and social care system, to compare this progress to other local areas, and will allow best practice from those areas progressing well to be shared across the system. All areas should be baselined and benchmarked nationally by December 2015.

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[7865]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to improve the co-ordination and efficiency of health and social care; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt:

In 2015/16, the £5.3 billion Better Care Fund is bringing together local authority and National Health Service budgets in every area in England. With health and social care funds combined in pooled budgets, local leaders and clinical experts have worked alongside each other to plan and commission joined-up services across all aspects of the local health and care economy. This coordinated way of working is intended to help areas to deliver services that better fit the needs of their local population, as well as to ensure that the most can be made of the resources available.

■ **Health: Bristol**

Karin Smyth:

[7156]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that long-term improvements to (a) walking, (b) cycling and (c) other public health programmes are a legacy of Bristol's year as European Green Capital.

Jane Ellison:

Significant investment continues to be made to the infrastructure, education and training needed to increase cycling and walking through programmes such as the Department for Transport's Cycling Ambition Cities and National Parks Programme, the Department of Health's investment in five English cities to deliver a range of interventions to support residents to build walking into their day to day lives, and Public Health England has also published 'Everybody Active, Every Day' to suggest ways to increase physical activity in local communities in England.

Local authorities have responsibility for the commissioning of health improvement services and it is for them to decide how best to meet local needs and priorities.

■ Healthy Start Scheme**Mrs Sharon Hodgson:**[\[7612\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the potential reasons for changes in the number of recipients of Healthy Start in the last year; and what steps he is taking to ensure that all those who are eligible are encouraged to apply for that benefit.

Jane Ellison:

Eligibility for Healthy Start vouchers and vitamins is linked to the receipt of certain income-related benefits. The number of people claiming these benefits has decreased recently, therefore the number entitled to Healthy Start has also decreased.

Around 74% of people who are eligible to Healthy Start vouchers take up the benefit, and during 2014/15 the take up rate is remaining constant at 74%. All potential beneficiaries are contacted by the Healthy Start Issuing Unit and are invited to apply. The Department also publicises the scheme via the Healthy Start website and helpline.

■ Hereditary Diseases: Screening**John Glen:**[\[7429\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 20 June 2015 to Question 3515, what assessment he has made of the affordability to the NHS of providing screening tests for (a) sickle cell disease, (b) cystic fibrosis, (c) congenital hypothyroidism, (d) phenylketonuria, (e) medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency, (f) maple syrup urine disease, (g) isovaleric acidaemia, (h) glutaric aciduria type 1 and (i) homocystinuria (pyridoxine unresponsive); what suppliers are used by the NHS to provide each such test; and if he will make a statement.

Ben Gummer:

The NHS Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme is directly commissioned by NHS England as part of the Section 7A agreement of the National Health Service Act (2006), as amended by the Health and Social Care Act (2012). It sets out the arrangements under which the Secretary of State for Health delegates to NHS England the responsibility for certain elements of Public Health functions. The affordability of the

NHS Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme is discussed with NHS England as part of the Section 7A agreement.

Information on suppliers used by the NHS is not held centrally.

■ HIV Infection: Health Services

Mike Freer: [\[7527\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what progress his Department has made in developing a HIV prevention strategy; and what timetable he has set for the development of that strategy.

Jane Ellison:

The Department's Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England (2013) addresses HIV prevention as part of wider action to improve sexual health and modernise sexual health services. It sets out the evidence base for sexual health improvement, including for people at risk of HIV. In addition, Public Health England (PHE) is currently consulting on its Health Promotion Strategic Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV. This will complement the Department's Framework and PHE expect to publish their strategic plan later this year.

■ Hospital Beds

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7866\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of cross-charging in reducing bed-blocking; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt:

The Department consulted on changes to delayed discharge processes, including arrangements for the National Health Service to claim reimbursement for any delays attributed to a local authority, as part of its broader consultation on the draft regulations and statutory guidance underpinning Part 1 of the Care Act 2014.

The responses to the consultation indicated that, whilst reimbursement arrangements may have a role to play, the focus should be on better integration between health and social care and the development of mechanisms such as the Better Care Fund to achieve this, and that reimbursement should be permissive rather than mandatory. As a result, new provisions are laid under the Care Act 2014.

The £5.3 billion Better Care Fund will support areas to join up health and social care and to change the way that services are delivered, and includes a strong focus on reducing the number of unnecessary days spent by people in hospital.

■ Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Emily Thornberry: [\[7784\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the average waiting time was between referral to secondary care and the beginning of treatment in (a) England, (b) London, (c) the London

Borough of Islington and (d) Islington South and Finsbury constituency in each of the last five years.

Jane Ellison:

The information is shown in the following table.

Median waiting time in weeks from referral to the start of consultant-led treatment for non-urgent conditions for admitted and non-admitted patients in (a) England, (b) London, and (c) Islington, June 2010 to May 2015

MONTH	ENGLAND		LONDON ¹		ISLINGTON ²	
	ADMITTED PATIENTS ³	NON-ADMITTED PATIENTS ⁴	ADMITTED PATIENTS	NON-ADMITTED PATIENTS	ADMITTED PATIENTS	NON-ADMITTED PATIENTS
JUNE 2010	8.3	4.4	8.4	4.2	7.9	3.0
July 2010	8.3	4.3	8.2	4.0	8.5	1.8
August 2010	8.3	4.4	8.1	4.0	8.1	2.0
September 2010	8.7	4.7	8.5	4.2	8.6	1.5
October 2010	8.7	4.3	8.4	3.8	8.2	1.6
November 2010	8.3	4.2	8.1	3.8	8.5	1.8
December 2010	7.9	4.1	7.8	3.7	8.0	1.6
January 2011	9.1	4.8	8.9	4.4	9.2	1.6
February 2011	9.0	3.5	8.8	3.1	9.7	1.7
March 2011	7.9	3.7	7.8	3.2	8.0	1.5
April 2011	7.7	3.7	7.7	3.1	7.5	1.4
May 2011	8.4	4.5	8.5	3.9	8.9	1.8
June 2011	8.7	4.1	8.5	3.4	9.1	1.4
July 2011	8.2	3.9	8.1	3.4	8.4	1.7

	ENGLAND		LONDON ¹		ISLINGTON ²	
August 2011	8.1	4.1	8.1	3.4	7.6	1.4
September 2011	8.8	4.5	8.9	3.8	9.3	1.3
October 2011	8.4	3.9	8.6	3.3	8.6	1.2
November 2011	8.1	4.0	8.1	3.4	8.0	1.3
December 2011	7.8	3.8	8.1	3.1	7.6	1.2
January 2012	8.8	4.4	9.1	3.6	8.3	1.4
February 2012	8.7	3.6	9.0	2.9	8.3	1.5
March 2012	8.1	3.6	7.9	2.9	7.7	1.4
April 2012	8.1	4.0	8.0	3.1	7.7	1.5
May 2012	8.4	4.1	8.4	3.2	8.1	1.6
June 2012	8.4	4.2	8.5	3.1	7.5	1.5
July 2012	8.5	4.1	8.2	3.2	7.0	1.5
August 2012	8.3	4.3	8.0	3.1	7.5	1.4
September 2012	8.8	4.7	8.7	3.6	7.4	1.4
October 2012	8.6	4.2	8.3	3.3	7.7	1.4
November 2012	8.3	4.2	8.0	3.3	7.4	1.4
December 2012	8.0	4.0	7.7	2.8	7.0	1.2
January 2013	9.2	4.8	8.8	3.6	8.0	1.2
February 2013	9.2	3.8	8.7	2.8	7.8	1.3
March 2013	8.2	3.9	7.7	3.1	7.5	2.0

	ENGLAND		LONDON ¹		ISLINGTON ²	
April 2013	8.5	5.1	7.9	5.1	7.5	5.2
May 2013	8.7	4.8	7.9	4.8	7.0	4.9
June 2013	8.7	5.2	7.9	5.2	7.6	5.0
July 2013	8.6	5.0	7.9	5.0	7.4	4.8
August 2013	8.6	5.2	8.0	5.1	7.4	5.1
September 2013	9.1	5.7	8.4	5.6	6.4	5.2
October 2013	9.0	5.1	8.5	5.1	7.3	5.2
November 2013	8.7	5.1	8.1	5.1	7.4	4.8
December 2013	8.3	4.9	7.8	4.8	6.5	4.5
January 2014	9.4	5.8	9.0	5.8	9.4	6.2
February 2014	9.5	4.7	8.8	4.9	7.3	5.2
March 2014	8.8	4.8	8.2	4.9	6.8	5.4
April 2014	8.6	5.0	8.2	5.1	7.4	5.8
May 2014	9.1	5.5	8.4	5.5	7.6	6.3
June 2014	9.4	5.4	8.7	5.3	7.7	5.7
July 2014	8.9	5.2	8.3	5.1	7.7	5.5
August 2014	8.9	5.5	8.2	5.3	6.2	5.8
September 2014	9.5	6.0	9.2	5.9	8.8	6.3
October 2014	9.3	5.4	8.9	5.2	7.5	6.8
November 2014	9.2	5.4	8.6	5.3	7.6	6.2
December 2014	8.4	5.1	7.8	5.0	7.2	5.8

	ENGLAND		LONDON ¹		ISLINGTON ²	
January 2015	9.7	6.1	9.0	6.0	9.0	6.9
February 2015	10.0	5.2	9.5	5.0	8.3	5.4
March 2015	9.1	5.0	8.5	4.9	7.4	5.6
April 2015	9.0	5.5	8.7	5.4	7.7	6.1
May 2015	9.3	5.5	8.7	8.4	7.7	5.8

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

Notes:

1. London is defined as London Strategic Health Authority to March 2013 and London Area Team from April 2013.
2. The information is published by National Health Service commissioning area (primary care trusts (PCTs) to March 2013 and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) from April 2013) and not by local authority or parliamentary constituency. Islington is therefore defined as Islington PCT to March 2013 and NHS Islington CCG from April 2013.
3. Referral to treatment waiting times for patients whose wait ended during the month with an inpatient or day case admission for treatment.
4. Referral to treatment waiting times for patients whose wait ended during the month for reasons other than an inpatient or day case admission for treatment (e.g. started treatment in an outpatient setting).
5. Responsibility for the commissioning of consultant-led sexual health services was transferred to local authorities on 1 April 2013. This means that data is not consistent over the period and is likely to have had most effect on the median waits for non-admitted patients.

■ Hospitals: Waste

Jim Shannon:

[\[7318\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions he has had with local health authorities on reducing the level of waste in hospitals.

George Freeman:

We have interpreted 'waste in hospitals' to mean clinical, food and general waste.

Ministerial meetings with national and local National Health Service organisations occur on a regular basis and a wide range of issues are discussed. These discussions may have included waste in hospitals but it is difficult to identify when such specific discussions on this topic occurred.

■ Medical Records

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7540\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when care.data will be rolled out nationally; and if he will make a statement.

George Freeman:

A full evaluation of the pathfinder stage will take place and further rollout of the programme is dependent on this evaluation. It is a programme led evaluation and the timing of it is subject to the National Data Guardian's (Dame Fiona Caldicott) assessment of the arrangements and safeguards which will precede it. NHS England anticipates it will conclude in early 2016. The evaluation will involve the care.data pathfinder practices and clinical commissioning groups.

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7541\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many representations he has received from (a) individuals and (b) groups (i) in favour of and (ii) against care.data in the last six months.

George Freeman:

NHS England carried out an extensive listening exercise following the decision to pause the programme in February 2014. More than 3,000 people took part in over 180 local and regional meetings and events including patients, general practitioners, practice managers, patient groups and the research community. A range of views were expressed during this engagement and these have helped to shape the programme, including the addition of a phased approach to implementation starting with a pathfinder stage.

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7709\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessments he has made of the deliverability of care.data during the pathfinder stage.

George Freeman:

No information will be collected until Dame Fiona Caldicott, the National Patient Data Guardian, advises she is satisfied with the care.data pathfinder's proposals and safeguards. A full evaluation of the pathfinder stage will take place before national rollout begins.

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7710\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have opted out of the care.data scheme in each of the pathfinder areas.

George Freeman:

July 2015 figures covering 61% of the care.data pathfinder general practitioner (GP) practices suggest that, across those practices, 1.8% of patients have registered a type 1 objection, to their identifiable data being shared outside their GP practice for purposes other than their direct care. Some practices have higher volumes of objections than others, but the majority fall within 0.5-2.5% range.

■ Medical Records: Publicity

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7629\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to initiate a public awareness campaign before the national rollout of care.data.

George Freeman:

Pathfinder practices are planning to begin communicating with their patients in autumn 2015. Patients who are over 16, registered at a pathfinder practice, will receive a letter and booklet about information sharing and an opt-out form. Awareness raising activities are planned in each pathfinder area to complement the delivery of the letter and the decision to send patient communications will be made with each pathfinder area based on their readiness to proceed. No artificial timeframes are being imposed by the programme.

