



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 1 April 2016 and the information is correct at the time of publication (03:39 P.M., 01 April 2016). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

### CONTENTS

<b>ANSWERS</b>	<b>5</b>	■ Science: Lothian	14
BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS	5	■ Sign Language	15
■ Apprentices: Pay	5	■ Small Businesses: Research	15
■ Business, Innovation and Skills: Employment Agencies	5	■ SMART Awards	16
■ Companies: Registration	5	■ SMART Awards: Cambridge	16
■ Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Billing	6	■ Universities: Conditions of Employment	16
■ Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Overseas Aid	6	■ Written Questions: Government Responses	17
■ Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency: Operating Costs	7	CABINET OFFICE	17
■ Employment: Telephone Services	8	■ Charities: Advertising	17
■ EU Grants and Loans	9	■ Crime: Death	17
■ European Economic Area: Membership	10	■ Electoral Register	18
■ Exports: Government Assistance	10	■ Youth Work: Government Assistance	18
■ Holiday Accommodation: Prices	10	TREASURY	18
■ Overseas Students: Loans	11	■ Air Passenger Duty	18
■ Public Houses	11	■ Business: Taxation	19
■ Pubs Code Adjudicator	12	■ EU Budget: Contributions	19
■ Research: Finance	13	■ Flood Control: North of England	20
■ Science: Capital Investment	14	■ Fuels: Excise Duties	20
		■ Gift Aid	21
		■ Greece: Loans	21
		■ Individual Savings Accounts	21
		■ Infrastructure: Investment	22
		■ Insurance Premium Tax	22

■ Licensed Premises	22	DEFENCE	36
■ Minimum Wage: Fines	23	■ Armed Forces: Ammunition	36
■ Monetary Policy	23	■ Armed Forces: Carbon Emissions	37
■ Multinational Companies: Annual Reports	24	■ Armed Forces: Deployment	37
■ Non-domestic Rates: Appeals	24	■ Armed Forces: Pacific	37
■ Patents: Corporation Tax	25	■ Armed Forces: South China Sea	38
■ Revenue and Customs: Greater Manchester	25	■ Arms Trade	38
■ Sanitary Protection: VAT	25	■ Army: Northern Ireland	38
■ Social Mobility	26	■ Defence: Partnerships	39
■ Stamp Duty Land Tax	26	■ Defence: Procurement	39
■ Tax Avoidance	27	■ Defence: Research	40
■ Taxation	28	■ Gurkhas: Pensions	40
■ Tourism: VAT	28	■ Iraq-Kuwait Conflict: War Pensions	41
COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	28	■ Military Exercises	41
■ Council Tax	28	■ Somalia: Military Aid	41
■ Help to Buy Scheme	29	■ Ukraine: Military Aid	42
■ Homelessness	29	■ Unmanned Air Vehicles	42
■ Housing: Construction	30	■ Yazidis: Military Aid	42
■ Local Government: Devolution	31	EDUCATION	43
■ Local Plans	31	■ Education: Assessments	43
■ Members: Correspondence	32	■ Teachers: Migrant Workers	43
■ Non-domestic Rates	32	ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS	43
■ Right to Buy Scheme	32	■ Agriculture: Subsidies	43
■ Sleeping Rough: Mental Illness	33	■ Caves	44
CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT	33	■ Dogs: Northern Ireland	44
■ Arts: EU Grants and Loans	33	■ Flood Control: Carlisle	44
■ Athletics: Training	34	■ Flood Control: Lancashire	45
■ British Library: Finance	35	■ Flood Control: Leeds	45
■ Department for Culture, Media and Sport: European Social Fund	36	■ Flood Control: River Medway	46
■ Telecommunications: Contracts	36	■ Food: Waste	46
		■ Marine Conservation Zones	47

■ National Flood Resilience Review	48	■ Motor Vehicles: Smoking	60
FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	48	HOME OFFICE	60
■ Andargachew Tsege	48	■ Asylum	60
■ Bahrain: Human Rights	49	■ Cybercrime: Autism	60
■ Bahrain: Politics and Government	49	■ Emergency Services: Greater Manchester	61
■ British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries	50	■ Greater Manchester Police: Finance	61
■ EU Common Foreign and Security Policy	50	■ Immigration Controls: EU Nationals	62
■ EU Immigration	51	■ UK Border Force: Finance	63
■ Honours: British Overseas Territories	51	INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	63
■ India: MV Seaman Guard Ohio	51	■ Developing Countries: Malaria	63
■ Indonesia: Custodial Treatment	52	■ Developing Countries: Poverty	64
■ Iran: Guided Weapons	52	■ Developing Countries: Sanitation	64
■ Islamic State	52	■ EU Aid	65
■ Israel: Palestinians	53	■ Libya: Humanitarian Aid	65
■ Members: Correspondence	53	■ Overseas Aid	66
■ Middle East: Refugees	54	JUSTICE	67
■ Palestinians: Schools	54	■ Antisemitism	67
■ Radicalism: EU Action	54	■ Anti-semitism	67
■ Sudan: Religious Freedom	55	■ Cannabis	67
■ Syria: Lebanon	55	■ Courts: Closures	68
■ Terrorism: Finance	56	■ Domestic Violence: Legal Aid Scheme	69
HEALTH	56	■ Independent Monitoring Boards	69
■ Autism	56	■ Interviews: Children	69
■ Diabetes: Leicestershire	57	■ Knives: Crime	70
■ General Practitioners: Leeds East	58	■ Legal Opinion	71
■ Health Services: International Cooperation	59	■ Ministry of Justice: European Social Fund	72
■ Mental Health Services: Restraint Techniques	59	■ Ministry of Justice: Staff	72
		■ Ministry of Justice: Steatite	72
		■ Non-molestation Orders	73

■ Offences against Children	73	■ Employment Schemes: Training	82
■ Prison Governors	74	■ Employment: Disability	83
■ Prisoner Escapes	74	■ EU Globalisation Fund: Iron and Steel	84
■ Prisons: Drugs	74	■ Housing Benefit: Social Rented Housing	84
■ Probation	74	■ Housing Benefit: Southampton	84
■ Richard Lewis	75	■ Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit: Reviews	85
■ Social Security Benefits: Fraud	75	■ Jobseeker's Allowance: Voluntary Work	85
■ Witnesses	76	■ Migration: EU Countries	85
■ Youth Custody: Safety	76	■ Personal Independence Payment: Assessments	86
TRANSPORT	77	■ Personal Independence Payment: Mental Illness	86
■ Heavy Goods Vehicles: Road Traffic Control	77	■ Personal Independence Payment: Wales	87
■ Railway Stations: Finance	78	■ Remploy	87
■ Roads: Calderdale	78	■ Social Security Benefits: Correspondence	88
WORK AND PENSIONS	78	<b>MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS</b>	<b>89</b>
■ Children: Maintenance	78	HOME OFFICE	89
■ Community Work: Standards	80	■ Asylum: Children	89
■ Disability Living Allowance: Cystic Fibrosis	80		
■ Disability Living Allowance: Inflammatory Bowel Disease	81		
■ Employment and Support Allowance: Inflammatory Bowel Disease	82		

#### Notes:

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

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

## ANSWERS

### BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

#### ■ Apprentices: Pay

Louise Haigh:

[[31954](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, with reference to paragraphs 1.140 and 1.142 of the Budget 2016, whether it is his policy that apprentices over the age of 25 will be subject to the national living wage or the apprentice rate of the national minimum wage.

Nick Boles:

*[Holding answer 24 March 2016]:* Apprentices under the age of 19 or in the first year of their apprenticeship are entitled to at least the National Minimum Wage apprentice rate – currently set at £3.30 per hour.

All other apprentices are entitled to at least the minimum wage rate appropriate for their age, which for over-25s is the National Living Wage rate of £7.20 per hour.

#### ■ Business, Innovation and Skills: Employment Agencies

Louise Haigh:

[[16474](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what estimate he has made of the cost of using external agencies for recruitment to senior Civil Service posts in his Department in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

Joseph Johnson:

The estimated cost for using external agencies for recruitment to Senior Civil Service posts in 2014/15 was £155,000.

Information for previous years is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

#### ■ Companies: Registration

Kevin Brennan:

[[31546](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many companies have cited in their registration at Companies House their registered office, the address of another business or private individual which they are not authorised to use in each year for which data is available.

**Anna Soubry:**

Companies House has received the following number of complaints that companies have cited as their registered office, the address of another business or private individual that they allegedly are not authorised to use.

YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES
2013/14	1,270
2014/15	1,385
2015/16 (to date)	1,517

Provisions contained in the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 will be commenced on 6 April. These will allow the Registrar of Companies to act in the event of a complaint of this nature about a registered office.

#### ■ Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Billing

**Kevin Brennan:**

[\[31793\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much his Department owed in late payments to small and medium-sized enterprises in each year for which data is available.

**Anna Soubry:**

When making payments, the core Department does not differentiate between small, medium and large enterprises as many small and medium sized businesses can be found at various tiers of the procurement chain.

The Department takes prompt payment very seriously and records show that in the current financial year to the end of February 2016, 96.4% of all valid invoices (by volume) were paid within 5 working days. When looking at the overall value, this equates to 99.8% paid within 5 working days and 99.99% of invoices were paid within the 30 day standard contractual terms.

#### ■ Department for Business, Innovation and Skills: Overseas Aid

**Stephen Doughty:**

[\[31275\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what the value was of Official Development Assistance spent by his Department in each of the last six years; and what proportion of that assistance was subject to the International Development Act 2002.

**Joseph Johnson:**

*[Holding answer 21 March 2016]:* Details on 2015 calendar year Official Development Assistance (ODA) spend will be published in the National Statistics publication 'Provisional UK ODA as a proportion of Gross National Income 2015' on 1 April 2016, at department level. I am therefore providing values for the 6 year period 2009-2014.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is building science and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging economies through the Newton Fund, which began in 2014. The Newton Fund is subject to the International Development Act 2002, whilst all other BIS ODA spend is not. However, all of the Department's ODA spending is in line with the aims of the International Development Act.

The Government is also introducing a new Global Challenges Research Fund of £1.5 billion over the next five years to ensure the UK's world-leading research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries. This will mean that BIS's ODA spend will increase over the current Spending Review period.

Table 1. The value of Official Development Assistance (ODA) spent by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, 2009-2014

	£m					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>total ODA</b> 37.3	47.9	40.0	48.0	48.5	79.0	
<b>o/w ODA - subject to IDA</b> <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-	4.6	

<sup>1</sup> International Development Act 2002

source: DfID, Medical Research Council

## ■ Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency: Operating Costs

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[31935\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the Answer of 16 March 2016 to Question 30126, what estimate his Department has made of the total cost of running sites operated by the (a) Skills Funding Agency and (b) Education Funding Agency in each of the last five years.

Nick Boles:

*[Holding answer 24 March 2016]:* The following table details the total costs for running sites operated by the Skills Funding Agency and Education Funding Agency for the past 5 years:-

YEAR	SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY TOTAL (MILLION)	EDUCATION FUNDING AGENCY (MILLION)
2011/12	12.0	-
2012/13	8.1	4.5
2013/14	8.3	4.6
2014/15	7.1	4.6
2015/16	5.3	4.8

The figures include costs relating to rent, rates, insurance and service charges.

#### ■ Employment: Telephone Services

**Tulip Siddiq:** [\[31993\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2016 to Question 30738 on employment: telephone services, what the equivalent data is for each of the last five years.

**Nick Boles:**

The attached table shows the total number of enquiries made to the Pay and Work Rights Helpline (PWRH) by trade sector and whether the call relates to Employment Agency Standards, the Agricultural National Minimum Wage (NMW), Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Health and Safety Executive or NMW issues, where call topic information is collected, between 2009/10 and 2014/15.

#### **Attachments:**

1. Enquiries to PWRH 2009 - 2015 [PQ2016-06901.xls]

**Tulip Siddiq:** [\[31997\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, with reference to the Freedom of Information Request release of 1 October 2014, reference BIS/FOI/2014/20352, what the data on referrals is for each financial year between 2009-10 and 2015-16.

**Nick Boles:**

*[Holding answer 24 March 2016]:* The Pay and Work Rights Helpline (PWRH) was replaced by the Acas helpline from 1st April 2015, meaning that the same data referred to in the FOI referenced above is not available for 2015/16. The table below shows the data on referrals from the PWRH to relevant enforcement authorities for the 2009/10 financial year.



	2009/10*
HMRC	3000
EAS	820
HSE	290
DEFRA	440
GLA	100

\*The Pay and Work Rights Helpline opened in May 2009

### Notes

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10
2. Calls can be referred to more than one agency so the sum does not amount to the total number of calls referred for the period
3. Calls referred to agencies includes complaints, complex queries and calls where intelligence was passed to other agencies

## ■ EU Grants and Loans

**Nick Herbert:**

[\[32053\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much (a) European Regional Development and (b) European Structural funding (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales, (iii) Northern Ireland and (iv) each region of England will receive in each year between 2014 and 2020.

**Anna Soubry:**

The amount allocated by year to each operational programme for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for the 2014-2020 period is set out in table 1.6 of the United Kingdom's Partnership Agreement with the European Commission which can be found on GOV.UK at 'European Structural and Investment Funds: UK Partnership Agreement' and is attached.

Within England, notional allocations for ERDF and ESF were made on the basis of Local Enterprise Partnership areas. The total allocations to each Local Enterprise Partnership area for the 2014-2020 period can be found on the GOV.UK website at 'EU Structural Funds: UK allocations 2014 to 2020' and is attached.

### Attachments:

1. ERDF & ESF allocation figures [Information-from-table-1-6-32053.pdf]
2. Local Enterprise Partnership allocation figures [LEP-allocations-32053.pdf]

## ■ European Economic Area: Membership

Charlotte Leslie:

[31775]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2016 to Question 27866, what powers EEA states which are not EU members have to (a) terminate and (b) change the terms of the membership of the EEA of another EEA state which is not a member of the EU.

**Anna Soubry:**

As set out by the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), the contracting parties of the Agreement are the EU, the EU Member States and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The Agreement does not set out what powers Contracting Parties have over the termination or change of others' engagement with the Agreement. The only mention in the Agreement of termination is that each Contracting Party may withdraw from this Agreement provided it gives at least twelve months' notice in writing to the other Contracting Parties. Meanwhile, the Agreement states that any European State becoming a member of the EU or of the European Free Trade Association may apply to become a party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area and that the terms and conditions for such participation shall be the subject of an agreement between the Contracting Parties and the applicant State.

## ■ Exports: Government Assistance

Kevin Brennan:

[31755]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, if he will make it his policy to create a single online platform for accessing government support for increasing exports for UK companies.

**Anna Soubry:**

My noble Friend Lord Maude of Horsham made a [statement](#) to the House of Lords on Tuesday 19 January on the Government's strategy to support trade. This new operating model set out in the statement is seeing UK Trade & Investment develop new services that provide direct support to businesses, including developing a single digital platform through which businesses can access the HMG and private sector support they need to succeed.

## ■ Holiday Accommodation: Prices

Chi Onwurah:

[30570]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether his Department has conducted an assessment of the findings of the (a) French parliament and (b) German competition authority on the effects of rate parity clauses on competition in the hospitality sector; and what plans he has to ban rate parity clauses.

**Nick Boles:**

My Department has not conducted an assessment of these findings and has no plans to ban such clauses.

Any assessment of the impact of rate parity clauses on competition and consumers falls within the remit of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), which is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority.

One of the CMA's predecessors, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), launched an investigation into alleged resale price maintenance in arrangements between a hotel group and two online travel agents (OTAs), Booking.com and Expedia. The OFT accepted commitments from the OTAs concerned but in September 2014 the Competition Appeal Tribunal partly upheld an appeal by a third party, Skyscanner, and remitted the case back to the CMA for consideration. On 16 September 2015, following a fresh look at the case, the CMA decided to close the investigation on administrative priority grounds. The case closure summary can be found on the CMA's website.

The CMA keeps these issues under review and is working closely with other national competition authorities and the European Commission to do this.

## ■ Overseas Students: Loans

**Catherine West:**

[31672]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many people were refused student loans as a result of their discretionary leave to remain immigration status in each of the last three years.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The Student Loans Company does not hold information on the number of student loan applicants with discretionary leave to remain who have had their application for support refused.

A public consultation on the introduction of a new category of eligibility for those with long residence in the UK, including periods of discretionary leave, closed in January 2016. The consultation can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/student-support-for-non-UK-nationals-who-have-lived-in-the-UK-for-a-long-time>

## ■ Public Houses

**Bill Esterson:**

[31914]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, on what date his Department plans to publish the final version of the Pubs Code.

**Anna Soubry:**

The Government intends to bring the regulations into force by the end of May 2016.

**■ Pubs Code Adjudicator**

**Greg Mulholland:** [\[30687\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many names were provided to Ministers to enable them to take a formal decision on the appointment of the Pubs Code Adjudicator.

**Anna Soubry:**

I refer the hon Member to the answer I gave to the hon Member for Hove on 10 March, Official Report, Vol 607, Col 426.

**Greg Mulholland:** [\[30691\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many people applied to the Pubs Code Adjudicator vacancy; and how many such people were (a) longlisted and (b) shortlisted.

**Anna Soubry:**

I refer the hon Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow East on 10 March, Official Report, Vol 607, Col 428.

**Greg Mulholland:** [\[30695\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many people were invited to interviews for the post of Pubs Code Adjudicator; and how many people attended such interviews.

**Anna Soubry:**

I refer the hon Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow East on 10 March, Official Report, Vol 607, Col 428.

**Bill Esterson:** [\[32012\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2016 to Question 30688, if he will publish the interests submitted by Mr Paul Newby when he applied for the role of Pubs Code Adjudicator.

**Anna Soubry:**

The appointment panel satisfied itself there were no conflicts of interest when they made recommendations to ministers in relation to the appointment of the Pubs Code Adjudicator.

The Department does not intend to publish any information provided by candidates during this appointment process.

In due course and as is usual practice, the Adjudicator's office will publish a register of interests.