■ Medical Treatments

Sir David Amess: [\[7529\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of variations in the length of time NHS trusts take to implement NICE guidance.

George Freeman:

We have made no such assessment.

Commissioners are legally required to fund treatments recommended in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals or highly specialised technology evaluations, normally within three months of NICE's guidance being published. Other guidance from NICE is not mandatory.

We expect commissioners to take NICE's guidance into account in their decision making. The Innovation Scorecard provides data on local level uptake of some NICE approved products over a period of time. This data can be used by local commissioners to support identification of variation in uptake of some newer products.

Sir David Amess: [\[7825\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent discussions he has had with NHS England on the performance of NHS trusts in implementing NICE guidance.

George Freeman:

We have had no such discussions. We expect National Health Service organisations to take guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence into account in their decision making.

■ Mental Health Services

Norman Lamb: [\[7451\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of actions plans that have been submitted by local partners in implementing the standards set out in the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat; whether his Department monitors

progress against commitments made in such action plans in each local area; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt:

By May this year, every locality in England had agreed a mental health Crisis Care Concordat action plan. The Department worked closely with NHS England, the mental health charity Mind, and with local areas to make sure that every plan contained achievable commitments to review and improve local crisis services.

I will write to local Concordat groups shortly to ask that they work to update action plans by the end of October, provide information on their local governance arrangements, and report on progress made to date.

■ **Mental Health Services: Children**

Norman Lamb: [\[7450\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many (a) available and (b) unused beds there were in each category in Tier 4 of children and young people's mental health services in (i) total and (ii) each region in each of the last 20 weeks.

Alistair Burt:

NHS England does not collect and publish the information in the form requested.

■ **Mental Health Services: Out of Area Treatment**

Norman Lamb: [\[7435\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, which (a) 10 mental health trusts and (b) clinical commissioning groups (CCG) were responsible for the placing of most patients out of area in each of the last six months; and how many patients were placed out of area by each such (i) trust and (ii) CCG in each month.

Norman Lamb: [\[7436\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many patients of mental health trusts have been placed in beds out of the area of the mental health trust where they live in each of the last six months; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt:

The information is not available in the format requested.

■ **NHS Trusts: Executives**

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7868\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many NHS Trust chief executives hold a qualification in healthcare management; and if he will make a statement.

Ben Gummer:

This information is not held centrally.

■ NHS: Data Protection

Marie Rimmer: [\[7391\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much (a) his Department and (b) the NHS has spent on data protection training and guidance for NHS personnel in each of the last three years for which information is available; and what assessment he (i) has made and (ii) plans to make of the effectiveness of that training and guidance.

George Freeman:

The Department has not funded any data protection training or guidance for National Health Service personnel during the last three years. However, the Department, working with NHS England, the Health and Social Care Information Centre, Public Health England and other national health and care organisations recently established the Information Governance Alliance to provide a joined up and consistent approach to providing support and guidance to the NHS on a range of information governance issues, including data protection.

Information about how much NHS organisations spend on data protection training is not collected centrally. While NHS organisations are required to provide training to their staff which incorporates key elements of data protection, each organisation is responsible for determining the type and quantity of training and for enduring that it is effective. No assessment of the effectiveness of local training is made centrally.

■ NHS: Training

Sir Nicholas Soames: [\[7867\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will place in the Library copies of the syllabus and teaching materials for the (a) Edward Jenner, (b) Nye Bevan, (c) Mary Seacole, (d) Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, (e) The Director, (f) Ready Now, (g) Senior Operational Leaders and (h) Intersect systems leadership programme.

Ben Gummer:

This information is held by the NHS Leadership Academy and not the Department. We understand that the view of the NHS Leadership Academy is that the information should not be released as it is considered to be commercially sensitive.

■ Obesity

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[7345\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effect of the Public Health Responsibility Deal on obesity rates amongst (a) adults and (b) children.

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[7346\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether the Public Health Responsibility Deal will be part of the National Obesity Framework.

Jane Ellison:

No assessment has been made of the effect of the Public Health Responsibility Deal on obesity rates amongst adults and children. Billions of calories and tonnes of sugar have been taken out of food and soft drinks, which helps people eat a healthier diet, but the challenge to industry remains.

We will put forward our plans for a childhood obesity strategy before the year end.

Mr Jamie Reed:[\[7628\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many (a) children and (b) adults in (i) Copeland constituency, (ii) Cumbria and (iii) England are classed as (A) overweight, (B) obese and (C) morbidly obese.

Jane Ellison:

Table 1 shows the prevalence of children who are classified as overweight and obese in Copeland constituency, Cumbria and England. Public Health England (PHE) does not calculate severe obesity for children. The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data only consider children in Year 6 and Reception, rather than all children, and collects information on overweight and obese children. There is currently no universal definition of severe paediatric obesity

Table 1: Prevalence data presented as count and percentage

CHILDREN	OVERWEIGHT	OBESE	MORBIDLY OBESE
Copeland constituency	Reception - 104 (15.3%) Year 6 - 91 (13.4%)	Reception – 67 (10.8%) Year 6 - 128 (20.6%)	Not available
Cumbria	Reception - 720 (15.2%) Year 6 - 671 (14.1%)	Reception 448 (10.0%) Year 6 – 869 (19.3%)	Not available
England	Reception – 76718 (13.1%) Year 6 – 84,758 (14.4%)	Reception - 48748 (9.5%) Year 6 – 98,190 (19.1%)	Not available

Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB16070/nati-chil-meas-prog-eng-2013-2014-tab.xlsx>

Table 2 below shows the prevalence of adults who are classified as overweight and obese in Copeland constituency, Cumbria and England. The data used by PHE in its Public Health Outcomes Framework are weight data for adults collected on a sample basis by Sport England, through its Active People Survey. The survey methodology determines the availability of final figures at local level.

Table 2: Percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese

ADULTS	OVERWEIGHT	OBESE	MORBIDLY OBESE
Copeland constituency	47.6%	28.3%	Not available
Cumbria	44.5%	23.9%	Not available
England	40.8%	23.0%	Not available

Source: Public Health England Public Health Outcomes Framework, using Active People Survey, Sport England, 2012 data

<http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#gid/1000042/pat/6/ati/102/page/3/par/E12000002/are/E10000006/iid/90640/age/164/sex/4>

■ Obesity: Children

Ms Karen Buck: [\[6954\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of children was classified as obese in each local authority area in (a) 2009 and (b) 2014.

Jane Ellison:

In 2009/10, prevalence of obesity at reception ranged from 5.52% (York) to 14.74% (Southwark). At Year 6, prevalence of obesity ranged from 12.08% (Richmond upon Thames) to 28.60% (Westminster).

In 2013/14, prevalence of obesity at reception ranged from 5.51% (Windsor and Maidenhead) to 14.38% (Hackney). At Year 6, prevalence of obesity ranged from 11.06% (Richmond upon Thames) to 26.68% (Southwark).

Attached for information is the proportion of children classified as obese in each local authority.

Attachments:

1. Childhood prevalence of obesity per LA 2009 & 2014 [Prevalence of obesity data per local authority.xlsx]

■ Parkinson's Disease: Health Services

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7491\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent representations has he received from (a) charities, (b) medical professionals and (c) patient groups on the detection and treatment of Parkinson's disease.

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7493\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to improve the (a) detection and (b) treatment of Parkinson's disease.

Jane Ellison:

Parkinson's disease: Diagnosis and management in primary and secondary care, published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in 2006 sets out best practice for clinicians on the diagnosis treatment care and support of people with Parkinson's disease.

The guideline highlights key symptoms of the disease including tremor, stiffness and slowness and states that patients in whom the disease is suspected should be promptly referred to a specialist with expertise in the condition. Treatments for Parkinson's disease are largely drug based. The NICE guidance states that patient preference should be taken into account, once they have been informed of the short- and long-term benefits and drawbacks of the different types of drugs available. The guidance makes it clear that other supportive treatments, such as physiotherapy and speech and language therapy, may also be appropriate.

Whilst most patients with Parkinson's disease can be successfully managed through routine access to primary and secondary care, NHS England commissions certain elements of specialised care, as well as specific drugs and interventions that may be needed. Specialised care providers offer multidisciplinary team support and involve a range of clinical specialities.

Regarding recent representation concerning Parkinson's disease, in October last year, Parkinson's Disease UK met with the then Minister of State (Norman Lamb) to discuss the arrangements for NHS Continuing Healthcare payments. Since then, our records indicate that Ministers of the Department have received less than 10 letters from charities specifically about the care and treatment of Parkinson's disease. No letters from patient groups or medical professionals were identified.

■ Parkinson's Disease: Research**Mr Barry Sheerman:**[\[7492\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) conducted on Parkinson's disease in the last five years.

George Freeman:

The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funds a wide range of research relating to Parkinson's disease through its programmes, fellowship schemes, research centres and units, clinical research facilities and the NIHR Clinical Research Network.

Major investments that relate fully or partially to Parkinson's disease include:

- £3.5 million for the research theme on dementia and neurodegenerative disease at the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre (2012-17);
- £3.1 million for the research theme on neuroscience at the NIHR Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (2012-17);
- £3.0 million for the research theme on functional neuroscience and imaging at the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (2012-17);

- £2.0 million for a programme of research to inform clinical management of visual hallucinations associated with Parkinson's disease and other conditions (2012-18);
- £1.9 million for a trial of the effectiveness of an intervention to prevent falls among people with Parkinson's disease (2013-17); and
- £1.3 million for an evaluation of short-term integrated palliative care services to optimise care for people with advanced long-term neurological conditions (2014-18).

■ Pharmacy: Negligence

Kevin Barron: [R] [\[7371\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to consult further with pharmacy representative bodies before bringing forward legislative proposals to decriminalise dispensing errors made by pharmacists.

Kevin Barron: [R] [\[7372\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will take steps to exclude pharmacists from sanctions resulting from genuine dispensing errors and medicine labelling errors.

Kevin Barron: [R] [\[7373\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the effect of his Department's plans for the decriminalisation of dispensing errors on the number of cases brought annually against pharmacists for such errors.

Kevin Barron: [R] [\[7374\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to amend section 85 of the Medicines Act 1968, as it relates to medicines labelling, in legislation to decriminalise errors made by pharmacists.

Kevin Barron: [R] [\[7375\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effect of section 85 of the Medicines Act on the willingness of pharmacists to report dispensing errors; and if he will make a statement.

Kevin Barron: [R] [\[7376\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to amend the law on labelling of medicines in order to decriminalise dispensing errors.

Kevin Barron: [R] [\[7377\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether the inadvertent mislabelling of medicines will remain an offence following the Government's legislation to decriminalise dispensing errors.

Alistair Burt:

The programme board for "rebalancing" medicines legislation and pharmacy regulation is tasked with examining the respective scope of legislation and regulation, and the interface between them, with a view to ensuring these are optimally designed to provide

safety for users of pharmacy services, while facilitating and reducing the barriers to responsible development of practice, innovation and a systematic approach to quality in pharmacy. Members of the board, from across the United Kingdom, include representatives from the pharmacy regulators, the professional bodies for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, pharmacy owners, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians from the various sectors of practice and patients and the public.

A UK wide consultation, issued on behalf of the four UK Health Departments, ran from 12 February to 14 May 2015. It sought comments and views on two pharmacy related draft Orders being made under the powers in section 60 of the Health Act 1999. The two pharmacy-related draft Orders are:

- The Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors) Order 2015
- The Pharmacy (Premises Standards, Information Obligations, etc.) Order 2015

The responses to the consultation were supportive of the proposals and included many from individual pharmacy professionals (registered pharmacists and registered pharmacy technicians), as well as pharmacy representative bodies, health organisations, patients and the public and others. A report will be published in due course and recommendations made to ministers on next steps.

While retaining the criminal sanction the draft section 60 Order entitled 'The Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors) Order 2015' provides:

- a defence to prosecution under section 63 (adulteration of medicinal products) of the Medicines Act 1968, in cases of errors where medicines are prepared by a registered pharmacist or a registered pharmacy technician, or under the supervision of a registered pharmacist;
- a defence to prosecution under section 64 (medicinal products not of the nature or quality ordered) of the Medicines Act 1968, in cases of errors where medicines are dispensed by a registered pharmacist or registered pharmacy technician, or under the supervision of a registered pharmacist; and
- the conditions to be met if the new defences are to apply.

Criminal sanctions will remain in place for dispensing errors falling outside the proposed defences, for example, where pharmacy professionals do not act in the course of their profession by using their professional skills for an improper purpose or deliberately failing to have due regard for patient safety. General criminal law may also apply.

A draft impact assessment was published alongside the consultation on dispensing errors. This will be updated, taking account of the consultation responses.

There was an error made in the transposition of section 85 of the Medicines Act 1968 in part into regulation 269 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 during consolidation of medicines legislation. A legislative amendment has now been made, which came into force on 1 July 2015, to restore the effect of the original provisions which existed in section 85(5) of Medicines Act 1968, such that the labelling offence applies to businesses and not individuals, such as pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

■ Smoking: Diseases

Luciana Berger: [\[7423\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating smoking-related diseases in each of the last three years.

Luciana Berger: [\[7498\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate his Department has made of the average number of visits a (a) smoker and (b) non-smoker will make to a GP during their lifetime.

Luciana Berger: [\[7505\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate his Department has made of the average amount spent by the NHS on treatment for a (a) smoker and (b) non-smoker over their lifetime.

Jane Ellison:

The Department does not maintain an annual record of the cost to the National Health Service of treating people with smoking-related diseases.

However, in 2015, Action on Smoking and Health, in its publication *Smoking Still Kills*, estimated that the total cost of smoking to society in England alone is approximately £13.8 billion a year. This figure includes a £2 billion direct cost to the NHS of treating smoking related diseases.

The Department has not published any further information on the costs of smoking to the NHS and does not have information on health costs over a lifetime of smokers compared to non-smokers.

■ Solihull Hospital

Julian Knight: [\[7813\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will take steps to improve (a) access to and (b) facilities for phlebotomy services for elderly and vulnerable people at Solihull Hospital.

Ben Gummer:

This is an operational matter for the Foundation Trust.

We have written to Mr Les Lawrence, Chair of the Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust informing him of the hon. Member's enquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

HOME OFFICE**■ Abortion: Protest**

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7247\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received from organisations representing (a) women, (b) parents and (c) healthcare professionals on the intimidation and harassment of women outside abortion clinics.

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7248\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has issued to police forces in England and Wales on protecting women outside abortion clinics from harassment and intimidation.

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7249\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing buffer zones outside abortion clinics to protect women seeking an abortion from protesters.

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7508\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to protect women who are seeking an abortion from harassment and intimidation at abortion clinics.

Mike Penning:

I refer the Hon. Member to the answer I gave to 5385 on 13 July 2015. We have received correspondence on this matter from the British Pregnancy Advisory Service.

The Home Office has not issued guidance to the police on protecting women outside abortion clinics from harassment and intimidation.

Mr Chuka Umunna: [\[7494\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the police have powers to deal with protesters harassing women who are attending pregnancy advice and abortion centres; and if she will issue guidance to police authorities to ensure that they are aware of such powers.

Mike Penning:

I refer the Hon. Member to the answer I gave to 5385 on 13 July 2015. There are no plans to issue Home Office guidance on this matter.

■ Asylum: Children

Tom Brake: [\[7781\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children under 16 in asylum-seeking families receive financial support from the Government.

James Brokenshire:

On 31 March 2015, there were 5,477 children under the age of 16 in asylum-seeking families (i.e. not listed as Appeal Rights Exhausted) in receipt of Section 95 Asylum Support (Accommodation and Subsistence or Subsistence only).

■ Asylum: Deportation

Chris Stephens: [\[6908\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been deported on non-civilian aircraft in 2015.

Chris Stephens: [\[6909\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average cost to the public purse is of deporting a failed asylum seeker on a non-civilian chartered flight.

James Brokenshire:

Since 1st January 2015, 1100 individuals have been returned to their country of origin on commercial aircraft chartered by the Home Office. The average cost per returnee in 2015 is currently £5,209.49 which includes aircraft charges, insurance and passenger duties. In considering the use of charters, account is taken of a number of factors including the availability of scheduled aircraft routes as well as the relative difficulty of removal in individual cases. Charter flight usage is monitored to ensure we are getting maximum value for money. Please note that the figures regarding the number and average cost of returns are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They are therefore provisional and subject to change.

■ Child Sexual Abuse Independent Panel Inquiry

Diana Johnson: [\[7764\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much was paid to (a) Dame Fiona Woolf and (b) Baroness Butler-Sloss for their work on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

Karen Bradley:

Neither Dame Fiona Woolf nor Baroness Butler-Sloss has received any payment in relation to the independent panel inquiry into child sexual abuse.

■ Counter-terrorism: Finance

Greg Mulholland: [\[6618\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which search organisations are in receipt of Prevent strategy funding; and how much such funding each such organisation is due to receive in 2015-16.

Mr John Hayes:

Prevent works in partnership with numerous organisations who are instrumental in preventing people being drawn into terrorism. Since 2011 we have supported over 180

community-based Prevent projects. Last year we supported over 70 community projects which worked with nearly 40,000 people. We do not provide a breakdown of spend by organisations, as this may impact on our effectiveness to serve the best interests of the public.

■ **Domestic Abuse: Copeland**

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7799\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of trends in the number of domestic violence reports in Copeland in the last five years.

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7800\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of trends in the number of burglaries in Copeland in the last five years.

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7801\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of trends in the number of criminal damage reports in Copeland constituency in the last five years.

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7802\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of trends in the number of offences of violence against a person in Copeland constituency in the last five years.

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7803\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of trends in the number of incidence of arson in Copeland constituency in the last five years.

Mike Penning:

Police recorded crime data is available at Community Safety Partnership level for: violence against the person; burglary; criminal damage; and arson. Recorded crime data on domestic abuse cannot currently be disaggregated from figures for other crime types. However, the government has recently introduced a mandatory recording flag for domestic abuse crimes and incidents, and police forces started collecting data in April 2015.

The Home Office has made no specific assessment of the trends in recorded crime in Copeland Community Safety Partnership, but the table below provides the number of recorded violence, burglary, arson and criminal damage offences over the last five years.

The trends in those crime types are very much in line with the national trends: recorded burglary, arson and criminal damage have all fallen across the country since June 2010, whilst recorded violence has recently increased. The Office for National Statistics has said that the increase in recorded violence reflects both better crime recording by police forces and a greater willingness of victims of domestic abuse to come forward.

The independent Crime Survey for England and Wales, which is not affected by police crime recording practice, shows that overall crime is down by more than a quarter since June 2010, and that violence has fallen by 23% over the same period.

**POLICE
RECORDED
CRIME BY
SELECTED
OFFENCE
TYPE**

	Year to June 2010	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	% change year ending June 2010 to year ending March 2015
Copeland Community Safety Partnership							
Violence against the person	680	766	671	657	900	1,057	55%
Burglary	283	246	237	181	282	242	-14%
Arson	31	38	28	26	28	30	-3%
Criminal damage	1,073	1,103	881	822	853	840	-22%

■ **Drugs**

Jim Shannon:

[\[7258\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to assess the mood-altering capacity of legal high substances available in the UK.

Mike Penning:

The Psychoactive Substances Bill provides that a substance produces a psychoactive effect in a person if, by stimulating or depressing the person's central nervous system, it affects the person's mental functioning or emotional state.

Psychoactive substances cause an alteration in the individual's state of consciousness by producing a range of effects including, but not limited to: hallucinations; drowsiness; as well as changes in mood, alertness, perception of time and space, or empathy with others.

In preparation for the planned implementation of the legislation in April 2016, we are committed to ensuring that there are mechanisms in place to determine the psychoactivity of seized substances in a timely and effective way.

A forensic strategy to underpin the Bill is being established with input from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) as well as the Forensic Regulator's office to ensure that the quality of forensic evidence is maintained to satisfy the evidential standards in court proceedings.

We will put in place a testing regime that is proactive and can also respond quickly when new substances emerge where evidence of psychoactivity is required. We will build a database of substances and evidence of their psychoactivity, supported by the provision of chemical reference standards.

The Home Office's Forensic Early Warning System (FEWS) has a proven record in improving the detection and identification of new substances in the UK, providing chemical reference standards and building capability in the forensic community. Through the expansion of FEWS, the Centre for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) will build on this work to meet any demand related to evidentially assessing psychoactivity. CAST is exploring how we harness existing evidence from the research community, international approaches and published data. As a priority, we will be taking forward the ACMD's recommendation to develop a system for the biochemical and pharmacological profiling of new compounds.

■ Home Office: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Stuart Blair Donaldson: [\[6332\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the name, responsibilities and pay band are of each special adviser in her Department.

Karen Bradley:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to Parliamentary Question 5983, by my Rt Hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 13th July 2015.

■ Human Trafficking

Mark Field: [\[7203\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many victims of human trafficking were located as a result of calls to the NSPCC helpline in the last year; what grant her Department provides towards this provision; what data her Department holds on follow-ups to each call; and if she will make a statement.

Karen Bradley:

The NSPCC is contracted by the Home Office to deliver a helpline that enables potential victims of modern slavery to access support services and advice. Between 31 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, 1,220 potential victims were identified by the helpline. 1,060 adult potential victims were identified and referred to the local police force; the Home Office does not hold information on the activity following this referral. 160 potential child victims were identified and were referred through the helpline to the NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre. Each child referral is allocated to a social worker in the team to ensure each child is referred to Children's Services and other relevant agencies, and that follow up advice is given. The Home Office funding for the contract is £50,000.

Mr Chuka Umunna:[\[7496\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many victims of human trafficking were (a) identified and (b) offered support by her Department in each year since 2010; and if she will make a statement.

Karen Bradley:

Potential victims of human trafficking are identified through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The number of potential victims referred into the NRM for the United Kingdom is: in 2010 – 714; in 2011 – 946; in 2012 – 1186; in 2013 – 1746; and in 2014 – 2340.

The Salvation Army has provided support for potential victims in England and Wales since July 2011. The Salvation Army contract is jointly funded by the Home Office and The Ministry of Justice. The number of potential victims in support in England and Wales is: July 2011 to June 2012 – total in support 378; July 2012 to June 2013 – total in support 550; July 2013 to June 2014 – total in support 889. Data on the number of potential victims in support between July 2014 to June 2015 has not been verified yet.

Data on the number of potential victims in support before July 2011 is not available. The Home Office does not hold data on the number of supported victims in Scotland and Northern Ireland, as this is a devolved matter.

■ Human Trafficking: Children**Steve McCabe:**[\[6234\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has had discussions with the (a) Premier League, (b) Football Association and (c) England and Wales Cricket Board on child trafficking into the UK through the use of visas obtained for sportspeople.

James Brokenshire:

We have regular discussions with sporting bodies to ensure that immigration routes are being used as intended and not being used for abuse by either sponsors or migrants. Where we have evidence that immigration routes are being used to facilitate trafficking we take a robust response.

Steve McCabe:

[\[6235\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will conduct an assessment of whether visas intended for sportspeople have been used to traffick children from non-EU countries into the UK.

James Brokenshire:

The Home Office monitors all routes of immigration into the UK to ensure these routes are being used as intended and to identify signs of abuse. Where we have evidence that immigration routes are being used to facilitate trafficking we take a robust response.

■ Offences against Children

Jim Shannon:

[\[7259\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people accused of sexual offences involving children have been (a) investigated, (b) charged and (c) convicted in each of the last five years.

Karen Bradley:

The Home Office does not centrally collect information on the number of people investigated by the police for offences recorded by the police. Additionally, the police recorded crime data that the Home Office does collect are based on the number of offences recorded, not the number of offenders.

The Ministry of Justice hold data on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts of sexual offences against children, in England and Wales. The available information, for 2010 to 2014, is given in the table

Attachments:

1. Defendants proceeded against [7259 - table.xls]

Mr Chuka Umunna:

[\[7495\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what additional resources her Department is making available in (a) 2015 and (b) 2016 to (i) the Metropolitan Police to investigate historic child abuse allegations and (ii) the Metropolitan Police and other agencies to offer counselling and support to the victims of such abuse; and if she will make a statement.

Mike Penning:

Resourcing is an operational matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. We have prioritised child sexual abuse as a national threat to empower forces to maximise specialist skills and expertise to prevent offending and resolve cases. This means that police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners must have in place the capabilities they need to protect children from sexual abuse.

In 2015/16 the Home Office provided an additional £10 million to the National Crime Agency for the creation of more specialist teams to tackle online child sexual exploitation. We have also made available £1.7 million to fund Operation Hydrant, which coordinates the handling of multiple historical child sexual abuse investigations specifically concerning institutions or persons of public prominence, and £1.5 million to

support regional coordinators and analysts to oversee the implementation of the National Policing Plan for tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Home Office and Ministry of Justice will provide an additional £7 million for victims services supporting survivors of sexual violence in 2014/15 and 2015/16. £2.15 million of that £7million has been provided as an uplift in funding to 84 existing Rape Support Centres.

■ Radicalism

Andrew Rosindell: [\[4896\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce radicalisation of British nationals in the UK.

Mr John Hayes:

Protecting those who are vulnerable and at risk of radicalisation is a job for all of us. This is the purpose of the Prevent programme. We have delivered over 180 community-based Prevent projects since 2011. In 2014 we supported over 70 community Prevent projects which involved almost 40,000 people. Our work with social media providers has disrupted online ISIL propaganda, and we have excluded more preachers of hate from the UK than any previous government. We work with hundreds of mosques, faith groups and community organisations. The new Prevent duty that came into force on 1 July will make sure key bodies across the country play their part and work in partnership to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

■ Slavery

Fiona Mactaggart: [\[7330\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to lay secondary legislation on supply chains under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 which sets the turnover threshold for businesses before Parliament.