## ■ Research: Finance

**Kevin Brennan:**

[31572]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what recent assessment has he made of the potential impact on innovation in the UK of his Department's change to government research and development funding from a grant-based to a loan-based system.

**Joseph Johnson:**

Like many of our competitor economies, we are looking to provide a wider range of financial products to support, innovation in UK industry. In the coming months, we will, be conducting market research to better understand the needs of innovative businesses in the UK.

This will be followed by a pilot to test specific financial support mechanisms, with an evaluation in late 2016, leading to a roll-out of a range of new products in 2017. We will continue to provide grant funding to support research and development where appropriate - including, for example, aerospace research supported by the Aerospace Technology Institute and automotive research supported by the Advanced Propulsion Centre.

**Kevin Brennan:**

[31754]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what assessment he has made of the effect of the level of funding for research and development on productivity.

**Joseph Johnson:**

There is clear and robust evidence of a link between research and development (R&D) spending and national productivity. Research indicates that every £1 the UK government invests in R&D generates a return of 20p per annum in perpetuity<sup>[1]</sup>. In addition that £1 of public expenditure leverages an average of £1.36 in private investment<sup>[2]</sup>, generating even greater returns for the UK.

This Government recognises the value of science and innovation as a driver of UK economic success. That is why we are protecting the science ring-fence in real terms during this Parliament at £4.7 billion per annum and investing a record £6.9 billion in science capital from 2015 to 2021.

[1] Haskel, Hughes and Bascavusoglu-Moreau (2014) "The Economic Significance of the UK Science Base" <http://sciencecampaign.org.uk/UKScienceBase.pdf>.

[2] Economic Insight (2014) "What is the relationship between public and private investment in science, research and innovation"

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/438763/bis-15-340-relationship-between-public-and-private-investment-in-R-D.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/438763/bis-15-340-relationship-between-public-and-private-investment-in-R-D.pdf).

## ■ Science: Capital Investment

**Kevin Brennan:** [\[31687\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what the running costs were for the 56 capital based science projects which his Department has funded for each year since 2007, referred to in the NAO Report entitled BIS's capital investment in science projects, HC 885, published on 10 March 2016; and what the projected running costs for those projects are for each year to 2020-21.

**Joseph Johnson:**

Running costs for 2014-15 for the 56 projects are given in Appendix 3 of the NAO Science Capital report where facilities are operational. These figures come from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and its Partner Organisations and provide an indication of annual running costs of these projects.

Project level management and allocation of funding for the majority of ongoing science projects is done at Partner Organisation level, in accordance with the delivery responsibilities of the Partner Organisations BIS funds. BIS does not hold this level of information centrally and it would not be possible to collect this information for each of the years since 2007, and estimates for future years, without disproportionate cost. However, the Government has protected the science and research budget in real terms in the 2015 spending review to ensure science spending remains on a sustainable footing and continues to deliver world-class research.

## ■ Science: Lothian

**Owen Thompson:** [\[31387\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, with reference to page 69 of the Budget 2016, when his Department plans to start the science and innovation audit in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

**Joseph Johnson:**

*[Holding answer 21 March 2016]:* The first wave of Science and Innovation Audits, including the Edinburgh and the Lothians audit, were announced at Budget on 16 th March. Consortia going through Wave 1 have been selected to represent a cross section of approaches, geographical areas, and capacity to engage actively in developing the methodology. Initial planning meetings will commence shortly and we expect the project to be delivered by the Autumn.

## ■ Sign Language

**Rosie Cooper:**

[\[31401\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what assessment he has made of the effect of the devolution of skills policy to local authorities on the development of British Sign Language and sign language interpreting skills.

**Nick Boles:**

*[Holding answer 21 March 2016]:* The Department for Business Innovation and Skills supports British Sign Language (BSL), lip reading and managing hearing loss provision in England through the Adult Education Budget. Providers receive funding for this provision as they do for all other courses.

In the academic year 2018/19, subject to readiness conditions being met, we intend to devolve the Adult Education Budget to certain Combined Authorities which have signed devolution deals<sup>[1]</sup>. In such areas, subject to necessary Orders being passed by Parliament, functions relating to the Adult Education Budget will transfer to the Combined Authority. The Combined Authority will assume responsibility for commissioning adult education provision, including in relation to BSL and sign language as it judges appropriate to meet local needs. Some providers, including Specialist Designated Institutions, are currently funded nationally. Their post-devolution funding arrangements will be confirmed in the coming months.

Skills provision in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter and the assessment and adequacy of BSL provision is the responsibility of the devolved administrations.

[1] To date, deals have been agreed with: Sheffield City Region; Liverpool City Region; West Midlands; North East; Tees Valley; Greater Manchester; Greater Lincolnshire; East Anglia; West of England

## ■ Small Businesses: Research

**Daniel Zeichner:**

[\[32060\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what assessment he has made of the effect on small and medium-sized enterprises of the decision to replace research grants for companies with loans.

**Joseph Johnson:**

Like many of our competitor economies, we are looking to provide a range of innovation finance products to meet the needs of businesses; this will still include grant funding. Some countries (like France, Finland, or the Netherlands) make use of a variety of financial instruments to support innovative businesses. We have been working to understand how we can apply these established approaches to support, drive and encourage innovation in the UK. In the coming months we will be conducting market research to engage with, and fully understand the needs of, innovative businesses of all

sizes in the UK. As part of the first phase of implementation the Government will announce the details of a pilot and accompanying evaluation in late 2016. The pilot will test specific financial products ahead of progressing to full roll-out.

#### ■ SMART Awards

**Daniel Zeichner:** [\[32061\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, for what reasons applicants for the fifth round of the SMART scheme will not be able to apply for a sixth round as initially advised.

**Joseph Johnson:**

Innovate UK is currently in the process of simplifying its support to innovative businesses to make its funding programmes more visible and easier to access. Innovate UK expects to publish its Delivery Plan for 2016/17 in the spring.

#### ■ SMART Awards: Cambridge

**Daniel Zeichner:** [\[32058\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many SMART awards have been made to companies in Cambridge in each year since the introduction of that scheme.

**Joseph Johnson:**

Innovate UK started delivering the Smart scheme in April 2011. The number of Smart awards made to companies in Cambridge in each year is:

2011-12 37 awards

2012-13 22 awards

2013-14 25 awards

2014-15 29 awards

2015-16 20 awards

#### ■ Universities: Conditions of Employment

**Richard Burden:** [\[32172\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what recent representations he has received on commissioning an inquiry into casualised employment practices in UK universities; and if he will make a statement.

**Joseph Johnson:**

The Government engages with stakeholders regularly on a wide range of issues. Universities are autonomous institutions and are responsible for taking decisions on issues such as their staffing and contracting arrangements. In our recent grant letter, we asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England to look into the contractual status of academic staff.



## ■ Written Questions: Government Responses

**Louise Haigh:** [\[31537\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, when he plans to answer Written Questions 29167 and 29238, tabled on 1 March 2016 and Written Question 29372, tabled on 2 March 2016.

**Joseph Johnson:**

I have replied to the hon Member.

## CABINET OFFICE

### ■ Charities: Advertising

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** [\[31568\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps has he taken to monitor the conduct of charities when marketing commercial products.

**Mr Rob Wilson:**

This is a matter for the Charity Commission which, as independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, issued a regulatory alert on this topic on 29 February 2016 reminding charity trustees of their legal duties. The alert was published and sent to the 1,700 charities that the Commission identified to have some form of commercial arrangement. It made clear that trustees should review existing commercial arrangements and that failure to meet the relevant requirements could result in regulatory action.

Engaging in commercial activities can be a valuable way for charities to raise funds or generate awareness of its cause. It is the responsibility of the trustees to ensure that where a charity engages in commercial activity, either through a trading subsidiary or through a commercial partnership, they follow the legal framework, they have effective oversight and ensure this activity in the best interests of the charity. This includes protecting the charity's name and reputation which are valuable assets.

### ■ Crime: Death

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** [\[31987\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what proportion of deaths in (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland resulted from (i) traffic offences and (ii) other offences in the last year for which figures are available.

**Mr Rob Wilson:**

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

#### **Attachments:**

1. UKSA Letter to Member - Traffic Offence Deaths [UKSA Response to 31987.pdf]

**■ Electoral Register****David Mackintosh:** [\[31752\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of individual voter registration.

**John Penrose:**

The transition to IER is now complete and has been a great success. Over 14 million applications have been made to register since the introduction of IER, almost three quarters of them online. Ghost entries have been removed, which means the electoral registers are more accurate and less vulnerable to fraud than before. The Electoral Commission is expected to publish its assessment of the completeness and accuracy of the first full electoral registers under IER, published in December 2015, this summer.

**■ Youth Work: Government Assistance****Martyn Day:** [\[31381\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps he is taking to support the youth work sector; and if he will take steps to support that sector through sustainable funding, investment in research and incentives to encourage volunteering.

**Mr Rob Wilson:**

It is the responsibility of local authorities to decide how to allocate funding for youth services according to local need, through the existing statutory duty (Education Act 2006, Section 507B). Government launched the Delivering Differently for Young People Programme to offer practical support to local authorities in exploring innovative and sustainable models for delivering youth services. Government continues to support the Centre for Youth Impact to work with youth organisations to undertake research to measure impact and demonstrate value to funders and commissioners. We are also committed to expanding National Citizen Service, which many youth sector organisations help to deliver. Government is taking new steps to encourage and enable social action. This includes a further £15m investment in the next phase of the Centre for Social Action. We want social action to become a lifelong habit.

**TREASURY****■ Air Passenger Duty****Andrew Bridgen:** [\[32137\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the effect on (a) English airports and (b) aviation connectivity of the devolution of Air Passenger Duty.

**Damian Hinds:**

Any potential effects of Air Passenger Duty (APD) devolution are contingent on the extent of devolution in the UK and subsequent decisions made by devolved administrations and central government.

The Government is delivering the Smith Agreement by devolving APD to the Scottish Parliament. It is also considering the case and options for devolving APD to Wales, informed by a review of options to support English regional airports from potential impacts caused by its devolution.

As part of this review, HM Treasury published a discussion paper at Summer Budget 2015 exploring a number of options. We are carefully considering the evidence received from stakeholders and will respond in due course.

## ■ Business: Taxation

**Kelvin Hopkins:** [\[31411\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the European Commission about introduction of the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base.

**Mr David Gauke:**

Tax policy is a matter for national governments and direct tax files are subject to a unanimous vote in the Council. The Government has made it very clear to the European Commission that the UK will not sign up to the CCCTB, or any other measure that would undermine our tax sovereignty or risk harming the competitiveness and growth prospects of the Single Market.

## ■ EU Budget: Contributions

**Mrs Anne Main:** [\[31474\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much in VAT-based contributions the UK paid to the EU in each of the last 10 years; and if he will estimate the amount of such contributions in each of the next five years.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The European Commission's annual Financial Report provides calendar year historical contributions figures.

**Adam Afriyie:** [\[31516\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the UK's net financial contribution to the EU budget (a) was in 2006 and (b) is in 2015-16.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The UK's net contribution to the EU in 2006, including rebate and total receipts from the EU, can be found in the tables appended in the EU's Financial Report 2014:

[ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/documents/2014/Internet%20tables%202000-2014.xls](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/documents/2014/Internet%20tables%202000-2014.xls)

No comparable figure can be provided for 2015-16 as outturn data will only become available later in the year.

**Mrs Anne Main:**

[31611]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the total amount that the UK will contribute to the EU budget in each of the next five years.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for forecasting UK contributions to the EU Budget. Details of the OBR's latest forecast of UK gross and public sector net contributions to the EU Budget on a financial year basis can be found in Table 2.25 of its Supplementary Fiscal Tables.

The OBR forecast is not directly comparable to the UK contributions set out in the 2015 EU Finances White Paper which averaged £7.1bn over the most recent period (Table 3.B). This is because the OBR's net contribution to the EU budget does not include receipts that are not administered by UK government bodies and therefore does not reflect all EU transactions with the UK.

## ■ Flood Control: North of England

**Holly Lynch:**

[31354]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to page 64 of the Budget 2016, how much of the £150 million announced for flood defence schemes he plans will be spent in (a) Leeds, (b) Cumbria, (c) Calderdale and (d) York; and when he expects that funding to be delivered.

**Greg Hands:**

The Budget announced that over £150m will be invested in flood defence schemes in Leeds, York, Calder Valley, Carlisle and wider Cumbria. Funding will be allocated accordingly: Leeds (£35m), Cumbria (excluding Carlisle) (£33m), Carlisle (up to £25m), Calder Valley (£35m), and York (£45m). This funding will be delivered over the period 2016-17 to 2020-21.

## ■ Fuels: Excise Duties

**Martyn Day:**

[32024]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to paragraph 2.159 of Budget 2016, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of the freeze in petrol and diesel duty on (a) carbon emissions by cars and (b) the environment.

**Damian Hinds:**

The Government took a wide number of factors into account when considering the case for a further duty freeze, including the impact on carbon and emissions. The data shows that carbon dioxide and air pollutant emissions from the road transport sector have continued to fall since 2011 when Government cut fuel duty by 1 penny per litre and froze it. This information can be found here in Table TSGB0308:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/tsgb03>

## ■ Gift Aid

**Mr Laurence Robertson:** [\[31567\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to simplify the declaration of gift aid payments.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The Government has already taken steps to simplify the declaration of Gift Aid payments by publishing a new declaration in October 2015. This was developed following consultation with representatives of the charity sector. The simpler wording of the new declaration will give charities and community amateur sports clubs (CASCs) greater confidence that the donations they receive under Gift Aid will be valid.

## ■ Greece: Loans

**Andrew Rosindell:** [\[32112\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what reports he has received on progress made by Greece in implementing the conditions of the 2015 EU bailout package; and if he will press for steps to improve transparency and monitor use of the bailout funds.

**Mr David Gauke:**

While Greece remains in the euro, its financial stability is the responsibility of the euro area. The UK Government has secured a deal that protects UK taxpayers from any risk from financing euro area bailouts now and in the future. The UK is therefore not involved in the review of Greece's euro area bailout package agreed in 2015.

Ministers and officials routinely meet with international counterparts to discuss economic and financial issues within the euro area and wider European Union, including ongoing financial assistance programmes.

## ■ Individual Savings Accounts

**Julian Knight:** [\[32096\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he used any international systems to inform the formulation of his proposals to introduce a lifetime ISA.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The Government is always mindful of international comparisons when developing tax policy. In the case of the Lifetime ISA, the Government will explore with the industry whether there should be the flexibility to borrow funds from the Lifetime ISA without incurring a charge if the borrowed funds are fully repaid; for example, some US retirement plans allow 50% to be borrowed up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Further details about how the Lifetime ISA will work will be announced when the government brings forward legislation to enact the Lifetime ISA in the autumn.

**■ Infrastructure: Investment**

**Kevin Brennan:** [31794]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much central government infrastructure investment was in each region of the UK since 2010.

**Greg Hands:**

Historic data for regional infrastructure investment by government is not currently available. However historical capital expenditure figures including government's infrastructure investment can be obtained from the following link :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/country-and-regional-analysis-2015>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/509735/NIDP\\_2016-2021\\_final\\_web.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509735/NIDP_2016-2021_final_web.pdf)

**■ Insurance Premium Tax**

**Greg Mulholland:** [31863]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to paragraph 1.205 of the Budget 2016, what assessment he has made of the potential effect on insurance policy take-up of an increase in the standard rate of insurance premium tax.

**Harriett Baldwin:**

As part of the costing process for all taxes, we looked at any behavioural changes.

Where insurers pass on the rate increase, the increase may have a small impact on individuals and households purchasing insurance which is not exempt from IPT. This is not likely to lead to any significant change in take-up of insurance.

**Greg Mulholland:** [31867]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to paragraph 1.205 of the Budget 2016, if he will publish the calculations referred to in footnote 143 on the potential costs to consumers of the rise in the standard rate of insurance premium tax.

**Harriett Baldwin:**

We do not usually publish such calculations.

**■ Licensed Premises**

**Martyn Day:** [31361]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to support the licensed hospitality sector to mitigate the effects of (a) wage rate inflation and (b) reduced demand for drink and food-led outlets.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The Government is committed to supporting pubs and other licensed hospitality firms. The sector will benefit from the changes announced at Budget 2016. These include cutting business rates for all properties in England with Barnett consequential for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to introduce equivalent measures if they so wish.

Reforms to stamp duty land tax on non-residential property transactions will cut the tax for many small businesses purchasing property. Budget 2016 also announced the corporation tax rate will be cut to 17% in 2020 and that the duty rates on beer, spirits and most ciders will be frozen this year.

## ■ Minimum Wage: Fines

**Kevin Brennan:**

[31766]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the average penalty awarded against employers who failed to pay the national minimum wage was in each year since 2012.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The Government is determined that everyone who is entitled to the National Minimum Wage (NMW) receives it. Anyone who feels they have been underpaid NMW should contact the Acas helpline on 0300 123 1100. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) reviews all complaints that are referred to them.

Employers who pay workers less than the minimum wage not only have to pay arrears of wages at current minimum wage rates but also face financial penalties of up to £20,000 per underpaid worker. A further increase in penalties will come into force in April 2016 and will increase the penalty percentage from 100% to 200% of the underpayments owed to each worker, up to the existing maximum.

In 2014/15, HMRC issued 705 penalties totalling £934,660. I refer the honourable member to the answer provided at UIN 205613 for information on previous years.

## ■ Monetary Policy

**Andrew Rosindell:**

[32099]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the UK economy of the use of helicopter funds by the European Central Bank.

**Mr David Gauke:**

HM Treasury monitor the impact of developments in the global economy, including those in the Euro Area, on an ongoing basis.

To date, the European Central Bank have not implemented "Helicopter Money". The ECB President noted on March 10 that the ECB "hadn't really studied the concept".

**Andrew Rosindell:**

[32100]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on the potential use of helicopter funds in the UK economy.

**Harriett Baldwin:**

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has frequent discussions with the Governor of the Bank of England on a wide range of issues relating to the UK economy.