Karen Bradley:

The Government is carefully considering responses to the recent public consultation on what size of business the transparency in supply chains provision should apply to and what our accompanying guidance should cover.

We will lay regulations to set the turnover threshold, as well as the response to the consultation, as soon as possible.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

■ Central African Republic: Economic Situation

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7538\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of the effect of her Department's expenditure in the Central African Republic on that country's economic prospects.

Grant Shapps:

DFID officials have conducted quarterly visits to the Central African Republic throughout 2014 and 2015 to assess the impact of our programmes. Annual Reviews of progress are available on DFID's Development Tracker at

<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-204426/documents>.

DFID is committed to supporting economic recovery initiatives in CAR. The conflict that has affected CAR since 2013 has had a severe impact on agriculture, which represents almost 60% of the country's economy. The UK has provided £27million since 2013 to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Common Humanitarian Fund and NGOs to provide urgent humanitarian aid as well as agricultural inputs and technical training to CAR farmers, and to facilitate cattle vaccination campaigns to support traditional herders. In 2015, UK funding will support the livelihoods of more than 170,000 people in CAR.

■ Central African Republic: Females

Mr Andrew Smith:

[7534]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps the Government is taking to support women's rights and help victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the Central African Republic.

Grant Shapps:

DFID is committed to addressing the needs of vulnerable women and girls in CAR and has supported several agencies to provide comprehensive care as well as protection packages since the onset of the crisis in 2013. The overall UK response has included agencies who are able to provide specialised services to victims of gender-based violence. This includes in 2015 our programmes totalling £13.2million with the International Committee of the Red-Cross (ICRC), the Common Humanitarian Fund and three NGO consortia which provide: psycho-social care to survivors; activities to reduce the risk of gender-based violence; and access to healthcare.

■ Developing Countries: Health Services

Mike Freer:

[7070]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department plans to take to facilitate NHS staff volunteering overseas to assist with the strengthening of health systems in least developed countries.

Grant Shapps:

In 2014 DFID, with the Department of Health and the National Health Service (NHS), produced the Framework for Voluntary Engagement in Global Health to explain to health sector organisations how they can most effectively support volunteers engaged in health work in developing countries. As part of its support for volunteering, DFID is providing £30 million from 2011 to 2017 for the Health Partnerships Scheme which uses the skills of UK health professionals to train, mentor and coach their developing country counterparts in their home countries. DFID also provides support to the non-

governmental organisations VSO and UK-Med which facilitate skilled health professionals volunteering overseas.

Mike Freer: [\[7076\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what progress her Department has made in delivering a framework for strengthening health systems overseas; when that work is due to be finalised; and what engagement there has been between her Department and civil society organisations on that matter.

Grant Shapps:

As part of the government response to the 2014 International Development Committee inquiry, DFID is committed to developing a framework for UK support to health systems strengthening in developing countries. DFID is working on the framework, consulting the Department of Health and other UK institutions. DFID is due to update the Committee on progress with a response in November 2015.

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[7553\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what the status is of her Department's Framework on Health Systems Strengthening; what the timeline is for its publication; and how civil society will be consulted during its development.

Grant Shapps:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 July 2015 to Question 7076.

■ Developing Countries: Infectious Diseases

Mike Freer: [\[7075\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of her Department's research on development funding for infectious diseases.

Grant Shapps:

DFID has supported some of the best research on infectious diseases. Recent examples include a new diagnostic for sleeping sickness, a new vaccine for rotavirus diarrhoea and a new drug for treating malaria in children. Globally, there is a lack of investment in research and development for infectious diseases. This includes diagnostics, drugs, vaccines, and research to improve the delivery of health services. DFID is the second largest Government funder of product development research.

The new Government made a manifesto commitment to lead a major new programme to develop drugs for the world's deadliest diseases. DFID is currently working on a strategy to deliver on this commitment.

■ Developing Countries: Poliomyelitis

Dr Sarah Wollaston: [\[7818\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what discussions she has had with her international counterparts on the eradication of polio.

Grant Shapps:

The UK is fully committed to the global eradication of polio. The Secretary of State for International Development makes the most of opportunities to raise awareness of polio eradication efforts and, wherever appropriate, discusses polio with her international counterparts. For example, last year the Secretary of State for International Development made a key note speech at Rotary International with representatives from India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Indonesia, along with key polio campaigners and global health bodies.

The UK continues to be a strong supporter of global polio eradication efforts. In 2013, the UK committed £300 million over six years to polio eradication, which will help vaccinate up to 360 million children. The UK actively participates in the global Polio Oversight Board, helping to ensure a strong focus on results and achieving eradication. We are very close to making polio the second human disease in history to be wiped out, and it is crucial to maintain international momentum

Dr Sarah Wollaston:[\[7819\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps the Government is taking to encourage other countries to donate to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Grant Shapps:

The UK is a strong supporter of global polio eradication efforts. As one of the top three donors to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the UK leads by example. In 2013, the UK committed £300 million over six years to polio eradication, which will help vaccinate up to 360 million children.

The UK will continue to encourage countries to donate to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to ensure that we have the required funding to successfully eradicate the disease before 2019. As a lead donor, the UK actively participates in the global Polio Oversight Board, helping to ensure cost-effective use of funds and a strong focus on results.

■ Developing Countries: Sanitation**Alec Shelbrooke:**[\[6984\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what discussions are taking place among member states of the UN to ensure that clean water and sanitation remains a sustainable development goal.

Grant Shapps:

United Nations member states have been holding discussions on thematic areas, including water and sanitation (WASH), in preparation for the September UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda. These discussions follow the report of the UK co-chaired Post-2015 High Level Panel and the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals both of which included proposals for a dedicated water goal. The UK supports the inclusion of WASH in the Sustainable Development Goal framework.

■ Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Mike Freer: [\[7072\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what her Department's priorities are in the development of a new strategy for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Grant Shapps:

The UK was awarded its seat on the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in March 2015. The UK priority is to ensure that the Global Fund is able to deliver against our shared ambition of ending the three diseases as epidemics.

■ Infectious Diseases

Mr Virendra Sharma: [\[7535\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to implement the commitment in the June 2015 G7 Leaders' declaration to invest in the prevention and control of neglected tropical diseases.

Grant Shapps:

The UK is at the forefront of the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). At the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases in 2012 the UK committed an additional £195million to combat these diseases. We support programmes protecting millions of the poorest from a range of NTDs. We also support research into new drugs and diagnostics to combat NTDs. There remains a significant funding gap for NTDs. The UK is meeting our commitments. Others need to do more to support countries to implement programmes to prevent and treat NTDs.

■ International Assistance

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7804\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Grant Shapps:

A full statement of progress on each of the goals and targets has been published in DFID's Annual Report and Accounts 2014 to 2015.

■ Namibia: Overseas Aid

Roger Mullin: [\[7124\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much her Department has spent on education and health programmes in Namibia in each of the last five years.

Grant Shapps:

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral country programme in Namibia. DFID spending on education and health in Namibia through

multi-country programmes over the last five years was: £149,000 in 2009; £337,000 in 2010; £66,000 in 2011; £195,000 in 2012 and £352,000 in 2013.

■ Yemen: Armed Conflict

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7821\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment her Department has made of how many people are at risk of death arising from the current conflict in Yemen; and what steps she is taking to protect such people.

Mr Desmond Swayne:

As a result of the crisis, the UN estimate that 21 million Yemenis (more than 80% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of those, over 6 million people are facing severe shortages of food and 1.6 million women and children are suffering from acute malnutrition.

DFID has allocated £55 million to support humanitarian response in Yemen which will provide emergency shelter, healthcare, water and food assistance, as well as supporting UN work to co-ordinate the humanitarian response.

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7823\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of the economic effects of the conflict in Yemen; and what steps she is taking to help people affected by that conflict.

Mr Desmond Swayne:

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecast that Yemen's economy will contract by 2.2% in 2015 and that Yemen's debt has risen to over 50% of GDP. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), average wheat flour prices in July are 34% higher than their pre-crisis levels, whilst diesel prices are up 427% over the same period.

DFID has allocated £55 million to support humanitarian response in Yemen which will provide emergency shelter, healthcare, water and food assistance, as well as supporting UN work to co-ordinate the humanitarian response.

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7890\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what information her Department holds on how many people have been displaced by the coalition bombing of Saada province in Yemen.

Mr Desmond Swayne:

We do not hold information on how many people have been displaced by coalition bombing of Sa'ada province. As of the 6 July, the UN estimates that there are just over 23,000 people displaced in Sa'ada Governorate and nearly 1.3 million people have been displaced within Yemen overall since the crisis began in March.

■ Yemen: Humanitarian Aid

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7822\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much her Department has allocated to the UN humanitarian appeal for Yemen; and what information her Department holds on how much aid has been allocated by other countries.

Mr Desmond Swayne:

DFID has allocated £55 million for humanitarian response in Yemen which is providing emergency shelter, healthcare, water and food assistance, as well as supporting UN work to co-ordinate the humanitarian response. Of that, DFID has allocated almost £40 million towards the UN 2015 Humanitarian Appeal.

Full details of all pledges to the UN Appeal can be found on the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Financial Tracking Service website (<https://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&appealID=1087>).

Mr Andrew Smith: [\[7891\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to ensure that donors' funds provided to UN and other non-governmental humanitarian agencies for use in Yemen will be delivered impartially to civilians in that country based on established humanitarian principles without political interference.

Mr Desmond Swayne:

All agencies supported by the UK are humanitarian organisations which have robust systems in place, to ensure that UK aid follows humanitarian principles and reaches those in need.

JUSTICE**■ Courts: Fees and Charges**

Philip Davies: [\[6615\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent representations he has received on the effect of the criminal courts charge.

Mr Shailesh Vara:

This government believes that convicted adult offenders should pay towards the costs of running the criminal courts. Recovering some of these costs from convicted offenders will reduce the burden on taxpayers.

My department has received representations from the magistracy and defence practitioners about the criminal courts charge.

Only convicted offenders pay the criminal courts charge. This means that those who are found not guilty by the courts will not be required to pay the charge. We are confident that this mitigates against any adverse effects that may distort offenders' decisions.

The provisions are purely about recovering court costs and are completely separate from the offender's sentence. It would therefore go against the principles of the legislation to allow judicial discretion regarding whether or not to impose the charge or the amount to impose.

The government recognises the need to make sure offenders are given a fair opportunity to pay the charge. The court is able to set payment terms in affordable instalments. Offenders can also contact a fines officer at any point to request variations in payment terms if their circumstances change. An offender can also apply to have the charge cancelled after two years where they take all reasonable steps to pay it and do not reoffend. It is for the court to decide whether all reasonable steps have been taken to pay the charge, having regard to the offender's personal circumstances, such as unemployment or poor health.

The provisions include a requirement to review the policy after three years.

■ Criminal Proceedings: Legal Representation

Karl Turner: [\[6894\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many defendants in criminal proceedings in (a) police stations and (b) courts in each region of England and Wales have been unable to secure legal representation in each week since 1 July 2015.

Karl Turner: [\[6895\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many defendants in criminal proceedings in (a) police stations and (b) courts in each region of England and Wales were unable to secure legal representation in each week between 3 June 2015 and 1 July 2015.

Karl Turner: [\[6897\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many adjournments occurred because of lack of legal representation for defendants in criminal proceedings in each week since 1 July 2015; and what the duration of each such adjournment was.

Karl Turner: [\[6898\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many adjournments occurred because of lack of legal representation for defendants in criminal proceedings in each week between 3 June 2015 and 1 July 2015; and what the duration of each such adjournment was.

Andrew Selous:

In the vast majority of cases requiring a solicitor at the police station, a solicitor has been deployed within an hour. The Ministry of Justice does not retain details of detainees at police station who, having requested legal advice, do not then obtain it. There have always been a number of reasons why an individual might not receive advice, such as the detainee changing their mind or the police releasing the detainee before advice is provided.

The courts are sitting as usual. The representation status and the number of adjournments in magistrates' court proceedings, and the reasons for them, are not

centrally recorded. For Crown Court cases, data on reasons for adjournments are centrally recorded, but a lack of legal representation is not included within the list of possible reasons for an adjournment. Further, representation status is centrally recorded, but the reasons why an individual might be unrepresented are not.

Experimental data on the number of defendants dealt with in the Crown Court who are known to have had legal representation at their first hearing was published for the first time in the Criminal Court Statistics Quarterly publication on 25 June 2015, covering the period 2010 and 2014. These statistics are available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-court-statistics-quarterly-january-to-march-2015>

■ Data Protection

Marie Rimmer: [6938]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the extent of revenue that has been lost to the public purse in each of the last seven financial years as a result of data controllers who are required to notify or register under the Data Protection Act and pay a fee not doing so; and what steps he is taking to (a) recoup the losses to the public purse that have occurred and (b) prevent such further losses.

Marie Rimmer: [6947]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps (a) the Information Commissioner's Office and (b) his Department takes to ensure that those data controllers who are not registered do not accrue benefit from such work; and what obligations there are to report such non-registration under legislation related to (i) money laundering and (ii) proceeds of crime.

Marie Rimmer: [6948]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps (a) the Information Commissioner's Office and (b) his Department has taken to ensure that (i) mediators, (ii) arbitrators and (iii) others providing legal services have registered as data controllers and paid any related fees in each of the last three years.

Marie Rimmer: [6949]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps (a) the Information Commissioner's Office and (b) his Department has taken to ensure that (i) mediators, (ii) arbitrators and (iii) others providing medical services have registered as data controllers and paid any related fees in each of the last three years.

Marie Rimmer: [6951]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what discussions his Department has had with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on ensuring that collection of registration and notification fees from data controllers is actively pursued by the ICO; and whether such collection was discussed at the meeting between the Deputy Director of Information Rights and Devolution Policy and the ICO on 29 April 2015.

Marie Rimmer:

[6952]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what mechanism (a) the Information Commissioner's Office and (b) his Department has in place to recover unpaid notification and registration fee income from data controllers; what the costs of such recovery is; from what budget such costs are met; and whether such costs are recovered from data controllers who do not pay such fees.

Marie Rimmer:

[7446]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what obligations (a) people with reporting obligations in the regulated sector and (b) others have to ensure that a data controller who has processed personal data when not entitled to do so because of lack of notification does not benefit from any proceeds that may have been received as a consequence of that processing; and what sanctions can be taken against people who fail to fulfil those obligations.

Dominic Raab:

The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) requires every data controller who is processing personal information to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) unless they are exempt. Failure to do so is a criminal offence.

The ICO has the ability to prosecute data controllers who process personal data having failed to notify in accordance with the DPA. A successful prosecution could result in a fine being imposed. The length of time that a data controller has failed to notify, and any financial benefit they have received from not paying the notification fees, is a factor that is taken into account by the Court when sentencing and setting the appropriate level of fine. There are no provisions in the Proceeds of Crime Act that would require someone to report to a court or anyone else that any profit has been made from the offence of processing personal data without being registered. If someone suspects that money laundering has occurred then the reporting obligations set out in the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 will, for example, apply.

It is for data controllers to seek registration; the ICO periodically reminds organisations of the requirement to notify. Fee income has been increasing year on year with increasing numbers of notifications.

The Ministry of Justice and the ICO are looking at the current funding model as part of negotiations on the proposed EU Data Protection Regulation.

Marie Rimmer:

[7442]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of businesses in the UK process personal data for which registration with the Information Commissioner is required; and what estimate he has made of how much revenue is generated by businesses in the UK in each year from processing of personal data.

Marie Rimmer: [\[7443\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what support and guidance (a) has been and (b) will be provided by his Department to (i) new and (ii) established businesses on their obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Dominic Raab:

The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) requires every data controller who is processing personal information to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) unless they are exempt. At the end of 2014/15 there were 409,000 data controllers registered with the ICO which generated a total income of £17,519,000.

The ICO is currently reviewing the coverage of the public register and plans to identify any sectors which are clearly under represented, with any such sectors being contacted by the ICO.

The ICO's website sets out the criteria for notification and provides guidance on the level of fee organisations should be paying. The ICO have also made it easier for organisations to notify and pay the fee by introducing online payments.

The ICO's website contains guidance for data controllers, including businesses, about their obligations under the DPA.

■ Data Protection Act 1998

Marie Rimmer: [\[6942\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what support and guidance his Department provides to victims of crime committed under the Data Protection Act to ensure that (a) money is not paid by them or on their behalf to anyone who has unlawfully processed such data which have been paid by them or, if already paid, can be recovered and (b) obligations under anti-money laundering or proceeds of crime legislation are explained.

Marie Rimmer: [\[6943\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to (a) bring and or authorise criminal proceedings and (b) take civil proceedings to punish people who have failed to comply with Data Protection obligations and to deprive such people of any benefit of proceeds obtained by conduct which is unlawful under the Data Protection Act.

Marie Rimmer: [\[6944\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what information his Department holds on the (a) extent of criminal activity and (b) amount of unlawfully obtained benefit which has occurred contrary to provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last six years for which records are available.

Dominic Raab:

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) applies for confiscation under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in appropriate cases. The ICO communicates with victims throughout the prosecution case and if the ICO is to pursue either confiscation or make an application for compensation this is explained to the victim. More generally, the ICO is reviewing processes for supporting victims in light of the forthcoming implementation of the Victims Directive.

In cases where organisations do not comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) the ICO has a range of powers to take action, including the power to serve a Civil Monetary Penalty of up to £500,000. In the most serious cases, section 55 of the DPA makes it an offence for a person to knowingly or recklessly obtain, disclose or procure the disclosure of personal data without the consent of the data controller. The offence is punishable by an unlimited fine.

Figures for prosecutions and cautions for DPA related offences the last six years are in the table below.

YEAR	NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS
2009/10	7	4
2010/11	5	8
2011/12	13	7
2012/13	5	2
2013/14	17	2
2014/15	25	4

The figures for 2012/13 to 2014/15 years can also be found in the ICO's annual reports at the link below:

<https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/our-information/annual-reports/>

■ Driving: Disqualification**Mr Douglas Carswell:****[5882]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of convictions for driving whilst disqualified resulted in an immediate custodial sentence in each year since 2005; and how many people convicted of driving whilst disqualified who had been convicted of the same offence within the previous 10 years received an immediate custodial sentence in each of those years.

Andrew Selous:

Information on sentencing and convictions from 2005-2014 for driving whilst disqualified can be viewed on the Ministry of Justice website and it is available at the following link:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2014>

Select and open 'Motoring data tool: with criminal justice area'.

The table below shows the numbers of offenders sentenced to immediate custody for driving whilst disqualified and the numbers sentenced to immediate custody for the same offence 2005-2014 in England and Wales.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF OFFENDERS ¹ SENTENCED TO IMMEDIATE CUSTODY FOR DRIVING WHILST DISQUALIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF PREVIOUS IMMEDIATE CUSTODY RECEIVED FOR THE SAME OFFENCE IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 2005 TO 2014

year	Number of offenders ¹	Previous immediate custody received ²
2005	9,925	5,012
2006	7,543	3,839
2007	5,754	2,820
2008	4,705	2,109
2009	3,724	1,590
2010	2,652	1,134
2011	2,309	944
2012	2,030	807
2013	1,847	696
2014	1,654	638

Source:

Ministry of Justice, Police National Computer (PNC)

1. Figures are based on counting the number of occasions an offender was sentenced to immediate custody for driving whilst disqualified in each year. An offender can appear more than once in the totals for each year if the offender was convicted on multiple occasions in a given year.

2. Number of previous immediate custody are counts of the number of separate occasions an offender has previously received an immediate custodial sentence and is calculated from the point of their latest conviction over the period.

3. All data have been taken from the MoJ extract of the Police National Computer. This includes

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF OFFENDERS ¹ SENTENCED TO IMMEDIATE CUSTODY FOR DRIVING WHILST DISQUALIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF PREVIOUS IMMEDIATE CUSTODY RECEIVED FOR THE SAME OFFENCE IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 2005 TO 2014

details of all convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings given for recordable offences (see www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2000/1139/schedule/made for definition).

4. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and are subject to revision in future editions.

■ **European Convention on Human Rights**

Mr Christopher Chope: [\[6280\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the Government's policy is on EU accession to the European Convention of Human Rights.

Dominic Raab:

The European Court of Justice's Opinion 2/13 has serious implications for work on the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. We remain concerned that accession risks undermining our domestic human rights arrangements and creating legal uncertainty. We will work to mitigate those risks.

■ **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Paul Flynn: [\[5912\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the contribution of the Secretary of State for Justice of 23 June 2015, Official Report, column 753, what his timetable is for revisiting the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and what changes he plans to make to that Act.

Dominic Raab:

The Government announced on 17 July the establishment of an independent, cross-party, Commission on the Freedom of Information Act. The Written Ministerial Statement to announce the Commission, and the transfer of policy responsibility for the Act to the Cabinet Office, is available here:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/freedom-of-information-new-commission>.

■ **Human Trafficking: Confiscation Orders**

Mark Field: [\[7204\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many confiscation orders of what value were made by HM Courts against those convicted of human trafficking offences in England and Wales in each of the last three years; and how much of that money has been awarded to the victims of trafficking.

Mr Shailesh Vara:

The table below shows the total number of confiscation orders and their values made against defendants where the principal offence is categorised as People Trafficking.

The figures provided are for the financial years (April to March) and are based on the original order amount imposed, and therefore some of these orders may have been subject to subsequent appeals and/or variations.

PEOPLE TRAFFICKING	NO. OF ORDERS MADE	ORIGINAL ORDER AMOUNT	AWARDED AS
			COMPENSATION
2012 – 2013	14	£457,722.18	£68,669.51
2013 – 2014	22	£593,415.43	£2,542.44
2014 – 2015	18	£1,113,038.77	£351,838.07

Confiscation orders are one of the key mechanisms available to the Government to deprive criminals of the proceeds of their crimes. The value of the order imposed, which is often very high, is based on the criminal benefit attributed to the crime and may, therefore, exceed the value of realisable assets that are known to the Court at the time of imposition. Crucially, an outstanding order stops the criminal benefitting from the proceeds of crime and ensures that, if the assets are discovered in the future, they can be seized.

HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) and other enforcement agencies take the issue of recovering criminal assets very seriously and are working to ensure that clamping down on defaulters is a continued priority nationwide.

The amount defendants repaid from their criminal activity across all agencies has increased for the last six consecutive years and we are currently on course to have another highly effective year. £154.1million was collected in 2014/15 (which represented a 12% increase on the total recovered during 2013/14); as at the end of June 2015, £53 million had been recovered, which is an increase of 47% on the same period last year. After payment of compensation and external receiver's fees, the balance is distributed across key Departments to support ongoing investigation, prosecution and enforcement activity.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 amends the scope of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 to include slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. The Act also introduces Slavery and Trafficking Reparation Orders which can be used to award compensation to victims.

HMCTS is seeking a commercial partner to help increase collections, reduce enforcement costs and importantly, ensure more criminals pay. The improvement that the Agencies continue to make, combined with our future plans, will make sure that more criminals pay and that taxpayers get better value for money.

■ Information Commissioner

Marie Rimmer: [\[6904\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to page 57 of the Information Commissioner's Annual Report and Financial Statements 2014-15, published on 30 June 2015, what the (a) inadvertent error and (b) breach of Civil Service Pay Guidance was; how the fine of £18,400 was calculated; and what assessment he has made of the effect of that fine on (i) remuneration of Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) staff and (ii) the work of the ICO.

Dominic Raab:

HM Treasury imposed a financial penalty of £18,400 on the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a breach of the Civil Service Pay Guidance relating to the salary increases of two Executive Team Members. It is within the Treasury's remit to set policy relating to public funds, including Civil Service Pay Guidance, a breach of which provides the authority to impose appropriate sanctions at its discretion. We do not expect the financial penalty to impact on the remuneration of ICO staff or the work of the organisation.

Marie Rimmer: [\[6939\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of remuneration of Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) personnel based in the ICO's Wilmslow office and the requests made to increase such remuneration; and whether meeting such requests would require a relaxation of existing pay restraint policies.

Dominic Raab:

The Information Commissioner is responsible for determining the pay and conditions of his staff and in doing so must comply with the principles of Managing Public Money and Civil Service Pay Guidance.

Marie Rimmer: [\[7198\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps his Department is taking to improve the (a) pay and conditions and (b) morale of employees of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO); and if he will make it his policy to ensure that all unpaid data controllers' registration and notification fees are collected and reinvested in the ICO.

Dominic Raab:

The Information Commissioner is responsible for setting the pay and conditions of his staff in compliance with Managing Public Money and Civil Service Pay Guidance.

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires every data controller who is processing personal information to register with the Information Commissioner's Office unless they are exempt. It is for data controllers to seek registration; the ICO periodically reminds organisations of the requirement to notify.

Marie Rimmer: [\[7199\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the implications for his policies are of the paper prepared for the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Management Board on 27 April 2015 on the Registration fee strategy of the ICO.

Dominic Raab:

The Ministry of Justice and the Information Commissioner's Office are looking at the current funding model as part of negotiations on the proposed EU Data Protection Regulation.

■ Information Commissioner: Pay

Paul Flynn: [\[7424\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to ensure a fair settlement to the dispute about pay levels for staff of the Information Commissioner's Office.