## ■ Multinational Companies: Annual Reports

**Kelvin Hopkins:** [31412]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require large companies to publish a country-by-country report in their annual financial report.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The UK supports efforts to improve tax transparency. We initiated the international work on country-by-country (CbC) reporting to tax authorities during our G8 Presidency in 2013, calling on the OECD to develop a template for this as part of the BEPS project.

The UK was the first to commit to implementing the OECD model with legislation in Finance Act 2015. We signed the OECD agreement to share the CbC reports with other tax authorities in January 2016 and issued our final CbC reporting regulations on 26 February 2016.

The Government believes that there is scope for greater transparency by pressing the case for public CbC reporting on a multilateral basis. As the Chancellor has said, this is something that the UK will seek to promote internationally.

## ■ Non-domestic Rates: Appeals

**Kevin Brennan:** [31686]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many non-domestic rate arrears appeals were (a) lodged and (b) heard in each of the last 10 years.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The information requested is accessible via Tables LRW1 and LRW2 of our 2005 and 2010 NDR Challenges and changes publications. Links below:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/479037/NDR\\_2010\\_Challenges\\_and\\_Changes.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479037/NDR_2010_Challenges_and_Changes.xls)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/479045/NDR\\_2005\\_Challenges\\_and\\_Changes.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479045/NDR_2005_Challenges_and_Changes.xls)

**Kevin Brennan:** [31992]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what average time was taken to hear non-domestic rates appeals in each local authority area in the latest year for which data is available.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The latest statistics on the average (median) time taken to resolve challenges, for non-domestic properties by local authority as at 30 September 2015 can be found on the VOA disclosure log in table Average time to resolve challenges, 30 September 2015:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-domestic-rating-average-time-to-clear>



The time taken to resolve an appeal can be affected by a number of factors, such as the complexity of the case or whether the case proceeds to be listed for hearing by the independent Valuation Tribunal. Some cases can be held up in litigation or placed on hold at the ratepayer's request.

#### ■ Patents: Corporation Tax

**Kelvin Hopkins:** [31420]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many companies have applied for the lower rate of corporation tax under Patent Box.

**Mr David Gauke:**

Due to companies being able to make a Patent Box election up to two years after the relevant accounting period, we will not be able to get full figures for the first year of the Patent Box until April 2016. The following figures are therefore projections.

The estimated amounts of Patent Box relief can be found at the link below;

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/487119/Dec15\\_expenditure\\_reliefs\\_Final.xlsx.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/487119/Dec15_expenditure_reliefs_Final.xlsx.pdf)

About 480 companies made Patent Box relief elections for the first year 2013-14 alone.

#### ■ Revenue and Customs: Greater Manchester

**Jim McMahon:** [31281]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answers of 3 February 2016 to Question 24298 and 8 March 2016 to Question 28866, on Revenue and Customs: Greater Manchester, whether any value for money review was undertaken on the decision to relocate staff from Phoenix House, Oldham to Manchester.

**Mr David Gauke:**

HM Revenue and Customs has not undertaken a separate value for money review on the decision to relocate staff from Phoenix House, Oldham to Manchester. I refer you to my [answer](#) of 8 March.

#### ■ Sanitary Protection: VAT

**Paula Sherriff:** [31684]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to paragraph 3.63 of the Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015 and paragraph 2.16 of the Budget 2016, for what reasons the funding to support women's charities equivalent to the annual VAT raised on sanitary products has changed from £15 million to £12 million.

**Mr David Gauke:**

As announced at Autumn Statement 2015, the Tampon Tax Fund is a £15 million annual fund to support women's charities, equivalent to the amount of VAT raised on sanitary products. The Chancellor announced initial donations at Autumn Statement totalling £5m. Further grants totalling £12 million have been announced at this Budget.

The Government has introduced legislation in the Finance Bill to enable the zero rate of VAT for women's sanitary products.

## ■ Social Mobility

**Adam Afriyie:** [\[32097\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make an assessment of the potential effect of measures in Budget 2016 on social mobility.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The Government has carefully considered the impact of the tax and benefit reforms introduced in Budget. It is committed to improving social mobility by moving towards a higher wage, lower tax and lower welfare society.

The Government published distributional analysis to accompany Budget 2016 which shows that the richest are paying a greater share of tax as a result of this government's policies while the share of spending going to the poorest has been protected.

## ■ Stamp Duty Land Tax

**Mike Freer:** [\[31919\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many properties valued at or over £1 million were sold in October to December (a) 2014 and (b) 2015; and how much was raised in stamp duty land tax in each of those periods.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The table below summarises estimates for the number of and yield from property transactions between October and December 2014 and 2015. The estimates for 2014 include transactions in Scotland whereas estimates for 2015 do not because SDLT ceased to be applicable to Scottish transactions from 1 April 2015. The figures for the 2015-16 financial year are provisional.

	OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014	OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2015
Residential Transactions at or over £1m (Number)	4,800	5,300
Residential Transactions at or over £1m (Stamp Duty Land Tax)	£577 million	£674 million
Non-Residential Transactions at or over £1m (Number)	3,800	3,600
Non-Residential Transactions at or over £1m (Stamp Duty Land Tax)	£708 million	£731 million
Total Stamp Duty Land Tax	£2.87 billion	£2.91 billion

## ■ Tax Avoidance

**Kelvin Hopkins:** [\[31410\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the judgment in *Schofield v HM Revenue and Customs* [2012] EWCA Civ 927 (11 July 2012), what steps his Department has taken against PricewaterhouseCoopers for designing and marketing the tax avoidance scheme rejected by the court.

**Kelvin Hopkins:** [\[31417\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the judgment in *Stagecoach Group PLC & Anor v Revenue and Customs* [2016] UKFTT 120 (tc) (10 February 2016), what steps his Department has taken against KPMG for designing and marketing the tax avoidance scheme rejected by the court.

**Kelvin Hopkins:** [\[31418\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the Supreme Court's judgment in *UBS AG & Anor v Revenue and Customs* [2016] UKSC 13 (9 March 2016), what steps his Department has taken against Deloitte for designing and marketing the tax avoidance scheme rejected by the court.

**Kelvin Hopkins:** [\[31419\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the judgment in *Iliffe News and Media Ltd & Ors v Revenue and Customs* [2012] UKFTT 696 (TC) (1 November 2012), what steps his Department has taken against Ernst & Young for designing and marketing the tax avoidance scheme rejected by the court.

**Mr David Gauke:**

It is not possible for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to provide details of any action taken in connection with these organisations.

In the March 2015 Budget, the Government challenged the accountancy and tax professional bodies to improve how they deal with their members who promote tax avoidance schemes.

The professional bodies have responded positively to this challenge and are working with HMRC to agree a new standard to which their members will need to adhere.

**Kelvin Hopkins:** [\[31415\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will appoint an independent commission to investigate the role of PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, Ernst & Young and Deloitte in designing, selling and implementing tax avoidance schemes.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The Government is committed to countering tax avoidance to ensure all taxpayers pay their fair share. At Budget 2016, the Chancellor announced a comprehensive package of measures to tackle tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning, and tax evasion by individuals and businesses. Overall, this will raise £12 billion by 2020-21.

We keep our policy on countering tax avoidance under continuous review to respond to emerging risks.

## ■ Taxation

**Kelvin Hopkins:** [\[31416\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide that whistleblowers whose evidence leads to a successful prosecution of tax evasion or avoidance receive a portion of the tax penalties levied on the guilty party.

**Mr David Gauke:**

HM Revenue and Customs encourages people to come forward with information in a number of ways, and is already able to offer financial rewards to those who provide us with significant information relating to tax evasion or avoidance. The best way to do so is kept under review.

## ■ Tourism: VAT

**Mr Geoffrey Cox:** [\[31959\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of a reduction in VAT for small businesses in the tourism sector.

**Mr David Gauke:**

The Government has reviewed the economic case for a reduction in VAT for the hospitality sector.

In our view there is insufficient evidence to justify a reduction in VAT.

Reducing VAT on all tourism related activities would have a potential cost in excess of £10 billion in the first year alone.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## ■ Council Tax

**Royston Smith:** [\[32196\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he plans to take to ensure that people in local authority areas with a larger ageing population do not have to pay disproportionately higher council tax as a result of the social care precept.

**Mr Marcus Jones:**

We have set the social care precept at a maximum of 2% for authorities with adult social care responsibilities. The council tax referendum principles remain in place, and are approved on an annual basis by the House of Commons. Any council tax rise above the overall threshold levels approved by the House must go to a binding referendum of the local electorate.

## ■ Help to Buy Scheme

**Mary Creagh:** [\[31731\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what proportion of people who have purchased homes under the Help to Buy scheme were from BAME communities since the introduction of that scheme.

**Brandon Lewis:**

The Department does not collate this information centrally.

## ■ Homelessness

**Andy Slaughter:** [\[31838\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what plans the Government has to help more homeless people rent privately.

**Mr Marcus Jones:**

One person without a home is one too many and we are committed to doing all we can to prevent homelessness. That is why we have increased central investment to tackle homelessness over the next four years to £139 million. At Budget, we went one step further and announced £100 million to deliver low cost 'move on' accommodation to enable people leaving hostels and refuges to make a sustainable recovery from a homelessness crisis, providing at least 2,000 places for vulnerable people to enable independent living.

We're determined to create a bigger, better private rented sector and are attracting billions of pounds of investment to build homes specifically for private rent, which will increase choice for tenants. Our £1 billion Build to Rent fund will deliver up to 10,000 new rental homes, with over 4,500 already started, and our £10 billion of debt guarantees programme will also support the delivery of new rental homes, as well as up to 30,000 additional affordable homes.

We have also already made a significant investment of nearly £14 million for Crisis to develop a programme to help single homeless people access private rented sector accommodation. Over 10,000 people have been helped, with over 90% maintaining tenancies for at least 6 months

**James Berry:** [\[31913\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what proportion of the local government finance settlement announced in the 2015 Spending Review his Department plans to spend on homelessness prevention in each year up to 2019-20; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr Marcus Jones:**

The Government has always been clear that we are committed to supporting the most vulnerable people in our society. One person without a home is one too many. That is

why we have protected the homelessness prevention funding local authorities receive, totalling £315 million by 2019-20.

**Andy Slaughter:** [\[31916\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of underwriting a national rent deposit scheme to help more homeless people access the private rented sector.

**Mr Marcus Jones:**

One person without a home is one too many and we are committed to doing all we can to prevent homelessness. That is why we have increased central investment to tackle homelessness over the next four years to £139 million. At Budget, we went one step further and announced £100 million to deliver low cost 'move on' accommodation to enable people leaving hostels and refuges to make a sustainable recovery from a homelessness crisis, providing at least 2,000 places for vulnerable people to enable independent living.

We have also protected Homelessness Prevention Grant for local authorities, totalling £315 million by 2019-20. In doing so, we expect them to provide quality advice and assistance to all those that approach them for help. The Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities, developed by my Department working with local authorities and the voluntary and community sector, already encourages them to use this grant to provide rent deposits, guarantees or rent in advance. Many local authorities, housing associations or charities in England have put such schemes in place.

## ■ Housing: Construction

**Bob Blackman:** [\[31362\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department has taken to encourage the development of small sites by small builders; and whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential effect of deferring payment of the community infrastructure levy for sites of less than 50 units until those properties are placed on the market on the development of such sites.

**Brandon Lewis:**

Increasing the number of homes is a top priority for this Government and helping smaller builders to contribute is key. Self builders are exempt from the Community Infrastructure Levy and charging authorities may offer relief from the levy in exceptional circumstances where a specific scheme cannot afford to pay it.

We brought forward policy to exempt sites of less than 10 units from making affordable housing and tariff style contributions through section 106 planning obligations, which was subsequently quashed by the courts. We have appealed this decision and we are awaiting the judgment from the Court of Appeal.

The Government is currently undertaking a review of the Community Infrastructure Levy, through an independent panel, to assess the extent to which the levy provides an effective mechanism for funding infrastructure, and to recommend changes that would

improve its operation in support of the Government's wider housing and growth objectives. The review, amongst other issues, will be looking at the relationship between the levy and section 106, including how they work together in practice.

## ■ Local Government: Devolution

**Louise Haigh:** [31692]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the publication *Decentralisation: An account of progress*, published in December 2012, what progress his Department has made on proposals to deliver on annual decentralisation statement.

**James Wharton:**

Since December 2012 considerable progress has been made on the decentralisation of powers to cities and regions, including the evolving work of negotiating City Deals, Growth Deals and now Devolution Deals with places across the country. The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act sets out in legislation the requirement for the Government to produce an Annual Report on devolution; the first such report is currently being drafted and will be laid before both Houses of Parliament later this year pursuant to the legislation.

**Mr Jim Cunningham:** [32168]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many full-time equivalent officials in his Department have worked on devolution deals in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement.

**James Wharton:**

The first devolution deal was agreed with Greater Manchester in November 2014. Since then, the agenda has expanded and accelerated and the Government has resourced accordingly. Devolution is cross-governmental and supported by officials in all relevant departments. The Cities and Local Growth Unit is a joint BIS-DCLG team that supports areas in developing and agreeing devolution deals with the Government. It has over 150 full-time equivalent staff—over 70 of whom are based in DCLG—working on a range of local growth agendas and has six local teams based across the country.

## ■ Local Plans

**Mr Clive Betts:** [32134]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 10 March 2016 to Question 29982, on local plans, which local authorities fall into each of the four categories of authority.

**Brandon Lewis:**

The Planning Inspectorate publishes this information for all authorities across England, available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-plans>.

**■ Members: Correspondence**

**Rob Marris:** [\[30886\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Wolverhampton South West of 27 January 2016 on the local government finance settlement.

**Greg Clark:**

A response was sent on 17 March.

**■ Non-domestic Rates**

**Mr Steve Reed:** [\[31745\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to paragraph 1.160 of Budget 2016, what his policy is on providing compensation to local authorities for potential loss of income related to the planned reductions in business rates.

**Mr Marcus Jones:**

*[Holding answer 23 March 2016]:* These tax cuts provide significant support to local businesses. The Small Business Rate Relief measure announced at the Budget will mean 600,000 of the smallest businesses will not have to pay business rates.

Local authorities will be compensated in full for their loss of income as a result of these changes.

**■ Right to Buy Scheme**

**Alan Johnson:** [\[32082\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much his Department has spent on sending out information on the Right to Buy scheme to people who are not housing association or council tenants.

**Brandon Lewis:**

The Department is committed to ensuring eligible council and housing association tenants have up-to-date information about their Right to Buy, so they can make an informed decision as to whether it is the right choice for them. A direct marketing campaign, to social housing tenants who could be eligible for the scheme, has proved a very effective way to reach them with this information.

Total spend on direct marketing from 2012 is £280,773 in 2012/13, £334,163 in 2013/14, £329,165 in 2014/15 and £195,757 to date in 2015/16. The 2015/16 figure does not include final costs for the most recent wave of direct marketing that took place in February 2016.



## ■ Sleeping Rough: Mental Illness

**David Mackintosh:**

[\[31421\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what proportion of rough sleepers has mental health issues; and what plans he has to address that issue.

**Mr Marcus Jones:**

No one should ever have to sleep rough. That is why we have increased our central investment for homelessness to £139 million over the next four years, and protected homelessness prevention funding to local authorities, totalling £315 million.

We know sleeping rough is rarely the result of a personal housing crisis alone and that the most entrenched rough sleepers often have complex needs, including mental health difficulties or addiction. That is why we are investing £10 million in an innovative new national Social Impact Bonds Fund to help address these complex needs in order to help entrenched rough sleepers move off the streets. Through my Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness, I am working with ministerial colleagues across government including the Department of Health, to develop actions to address these underlying causes of homelessness.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### ■ Arts: EU Grants and Loans

**Maria Eagle:**

[\[31508\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what (a) grants and (b) indirect funding were provided by the EU's Creative Europe programme the UK arts and cultural organisations in (i) 2013-14, (ii) 2014-15 and (iii) 2015-16 to date.

**Mr Edward Vaizey:**

The Creative Europe Programme (2014-2020) was launched in January 2014. The programme consists of two sub-programmes; the Culture sub-programme to promote the culture sector, and the MEDIA sub-programme to support the audiovisual sector. Prior to 2014, the European Commission ran separate Culture and MEDIA programmes.

The Creative Europe UK Desk reports the following support was received by UK cultural and creative organisations and audiovisual companies through each of the sub-programmes in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

UK Results for EU Commission Culture and MEDIA programmes 2013, and Creative Europe Programme 2014-2015

	MEDIA		CULTURE	
	Direct Grants	Indirect Funding	Direct Grants	Indirect Funding
2013	€ 7,688,041	€ 6,118,515	€ 4,825,000	N/A
2014	€ 9,289,292	€ 7,775,310	€ 5,880,208	N/A
2015	€ 6,677,272	€ 4,745,231	€ 5,451,385	N/A

Note: Indirect funding in the MEDIA sub-programme relates to awards to non-UK distribution companies distributing UK films in foreign markets. In the Culture sub-programme all awards are direct grants to UK led projects.

**Maria Eagle:**

[\[31510\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to help arts and cultural organisations apply for funding from the EU's Creative Europe programme.

**Mr Edward Vaizey:**

The Creative Europe Desk UK, which is part-funded by DCMS, raises awareness of the opportunities offered by the EU's Creative Europe programme; encourages the UK's creative sectors to engage in the programme through taking part in supported international initiatives and networks; and provides advice and support to UK-based applicants of Creative Europe. The Desk is led by the British Council and the BFI with a consortium of partners in the UK (Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Welsh Government).

## ■ Athletics: Training

**Andrew Bingham:**

[\[32165\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many (a) assistant, (b) athletics, (c) level one, (d) level two, (e) level three and (f) level four coaches have been licensed to coach athletics in each of the last five years.

**David Evennett:**

The Government and its Arm's Length Bodies have helped deliver a strong sporting legacy from London 2012, including 1.65 million more people playing sport regularly than when London won the bid for the Games back in 2005. We have recently published our new sport strategy, '*Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation*' setting out government's ambitions for a more active nation.