Dominic Raab:

The Information Commissioner is responsible for pay bargaining within the Information Commissioner's Office. In doing so, the Information Commissioner must prepare pay bargaining remit proposals that comply with the principles of Managing Public Money and Civil Service Pay Guidance.

■ Insolvency: Conditional Fee Agreements

Mary Glendon: [\[7186\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on the delay in commencing reforms to conditional fee agreements for insolvency litigation in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.

Mary Glendon: [\[7187\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what discussions he has had with the Insolvency Service on the delay in commencing reforms to conditional fee agreements for insolvency litigation in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.

Mary Glendon: [\[7197\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when he plans to commence sections 44 and 46 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, in respect of insolvency proceedings.

Dominic Raab:

The Government is taking forward the Coalition Government's commitment to review this issue and it will set out further details later in the year. As part of that process, the Government will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders, including Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Insolvency Service and insolvency practitioners and their representatives.

Mary Glendon:

[7221]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he has taken to consult the insolvency profession on provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 on reform of conditional fee agreements for insolvency proceedings.

Dominic Raab:

The Government is taking forward the Coalition Government's commitment to review this issue and it will set out further details later in the year. As part of that process, the Government will continue to engage with relevant stakeholders, including Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Insolvency Service and insolvency practitioners and their representatives.

■ Judges: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz:

[7205]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many judges from a black or minority ethnic background have been appointed since (a) 1 January and (b) 7 May 2015.

Keith Vaz:

[7206]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many judges from a black or minority ethnic background have been appointed since (a) 1 January and (b) 7 May 2010.

Mr Shailesh Vara:

From 1st January to 6th May 2015 (inclusive), 2 out of a total of 42 salaried, 4.7%, and 23 out of a total of 105 fee paid judges, 21.9%, from black or minority ethnic background were appointed.

From 7th May to 30th June 2015 (inclusive), 2 out of a total of 19 salaried, 10.5% and 6 out of a total of 76 fee paid judges, 7.8%, were from black or ethnic minority background were appointed.

From 1st January to 6th May 2010 (inclusive), 1 out of a total 76 salaried, 1.3%, and 41 out of a total of 538 fee paid judges, 7.6%, were from black or ethnic minority were appointed.

From 7th May to 30th June 2015 (inclusive), 40 out of a total of 676 salaried, 11.9% and 336 out of a total of 2557 fee paid judges, 13.1%, were from black or ethnic minority background were appointed.

All salaried judicial appointments are announced on the Judiciary Website. This can be found at: <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/announcement-type/appointments-and-retirements/>

■ Judges: Females

Keith Vaz:

[7402]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many female judges have been appointed since (a) 1 January and (b) 7 May 2015.

Keith Vaz: [7403]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many female judges have been appointed since (a) 1 January and (b) 7 May 2010.

Mr Shailesh Vara:

From 1st January to 6th May 2015 (inclusive), 18 salaried and 44 fee paid female judges were appointed out of a total 42 salaried and 105 fee paid judges.

From 7th May to 30th June 2015 (inclusive), 8 salaried and 32 fee paid female judges were appointed out of a total 19 salaried and 76 fee paid judges.

From 1st January to 6th May 2010 (inclusive), 29 salaried and 258 fee paid female judges were appointed out of a total 76 salaried and 538 fee paid judges.

From 7th May 2010 to 30th June 2015 (inclusive), 266 salaried and 1233 fee paid female judges were appointed out of a total 676 salaried and 2557 fee paid judges.

All salaried judicial appointments are announced on the Judiciary Website. This can be found at: <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/announcement-type/appointments-and-retirements/>

■ Life Imprisonment

Philip Davies: [6752]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 2 July 2015 to Question 4022, in how many of the cases in the table provided had the victim or the victim's family had an input into the decision to either move the offender to an open prison or to release them.

Andrew Selous:

Victims who have opted into the statutory Victim Contact Scheme will be informed of their right to make a victim personal statement (VPS) in the event that the offender's case is reviewed by the independent Parole Board. Where a victim has chosen to submit a VPS, the Parole Board will consider this alongside all other relevant information before making its decision. The number of victims who make a VPS for Parole Board reviews is not recorded centrally.

■ Mediation

Marie Rimmer: [6940]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to reform regulation of the Civil Mediation Council and the wider mediation industry.

Marie Rimmer: [6941]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment his Department has made of the policies and procedures of (a) the Civil Mediation Council and (b) CMCL and the verification processes to recognise and accredit Registered Mediation Providers and CMC Registered Mediators.

Dominic Raab:

We have no current plans to regulate the Civil Mediation Council or the wider mediation industry.

My Department has not made any detailed assessment of the Civil Mediation Council's policies and procedures or the CML's verification processes to recognise registered mediation providers or CMC registered mediators.

Marie Rimmer:[\[6945\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what obligations litigants have under Civil Procedure Rules to seek to resolve court proceedings by Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); what sanctions can be applied by a court on a litigant who does not engage in ADR; and what information (a) his Department and (b) HM Courts and Tribunals Service holds on cases since 1 July 2013 in which sanctions have been applied to litigants who have not engaged in ADR.

Andrew Selous:

Rule 1.4 of the Civil Procedure Rules ("CPR") provides that the courts are under an obligation to manage cases by encouraging the parties to use an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) procedure and facilitate the use of such a procedure.

The Practice Direction on pre action conduct provides that the court will expect the parties to have exchanged sufficient information to consider a form of ADR to assist with settlement.

Should either party refuse to take part in ADR and the court considers it would have been of benefit, the court has the power to impose a financial penalty in terms of a reduction of any costs order.

The Department and Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) do not collect information on sanctions applied where parties have not engaged in ADR.

Marie Rimmer:[\[6946\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what information and guidance his Department has published online since 1 July 2013 on (a) mediating legal disputes and (b) the identity and costs charged by providers of mediation services.

Dominic Raab:

The government encourages people to use mediation as a way of solving legal disputes rather than going to court. Our web pages which can be found under gov.uk, includes information about neighbour disputes, debt, and accidents and injuries and encourages parties to consider mediation. Information is also available for family disputes where it is now a legislative requirement that anyone considering applying to court for an order about their children or finances is legally obliged to attend a Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting first, unless specific exemptions apply (for example domestic violence).

This Department publishes information about mediation providers annually at <http://www.civilmediation.justice.gov.uk/> Those mediators listed are accredited by the

Civil Mediation Council. The mediators have agreed to a sliding scale of fees depending on the monetary value of the claim. The scale can also be found at the link above.

■ Mediation: Fees and Charges

Marie Rimmer: [\[6993\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will bring forward proposals to (a) regulate the fees that can be charged by mediators and (b) ensure that access to justice by way of mediation is achievable at reasonable cost.

Dominic Raab:

The fees charged by mediators are not regulated, save in respect of the Civil Legal Aid (remuneration) Regulations 2013, where some aspects of family law mediation fees are set. Currently there are no plans to regulate the fees charged by mediators. The Ministry of Justice has established a referral page on the Justice Website which provides links to mediators who offer their services on a sliding scale flat fee basis. Additionally the Small Claims Mediation Service run by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service provides a free mediation service for parties involved in small claims litigation.

Family mediation (and legal advice to support family mediation) is still within the scope of legal aid. Also, as of 3 November 2014, the first single session of mediation is publicly funded in all cases where one of the people involved is already legally aided. In this scenario, both participants will be funded for the Mediation Information Assessment Meeting ("MIAM") and the first session of mediation.

■ Mediation: Sponsorship

Marie Rimmer: [\[6950\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what sponsorship his Department provides to organisations providing mediation services; and what conditions are placed on that sponsorship.

Dominic Raab:

While the Ministry of Justice does not sponsor organisations providing mediation services, we do provide links to some mediation providers on the justice website, notably the Civil Mediation Council, Law Works and others. Additionally there is search facility for locating mediators who are accredited by the CMC and who have agreed to a fee schedule with rates based on the value of the claim.

■ Open Prisons

Philip Davies: [\[6617\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prisoners currently in open prisons have previously (a) absconded or failed to return to prison and (b) breached the conditions of their temporary licence.

Mr Shailesh Vara:

We have completely overhauled the processes for allowing prisoners out on temporary licence, leading to a 39% drop in the number of temporary release failures. This is the lowest failure rate since 2002, and the absconding rate has reached record lows under this and the Coalition government.

The reduction in the numbers of absconds and ROTL failures demonstrate that the action that has been taken to improve assessment procedures in this area has been effective. We continue to look for improvements.

Since May 2014, prisoners with a history of escape, absconding or serious temporary release failure during the current sentence are already prevented from transfer to open conditions, other than in the most exceptional circumstances. There has been only one case satisfying those conditions since the policy was implemented. When the policy was implemented, it was not applied retrospectively. Prisoners already in open conditions were assessed by NOMS and any who were assessed as presenting an unacceptable risk in such conditions in light of their previous non-compliance were returned to closed prisons, with the remainder allowed to remain in open conditions because of their compliance with the regime and favourable risk assessment.

On 31 March 2015, there were 4,023 prisoners recorded as being in open prisons. Of these, 17 were recorded as having absconded between 1 April 2004 and 30 May 2014 when the policy change was came into force. There were no other cases of prisoners in this group absconding between 31 May 2014 and 31 March 2015.

Reliable electronic records for absconds and temporary release failures prior to 2004 are not available, therefore only incidents since 2004 could be considered. The data set used here includes prisons classified as having their predominant function to be open. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

■ Prisoners: Compensation**Philip Davies:**[\[6884\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the effect on claims for compensation by prisoners of the coming into force of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Andrew Selous:

We do not currently have data to enable us to make an assessment of the effect on claims for compensation by prisoners of the coming into force of the Human Rights Act 1998.

We are making an assessment of the costs of the Human Rights Act, including how it might have driven compensation claims more generally.

■ Prisons

Mr Douglas Carswell: [7324]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) murders of staff and prisoners, (b) riots, (c) assaults on staff, (d) instances of prisoner self-harm, (e) instances of prisoner suicide, (f) instances of improper mobile telephone use and (g) absconders from open conditions have occurred in prisons in the last 12 months.

Andrew Selous:

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is committed to running safe establishments. Violence of any kind in prison is not tolerated and all assaults are treated extremely seriously. Any prisoner who commits an act of violence can expect to have action taken against them.

NOMS has launched a new Violence Reduction project, which has been created to gain better understanding of the causes of the current levels of violence in prisons and to make sure that there is strengthened handling of it, in terms of both prevention and response.

There is no central record of persons having been convicted of Prison staff murders. On 29 June 2015 at Blackfriars Crown Court, Lorraine Barwell, a Serco Prisoner Custody Officer, was assaulted and sadly died of her injuries. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is currently undertaking an investigation into the incident. The NOMS Investigator is working with the Metropolitan Police to ensure that the ongoing Murder investigation is not compromised.

NOMS Incident Reporting does not record riot as an incident type.

Latest published figures on prisoner deaths (homicide and self-inflicted), self-harm and assaults in prison custody in England and Wales can be found in the safety in custody publication at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/safety-in-custody-quarterly-update-to-december-2014-and-annual> This publication provides statistics on deaths to the end of March 2015 and assaults and self-harm to the end of December 2014.

Latest published figures on absconds can be found in the prison and probation management information addendum at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-and-probation-trusts-performance-statistics-201314>

■ Procurement

Mr Roger Godsiff: [5623]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what contracts his Department and HM Courts and Tribunals Service currently have out to tender.

Mr Roger Godsiff: [5624]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, which contracts placed out to tender by (a) his Department and (b) HM Courts and Tribunals Service have been bid on by Synnex Concentrix.

Mr Shailesh Vara:

PQ 5623

1. Professional Services, Evaluation of Sentencing Council Guidelines.
2. HMP Holloway Fire Safety Improvements.
3. Reducing Reoffending, Provision of three Risk assessments at HMP Swaleside, East Sutton Park and Stanford Hill.
4. Operational Goods, Supply of Portable Mobile Phone Detection Equipment.
5. Reducing Reoffending, Retender of Provision for 1 forensic psychology risk assessment at HMP Leyhill,
6. HMP Wandsworth Demolition of Laundry.
7. Reducing Reoffending, Provision of sixteen forensic psychology risk assessments at HMP Frankland.
8. Compliance and Enforcement Service, (Court Fines).
9. Transforming Youth Custody – Secure Training Centre.
10. Criminal Justice System – Efficiencies.
11. Professional Services – To implement a specialist financial services framework.

PQ 5624

I can confirm that Synnex Concentrix has been announced as the preferred bidder for court enforcements.

At this point, we are unable to disclose which suppliers have been involved in the other competitions listed above due to procurement competition rules and regulations.

■ Public Defender Service: Solicitors**Karl Turner:**[\[6896\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many times Public Defender Service solicitors have been used as a direct result of the work to rule action that began on 1 July 2015; and what the total cost to the public purse has been of the use of such solicitors to date.

Andrew Selous:

In addition to their routine allocated police station work, PDS attended 21 additional police stations cases between 1 July 2015 - 13 July 2015.