The number of licensed assistant coaches was 963 in 2011; 1809 in 2012; 2298 in 2013; 2513 in 2014; and 3010 in 2015.

The number of licensed athletics coaches was 137 in 2011; 271 in 2012; 381 in 2013; 489 in 2014; and 789 in 2015.

The number of level 1 licensed coaches was 3200 in 2011; 2596 in 2012; 1761 in 2013; 1336 in 2014; and 1125 in 2015.

The number of level 2 licensed coaches was 2928 in 2011; 3002 in 2012; 2775 in 2013; 2347 in 2014; and 2249 in 2015.

The number of level 3 licensed coaches was 1124 in 2011; 1173 in 2012; 1134 in 2013; 1033 in 2014; and 1026 in 2015.

The number of level 4 licensed coaches was 351 in 2011; 360 in 2012; 342 in 2013; 320 in 2014; and 312 in 2015.

Licensed coaches are those who have passed an England Athletics' qualification and currently have a valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in order to be able to teach under 18s. Unlicensed, or qualified, coaches can still coach adults at athletics clubs, and the number of these coaches has risen in the past five years:

The number of qualified assistant coaches was 478 in 2011; 791 in 2012; 1458 in 2013; 2473 in 2014; and 2908 in 2015.

The number of qualified athletics coaches was 8 in 2011; 13 in 2012; 59 in 2013; 110 in 2014; and 121 in 2015.

The number of level 1 qualified coaches was 14977 in 2011; 16571 in 2012; 17301 in 2013; 17668 in 2014; and 17869 in 2015.

The number of level 2 qualified coaches was 3727 in 2011; 3938 in 2012; 4172 in 2013; 4612 in 2014; and 4779 in 2015.

The number of level 3 qualified coaches was 909 in 2011; 901 in 2012; 941 in 2013; 1029 in 2014; and 1038 in 2015.

The number of level 4 qualified coaches was 195 in 2011; 205 in 2012; 215 in 2013; 231 in 2014; and 229 in 2015.

## ■ British Library: Finance

**Helen Goodman:**

[\[11990\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to support the work of the British Library during the next funding period; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr Edward Vaizey:**

In the 2015 Spending Review it was announced that the British Library, along with sponsored museums and galleries, would be receiving a settlement unchanged in cash terms. This will allow the British Library to continue its current good work. Further, the Government supports the British Library's ambition to develop land to the north of its St Pancras site, subject to business case approval. If it goes ahead this will create both more space and the potential for increased income for the Library.

**■ Department for Culture, Media and Sport: European Social Fund**

**Dan Jarvis:** [\[31636\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how much funding his Department received from the European Social Fund (a) between 2007 and 2014 and (b) from 2014 to the last month for which data is available.

**Mr Edward Vaizey:**

DCMS received no funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) programme during the period specified.

**■ Telecommunications: Contracts**

**Andrew Percy:** [\[15150\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment his Department has made of Ofcom's programme to monitor and enforce the cancellation and termination arrangements of different providers; and what steps he is taking to ensure that consumers can easily leave their communications contracts in future.

**Mr Edward Vaizey:**

In June 2015, Ofcom launched a monitoring and enforcement programme to assess the cancellation and termination arrangements of communications providers, and the impact these have on consumers' ability to exit their communications service contract quickly, conveniently and without error. We will discuss with Ofcom any findings from its programme that show consumers have difficulty ending contracts, and work with them to identify whether action needs to be taken.

**DEFENCE****■ Armed Forces: Ammunition**

**Paul Flynn:** [\[32085\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what attempts have been made to clean up contamination from bullets and shells used by UK forces in (a) Afghanistan, (b) Iraq and (c) Libya; what the cost has been of that work to date; and which UK companies have been awarded contracts to carry out that remediation.

**Penny Mordaunt:**

In all operational theatres the UK, where practical and possible, records the use of all explosive ordnance and makes every effort to ensure no remnants, hazardous or otherwise, remain. This is done for both humanitarian concerns and operational imperatives as we would not wish to leave any ordnance which could fall into the hands of our adversaries and subsequently be used against UK forces.

UK forces records the use of all munitions and protects civilians under the Geneva Conventions with marking, removal and destruction of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) wherever practical and possible: where troop movements may be affected or where ERW represent an immediate and significant danger to life. The Ministry of

Defence does not hold information centrally on commercial ERW clearance: after the cessation of hostilities, the UK will normally contract commercial organisations, through the Department for International Development, to carry out the routine assessment, marking and clearance of ERW and risk education for humanitarian and developmental purposes.

#### ■ Armed Forces: Carbon Emissions

**Paul Flynn:**

[32084]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the carbon emissions of UK forces operating abroad were in the most recent year for which figures are available.

**Mr Julian Brazier:**

Information on the Department's carbon emissions can be found in the Sustainable Ministry of Defence Annual Report 2014/15, using the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/447951/20150723-Sustainable\\_MOD\\_Annual\\_Report-internet-ver.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447951/20150723-Sustainable_MOD_Annual_Report-internet-ver.pdf)

These figures cover carbon emissions from the Defence estate, including overseas sites and domestic business travel; the Department does not hold data on emissions from UK military operational activity overseas.

#### ■ Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dan Jarvis:**

[31849]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which military operations UK armed forces have been involved in that have (a) included other EU member states and (b) been EU-led.

**Penny Mordaunt:**

The security and stability of the UK has long depended on our strong partnerships in the Euro-Atlantic area, and we have worked alongside our Allies both in NATO and EU operations. The UK Armed Forces are currently deployed alongside European partners in many environments, including the NATO Operation in the Aegean and the EU-led Operation in the Central Mediterranean, both providing critical support to the international efforts to destroy the illegal smuggling networks putting thousands of lives at risk. Additionally, UK Armed Forces are deployed in other EU Operations and Missions in Mali, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Somalia, as well as the anti-piracy operation off the Horn of Africa.

#### ■ Armed Forces: Pacific

**Sir Nicholas Soames:**

[31835]

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the operations limitations are on the UK's ability to operate in the Pacific.

**Penny Mordaunt:**

Any operational constraints are established on a case-by-case basis at the start of an operation. That being said, we are clear that the international right to freedom of

navigation and freedom of overflight must be preserved in the Pacific and that all parties should refrain from activities that increase tension, and pursue urgently the settlement of the maritime disputes peacefully and in accordance with international law.

#### ■ Armed Forces: South China Sea

**Sir Nicholas Soames:** [\[31832\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of whether there are circumstances under which the Government would consider deploying armed forces in the South China Sea.

**Penny Mordaunt:**

The UK remains concerned about the situation in the South China Sea. We call on all parties to uphold freedom of navigation and freedom of overflight, to refrain from activities that increase tension, and to pursue urgently a settlement of the maritime disputes peacefully in accordance with international law. As a major trading nation that has substantial links with all the nations bordering the South China Sea the UK has a close security interest in the maintenance of regional peace and stability. While we have a limited permanent military presence in the form of the Brunei Garrison and our contribution to the Five Powers Defence Arrangements in Malaysia and Singapore, other than planning for routine exercises and defence engagement tasks. We have made no specific assessment of the circumstances under which we would deploy Armed Forces to the region.

#### ■ Arms Trade

**Dan Jarvis:** [\[31842\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which non-UK EU armed forces procure materiel from British companies.

**Mr Julian Brazier:**

In 2014, Europe accounted for 10% of UK defence exports, with a value of approximately £800 million. Additionally, details of all export licences granted in 2014 can be found at;

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/491986/16-54-strategic-export-controls-country-pivot-report-2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/491986/16-54-strategic-export-controls-country-pivot-report-2014.pdf),

However this cannot be treated as an exhaustive list of defence exports.

#### ■ Army: Northern Ireland

**Mr Jeffrey M. Donaldson:** [\[32169\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what plans he has to maintain the Royal Irish Aftercare Service in support of veterans of Operation Banner in Northern Ireland.

**Mr Jeffrey M. Donaldson:** [\[32170\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what funding he plans to allocate to the Royal Irish Aftercare Service in the next financial year.

**Mr Julian Brazier:**

The Ulster Defence Regiment and The Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service) Aftercare Service provides a vital service to support all veterans and dependants of those Regiments as well as sick and wounded personnel who leave the Armed Forces and wish to settle in Northern Ireland. Around £900,000 has been allocated to deliver this service in financial year 2016-17. Looking ahead as part of our commitment to deliver the most effective and efficient services to our veterans the Ministry of Defence is considering integrating the Aftercare Service into the MOD's broader veterans welfare organisation, Veterans UK.

**■ Defence: Partnerships****Dan Jarvis:**[\[32064\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many partnerships are in operation between UK and non-UK EU-based companies in the area of defence; and what the total value of those partnerships is.

**Mr Julian Brazier:**

This information is not held in the format requested.

**■ Defence: Procurement****Jim Shannon:**[\[31375\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps his Department is taking to improve defence capacity building.

**Michael Fallon:**

We engage in capacity building activities with a wide range of international partners, covering a broad spectrum of topics including Humanitarian and Disaster Relief; Countering Violent Extremism; Peace Support Operations and countering illicit trafficking.

We committed in the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 to increase our capacity building with partners, and have since then expanded our activity in a number of ways.

For example, we have launched a new three year Counter-IED capacity building programme with Pakistan. We have also joined the US-German Trans-Atlantic Capability Enhancement and Training (TACET) initiative, under which we will deploy Short Term Training Teams to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. In Ukraine, where we have already trained over 2,000 members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, we are aiming to provide additional support to Ukrainian Defence reform including practical interventions in areas such as strategic communication and modernisation of procurement and logistics systems. In Nigeria we continue to expand our resident British Military Advisory and Training Team, and have committed to more than doubling the number of UK military personnel who deploy on short term training tasks to 300 in 2016. We have also significantly increased the support we provide to the Jordanian Army to help them improve border security.

**■ Defence: Research**

**Dan Jarvis:** [\[31848\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, on what defence technology research and development programmes the Government is cooperating with other EU member states.

**Mr Julian Brazier:**

As stated in National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 (Cmd 9161), as part of being international by design, we will participate in future international collaborative programmes in both the defence and security sectors where we have the right technology, skills and industrial capabilities, and where we can reduce our costs and share technology to mutual benefit, strengthening our defence relationships.

We will work closely with, learn from and invest in joint research programmes with our allies and partners, many of whom are pursuing similar innovation initiatives. France has important technology programmes, especially in aerospace, maritime and space capabilities. We will also build on our important security relationships with partners, and with multilateral forums, including NATO.

**■ Gurkhas: Pensions**

**Mr Virendra Sharma:** [\[32156\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what progress has been made on reaching a settlement with Gurkha soldiers who retired before 2000.

**Mr Julian Brazier:**

The Government and the people of the United Kingdom hold the Gurkhas in the highest esteem and have done so throughout their 200 years of service to the Crown. Successive Governments have taken steps to ensure that the service provided by Gurkhas is appropriately recognised and reflects the terms and nature of that service, including in relation to pensions.

These sentiments were most recently confirmed in the previous Coalition Government's response to the All Party Parliamentary Group report on historic Gurkha grievances and the statement made by my hon. Friend the former Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (Ms Soubry) on 29 January 2015 HCWS234.

This reaffirmed successive Governments' long standing approach to public sector pension provisions which is that an individual qualifies for a pension according to the rules of that scheme at the time, and that improvements to public sector pension or compensation schemes should not be introduced retrospectively because of the burden such an approach would place on the Exchequer.

**Attachments:**

1. 20150115 Hansard extract on Gurkha Welfare  
[20150129\_WMS\_Government\_Response\_to\_APPG\_on\_Gurkha\_Welfare[1].docx]



## ■ Iraq-Kuwait Conflict: War Pensions

**Corri Wilson:**

[\[32104\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many personnel who have made a claim under the Mercantile Marine Scheme as part of the War Pension Scheme have stated that their injury or illness was a result of deployment to Operation Granby whilst working in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

**Mr Julian Brazier:**

Between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2015 (the latest data available), there were 20 Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel who made a claim under the Mercantile Marine Scheme as part of the War Pension Scheme. None of these personnel stated that their injury or illness was a result of deployment to Operation Granby.

In line with Defence Statistics' rounding policy, all figures of five or more have been rounded to the nearest five.

## ■ Military Exercises

**Dan Jarvis:**

[\[31850\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which military exercises UK armed forces have been involved in that have (a) included other EU member states and (b) been EU-led.

**Penny Mordaunt:**

Exercises with international Allies and partners are critical to improving our Armed Forces' interoperability on deployment and enhancing collective Defence through NATO. Last year we saw an excellent example of this in NATO's Exercise Trident Juncture, the biggest military exercise in 10 years. Although the EU does not lead large scale military operations like NATO, it does support the interoperability of our Armed Forces through its battlegroup framework and small scale exercises led by its Member States. The UK will hold the leadership of the battlegroup in the second half of this year.

## ■ Somalia: Military Aid

**Stephen Doughty:**

[\[32102\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what (a) training, (b) financial and (c) materiel support his Department is providing to the Somali National Army.

**Penny Mordaunt:**

UK support to the Somalia National Army (SNA) totalled £17million in 2015-16, funded through the Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF). This is intended to increase to £20million in 2016-17. This includes Defence mentoring support to the development of the SNA in Mogadishu, delivered both bilaterally and through UK personnel embedded in the EU training mission, and Defence oversight of a non-lethal equipment programme (including tents, computers, generators, vehicles). It also includes the provision of stipends; infrastructure support; and a £3million HMG donation to the SNA Trust Fund operated by the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). HMG is looking to deliver an enhanced programme in 2016-17.

**■ Ukraine: Military Aid**

**Andrew Rosindell:** [\[32159\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he plans to take to monitor the location and use of the recently announced military equipment being given to Ukraine.

**Michael Fallon:**

All equipment being gifted is non-lethal in nature, and includes night vision goggles, global positioning sets (GPS), helmets, body armour, ruggedized laptops, large tents, heating units, cold weather clothing and individual first aid kits.

This equipment has helped save lives in contested areas in the Donbas. Given its non-lethal nature, we see no need routinely to monitor its location and usage.

**■ Unmanned Air Vehicles**

**Catherine West:** [\[32105\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to Answer of 22 February 2016 to Question 26843, if he will publish the terms of reference for the Reaper User Group.

**Penny Mordaunt:**

The MQ-9 Users Group is a multilateral forum for France, Italy, the UK and US. As such, the release of the Group's Terms of Reference can only be approved if all four participating nations agree. To that end, the request for their release was highlighted at the MQ-9 User Group and individual nations will report back as soon as is practicable.

**Catherine West:** [\[32106\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to Answer of 29 January 2016 to Question 23886, which UK representatives attended the meeting of the Reaper User Group between 14 and 18 March 2016.

**Penny Mordaunt:**

UK attendance at the MQ-9 User Group was limited to representatives from the Royal Air Force, led by the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Force Commander.

**■ Yazidis: Military Aid**

**Stephen Doughty:** [\[32103\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what (a) training and (b) materiel support is being provided by his Department to Yazidi militia forces.

**Penny Mordaunt:**

The UK is working with the government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to ensure they are better able to protect their own diverse population, including the Yazidi and other minority communities. We have not provided any support directly to Yazidi militia forces.

**EDUCATION**■ **Education: Assessments**

**Kevin Hollinrake:** [\[32124\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that examination marking is consistent and objective.

**Nick Gibb:**

This is a matter for Ofqual, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation. I have therefore asked the Interim Chief Regulator, Amanda Spielman, to write directly to the Honourable Member. A copy of her reply will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

■ **Teachers: Migrant Workers**

**Royston Smith:** [\[31963\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many teachers in each of the last five years have been foreign nationals.

**Nick Gibb:**

The information requested is not collected by the Department.

**ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**■ **Agriculture: Subsidies**

**Michelle Donelan:** [\[31922\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what support her Department provides to farmers who are waiting to receive a single farm payment.

**George Eustice:**

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) started paying Basic Payment Scheme claims from the opening of the payment window on 1 December 2015. As of 21 March 2016, the RPA has paid 72,807 claimants approximately £1.15 billion and remains focused on paying the remainder of claims as promptly as possible.

The RPA has an established financial hardship process and is working with a range of farming help organisations to see what further support could be offered. Following hardship case referrals from these organisations, over 420 farmers have received RPA hardship payments, amounting to more than £6.8 million.

**Nick Herbert:** [\[32054\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate she has made of the amount of Common Agricultural Policy funding that (a) Scotland, (b) Wales and (c) Northern Ireland will receive in each year between 2014 and 2020.

**George Eustice:**

The tables in the attached show, for Pillar 1 (direct payments) and Pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), allocations for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**Attachments:**

1. PQ32054 - CAP Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 allocations [PQ 32054 CAP Pillar 1 and 2 allocations.pdf]

**Caves**

**James Heappey:** [\[31768\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, what her policy is on the extension of the definition of mapped open countryside to caves.

**George Eustice:**

Section 2(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides for a right of access on foot for the purposes of open-air recreation to land which has been mapped as open country (mountain, moor, heath and down) and registered common land.

The Government has no plans to extend the definition of mapped land under that Act to apply to caves.

**Dogs: Northern Ireland**

**Mr Virendra Sharma:** [\[32157\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent discussions she has had with her counterpart in the Northern Ireland Executive on the illegal dog trade.

**George Eustice:**

The Government takes the illegal movement of dogs seriously and it is committed to working with the Devolved Administrations, delivery bodies, enforcement agencies and non-government organisations to tackle this issue.

Whilst there have been no recent Ministerial meetings on the illegal movement of dogs, Defra's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) has recently discussed the issue with his Devolved Administration counterparts, including the Northern Ireland CVO.

Additionally, there have been discussions on this issue between other Defra officials and officials within the Northern Ireland Devolved Administration.

**Flood Control: Carlisle**

**Alex Cunningham:** [\[32136\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate her Department has made of the potential costs of making necessary improvements to flood defences in Carlisle since the recent floods affecting that area.

**Rory Stewart:**

The Government will invest up to £58 million in flood defences in Cumbria once the Environment Agency has concluded a review of its need.

The Environment Agency expects their initial assessments will be complete in the summer. Any investments are likely to form a combination of improvements to existing defences, new defences and upstream attenuation / 'slow the flow' measures.

**■ Flood Control: Lancashire****Julie Cooper:**[\[31906\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to paragraph 1.242 of Budget 2016, how much of the additional £700 million for flood defence and resilience will be spent in Lancashire.

**Rory Stewart:**

Of the additional £700 million announced in the Budget to be spent on flood defences and resilience, £150m has been allocated to new schemes in Yorkshire and Cumbria.

The £40m per year increase in floods maintenance will be spent nationwide according to need. The remaining funding will be allocated following the outcome of the National Flood Resilience Review in the summer.

**■ Flood Control: Leeds****Alex Cunningham:**[\[31920\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to paragraph 1.301 of Budget 2016, how much funding will be made available to support delivery of the final phase of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme; and what proportion of that funding is additional to the £2.3 billion capital programme previously announced.

**Rory Stewart:**

The Government has announced a new scheme for Leeds and the wider Aire catchment, which will provide flood defence for the area north of the station. Subject to business case approval, £35 million has been made available for this scheme up to 2021, with a commitment to ensure that the project is completed. This funding is in addition to the £2.3 billion capital programme.

**Alex Cunningham:**[\[31970\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions her Department has had with the Treasury on the business case for delivery of the final phase of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme.

**Rory Stewart:**

Ahead of the Budget, Defra and the Treasury discussed support for communities in areas at high risk of flooding, including Leeds.

A scoping study for further work in Leeds is underway and due for completion by the end of March this year. This will lead to the development of a full feasibility study and business case looking at how Leeds could be better protected. An additional £35 million

has been made available to support work in Leeds up to 2021, with a commitment that the Government will provide funding to support the completion of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme in later years subject to business case approval.

■ **Flood Control: River Medway**

**Tom Tugendhat:** [\[32007\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what proportion of funding from the new measures announced in paragraph 1.205 of Budget 2016 she plans to allocate for flood defences on the River Medway and its tributaries.

**Rory Stewart:**

Of the additional £700 million announced at the Budget to be spent on flood defences and resilience, £150m has been allocated to new schemes in Yorkshire and Cumbria.

The £40m per year increase in floods maintenance will be spent nationwide according to need. The remaining funding will be allocated following the outcome of the National Flood Resilience Review in the summer.

■ **Food: Waste**

**Greg Mulholland:** [\[31864\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to encourage households to donate unused food.

**Greg Mulholland:** [\[31865\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate she has made of the average value of unused food thrown away by households in the last 12 months.

**Greg Mulholland:** [\[31866\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate she has made of the average amount of unused food thrown away by households in the last 12 months.

**Rory Stewart:**

Through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the Government continues to work with the grocery sector to reduce household food waste. The Love Food Hate Waste programme helps UK households to reduce food waste and save money through awareness raising and consumer advice. There has been a 15% (1.3 million tonnes) reduction in household food waste between 2007 and 2012.

WRAP launched Courtauld 2025 on 15 March, which builds on the progress we have already made. This new agreement includes a target to reduce food and drink waste arising in the UK by 20% by 2025 (calculated as a relative reduction per head of population).

For the average household, the price of avoidable food and drink waste is £470 per year. For the average household with children, the cost of avoidable food and drink waste is £700 per year.

The total amount of food thrown away by the average household is 260 kg per year. 160 kg of this is avoidable waste. For the average household with children, this figure rises to 390 kg per year, including 240 kg of avoidable food waste.

These are the latest available figures, applying to 2012. WRAP aims to publish updated figures for household food waste later this year.

## ■ Marine Conservation Zones

**Alex Cunningham:** [\[32091\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when she expects to have put in place comprehensive management plans for each of the existing Marine Conservation Zones.

**George Eustice:**

The Government is committed to delivering a 'Blue Belt' of well-managed Marine Protected Areas around our coasts. Where fisheries management measures are required, the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities and the Marine Management Organisation will put in place measures, such as byelaws, for all inshore Tranche 1 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) by the end of this year. To date, 19 new byelaws and 14 new voluntary measures that complement over 25 legacy byelaws are already in place. Appropriate fisheries management measures for inshore Tranche 2 MCZ sites will be identified by January 2018, following their designation earlier this year.

**Alex Cunningham:** [\[32113\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of deploying ocean-going drones to help catch illegal trawlers in Marine Conservation Zones in place of staffed patrol vessels.

**George Eustice:**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities are responsible for enforcing fisheries legislation in UK waters off England. The MMO is considering carefully the potential for new technology to aid enforcement operations, and will continue to keep such technology under review.

**Alex Cunningham:** [\[32114\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what resources she plans to allocate to enforcing comprehensive management plans in current and future Marine Conservation Zones.

**George Eustice:**

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, marine regulators are required to enforce, and ensure compliance with, any management measures put in place to protect Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

In December 2015, Defra confirmed it would continue to allocate £3 million New Burdens funding until 2020, which can be used for costs associated with MCZ designation including enforcement. In addition, allocations of funding to various activities are set out in an Action Plan for the Marine Management Organisation and the Annual Plans produced by the ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs).

■ **National Flood Resilience Review**

**Alex Cunningham:** [\[31839\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what work has been carried out under the National Flood Resilience Review on the costs of protecting the UK from future flooding and extreme weather events.

**Rory Stewart:**

The National Flood Resilience Review, led by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, is making good progress. It is gathering evidence and using extreme flood modelling to stress-test the resilience of Core Cities and key infrastructure. This work will inform future options on the investment needed to secure the resilience of the country against such flood events. Our call for evidence closed on 4 March and we are now reviewing the 66 responses received.

**FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE**

■ **Andargachew Tsege**

**Matthew Pennycook:** [\[32154\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will take steps to permit the European External Action Service to press for the release of Andargachew Tsege in Ethiopia.

**James Duddridge:**

Whilst we welcome the concern of all international partners on Mr Tsege's case, the UK will continue to lead lobbying efforts.

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) has raised Mr Tsege's case with his Ethiopian counterpart Dr Tedros 21 times, most recently on 13 February. I have also raised this case, most recently on 28 January. I have met with Mr Tsege's partner, Yumi Hailemariam. We have asked that Mr Tsege has access to a lawyer and a legal route through which he can challenge his detention. The Foreign Secretary has asked the Ethiopians to set out a timeline in which this will happen.

**Matthew Pennycook:** [\[32155\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he is taking to secure the release of Andargachew Tsege in Ethiopia.



**James Duddridge:**

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) has raised Mr Tsege's case with his Ethiopian counterpart Dr Tedros 21 times, most recently on 13 February. I have also raised this case, most recently on 28 January. I have met with Mr Tsege's partner, Yumi Hailemariam. We have asked that Mr Tsege has access to a lawyer and a legal route through which he can challenge his detention. The Foreign Secretary has asked the Ethiopians to set out a timeline in which this will happen.

**■ Bahrain: Human Rights****Andy Slaughter:**[\[32202\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has received from the UN High Commissioner on human rights and political prisoners in Bahrain and on the implications for UK policy on Bahrain of the human rights situation in that country.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

We regularly discuss human rights concerns with the UN Office for the High Commissioner on Human Rights. On 3 March 2016, Baroness Anelay spoke to the High Commissioner in advance of the 31st session of the Human Rights Council.

The UK continues to encourage and support the Government of Bahrain in ensuring full implementation of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry recommendations, as well as those accepted in their UN Universal Periodic Review. We are offering UK assistance to help them achieve this and believe our approach is the most constructive way to achieve long-lasting and sustainable reform in Bahrain.

**■ Bahrain: Politics and Government****Andy Slaughter:**[\[32204\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations to the government of Bahrain pressing for (a) the release of all people arrested in relation to peaceful protest and (b) reconsideration of the July 2014 amendments to the nationality laws in that country.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

The UK encourages Bahrain to respect the rights of all peaceful opposition figures. We call on the Bahraini government to act proportionately in all such cases to protect the universal rights of freedom of expression and assembly. We also continue to encourage the Government of Bahrain to meet its human rights obligations and honour all conventions to which it is a party – including on citizenship rights. We regularly discuss human rights with the Government of Bahrain. I most recently raised human rights with the Bahraini Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Sheikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, on 8 March.

## ■ British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries

**Mr Nigel Evans:** [\[31232\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of UK nationals living in other countries in the EU.

**Mr David Lidington:**

*[Holding answer 21 March 2016]:* There is no legal obligation on a British citizen living overseas to register with the British Embassy, but estimates suggest that more than 1.2 million UK citizens are living permanently elsewhere in the EU. These estimates do not include people who reside for part of the year in another Member State or British travellers.

## ■ EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

**Dan Jarvis:** [\[31841\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the EU's decision-making process is for (a) humanitarian and (b) military interventions; who is involved in those decision-making processes; and what the timetable for those processes is.

**Mr David Lidington:**

The EU's humanitarian assistance is administered primarily by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO). Approved implementation partners submit project proposals to ECHO in response to its Humanitarian Implementation Plan. ECHO has a number of decision-making procedures available to it: the delegation procedure, where ECHO has delegated powers for emergency humanitarian work up to a limit of €3m and a maximum duration of three months); and the empowerment procedure, where the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection may take decisions relating to emergency operations up to €30m (maximum €10m for non-urgent decisions) for a maximum of six months. These decisions are subject to a consultation procedure within the Commission. Emergency decisions exceeding €10m and non-urgent decisions exceeding €2m (and all other decisions not covered by the delegated or empowerment procedures) require the approval of the Humanitarian Aid Committee (of representatives of all EU Member States). These decisions can be made by consensus or by voting, simple majority or Qualified Majority Voting, depending on the circumstances. The voting procedure has not been used in the Humanitarian Aid Committee as yet. The timeframe for the Commission's approval will depend on the urgency of the humanitarian crisis.

EU military interventions fall under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy. Proposals are framed by Member States and the European External Action Service. A military intervention requires two Council Decisions: one to establish the mission; and, once planning is complete, another to launch the mission. All CSDP Council Decisions require unanimity. Timescales for military interventions depend on a range of factors, such as operational urgency and planning requirements.

There are other Commission-administered programmes, aside from those administered by ECHO, which have humanitarian aspects. Typically, under these programmes, the

Commission is responsible for framing proposals with decision-making involving a committee of Member States.

## ■ EU Immigration

**Andrew Rosindell:**

[\[31323\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of migrants expected to attempt to enter the EU from Syria and other conflict zones during the period May to September 2016.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

We have not made an independent estimate. The Government uses the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration data and analysis on migrant and refugee flows. The objective of the EU-Turkey deal is to stop irregular migration from Turkey and focus support on the majority of migrants and refugees who remain in the region near their homes. This is where we target a significant amount of UK support. We have pledged more than £2.3 billion in response to the Syrian conflict.

## ■ Honours: British Overseas Territories

**Andrew Gwynne:**

[\[31901\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many badges of honour have been awarded by (a) Gibraltar, (b) the Falkland Islands, (c) the Cayman Islands and (d) Bermuda in each year since 2010.

**James Duddridge:**

Since 2010 badges of honour have been awarded as follows;

Gibraltar: 2010 – 5; 2011 – 6; 2012 – 6; 2013 – 6; 2014 – 6; 2015 – 6

Falkland Islands: 2010 – 3; 2011 – 2; 2012 – 1; 2013 – 0; 2014 – 0; 2015 – 2

Cayman Islands: 2010 – 4; 2011 – 8; 2012 – 2; 2013 – 6; 2014 – 2; 2015 – 1

Bermuda: 2010 – 14; 2011 – 7; 2012 – 13; 2013 – 5; 2014 – 6; 2015 – 2

## ■ India: MV Seaman Guard Ohio

**Julian Sturdy:**

[\[31597\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations his Department has made to the Indian government on the Seaman Guard Ohio since the Indian court ruling relating to that matter in January 2016.

**Mr Hugo Swire:**

We continue to follow this case closely, raising it at ministerial and official level at every opportunity, as we have done since November 2013. Following the court ruling on 11 January 2016 Ministers have raised the case with Foreign Secretary Jaishankar, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr VK Singh and the Indian High Commissioner Mr Navtej Singh.

Whilst we cannot interfere in any foreign legal process, we shall continue to use every opportunity to raise the case at all levels, calling for any legal proceedings to move forward quickly.

#### ■ Indonesia: Custodial Treatment

**Catherine West:** [\[31861\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations to his Indonesian counterpart on the imprisonment and shackling of people living with mental health conditions in that country.

**Mr Hugo Swire:**

The UK is committed to working with other states to ensure the rights of disabled people are upheld in full. It is important to recognise the inherent dignity and worth, the equal and inalienable rights, of all people. We regularly raise our human rights concerns and will look for the next possible opportunity to raise this specific issue with the government of Indonesia.

#### ■ Iran: Guided Weapons

**Neil Parish:** [\[31966\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of recent reports of Iran testing a new long-range ballistic missile.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

Reports that Iran carried out ballistic missile tests earlier this month are of great concern. These tests are inconsistent with UN Security Council Resolution 2231, and the UK is raising these concerns in writing with the UN Security Council. The UK continues to urge Iran to refrain from further tests.

#### ■ Islamic State

**Andrew Rosindell:** [\[32129\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent progress has been made in preventing members of the Islamic State/Daesh from travelling across the border between Syria and Turkey.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

The UK and Turkey work in close partnership to stop foreign terrorist fighters and extremist travellers from crossing the border between Syria and Turkey, including through practical cooperation between our police and security forces.

The Turkish authorities are taking significant measures to prevent illegal crossings from Turkey to the conflict zone, including the deployment of additional personnel. Physical security at border crossings between Syria and Turkey is improving, although sections of the border remain porous.

Between January and December 2015, 913 foreign nationals who are members of Daesh were arrested in Turkey, 435 of whom were caught passing to Syria.

## ■ Israel: Palestinians

**Maria Caulfield:**

[[32026](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what reports his Department has received on the rebuilding by Hamas of its cross-border tunnel infrastructure into Israel.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

We are aware of reports of Hamas rebuilding tunnels and we remain deeply concerned by Hamas' attempts to rearm and rebuild infrastructure, including the tunnel network in Gaza. Any Hamas rearmament undermines efforts to improve the situation in Gaza and harms prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East.

**Andy Slaughter:**

[R] [[32092](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart on settlement activity in the West Bank.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office issued a statement on 16 March condemning the Government of Israel's decision to expand settlements in the West Bank.

On 18 February, during my visit to Israel, I discussed the issue of settlements with Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, reiterating the UK's position. Our Embassy regularly raises this issue with the Israeli authorities, making clear the UK's firm and consistent opposition to illegal construction of settlements.

## ■ Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:**

[[31607](#)]

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, when he intends to answer the letter to him dated 9 February from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms M Hamilton.

**Mr David Lidington:**

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) replied to the letter from the Hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) of 9 February with regard to Ms M Hamilton on 22 March.

## ■ Middle East: Refugees

**Tom Brake:** [\[31797\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what support the Government provides to Kurdish authorities in (a) Iraq and (b) Syria to support refugees in those regions.

**Mr Nick Hurd:**

I have been asked to reply.

Since June 2014, the UK has committed £79.5 million of humanitarian aid to Iraq. This support is needs-based and provides life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable, including those in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). All UK humanitarian aid in Iraq is delivered through UN agencies, NGOs and other trusted humanitarian partners. We are providing funding to UNDP to build the capacity of the Joint Crisis Centre (JCC) within the Kurdistan Regional Government as part of this support. The JCC works closely with the UN, the Government of Iraq, and the international community to provide life-saving coordination.

To date, we have allocated £561 million to support vulnerable people inside Syria. Roughly half our support is delivered by agencies and INGOs working out of Damascus with the consent of the regime, and half is delivered across borders from neighbouring countries without regime consent, under the authorisation of the UN Security Council. In line with the key humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality, we work with trusted humanitarian partners with experience of operating in fragile and conflict affected states. These include UN agencies, international organisations, NGOs and civil society organisations. Through these partners, our support is reaching vulnerable Syrians in areas controlled by Kurdish groups.

## ■ Palestinians: Schools

**Maria Caulfield:** [\[32025\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has made representations to the Palestinian Authority on allegations of its schools naming sports tournaments after terrorists.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

While we have not raised this specific issue with the Palestinian Authority (PA). We regularly raise the issue of incitement with the PA. Most recently, on 9 March, our Consul General in Jerusalem met Prime Minister Hamdallah and raised our concerns on incitement. I also raised the issue with the PA during my visit on 17 February.

## ■ Radicalism: EU Action

**Dan Jarvis:** [\[31846\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps the EU is taking to counter extremism and radicalisation in (a) the Middle East, (b) South Asia and (c) Africa; and in what way the Government is contributing to those steps.

**Mr David Lidington:**

The EU invests significantly in counter-extremism and -radicalisation. The UK supports and is actively involved in shaping the EU's comprehensive approach which includes political dialogue led by HRVP Mogherini, wider development assistance, CSDP missions, human rights-based security sector reform, conflict prevention and resolution, support for research and analysis, and support to national efforts to develop Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) strategies. The UK also works with the EU through the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) Working Group, with the EU co-chairing the Horn of Africa Working Group and UK co-chairing the CVE Working Group. A key joint effort here is addressing the whole lifecycle of radicalisation through capacity-building in priority countries.

It is not possible here exhaustively to list every step the EU is taking to counter extremism and radicalisation in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa, but examples include:

On (a) the Middle East, the EU is establishing CT Action Plans (including CVE) with priority countries in the Middle East and North Africa region.

On (b) South Asia, the EU seconds a security/CT expert to assist in Pakistan.

On (c) Africa, the EU is supporting the development of a Somali national CVE strategy.

**■ Sudan: Religious Freedom****Kate Green:**[\[32083\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2016 to Question 30739, what information he holds on (a) the legal status of Telahoon Rata and Rev. Hassan Taour and (b) whether their legal team has been granted access to them.

**James Duddridge:**

Telahoon Rata and Rev Hassan Taour are being held in detention by the National Intelligence and Security Services under powers granted to them by the National Security Act 2010. They have not been granted access to their lawyers.