As salaried staff, no additional salary cost will be paid.

■ Repossession Orders**Mr Christopher Chope:**[\[7588\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average time taken is by bailiffs at Wandsworth County Court to execute possession orders; and if he will make it his policy to

ensure that all applications made for the execution of county court possession orders by county court bailiffs are carried out within seven days of that application being made.

Mr Shailesh Vara:

Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service holds provisional management information which shows that Wandsworth County Court take on average five weeks to execute a possession order following the issue of an enforcement application.

The Ministry of Justice does not propose to implement time requirements for the execution of the possession order. It is necessary to deal with such applications on a case by case basis to meet the needs of both parties and to manage the safety of County Court Bailiffs.

■ **Social Security Benefits: Appeals**

Colleen Fletcher:

[\[6056\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average length of time was for the Tribunals Service to administer a First-tier Tribunal-Social Security and Child Support appeal in respect of (a) personal independence payment, (b) employment and support allowance, (c) income support, (d) jobseeker's allowance and (e) tax credits in (i) Coventry, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England in the last period for which figures are available.

Mr Shailesh Vara:

The First-tier Tribunal – Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) administered by HM Courts & Tribunals Service, hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions' decisions on a range of benefits.

The table below shows the average length of time to administer appeals in respect of (a) personal independence payment (PIP), (b) employment and support allowance (ESA), (c) income support (IS), (d) jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and (e) tax credits in (i) Coventry, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England between April 2014 and March 2015, the latest period for which figures are available.

In 2014/15, due to falling receipts of new cases, the Tribunal Service began processing more older and more complex cases, hence the rise in the average length of time to administer appeals.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME TO ADMINISTER APPEALS BETWEEN APRIL 2014 AND MARCH 2015

	PIP ¹	ESA ²	IS	JSA	Tax Credits ³
Coventry	17.9	39.9	33.3	28.3	17.6
West Midlands ⁴	17.5	35.4	37	25.8	17.3
England ⁵	16.5	30.4	30.7	25.4	16.9

Notes:

SSCS data are normally registered to the venue nearest to the appellant's home address. We cannot retrieve data based on the appellant's actual address, but can produce reports detailing the numbers of cases that were dealt with at one of our Regional centres or heard at a specific venue.

1. Personal Independence Payment (New Claim Appeals) which replaces Disability Living Allowance was introduced on 8 April 2013, also includes Personal Independence Claims (Reassessments)
2. Includes Employment Support Allowance and Employment Support Allowance (Reassessments)
3. Includes Working Family Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit.
4. West Midlands includes the venues in: Birmingham, Coventry, Hereford, Stoke, Wolverhampton, Worcester, Shrewsbury, Kidderminster, Leamington Spa, Nuneaton and Walsall.
5. Excludes SSCS Scotland processing centre and the following venues Aberystwyth, Bridgend, Cardiff, Caernafon, Carmarthen, Colwyn Bay, Cwmbran, Haverfordwest, Llandrindod Wells, Langstone, Llandudno, Llanelli, Llangefni, Llwynypia, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath, Port Talbot, Newtown, Pontypridd, Pontypool, Prestatyn, Swansea, Welshpool, Wrexham, Bargoed and Ebbw Vale

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the details are subject to inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale case management system and is the best data that is available.

■ Unpaid Fines

Andy Slaughter:

[\[7005\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the value was of fines remaining uncollected on 31 December (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013 and (e) 2014.

Mr Shailesh Vara:

This Government takes recovery and enforcement of financial impositions very seriously and remains committed to finding new ways to ensure impositions are paid and to trace those who do not pay. This is why there has been a year on year increase in the total amount of financial penalties collected over the last four years. The amount of money collected at the end of 2013/14 was £290 million. The amount of money collected reached a record high of £310 million at the end of 2014/15 - an increase of £20m (7%) in cash collection of financial impositions (excluding confiscation) compared to that collected in 2013/14.

The table below shows the total value of financial impositions outstanding in England and Wales at the end of each of the last five financial years.

Year Total Value Outstanding regardless of Imposition date	2010/2011	£609,559,294
	2011/2012	£593,268,197
	2012/2013	£575,507,170
	2013/2014	£548,811,011
	2014/2015	£571,061,117

The total amounts outstanding can relate to impositions made in the year stated or any previous year. These figures include fines, compensation orders, victim surcharge orders and prosecution costs orders

The outstanding balance figures includes the value of accounts that were not due to be paid by the end of the period specified (either because they were imposed close to the end of the year or because they had payment timescales set by the courts for beyond the end of the year) and those that were being paid by instalments on agreed payment plans. .

■ Witnesses

Philip Davies: [\[7235\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will place in the Library a copy of the standard witness summons pro forma sent to complainants and witnesses to require them to attend court.

Mike Penning:

A copy of form N20 Witness Summons (used in civil proceedings in the High Court, County Court and Court of Appeal), form PF25 Witness Summons (used in the Family Court)

form 5072 Witness Summons (used in the Crown Court) and Witness Summons (used in proceedings in the Magistrates' Court) will be deposited in the Library of the House of Commons in due course.

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ Telecommunications: Northern Ireland

Ian C. Lucas: [\[7183\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, whether she has had discussions with mobile network operators on (a) digital infrastructure and inclusion and (b) reform of the Electronic Communications Code since May 2015.

Ian C. Lucas: [\[7234\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, whether she has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on reform of the Electronic Communications Code.

Mrs Theresa Villiers:

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for taking forward work on digital infrastructure and leads on reform of the Electronic Communications Code.

The Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport and the Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy regularly meet with mobile network operators.

The Government is committed to reform of the Electronic Communications Code and intends to bring forward legislation in this area as soon as possible.

PRIME MINISTER■ **Syria: Armed Conflict****Brendan O'Hara:**[\[7790\]](#)

To ask the Prime Minister, when he was first informed of the involvement of British military personnel in military actions in Syria after the vote against military action in Syria on 30 August 2013.

Mr David Cameron:

It is a long-standing policy of the government, and previous governments going back for over half a century, to embed military personnel in a whole range of countries. I was aware that the Defence Secretary authorised the first embed with US forces in Syria in the autumn of last year.

SCOTLAND■ **Scotland Act 2012****Ian Murray:**[\[7112\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2015 to Question 6014, for what reason it is the Government's policy not to place such documents in the Library.

David Mundell:

[Holding answer 20 July 2015]: The government has an agreed and published Transparency Policy on major projects that sets out the project information it will publish. Outside this, departments consider public requests for individual project review reports on a case-by-case basis according to the Freedom of Information Act.

Ian Murray:[\[7113\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2015 to Question 6014, if he will publish a summary of the findings of the Office of Government Commerce's Gateway 0 strategic assessment of the Scotland Act 2012 implementation programme.

David Mundell:

[Holding answer 20 July 2015]: The Government does not routinely place 'programme' documents for live projects in the library of the House. This Government is committed to keeping Parliament updated on the implementation of the financial provisions of the Scotland Act 2012 through the Annual Report, which is publically available.

■ Sovereignty: Scotland

Margaret Ferrier: [\[7765\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policy on a further referendum on Scottish independence of the Scottish Parliament election in 2016 delivering a majority for political parties committed to the holding of such a referendum.

David Mundell:

Throughout the independence referendum leading members of the Yes campaign repeatedly asserted that it would be a 'once in a generation' or a 'once in a lifetime' event. For example, in September 2013, Nicola Sturgeon described the independence referendum on BBC television as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity for Scotland' and in November 2013, the Scottish Government's white paper, *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*, which was produced at taxpayers' expense and made freely available to anyone in Scotland, called the referendum 'a once in a generation opportunity to follow a different path'. In the context of these and other assurances, and following extensive debate, in September 2014 people in Scotland voted decisively, by a majority of over ten per cent, to reject independence and to keep our family of nations together. We await with interest the publication of the parties' election manifestos.

Margaret Ferrier: [\[7766\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what contingency plans his Department has prepared for the possibility of a further referendum on Scottish independence being the policy of the Scottish Government after the Scottish Parliament election in 2016.

David Mundell:

Given the clear and repeated commitments of leading Yes campaigners, not least the First Minister herself, during the independence referendum campaign that the vote was a 'once in a generation' or 'once in a lifetime' event, and given that a clear majority of Scots voted No in that referendum, my Department has not prepared contingency plans for the possibility of a further referendum being the policy of the Scottish Government after the Scottish Parliament election in 2016.

TRANSPORT

■ A595

Mr Jamie Reed: [\[7770\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if his Department will conduct a feasibility study on improving the trunk road section of the A595.

Andrew Jones:

Highways England keeps the strategic trunk road network under continuous review to identify places where there is a need for studies to support the case for improvements and Highways England are starting a safety study of the route this financial year.

Highways England will soon initiate preparation of Route Strategies for 2020-25. These will form an integral part of the investment planning process. If potential improvements to the A595 are identified, they will be considered within the next Road Investment Strategy covering the same period.

■ Network Rail: Finance

Sir Nicholas Soames:

[\[7552\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what changes he intends to make to the funding arrangements for Network Rail; and if he will make a statement.

Claire Perry:

We intend to either remove or significantly reduce the Network Grant by re-routing Government support via franchised train operating companies, which will pay correspondingly higher track access charges to Network Rail for using the network. This change will not affect the overall level of support Government will be providing to rail.

This new approach will ensure that Network Rail focuses firmly on the needs of train operators, and through them, customers.

Working with the Office of Rail and Road, we intend this change to take effect from the start of Control Period 6 (April 2019). We will be consulting with industry on the details.

■ Railways: Per Capita Costs

Mr Jamie Reed:

[\[7811\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much has been spent on rail services per head of population in each region of England in each of the last five years.

Claire Perry:

Total expenditure per regions is complicated to calculate as it has to include franchise cost/revenue, infrastructure cost and major project costs, many of which cross regional boundaries. In this instance, spending needs to be compared to rail usage.

The most recent government expenditure on rail is below:

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON RAILWAYS ¹ PER HEAD OF POPULATION

Region	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
North East	£59	£58	£55	£51	£50
North West	£97	£98	£88	£88	£85
Yorkshire & Humber	£95	£93	£102	£100	£100
East Midlands	£45	£41	£37	£38	£36
West Midlands	£61	£53	£49	£50	£47

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON RAILWAYS ¹ PER HEAD OF POPULATION

East of England	£58	£54	£59	£56	£56
London	£386	£369	£330	£270	£298
South East	£85	£82	£69	£68	£66
South West	£49	£46	£41	£42	£39
England	£120	£115	£106	£96	£99

¹ Includes expenditure on all types of railway

Source: HMT,
ONS

The above table shows estimated government expenditure on railways per head of population in each region of England between 2009/10 and 2013/14, the latest year for which figures are available.

WALES

■ **Telecommunications: Wales**

Ian C. Lucas: [\[7173\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, whether he has had discussions with mobile network operators on (a) digital infrastructure and inclusion and (b) reform of the Electronic Communications Code since May 2015.

Alun Cairns:

Since May 2015, I have met with Three, to discuss the Electronic Communications Code and improvements to digital infrastructure, including mobile coverage across Wales.

This follows a programme of meetings with Mobile Network Operators and broadcasters in the last Parliament on issues such as the Electronic Communications Code and mobile not-spots in Wales.

Ian C. Lucas: [\[7200\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the reform of the Electronic Communications Code.

Alun Cairns:

The Government is committed to delivering a reformed Electronic Communications Code that works for site providers, Code Operators, and ensures consumers have a choice of high quality telecommunications services. I have met with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy, to discuss improvements to digital infrastructure across Wales.

WORK AND PENSIONS■ **Children: Maintenance****Dr Matthew Offord:**[\[7691\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much child maintenance was not collected in each of the last five years.

Priti Patel:

The table below shows the total amount of liability accrued each year and, by comparison, how much was received or adjusted and the difference at the end of the year. Liability accrued is compared with collections excluding and including amounts in respect of arrears and technical adjustments.

A new methodology was introduced in the December 2013 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics which is only available for data from January 2012. Figures prior to this do not use a comparable methodology and are therefore not included.