Our Ambassador in Khartoum met the Minister of Guidance and Religious Endowments and the Sudanese Director of Church Affairs in February and raised the cases of Mr Talahon and Rev. Hassan.

**■ Syria: Lebanon****Jim Shannon:**[\[31299\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what support the Government is providing to ensure the completion of new security infrastructure and measures along the border between Lebanon and Syria.

**Mr Tobias Ellwood:**

The UK has contributed £34 million to support the Lebanese Armed Forces' (LAF) ability to defend the border and contain spillover from the Syria conflict. The UK funded Land

Border Regiments are successfully protecting the integrity of the Lebanese border for the first time in the country's history.

The UK is committed to continue its support to the LAF and bring the Lebanese borders under the authority of the state and has announced £6.7m additional support to the establishment of the 4th Land Border Regiment starting April 2016.

## ■ Terrorism: Finance

**Dan Jarvis:** [\[32019\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what powers the EU has to freeze the assets of suspected terrorist groups or individuals suspected of involvement in terrorism; and what assessment he has made of the benefits to the UK of those powers.

**Mr David Lidington:**

The EU has two mechanisms for freezing the assets of individuals and groups suspected of involvement in terrorism. The UN's ISIL (Daesh) and Al-Qaida sanctions regime is implemented in the United Kingdom by way of EU Council Regulation (EC) No. 881/2002 and subsequent EU regulations adding new individuals and entities to the regime. The EU also has its own autonomous counter-terrorism regime under Common Position 931, for listing individuals and groups based on national competent authority decisions by a Member State or third country.

HM Treasury reports quarterly to Parliament on the implementation of these measures. The Treasury's latest report [<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-02-24/HCWS548/>], published on 24 February 2016, sets out that in Q4 of 2015 a total of 43 UK accounts were frozen under either EU or UN counter-terrorism measures. A further 36 accounts were frozen under the UK's domestic Terrorist Asset Freezing etc. Act 2010 regime.

The EU's autonomous regime lends a multiplying effect to the reach of a number of the UK's domestic asset freezes and proscriptions of terrorist organisations, and facilitates the sharing of information on designated persons between Member States. The UK also benefits from the consistent application across EU territory of the UN's ISIL (Daesh) and Al-Qaida asset freezes.

## HEALTH

### ■ Autism

**Mr Barry Sheerman:** [\[32014\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment his Department has made of representations that NHS England should conduct a national autism mortality review.

**Mr Barry Sheerman:** [\[32015\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to tackle premature mortality among people on the autism spectrum.



**Mr Barry Sheerman:**

[\[32016\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what data his Department collects on premature mortality in people on the autism spectrum.

**Alistair Burt:**

The National Health Service is taking action to increase the health checks and cancer screening programmes for people with learning disabilities, including those who also have autism. In 2015, NHS England commissioned the world's first Learning Disability Mortality Review Programme to support local areas to review deaths of people with learning disabilities and to use the information to improve service provision so that physical and mental health problems can be identified and addressed. This programme is currently being piloted and will be rolled out more widely in due course.

We would expect that the work of the mortality review as a whole is likely to generate new information on the causes of premature mortality in all people with learning disabilities including many who will also have had autism spectrum disorder.

**Andrew Rosindell:**

[\[32130\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps are being taken to improve the care offered to people with autism in order to reduce the difference in life expectancy between people with and people without autism.

**Alistair Burt:**

Think Autism the updated strategy for adults with autism in England set out a clear cross Government programme of action, developed by people with autism, their families and carers, to support local authorities, the National Health Service, and other public services to improve the lives of people with autism. In addition, last year, NHS England commissioned the world's first Learning Disability Mortality Review Programme to support local areas to review deaths of people with learning disabilities, including those with autism, and to use the information to improve service provision so that physical and mental health problems can be identified and addressed. This programme is currently being piloted and will be rolled out more widely in due course.

## ■ Diabetes: Leicestershire

**Keith Vaz:**

[\[32115\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the average cost is of the (a) DESMOND and (b) Empower structured education programmes in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

**Keith Vaz:**

[\[32121\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the cost to the public purse is of the contract for providing type 2 diabetes education in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

**Keith Vaz:**

[\[32122\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, who was on the procurement board that recently awarded the new contract for type 2 diabetes education programme for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

**Jane Ellison:**

NHS England advises that information about the average cost of the DESMOND and Empower structured diabetes education programmes in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is not collected centrally.

NHS England also advises that the evaluation panel for the new contract for the type 2 diabetes education programme comprised a range of clinicians and commissioning officers, including a patient representative, an equality lead, a specialist general practitioner and a nurse. The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups' Governing Bodies considered the breadth of experience and skills of the panel was acceptable. A 12-week consultation with patients, which ended on 12 June 2015, informed the development of the contract specification.

■ **General Practitioners: Leeds East****Richard Burgon:**[\[32205\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many full-time equivalent GPs were employed in general practices in Leeds East constituency in (a) 2009-10, (b) 2010-11, (c) 2011-12, (d) 2012-13 and (e) 2013-14.

**Alistair Burt:**

This data is not collected at constituency level. Such data as is available can be found in the table below.

Total general practitioners (GPs) in selected area: full time equivalents 2009-14

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Leeds Primary Care Trust <sup>1</sup>	502	506	514	516	.	.
NHS Leeds South and East Clinical Commissioning Group <sup>1</sup>	.	.	.	.	164	169

*Notes:*

Data as at 30 September for each year

<sup>1</sup> GP workforce figures are not available by constituency. Leeds East constituency is contained within and serviced by NHS Leeds South and East CCG and prior to the formation of CCGs, Leeds East was contained within Leeds PCT. These two National Health Service organisations are not geographically co-terminus and therefore 2009-12 figures are not comparable to 2013-14 figures.

'.' denotes not available

Data Quality:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

*Source:*

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

## ■ Health Services: International Cooperation

**David Tredinnick:** [\[32128\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether the Government plans to pursue any initiatives similar to that announced in the joint statement made by President Obama and Prime Minister Modi in January 2016 during the President's visit to India on expanding the India-US health collaboration in health sectors including complementary and traditional medicine.

**Jane Ellison:**

The UK Government continues to work closely with the Government of India within the health sector, including working with the Indian Government to open health centres. In 2013 the Department agreed a five year Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of India. This prioritises action on antimicrobial resistance, training and development and universal health coverage. There are no plans to expand this to include complementary and traditional medicine.

## ■ Mental Health Services: Restraint Techniques

**Luciana Berger:** [\[32219\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2016 to Question 31709, how many incidents of face-down restraints there have been in mental health services in (a) January and (b) February 2016.

**Alistair Burt:**

No information is currently available regarding the number of incidents of face down restraint for the months requested. The first publication by the Health and Social Care Information Centre of January 2016 information is due during April 2016. Data will only be published when the Health and Social Care Information Centre is confident that the dataset is accurate and complete.

**■ Motor Vehicles: Smoking**

**Philip Davies:** [\[31571\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many prosecutions for smoking in vehicles with children present have been carried out under the Smoke-free (Private Vehicles) Regulations 2015.

**Philip Davies:** [\[31605\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will commission an independent assessment of the effect on children of legislation on smoking in cars.

**Jane Ellison:**

The Department assesses the impact of tobacco control measures on an ongoing basis as it develops policy. The Smoke-Free (Private Vehicles) Regulations 2015 include a requirement to review the regulations within five years of them coming into force, which will include an assessment of the effect on children's exposure to secondhand smoke in private vehicles.

In changing the law we always said the measure of success would be in changes in attitude and behaviour, not the number of enforcement actions. Information on prosecutions for the period since the regulations were introduced has not yet been published, however we would expect very few fixed penalty notices issued for these offences would lead to court appearances.

**HOME OFFICE****■ Asylum**

**Andrew Rosindell:** [\[32158\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 March 2016 to Question 30557, how many people who have arrived in the UK through the camp in Calais have successfully claimed asylum in the UK since June 2015.

**James Brokenshire:**

HM Government publish data on asylum intake which can be found at: Immigration statistics, October to December 2015: data tables - Publications - GOV.UK . The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

**■ Cybercrime: Autism**

**Mr Barry Sheerman:** [\[32017\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the level of involvement of autistic people in cybercrime offences.

**Mr Barry Sheerman:** [\[32018\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the level of vulnerability of people on the autism spectrum to various aspects of cybercrime.

**Mr John Hayes:**

The National Crime Agency (NCA) is a non-ministerial government department, however it is accountable to Parliament via the Home Secretary. As such I have contacted the NCA to inform my answer to you.

During the course of cyber-dependent crime operations over the last five years (including SOCA Cyber and Metropolitan Police Central e-Crime Unit led operations) and based on recorded data following a subject's arrest we are unable to determine the level of involvement of autistic individuals in cybercrime offences, or the level of vulnerability of individuals on the autism spectrum to various other aspects of cyber crime.

The NCA are now embarking on research in partnership with Academia, Private Industry and Special Interest groups to explore the possibility of links between Autism and cyber-dependent crime. Understanding gained from this research will inform the NCA on best practice for managing operations and educational Prevent activity.

■ **Emergency Services: Greater Manchester**

**Mr Ivan Lewis:**

[\[31858\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the expected cost is of replacement of the Emergency Services Network in Greater Manchester; and how that project is to be funded.

**Mike Penning:**

The Emergency Services Network (ESN) transition is being managed regionally. Greater Manchester is part of the North-West Region, incorporating North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services, as well as Cheshire Constabulary, Cumbria Constabulary, Greater Manchester Police, Lancashire Constabulary and Merseyside Police. The Core costs of operating the network are initially borne by the Home Office, but shared by the Department for Communities and Local Government, Department of Health, Welsh and Scottish Governments. The Non-core costs of connecting to the network and utilising it will be borne by local Emergency Services organisations and exact costs in Greater Manchester will be dependent upon take up of device and connection numbers to meet local operational needs. Taken together, the Core and Non-core costs of ESN are projected to cost £5 billion over the 15 year operating life of the network, saving in the region of £3 billion on the costs of the current Airwave service.

■ **Greater Manchester Police: Finance**

**Mr Ivan Lewis:**

[\[31855\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of planned future budget reductions on the capacity of Greater Manchester police service to tackle organised crime and terrorism.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** [\[31856\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of planned future budget reductions on the capacity of Greater Manchester police service to tackle child exploitation and sexual offences.

**Mr Ivan Lewis:** [\[31857\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of planned future budget reductions on the capacity of Greater Manchester police service to tackle cyber-crime.

**Mike Penning:**

As the Chancellor announced in the Spending Review, no PCC will receive a reduction in cash funding over the Spending Review period if they choose to maximise their precept. It is an operational decision for chief officers, working with their PCC, to determine how best to allocate their available resources taking into account local and national priorities. In total, including national transformation funding and other funding, policing will see a £900 million increase in funding by 2019/20 in cash terms. We will continue to allocate specific funding for Counter Terrorism Policing over the course of the Spending Review period to ensure that the CT policing network has the capabilities it needs to tackle changing threats. The settlement will increase counter-terrorism policing funding in real terms in 16-17 to £670m.

## ■ Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

**Mrs Anne Main:** [\[31313\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has prohibited entry into the UK of people from other EU member states on public protection grounds in each of the last five years.

**Mrs Anne Main:** [\[31328\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many nationals of other EU member states have been refused entry to the UK in each of the last 10 years; and for what reasons they were refused.

**Mrs Anne Main:** [\[31384\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many nationals of other EU member states were (a) refused and (b) granted entry to the UK through Regulation 11(2) of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 in each of the last 10 years.

**James Brokenshire:**

The Government has prevented EEA/EU nationals entry into the UK on public protection grounds in each of the last five years. The Home Office is unable to provide figures for refusals within each refusal category. Total refusals for each of the last ten years are provided in the table below.

Numbers of EU nationals granted entry to the UK through Regulation 11 (2) of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 are not recorded centrally.

## EU PASSENGERS INITIALLY REFUSED ENTRY EACH YEAR SINCE 2006

Year	Total refusals
2006	1663
2007	973
2008	753
2009	618
2010	594
2011	688
2012	787
2013	1078
2014	1755
2015	2165

## ■ UK Border Force: Finance

Andy Burnham:

[\[32152\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 1 February 2016 to Question 23143, when the Border Force's budget for 2016-17 will be agreed.

James Brokenshire:

The Spending Review announcement set the overall budget for the Home Office. Officials are providing advice to the Home Secretary on individual allocations and spending commitments.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## ■ Developing Countries: Malaria

Patrick Grady:

[\[31854\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, to what her Department allocated spending on malaria in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15; and how that spending was disbursed between multilateral and bilateral channels.

Mr Nick Hurd:

In 2013-14 DFID malaria spend was approximately £536 million, of which 66 per cent was provided bilaterally and 34 per cent multilaterally. In 2014-15 DFID malaria spend

was approximately £428 million, of which 75 per cent was provided bilaterally and 25% multilaterally.

The methodology is detailed in the Malaria Framework of Results. This can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/67642/malaria-framework-for-results.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/67642/malaria-framework-for-results.pdf).

## ■ Developing Countries: Poverty

**Dan Jarvis:** [31853]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps the EU is taking to tackle poverty in (a) the Middle East, (b) South Asia and (c) Africa; and what the Government's contribution is to those steps.

**Mr Nick Hurd:**

The European Union (EU), including its Member States, is the world's largest aid donor. In 2014, the EU and its Member States spent nearly £50bn of Official Development Assistance (ODA), which represents around half of global ODA. The UK has a powerful voice on development through its EU Membership and has achieved real changes to the EU development programme in line with UK priorities.

More detail on the EU development programme can be found at [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/2015-annual-report-web\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/2015-annual-report-web_en.pdf)

## ■ Developing Countries: Sanitation

**Paul Blomfield:** [31973]

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what plans the Government has to support efforts to achieve goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on water and sanitation.

**Mr Nick Hurd:**

In the manifesto in April 2015 and in the UK Aid Strategy published in November 2015, we committed to help 60 million people get access to clean water and sanitation in support of goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We will achieve this target through projects managed by our Country Offices, through projects managed from the UK and through our contributions to multilateral organisations such as the World Bank. We will continue to invest in country and regional programmes to improve water resources management, water efficiency and improve water quality, as well as drive value for money.



## ■ EU Aid

**Dan Jarvis:**

[\[31843\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, which humanitarian aid operations the Government has been involved in that (a) have involved other EU member states and (b) have been EU-led.

**Mr Nick Hurd:**

To increase transparency and accountability, EU Member States are required to input details of all humanitarian aid allocations on to the European Emergency and Disaster Response Information System (EDRIS). Information on all humanitarian assistance provided by EU Member States globally can be found on EDRIS.

Response to Humanitarian Emergency is led and co-ordinated by the affected country. This is the case for humanitarian emergencies that occur in EU Member States and globally. We would not expect any humanitarian response to be EU-led.

Individual EU Member States lead on humanitarian operations within their sovereign territories but can seek EU assistance through the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism and international assistance through the UN.

**Dan Jarvis:**

[\[31847\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what international humanitarian aid exercises her Department has been involved in that have (a) involved EU member states and (b) been EU-led.

**Mr Nick Hurd:**

The UK participated in the Triplex 2013 Exercise which was led by the International Humanitarian Partnership and co-funded by the European Union.

The Triplex Exercise brings together EU Civil Protection Teams and Modules with the United Nations, International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) and military, to strengthen preparedness and coordination of an effective response in the first phase of a large-scale humanitarian emergency.

## ■ Libya: Humanitarian Aid

**Stephen Gethins:**

[\[32081\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, pursuant to the Answer of 21 March 2016 to Question 31131, how much financial assistance her Department plans to provide UNOCHA for its work in Libya during the next financial year.

**Mr Nick Hurd:**

In the next financial year, DFID will fund a secondment to OCHA to support coordination of the humanitarian response. Exact figures are to be finalised, though we expect it to be of the order of £50,000. We are keeping the humanitarian situation in Libya under review including funding requirements in the next financial year and stand by ready to adapt our response in order to meet humanitarian needs.

**■ Overseas Aid****David Mackintosh:**[\[31732\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what mechanisms are in place to ensure funding from her Department reaches the project for which it is intended.

**Mr Nick Hurd:**

As set out in the UK aid strategy we are determined to ensure that aid is focussed on tackling the global challenges of our time, in order to eliminate poverty and advance the UK's national interest. The Department for International Development works with many suppliers and partners to deliver hundreds of individual programmes, often in complex and high risk environments. It has rigorous internal systems and processes to ensure that its aid reaches the intended beneficiaries and delivers the intended results. These are reflected in a detailed programme management framework (known as the Smart Rules) which sets out rules and principles designed to ensure all funding is spent as intended and delivers value for money.

Due Diligence Assessments are undertaken on organisations receiving funding from DFID. The Department also uses delivery chain maps to understand the number and complexity of suppliers involved in a programme and how funds flow to the beneficiaries. These tools allow us to identify, understand and manage potential risks as programmes are delivered and to ensure that funds are properly accounted for. Risk levels are regularly reviewed and programmes closed if risk levels rise too high.

All programmes that are being implemented undergo a rigorous formal annual review which assesses and records whether funds have been used for their intended purposes and the results that have been delivered. Risks or issues identified during the review are recorded, addressed and monitored. In areas of high risk, particularly in fragile and conflict affected areas, the Department often uses monitoring agents, independent audits, and other additional safeguards.

All organisations who receive funding from DFID have to provide evidence about the use of funds, including through annual audited statements. DFID's Internal Audit Department provides further checks that programme funding reaches the intended recipients and reviews the work of all overseas offices every two years. This is supplemented by the National Audit Office and the Independent Commission on Aid Impact who provide independent scrutiny over the use of the aid budget.

**Stephen Doughty:**[\[32101\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what proportion of overseas development assistance was spent by departments other than her Department in each of the last six years; and what estimate her Department has made of that proportion for each year until 2019-20.