YEAR ENDING:	LIABILITY ACCRUED IN THE YEAR (£M) ^(2,3)	REGULAR MAINTENANCE COLLECTED IN THE YEAR I.E. EXCLUDING AMOUNTS TOWARDS ARREARS AND TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS (£M) ^(2,4)	DIFFERENCE IN REGULAR MAINTENANCE (£M) AT THE END OF THE YEAR ⁽⁶⁾	TOTAL CREDITS IN THE YEAR I.E. INCLUDING AMOUNTS TOWARDS ARREARS AND TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS (£M) ^(2,5)	DIFFERENCE IN CREDITS (£M) AT THE END OF THE YEAR ⁽⁷⁾
		A	B	=A-B	C	=A-C
Mar-13	£915.7	£655.0	£260.7	£828.3	£87.4
Mar-14	£942.4	£688.0	£254.4	£849.0	£93.4

YEAR ENDING:	LIABILITY ACCRUED IN THE YEAR (£M) ^(2,3)	REGULAR MAINTENANCE COLLECTED IN THE YEAR I.E. EXCLUDING AMOUNTS TOWARDS ARREARS AND TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS (£M) ^(2,4)	DIFFERENCE IN REGULAR MAINTENANCE (£M) AT THE END OF THE YEAR ⁽⁶⁾	TOTAL CREDITS IN THE YEAR I.E. INCLUDING AMOUNTS TOWARDS ARREARS AND TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS (£M) ^(2,5)	DIFFERENCE IN CREDITS (£M) AT THE END OF THE YEAR ⁽⁷⁾
Mar-15	£840.7	£629.3	£211.4	£767.4	£73.3

Notes:

1)

a. Figures are against the 1993 and 2003 statutory maintenance services only, including cases managed off system.

b. Maintenance Direct cases are not included within this table. A Maintenance Direct case would not accrue liability on the CSA computer Systems, due to money being paid directly between parents.

2) Total Liabilities is the sum of the quarterly amounts of money charged as regular maintenance (excluding any technical adjustments).

3) Regular maintenance collected is the amount of money paid via the collection service excluding technical adjustments. This figure is derived by summing the quarterly figures together. It is possible that some of the maintenance not collected in one of the quarters might be collected in the next quarter as arrears; however this will not be included in the regular maintenance figures.

4) Total credits are the sum of the quarterly amounts of money paid, including technical adjustments and contributions towards arrears, via the collection service.

5) The difference in regular maintenance at the end of the year is the amount of liability not collected on time within each quarter.

6) The difference in credits at the end of the year is the amount of liability not collected. This is the total amount of liability accrued minus regular maintenance collected, technical adjustments and payments towards arrears.

7) Quarterly figures are published in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-support-agency-quarterly-summary-of-statistics-march-2015>

Dr Matthew Offord: [\[7694\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to ensure self-employed people claiming child maintenance declare their income in full.

Priti Patel:

For the 2012 scheme, income data is sought directly from HMRC.

Under the 1993 and 2003 schemes self-employed earners are asked to provide HMRC's Tax Calculation Notice as evidence of their income. If this cannot be provided, income data can be requested directly from HMRC.

Should any client believe issues of tax fraud exist, we will signpost them appropriately to HMRC or the Financial Investigation Unit, run by the Child Maintenance Group.

Dr Matthew Offord: [\[7695\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to improve the collection of child maintenance; and if he will make a statement.

Priti Patel:

Children have better outcomes when parents work together following a separation. As part of the child maintenance reforms introduced in 2012, everyone wishing to make an application to the statutory scheme is required to contact the Child Maintenance Options Service, which will provide information on the full range of options available to separating parents including where to find support to make their own, effective family based arrangements.

Those parents who choose to use the 2012 scheme will benefit from a faster and simpler way of working out maintenance, with information on earnings collected direct from HMRC, and a self-service portal to enable parents to track payments.

In the event of non-compliance the Department has a wide range of effective powers to collect child maintenance, including taking deductions direct from earnings and bank accounts. Those who persistently fail to pay may be committed to prison.

The latest published figures are continuing to increase and are, at present, showing 88% of cases on the 1993 and 2003 schemes and 88% of case groups on the 2012 scheme contributing towards their current maintenance liability, their highest position to date.

Dr Matthew Offord: [\[7793\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what factors were taken into account in setting the application fee for the Child Maintenance Service at £20.

Priti Patel:

Following the consultation '[Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance](#)', and debates in both Houses, the level of the application fee was reduced from £100 to £20. The fee is intended to strike the right balance of ensuring parents do not default into the statutory scheme, without placing an unreasonable financial burden on those who are unable to reach a family based

arrangement. It also provides a nominal contribution to a system that is expensive to administer.

Application fees do not apply to victims of domestic violence or to applicants aged 18 or under.

■ Department for Work and Pensions: Training

Paul Flynn: [\[7447\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to paragraph 2.103 of the Summer Budget 2015, what additional training will be made available to staff of his Department to deal with cases in which a third child was conceived as a result of rape.

Priti Patel:

We will work with relevant stakeholders to help us deliver this policy intent and will ensure that appropriate training and guidance for staff is in place.

■ Jobcentre Plus

Chris Evans: [\[7161\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of Jobcentre Plus programmes in each of the last three years.

Priti Patel:

The total spend on Employment programmes for each of the last three years as published in the Departments Annual Report and Accounts is as follows

12/13 £802m, 13/14 £1,043m, 14/15 £946m.

■ Local Government: Pensions

Julian Sturdy: [\[7546\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make it his policy to increase the £30,000 threshold for the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Justin Tomlinson:

Defined benefit pension arrangements offer a high level of security and, in some cases, very valuable guarantees. Therefore it is important that individuals carefully consider the implications of giving these guarantees up before proceeding with a decision to transfer out to access their benefits flexibly.

The independent financial advice £30,000 threshold applies to transfers out of all funded defined benefit schemes, including public sector schemes such as the Local Government Pension Scheme. The Government has no plans to create a separate threshold for funded public sector schemes.

■ Social Security Benefits: Disqualification

Mr Barry Sheerman: [\[7886\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what information his Department collects on the number of people who die after having their benefit withdrawn following being sanctioned.

Priti Patel:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on the 14 July 2015 to Question [UIN 5731](#).

■ Social Security Benefits: Scotland

Ian Murray: [\[7706\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Scottish households will be affected by a reduction in the benefit cap to £20,000 per year.

Justin Tomlinson:

The Government set out its assessment of the impacts of the policies in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill on 20th July. A link to the impact assessment is included.

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/impact-assessments/IA15-006.pdf>

■ Taxation: Married People

Jim Shannon: [\[7643\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate his Department has made of the (a) number of single earner married couples and (b) proportion of all married couples who are single earner married couples in each country of the UK in each of the last five years.

Priti Patel:

Table 1: number of married couples where one adult in the couple is employed or self-employed, by country in the UK, 3-year averages

	ENGLAND	WALES	SCOTLAND	NORTHERN IRELAND	UNITED KINGDOM
2007/08 to 2009/10	2,190,000	110,000	190,000	80,000	2,570,000
2008/09 to 2010/11	2,180,000	110,000	190,000	80,000	2,560,000
2009/10 to 2011/12	2,160,000	120,000	190,000	80,000	2,540,000
2010/11 to 2012/13	2,120,000	110,000	190,000	80,000	2,500,000

	ENGLAND	WALES	SCOTLAND	NORTHERN IRELAND	UNITED KINGDOM
2011/12 to 2013/14	2,090,000	110,000	180,000	80,000	2,460,000

Table 2 : proportion of married couples where one adult in the couple is employed or self-employed, by country in the UK, 3-year averages

	ENGLAND	WALES	SCOTLAND	NORTHERN IRELAND	UNITED KINGDOM
2007/08 to 2009/10	27	25	25	26	27
2008/09 to 2010/11	28	25	25	26	27
2009/10 to 2011/12	27	27	25	27	27
2010/11 to 2012/13	27	27	25	28	27
2011/12 to 2013/14	27	26	24	27	27

Source: Family Resources Survey, 2007/08 to 2013/14

Notes:

1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of UK households.
2. The figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to former Government Office Region population by age and sex. Estimates based on survey data are subject to uncertainty due to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
3. The figures presented are three-year averages due to relatively small sample sizes of married couples available for some countries in individual years.
4. Data are rounded to the nearest ten thousand or 1 per cent.
5. Percentages in Table 2 are calculated by dividing the number of married couples where one adult is in employment by the total number of married couples (i.e. those couples where one, both or neither is employed).

■ **Work Programme: Copeland**

Mr Jamie Reed:

[7880]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people in Copeland constituency participated in the Work Programme scheme in each of the last three years.

Priti Patel:

Information on the number of Work Programme referrals, attachments and job outcomes to March 2015 by various geographies, including parliamentary constituencies, is published at:

<http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/WorkProg/tabtool.html>

Guidance for users can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-tabulation-tool-guidance>

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS**CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT**

■ Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Press

Mr Mark Hendrick:

[\[5031\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, which periodicals and newspapers his Department subscribes to; how many of each such periodical his Department acquires; and what the cost of subscribing to such periodicals was in 2014.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 28 July 2015. The correct answer should have been:

Mr Edward Vaizey:

The Department purchases the following newspapers each week:

THE SUN M-F X 3

Financial Times M-F x 3

Times M-F X 3

Daily Telegraph **Telegraph** M-F X 4

Independent M-F X 3

Guardian M-F X 3

Daily Mail M-F X 3

Daily Express M-F X 3

Daily Mirror M-F X 3

Racing Post M-F X1

Racing Post Saturday X 1

Racing Post Sunday X 1

Guardian Saturday X 1

Financial Times Saturday X 1

Independent-Saturday X 1

Daily Mail Saturday X 1

Daily Express Saturday X 1

Sun Saturday X 1

Times Saturday X 1

THE SUN M-F X 3

Daily Mirror Sat X 1

Daily Telegraph Saturday X 1

Sunday Times X 1

Sunday Telegraph X 1

Independent on Sunday X 1

Observer X 1

Mail On Sunday X 1

Sunday Express X 1

Sunday Mirror X 1

The Sun On Sunday X 1

Spectator X 3

New Statesman X 1

Arts Review X 1

The total amount spent on newspapers for Financial Year 2014-15 was £9659.16

DEFENCE**■ Mediterranean Sea: Refugees**

Mr Philip Hollobone:

[6011]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many refugees the Royal Navy has rescued in the Mediterranean (a) in total and (b) as a proportion of all those rescued.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 13 July 2015. The correct answer should have been:

Penny Mordaunt:

To date, the Royal Navy has rescued **4,752,747** persons under its Search and Rescue mission in the Mediterranean. The Royal Navy does not record whether a rescued person is a refugee or an economic migrant; this is the responsibility of the receiving nation (in this instance, Italy). The Ministry of Defence does not hold overall statistics of all those rescued at sea by other nations.

JUSTICE

■ Procurement

Mr Roger Godsiff: [\[5623\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what contracts his Department and HM Courts and Tribunals Service currently have out to tender.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 30 July 2015. The correct answer should have been:

Mr Shailesh Vara:

As of the 7th July, the following contracts the Department, including HM Courts and Tribunals Service currently have out to tender are,

PQ 5623

1. Professional Services, Evaluation of Sentencing Council Guidelines.
2. HMP Holloway Fire Safety Improvements.
3. Reducing Reoffending, Provision of three Risk assessments at HMP Swaleside, East Sutton Park and Stanford Hill.
4. Operational Goods, Supply of Portable Mobile Phone Detection Equipment.
5. Reducing Reoffending, Retender of Provision for 1 forensic psychology risk assessment at HMP Leyhill,
6. HMP Wandsworth Demolition of Laundry.
7. Reducing Reoffending, Provision of sixteen forensic psychology risk assessments at HMP Frankland.
8. Compliance and Enforcement Service, (Court Fines).
9. Transforming Youth Custody – Secure Training Centre.
10. Criminal Justice System – Efficiencies.
11. Professional Services – To implement a specialist financial services framework.

PQ 5624

I can confirm that Synnex Concentrix has been announced as the preferred bidder for court enforcements.

At this point, we are unable to disclose which suppliers have been involved in the other competitions listed above due to procurement competition rules and regulations.

■ Synnex-Concentrix UK

Mr Roger Godsiff:

[5624]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, which contracts placed out to tender by (a) his Department and (b) HM Courts and Tribunals Service have been bid on by Synnex Concentrix.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 30 July 2015. The correct answer should have been:

Mr Shailesh Vara:

As of the 7th July, the following contracts the Department, including HM Courts and Tribunals Service currently have out to tender are,

PQ 5623

1. Professional Services, Evaluation of Sentencing Council Guidelines.
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7. Reducing Reoffending, Provision of sixteen forensic psychology risk assessments at HMP Frankland.
8. Compliance and Enforcement Service, (Court Fines).
9. Transforming Youth Custody – Secure Training Centre.
10. Criminal Justice System – Efficiencies.
11. Professional Services – To implement a specialist financial services framework.

PQ 5624

I can confirm that Synnex Concentrix has been announced as the preferred bidder for court enforcements.

At this point, we are unable to disclose which suppliers have been involved in the other competitions listed above due to procurement competition rules and regulations.

TRANSPORT

■ Railways: Compensation

Tim Loughton:

[\[6383\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what information his Department holds on how much has been paid out by (a) Southern Rail and (b) all train operating companies to passengers for late running and cancellation compensation in each of the last five years.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 14 July 2015. The correct answer should have been:

Claire Perry:

The Department holds the information as set out in the table attached. Not all operators are required to provide such figures.

Attachments:

1. **006383 - TOC compensation 09_10-14_15 figures.pdf**
2. ~~006383 - TOC compensation 2010-15.pdf~~