**Mr Nick Hurd:**

The information requested for the years 2009-2014 is published in 'Statistics on International Development 2015', which is available from our website [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk). Table 3 gives the breakdown of the percentage of Official Development Assistance

(ODA) provided by DFID and departments other than DFID. My Department will publish provisional UK ODA figures for 2015 on the 1st April.

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20: DFID will spend an estimated 72% of UK ODA; other departments and funds will spend an estimated 22% of UK ODA; and the remaining 6% will be non-departmental spend such as debt relief and gift aid. This information is based on ODA budget allocations by the government in order to meet its commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) on ODA in each calendar year. Adjustments will be made to the ODA budget to reflect the latest economic forecasts throughout the spending review period.

## JUSTICE

### ■ Antisemitism

**Richard Burden:**

[\[31430\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to his speech of 15 March 2016 to the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism Conference, what legal changes he has made following a campaign led by Jewish Human Rights Watch.

**Dominic Raab:**

On 3 October 2015, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the Government's position on boycott, divestment and sanctions, including legal changes.

### ■ Anti-semitism

**Richard Burden:**

[\[31769\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to his speech to the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism on 15 March 2016, what legal changes he was referring to in that speech.

**Dominic Raab:**

I refer the honourable member to the answer given to 31430 on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### ■ Cannabis

**Mr Nick Clegg:**

[\[R\]](#) [\[31658\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people have been prosecuted for cultivation of cannabis in each of the last five years for which records are available; in how many of those prosecutions a serious medical condition was cited in mitigation; and what the cost to the public purse was of those prosecutions.

**Mike Penning:**

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences related to cannabis cultivation in England and Wales, from 2011 to 2014 (latest available), can be viewed in the table.

Those who grow cannabis on a larger scale can be prosecuted for the separate offence of production of cannabis.

**DEFENDANTS PROCEEDED AGAINST AT MAGISTRATES COURTS FOR OFFENCES RELATED TO CANNABIS CULTIVATION <sup>(1)</sup>, ENGLAND AND WALES, 2011 TO 2014 <sup>(2)(3)</sup>**

2011	2012	2013	2014
944	319	214	127

(1) An offence under Section 6(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

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

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

Information for 2010, along with information for any year concerning any mitigating circumstances offered, is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Separate breakdowns of the costs of individual prosecutions are not held centrally. Court proceedings data for 2015 will be published in due course.

## ■ Courts: Closures

**David Mackintosh:**

[31767]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he has taken to ensure (a) the efficiency of the transition to new courts of cases from courts that are planned for closure and (b) minimal adverse effect on those remaining courts.

**Mr Shailesh Vara:**

Implementation of court closures has commenced and is expected to take place on a phased basis over the next two years. A schedule of anticipated closure dates has been published and can be accessed online at [www.gov.uk/moj](http://www.gov.uk/moj).

Detailed implementation plans are being developed by each region of HM Courts & Tribunals Service. Local implementation groups will be established to oversee each

closure. They will work in close cooperation with the judiciary where appropriate. The groups are responsible for ensuring that the transfer of work to receiving sites takes place efficiently and that effective service delivery is maintained at receiving sites throughout the process of court closure.

#### ■ Domestic Violence: Legal Aid Scheme

**Andy Slaughter:** [\[32203\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Court of Appeal's recent decision on domestic violence evidential requirements for legal aid, what interim steps his Department plans to make for victims of domestic violence whose evidence is more than 24 months old.

**Mike Penning:**

We are carefully considering the judgment and will make a further announcement in due course.

#### ■ Independent Monitoring Boards

**Sir Edward Garnier:** [\[32010\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what his policy is on (a) support for independent monitoring boards and (b) consideration of the recommendations which those boards make in their annual reports to his Department; and if he will make a statement.

**Dominic Raab:**

The Independent Monitoring Boards are supported by the IMB Secretariat, which is a small team of civil servants based in the Ministry of Justice. The Secretariat staff are involved in supporting the work of IMBs, the National Council and the IMB President, mainly through providing back-office administrative support. Funding for the IMBs is made from within the MoJ budget.

The Prisons Minister considers each report and responds directly to the Chair of the relevant Board within the agreed eight week timeframe, providing comprehensive answers to any concerns raised for the Minister or the Justice Secretary's specific attention.

#### ■ Interviews: Children

**Charlotte Leslie:** [\[31777\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what regulations govern parental consent for the recording of interviews with lone children in cases involving Cafcass.

**Caroline Dinenage:**

There are no regulations governing parental consent for the recording of interviews with lone children in cases involving the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass). The extent of the role and responsibilities of Cafcass officers is set out in the Family Procedure Rules 2010 and Practice Direction 16a, and this refers to the

duty to “make such investigations as may be necessary”. Cafcass practitioners are aware that they must consider the best interests of the child in all aspects of their casework, including dealing with a request from a parent to record an interview.

## ■ Knives: Crime

**Stephen Hammond:** [31726]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people aged 18 to 20 have received custodial sentences of under 12 months for knife crime offences in London since 2010.

**Dominic Raab:**

Knife crime has no place on our streets and the Government continues to work with the police and partners, including retailers, to ensure that we reduce violence and knife crime. The latest criminal justice statistics show that more people are getting custodial sentences for carrying a knife, and for longer.

Information on knife crimes is published regularly on gov.uk. The latest publication is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/knife-possession-sentencing-quarterly-brief-october-to-december-2015>

The table below shows number of offenders aged 18-20 sentenced to immediate custody for less than 12 months for knife possession offences in London, 2010- 2014 the latest annual statistics.

**TABLE 1: NUMBER OF OFFENDERS AGED 18-20 SENTENCED TO IMMEDIATE CUSTODY FOR LESS THAN 12 MONTHS FOR KNIFE POSSESSION OFFENCES IN LONDON, 2010- 2014**

Year	Number of Offenders
2010	149
2011	166
2012	114
2013	128
2014	132

### Source:

Ministry of Justice, Police National Computer (PNC)

### Notes:

1. Data relates to offences prosecuted by a London Police Force and not for offenders that reside in London.

**TABLE 1: NUMBER OF OFFENDERS AGED 18-20 SENTENCED TO IMMEDIATE CUSTODY FOR LESS THAN 12 MONTHS FOR KNIFE POSSESSION OFFENCES IN LONDON, 2010- 2014**

2. All data have been taken from the MoJ extract of the Police National Computer. This includes details of all convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings given for recordable offences (see [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2000/1139/schedule/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2000/1139/schedule/made) for definition). It is therefore possible that some offenders presented in the table above have previously also received convictions for offences not recorded on the PNC.

3. Knife possession offences include:

Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse. Prevention of Crime Act 1953 Section 1.

- Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises. Criminal Justice Act 1988 Section 139 A (2) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Section 4 (1).
- Having an article with a blade or a point in a public place. Criminal Justice Act 1988 Section 139 (1) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Section 3 (1).
- Having an article with a blade or a point on school premises. Criminal Justice Act 1988 Section 139 (2) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 Section 4 (1).
- Threaten with an offensive weapon in a public place.
- Threaten with a blade/sharply pointed article on a school premises
- Threaten with an offensive weapon on a school premises.
- Threaten with a blade/sharply pointed article in a public place.

**Stephen Hammond:**

[\[31831\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the effect of non-custodial sentences for knife crime offenders on the rate of reoffending.

**Dominic Raab:**

We have made no assessment of the effect of non-custodial sentences on the rate of reoffending for those convicted of knife crimes. Sentencing is entirely a matter for our independent judiciary based on all the facts of each case.

## ■ Legal Opinion

**Sir Edward Garnier:**

[\[32011\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what information his Department holds on the number of times that lawyers have not been able to meet their clients in custody in England and Wales at less than 12 hours' notice due to staff shortages, staff disputes or other administrative reasons in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how

many Crown or magistrates' court hearings have been adjourned or delayed as a result in each of those years.

**Mike Penning:**

The specific information requested is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. We are committed to ensuring that prisoners have appropriate and early access to their legal representatives. Guidance to both prisons and legal practitioners on facilitating legal visits is published in Prison Service Instruction 16/2011.

■ **Ministry of Justice: European Social Fund**

**Dan Jarvis:** [31645]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much funding his Department received from the European Social Fund (a) between 2007 and 2014 and (b) from 2014 to the last month for which data is available.

**Andrew Selous:**

Money received from the European Social Fund (ESF) by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Co-financing Programme is published in the NOMS Annual Report and Accounts on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk). The latest accounts can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/434548/NOMS\\_AR14\\_15\\_report\\_accounts\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/434548/NOMS_AR14_15_report_accounts_Final_WEB.pdf)

■ **Ministry of Justice: Staff**

**Louise Haigh:** [31608]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to paragraph 1.287 of Budget 2016, what estimate he has made of how many civil servants will be relocated in his Department as a result of the programme to create centres of expertise outside the capital.

**Mike Penning:**

By the middle of this Parliament, MoJ will distribute more of its staff to locations around the country. We are currently developing options for how to do this, including the exact numbers that will be relocated to the regions.

■ **Ministry of Justice: Steatite**

**Andy Slaughter:** [28470]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Written Statement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, 25 February 2016, HCWS549, on offender management, what financial penalties were incurred by his Department as a result of terminating the contract to develop a bespoke tagging product with Steatite Limited; and how much his Department spent on that contract before its termination.

**Dominic Raab:**

The relevant termination costs are subject to ongoing commercial discussions. We have spent approximately £21m on programme mobilisation to date. The majority of this was



spent on investment in the telecommunications network, mapping software, monitoring service and other programme costs which the MoJ will be able to reuse for ongoing electronic monitoring work.

## ■ Non-molestation Orders

**Holly Lynch:** [\[31306\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what criteria are used to determine when a non-molestation order is the appropriate course of action.

**Mike Penning:**

Determining when a molestation order is an appropriate course of action is a judicial decision. The court will consider the evidence before it and all the circumstances of each case in determining whether to make a non-molestation order and what duration and conditions to set out. The court also has the power to make a non-molestation order on its own initiative in any family proceedings if it considers it would be of benefit to any party or relevant child.

**Holly Lynch:** [\[31725\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what provisions are in place to ensure that provision of court time for non-molestation orders between parents is dealt with as a matter of urgency.

**Caroline Dinenage:**

The family court takes the issue of domestic violence extremely seriously and can list urgent applications for a non-molestation order for the same day.

## ■ Offences against Children

**Dr Rupa Huq:** [\[31465\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the potential merits of the Children's House model for children who are victims of abuse.

**Mike Penning:**

This government has made tackling child abuse a priority. We set up the first ever cross-government Child Protection Taskforce to overhaul the way police, schools, social services and others work together in tackling this abhorrent crime. We have also invested an extra £100m to support vulnerable children and we are providing £7m for services supporting child abuse survivors.

We have not had any ministerial discussions about the Children's House model, but more widely the Government is committed to improving the experience of child witnesses in the criminal justice system. We have increased the number of intermediaries to support them to give their best evidence. In addition, vulnerable witnesses can give evidence away from the courtroom and away from the court building at remote sites set up nationally in each criminal justice region.

## ■ Prison Governors

**Carolyn Harris:** [\[31547\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when he will publish further information on his plans for increasing the autonomy of prison governors.

**Carolyn Harris:** [\[31548\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, which prisons have been selected to take part in the pilot scheme on increasing the autonomy of prison governors; and how long that pilot scheme is expected to last.

**Andrew Selous:**

We will announce our plans for reform prisons in due course.

## ■ Prisoner Escapes

**Jo Stevens:** [\[25437\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 26 January to Question 23624, how many offences were committed by prisoners who had absconded in the last year for which figures are available.

**Mike Penning:**

I refer the honourable member to the answer given to PQ 23624 on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

## ■ Prisons: Drugs

**Carolyn Harris:** [\[31543\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what research his Department is undertaking on the use and effects of psychoactive substances on the prison estate.

**Andrew Selous:**

We do not tolerate drugs in prison. There is a wide-ranging programme of work being undertaken by NOMS and its partners to better understand and to tackle the use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), which have a particularly destructive effect in prisons.

In April we will introduce widespread drug testing of prisoners for NPS, we are training sniffer dogs to detect NPS, and we are also working with Health partners and others to provide appropriate information, guidance and support to offenders and those working with them in prison. We have a comprehensive range of security measures in place to detect drugs, and to prevent smuggling into prisons.

## ■ Probation

**Jo Stevens:** [\[23743\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many cases have been transferred from community rehabilitation companies to the National Probation Service for risk escalation.

**Andrew Selous:**

*[Holding answer 27 January 2016]:* Offenders managed under the statutory Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements and those who present a high risk of serious

harm are managed by the National Probation Service (NPS), while medium- and lower-risk offenders are managed by the 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs).

Risk is a dynamic factor, and in many cases the degree of risk presented by an offender will change during the course of his or her sentence. The new probation structure that was put in place by the previous Government is designed to respond to this by providing for management of offenders initially allocated to a CRC to transfer to the NPS if their risk increases to the higher level.

In the first eight months following the handover of the CRCs to their new owners, 5281 offenders have been transferred from CRCs to NPS, out of a total of 234,229 offenders managed by the CRCs and NPS.

■ **Richard Lewis**

**Andy Slaughter:** [\[32201\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will conduct a new review of the case for recommending a pardon for Dic Penderyn.

**Dominic Raab:**

By convention, the Secretary of State for Justice only recommends the exercise of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy to grant a free pardon where evidence has come to light which demonstrates conclusively that the convicted individual was innocent and where all of the relevant appeal mechanisms have been exhausted.

As far as I am aware, no approach has been made either to the Court of Appeal or to the Criminal Cases Review Commission to appeal or review the conviction of Dic Penderyn. In light of that, it would not be appropriate for the Secretary of State for Justice to consider whether to recommend to Her Majesty The Queen that she exercise the Royal Prerogative of Mercy.

■ **Social Security Benefits: Fraud**

**Dr Rupa Huq:** [\[32171\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many convictions for benefit fraud were overturned on appeal between 2010 and 2014.

**Dr Rupa Huq:** [\[32213\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prosecutions conducted by local authorities resulted in convictions for benefit fraud between 2010 and 2014.

**Dominic Raab:**

The information requested is not available.

## ■ Witnesses

**Mims Davies:** [31609]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how his Department defines a vulnerable and intimidated witness; and what processes are in place to support such witnesses when giving evidence.

**Mike Penning:**

Vulnerable witnesses are defined under section 16 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 as all child witnesses (under 18 years), or any witness whose quality of evidence is likely to be diminished because they are suffering from a mental disorder (as defined by the Mental Health Act 1983), have a significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning, or a physical disability or disorder.

Under section 17 of the 1999 Act, a witness is considered 'intimidated' if they are giving evidence in a case involving a sexual, knife or gun, human trafficking or modern slavery offence, or if the court is satisfied that the quality of evidence given by the witness is likely to be diminished by reason of fear or distress on the part of the witness in connection with testifying in the proceedings.

Vulnerable and intimidated witnesses are eligible for special measures to support them to give their evidence. Measures include the use of intermediaries to help communication, allowing witnesses to give evidence by way of pre-recorded video and /or live video links from outside the courtroom, screening the witness from the accused, removing people from the public gallery whilst the witness gives evidence and the removal of gowns and wigs.

The full list of special measures available can be found in sections 23 to 30 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/23/part/II/chapter/II/crossheading/special-measures>

## ■ Youth Custody: Safety

**Jo Stevens:** [24386]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many incidents relating to safety of children in secure training centres and young offender institutions have been raised by Barnardo's advocates with (a) Youth Justice Board monitors and (b) local children's safeguarding boards in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

**Andrew Selous:**

Although youth offending is down, reoffending rates are far too high and the care and supervision of young offenders in custody is not good enough.

That is why the Justice Secretary has asked Charlie Taylor to conduct a review of youth justice. He will report back later this year with recommendations on how to improve the treatment of young people in our care.

The Table below is based on quarterly information provided to the Youth Justice Board by Barnardo's and includes all safeguarding issues raised with a Barnardo's advocate. When a safeguarding issue is raised with a Barnardo's advocate, they will make a referral through the establishment's safeguarding process, which is agreed with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). The YJB monitors continually check whether referrals are being made when they should be. Cases can also be directly referred to the LADO by any member of staff, a Barnardo's advocate, or a YJB monitor.

**Table 1: Number of safeguarding incidents reported to Barnardo's advocates in STCs and under-18 YOIs: July 2013-June 2015**

	JULY 2013 TO JUNE 2014	JULY 2014 TO JUNE 2015
STCs	29	26
Under-18 YOIs	172	208

Notes:

- The July 2014 to June 2015 data include Hassockfield STC and Hindley YOI which were decommissioned part way through this period

## TRANSPORT

### ■ Heavy Goods Vehicles: Road Traffic Control

Nusrat Ghani:

[\[32063\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to encourage data-sharing between highway authorities, mapping providers and satellite navigation companies to limit the use of inappropriate routes by HGVs.

**Andrew Jones:**

The Government is putting the UK at the forefront of innovation in road transport. For example, we are establishing the UK as a global centre for excellence in connected and autonomous vehicles, creating a 'Connected Corridor' from London to Dover to enable vehicles to communicate wirelessly with infrastructure and potentially other vehicles, and planning trials of truck platooning on our motorways.

The Department has brought together satnav manufacturers, mapping companies, local authorities and other industry organisations in a Satnav Summit and in further discussions. We are working with these parties to improve the information satnavs provide to road users, and enable better co-operation and information-sharing between local highway authorities and the industry through joint working.

ITS UK, an industry body, have also worked with the freight and haulage industry to promote the use of appropriate satnav devices designed specifically for HGVs.

**■ Railway Stations: Finance**

**Julian Sturdy:** [\[31569\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the fixed cost to local authorities for submitting bids to the New Station Fund on the number of bids being made.

**Andrew Jones:**

In order to qualify to bid for funding from the first or current round of the New Stations Fund, proposals need to be sufficiently developed in accordance with Network Rail's Governance for Railway Investment Projects ('GRIP') process, achieving approval in principle at GRIP 3 stage – option selection. We do not believe that the additional cost of submitting a bid would be so burdensome as to deter a bid being made.

**■ Roads: Calderdale**

**Holly Lynch:** [\[31355\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to page 75 of the Budget, how much of the £130 million announced for repairs of roads and bridges he plans will be spent in Calderdale; and when he expects Calderdale council to be in receipt of such funds.

**Andrew Jones:**

From the total funding of £180 million the Department for Transport has made available to assist local highway authorities affected by this winter storms, including £130 million as announced in the Budget 2016, we have agreed to allocate a total of £25 million to Calderdale Council to help repair damage to the local highway infrastructure for which they are responsible. This includes the £5.5 million announced in January 2016 to help replace Elland Bridge.

This funding is in addition to the funding of £20.5 million we are providing to the council for local highways maintenance funding to 2020/21.

**WORK AND PENSIONS****■ Children: Maintenance**

**Caroline Lucas:** [\[31990\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 29 February 2016 to Question 27464, how many joint investigations by the Child Maintenance Group Financial Investigation Unit and HM Revenue Customs in connection with income fraud for child maintenance and tax purposes are underway; and how many such investigations have been completed.

**Priti Patel:**

There are currently three on-going joint investigations between HMRC and CMG, two of these are currently awaiting trial at the Crown Court. Three joint investigations have been concluded, all with findings of guilt at the Crown Court, with sentences ranging

from 1 – 3 years imprisonment. Intelligence on a further 13 cases has also been passed to HMRC for them to consider.

**Caroline Lucas:** [\[31991\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 29 February 2016 to Question 27465, what the budget is for the Child Maintenance Group's Financial Investigations Unit for 2015-16.

**Priti Patel:**

The Financial Investigations Unit does not have a separate budget, but there is sufficient funding in the wider Child Maintenance Group budget for the planned level of staffing in the Unit.

**Caroline Lucas:** [\[32020\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the criteria are for referral of a child maintenance case to the Child Maintenance Group's Financial Investigations Unit.

**Priti Patel:**

The current referral criteria requires the non-resident parent to have agreed the income figure provided by HMRC and for this to have then been challenged by the parent with care.

However, it has been recognised that this criteria does not identify all potential triggers for referral and does not take into account those non-resident parents that do not respond to Child Maintenance Group (CMG) contact. Non-resident parents are told in their calculation letters to contact CMG if anything used in the calculation is wrong. CMG intend therefore, to use this instruction as a gateway to investigate cases where the HMRC information is challenged. The criteria for these challenges are currently being formulated, to ensure the Financial Investigations Unit act proportionately and will be delivered to all CMG caseworkers as soon as it is agreed.

**Caroline Lucas:** [\[32021\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans his Department has to extend the remit of the Child Maintenance Group to cover the investigation of cases in which a non-resident parent has failed to declare income to HM Revenue and Customs.

**Priti Patel:**

The Child Maintenance Group (CMG) is currently developing a referral criteria for cases where the non-resident parent has either not declared information to HMRC or, where the information received from HMRC is challenged by the parent with care or where it seems entirely improbable by the caseworker. The criteria will seek to ensure that there is some tangible substance to the allegation that will enable the Financial Investigations Unit to act proportionately. Once the criteria are approved, it will be available to all CMG caseworkers to identify cases for investigation. CMG are committed to having these enhanced processes in place to trial and evaluate, within the next two months.

**Caroline Lucas:**

[\[32022\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 29 February 2016 to Question 27368, on what basis the Child Support Agency allows non-resident parents to self-categorise as self-employed for child maintenance purposes; whether the new Child Maintenance Service plans to adopt the HM Revenue and Customs definition of self-employed when considering the employment status of non-resident parents under the 2012 child maintenance scheme or to allow non-resident parents to self-categorise their own employment status; and if he will make a statement.

**Priti Patel:**

For the older schemes of maintenance, income information is initially gathered from the parents themselves. As part of this initial conversation, they are asked whether they classify themselves as self-employed or not.

Calculation of their net income figure will always be based on the relevant taxation legislation for the nature of the employment, subject to any additional conditions imposed by Child Support legislation.

For the 2012 scheme, unlike the older schemes, the income used to calculate maintenance is a gross taxable earnings figure. Our primary mechanism for getting this information is direct from HM Revenue & Customs. As a gross figure is used, it does not matter whether they are employed or self-employed.

#### ■ Community Work: Standards

**Chris Heaton-Harris:**

[\[31683\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps he has taken to ensure that Community Work Placement providers are held to the standards required in their contract.

**Priti Patel:**

Community Work Placement performance is being actively managed, underpinned by improvement plans and local performance improvement activity, with contracts terminated early where providers have failed to meet their targets.

This action sends a clear message to providers that the Department expects them to deliver the performance they have promised in their bids.

#### ■ Disability Living Allowance: Cystic Fibrosis

**Chris Leslie:**

[\[31869\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many recipients of disability living allowance between the ages of 16 and 64 qualifying for each rate of (a) care and (b) mobility component have a main disabling condition of cystic fibrosis.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

The information requested is shown in the table below.



---

DLA CARE COMPONENT WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS AS AN IDENTIFIED MAIN DISABILITY CONDITION, AGED 16-64 - AUGUST 2015

---

All	3,770
Higher Rate	1,320
Lower Rate	720
Middle Rate	1,670
Nil Rate	70

DLA mobility component with Cystic Fibrosis aged 16-64 - August 2015

All	3,770
Higher Rate	1,780
Lower Rate	110
Nil Rate	1,880

---

SOURCE: DWP 100% WPLS.

---

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. 2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes cases where the payment has been suspended e.g. if they are in hospital.
3. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
4. DLA care and mobility components can be paid together or on their own. The nil payment row is where the claimant is in receipt of the care component and not the mobility component 5. This information does not include PIP which replaced DLA for new claimants aged 16 to 64 from 8 April 2013.

■ **Disability Living Allowance: Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

**Steve McCabe:**

[\[31788\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease in (a) England and (b) Wales applied for disability living allowance in each of the last five years.

**Steve McCabe:** [31789]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people who claim disability living allowance in (a) England and (b) Wales have been diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

The Department does not hold such information about the disabling condition of people who have applied for Disability Living Allowance. Information on DLA claimants' disabling condition is only held for those who have entitlement to the benefit.

The information we have for the number of people claiming (i.e. entitled to) Disability Living Allowance, by main disabling condition and geography is published and available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/default.asp>

Guidance for users can be found at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/home/newuser.asp>

#### ■ Employment and Support Allowance: Inflammatory Bowel Disease

**Steve McCabe:** [31790]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease in (a) England and (b) Wales applied for employment and support allowance in each of the last five years.

**Priti Patel:**

The information requested is not available.

**Steve McCabe:** [31791]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people who claim employment and support allowance in (a) England and (b) Wales have been diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease.

**Priti Patel:**

The number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants with Inflammatory Bowel Disease as their main disabling condition, in England is 9,130 and the number for Wales is 730.

Source: DWP 100% data.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The data is at August 2015 which is the latest available information.

#### ■ Employment Schemes: Training

**Neil Coyle:** [31307]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, which non-governmental organisations have been involved in developing training materials for the training and accreditation of work coaches.

**Priti Patel:**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is a registered centre for endorsed learning accreditation and has been delivering endorsed learning programmes for a number of years.

The accredited learning for Work Coaches builds on the qualifications developed for the Operational Delivery Profession, in association with City and Guilds and the Chartered Management Association.

DWP currently has a contract with Pearson Education Ltd to accredit the Work Coach learning journeys and to secure standards for those qualifications they certificate.

**■ Employment: Disability****Cat Smith:**[\[32066\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps he is taking to reduce the disability employment gap.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

We are committed to halving the disability employment gap. In the last year, the number of disabled people in work has increased by 152,000. At the Spending Review, we announced a real terms increase in funding to help disabled people and people with health conditions to get into work and remain in work. This includes:

- Increasing the reach of Access to Work, providing support to an additional 25,000 people by 2020/21
- The Work and Health Unit which has secured £115million of funding, including at least £40million for a work and health innovation fund. The Work and Health Innovation Fund will pilot new ways to help working age disabled people and people with health conditions get in, stay in, and return to work as well as benefit from improved health outcomes.
- A new Work and Health Programme, restructuring our current provision to focus on providing the best possible support for claimants with health conditions or disabilities, as well as those who are long-term unemployed.
- Engaging employers through our Disability Confident programme to see the business opportunities for employing disabled people.
- Making the best use of the new funding of up to £100million per year that we announced in the Budget 2015 for additional practical support to provide the right incentives and support to enable those who have limited capability, but who have some potential to prepare, for work to move closer to the labour market, and when they are ready, back into work.

■ **EU Globalisation Fund: Iron and Steel**

**Stephen Kinnock:** [\[32135\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2016 to Question 24713, if he will apply to the EU's Globalisation Adjustment Fund for funding for the UK steel industry.

**Priti Patel:**

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 November 2015 to question [UIN 14404](#).

■ **Housing Benefit: Social Rented Housing**

**Royston Smith:** [\[32198\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the discretionary housing payments scheme in preventing households in exceptional circumstances having to pay the under-occupancy penalty.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

For 2015/16 we have provided £60 million in Discretionary Housing Payment funding to help protect individuals affected by the removal of the spare room subsidy and we have protected this support at £60 million for 2016/17

Since 2013, £25 million of the Discretionary Housing Payment funding for the removal of the spare room subsidy has been allocated to support disabled people living in significantly adapted accommodation, including any adaptations made for disabled children. This funding support remains unchanged for 2016/17.

In the last financial year, the majority of local authorities spent less than or 100 per cent of their funding which indicates that they had sufficient funds to meet demand.

In the first six months of this financial year (2015/16) the majority of local authorities had spent less than 50 per cent of their Discretionary Housing Payment allocation.

■ **Housing Benefit: Southampton**

**Royston Smith:** [\[32200\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what guidance his Department has given to Southampton City Council on the level of funding that will be available for discretionary housing payment in future years.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

Local authorities, including Southampton City Council, were informed of their Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) funding allocation for this financial year on 4 February 2016.

Southampton City Council have been allocated DHP funding of £624,817 for 2016/17, a 35% increase from their 2015/16 allocation and local authorities are able to top up Central Government funding by a maximum of two and a half times this figure using their own funds

This package of Discretionary Housing Payment funding (£870 million over 5 years) will enable Local Authorities to provide support to the most vulnerable claimants.

■ **Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit: Reviews**

**Neil Gray:** [\[31960\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he expects the findings of the review of industrial injuries disablement benefit to be published.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

The review is ongoing and we will report our findings in due course.

■ **Jobseeker's Allowance: Voluntary Work**

**Charlotte Leslie:** [\[31780\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the effect on jobseeker's allowance claimants taking up volunteer work of the requirement for them to spend 35 hours each week searching for work; and whether that assessment was conducted prior to implementation of that policy.

**Priti Patel:**

There is no requirement for Jobseekers Allowance claimants to undertake 35 hours of job search a week. Claimants must however be actively seeking work in each week of their claim. This means they are expected to do all that they reasonably can to give them the best prospects of securing employment.

We recognise the benefits that volunteering can offer in enhancing a claimant's prospects of finding suitable employment. Time spent volunteering may therefore be taken into account when considering whether a person has taken all appropriate steps to actively seek work each week.

■ **Migration: EU Countries**

**Sir William Cash:** [\[31955\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will provide an estimate of (a) the total level of immigration from other EU member states and (b) the annual number of people coming to settle in the UK from other EU member states which would trigger the activation of the proposed alert and safeguard emergency brake mechanism; and what discussions he has had with his counterparts in other EU member states and the European Commission on the appropriate thresholds for the emergency brake mechanism to be activated.

**Mr Shailesh Vara:**

*[Holding answer 24 March 2016]:* Alongside the conclusions of the February European Council, the European Commission made a separate Declaration on the emergency brake (the 'Commission Declaration on the Safeguard Mechanism'). This Declaration set out the Commission's view that the exceptional situation that the brake is intended to cover exists in the UK today.

Additional details are a matter for the implementation of the proposal, and further announcements will be made in due course.

#### ■ Personal Independence Payment: Assessments

**Cat Smith:** [\[31444\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the increase in processing times for personal independence payment reassessment cases between the case return from assessment provider to his Department's case decision since October 2015.

**Cat Smith:** [\[31445\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the increase in end-to-end personal independence payment processing time from 11 to 13 weeks.

**Cat Smith:** [\[31450\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make an assessment of the role of personal independence payment assessment providers in the increase in processing time between the case referral to assessment provider to return from the assessment provider to the government office since July 2015.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

Following a controlled start from July 2015, full Personal Independence Payment (PIP) roll-out commenced in October 2015, with an increase in the numbers of existing Disability Living Allowance claimants being asked to claim PIP.

In addition and in order to improve the customer journey, the Department has made some changes to the way in which it monitors Assessment Provider performance. These changes mean that Providers now have more time in which to complete assessments and return reports to the Department and also gives them greater flexibility to obtain further evidence to support claims: this therefore allows more time for scheduling appointments that better suit claimants and Assessment Providers, increases accuracy in assessments and reports and ensures opportunities for paper based reviews are maximised thereby reducing the demand for face-to-face appointments. Although these changes may see slightly longer average clearance times, they remain within expected levels.

#### ■ Personal Independence Payment: Mental Illness

**Michelle Donelan:** [\[31902\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what work his Department is undertaking to support people with mental health conditions who are subject to the personal independent payments assessment process.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

Claimants identified as having mental health issues can access additional support at any point in the assessment process. At the new claim stage: if they do not return their claim

form, we will arrange for the claimant to be referred directly to the assessment provider for their assessment without the need for completing the form. At the assessment stage: we would support any claimant with mental health issues to have company with them for their assessment.

Additionally, Atos and Capita both employ Mental and Cognitive Champions to provide advice and support to their health assessors on conditions and disabilities affecting mental, cognitive and behavioural function. We also work closely with disability organisations to develop training and increase awareness of these conditions amongst health assessors.

### ■ Personal Independence Payment: Wales

Mr David Hanson:

[\[31463\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average duration has been of face-to-face consultations for personal independence payments in (a) Wales and (b) each postcode area in Wales in each of the last three financial years.

Justin Tomlinson:

The average duration of Personal Independence Payment consultation times in (a) Wales and (b) by postcode area of Wales (in minutes) were:

POSTCODE	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
CF	56	54	51
CH	58	57	57
GL	76	67	66
HR	76	73	59
LD	67	60	57
LL	58	57	56
NP	59	59	53
SA	61	60	54
SY	73	66	59
<b>Wales (Total)</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>54</b>

### ■ Remploy

Ann Clwyd:

[\[32065\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many former workers of Remploy factories in each Parliamentary constituency are (a) looking for work, (b) in work, (c) retired,

(d) in receipt of employment and support allowance and (e) in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

The table below is taken from the August 2015 Labour Market Statistics and shows the last data on number of former Remploy employees in work; claiming JSA or claiming ESA in England, Scotland and Wales.

CURRENTLY IN WORK (LMS)	CLAIMING JSA (LMS)	CLAIMING ESA (LMS)
867	234	422

These statistics were gathered as part of the 18 month People Help and Support Package (PHSP) made available to ex-Remploy employees. We do not have the required data broken down by constituency and we did not collect data for those looking for work but not claiming ESA or JSA.

When the PHSP ended in August 2015, 1,523 former disabled employees had received support from a Personal Case Worker and 867 were in work. A total of 1,182 jobs had been found, 422 were on ESA and 234 on JSA.

DWP asked all disabled former employees made redundant from Remploy to give permission to be tracked. The data we have are necessarily incomplete because they only record the progress and outcomes of those individuals who gave this permission.

## ■ Social Security Benefits: Correspondence

**Royston Smith:**

[\[32006\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that reforms of the welfare system are communicated clearly to recipients of welfare payments.

**Justin Tomlinson:**

DWP communicates reforms of the welfare system to recipients of welfare payments in advance of the change and using the most appropriate channel including on-line, face to face, telephone and in writing.

To ensure that these communications are clear we follow pre-defined standards that meet accessibility requirements, are readable and easy to act on. We test products to confirm this.



## MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

### HOME OFFICE

#### ■ Asylum: Children

Sarah Champion: [\[16863\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many young people aged between 18 and 25 who applied for asylum as unaccompanied children were served with removal directions in each year from 2010 to 2014.

**An error has been identified in the written answer given on 26 November 2015. The correct answer should have been:**

James Brokenshire:

The figures in the below table detail the number of former unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged between 18 and 25 who were served with Removal Directions in each year between 2010 and 2014.

REMOVAL DIRECTIONS SERVED	NUMBER OF CASES
2010	306
2011	478
2012	327
2013	330
2014	245

REMOVAL DIRECTIONS SERVED IN	NUMBER OF CASES
2010	697
2011	768
2012	543
2013	508
2014	324

**This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.**

The figures in the below table detail the number of persons who initially claimed asylum as unaccompanied children and who applied to extend or vary their leave in each year between 2010 and 2015. The figure for 2015 is correct up to 30 June 2015.

YEAR	DECISION MADE IN	APPLICATIONS TO VARY OR EXTEND LEAVE CASES	No of
2010		688	
2011		689	
2012		653	
2013		519	
2014		836	
2015		696	
<b>Total</b>		<b>4081</b>	

**This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.**

The figures in the below table detail the number of certified decisions made on cases involving unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the last 5 years. The figure for 2015 is correct up to 30 June 2015. In cases where a certification decision on an asylum and human rights claim was made, consideration would also have been given to whether it was appropriate to grant leave in accordance with the policy on asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

CERTIFICATION DECISION MADE	NO OF CASES
2010	27
2011	9
2012	10
2013	18
2014	87
2015	85
DECISION MADE IN	NUMBER OF CASES
2010	26
2011	9

DECISION MADE IN	NUMBER OF CASES
2012	11
2013	20
2014	90
2015	85

**This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.**

The figures in the below table detail the number of former unaccompanied asylum seeking children who were either removed from the United Kingdom or departed voluntarily in each year between 2010 and 2015. The figure for 2015 is correct up to 30 June 2015.

YEAR OF ASYLUM APPLICATION	VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE	ENFORCED REMOVAL
2010	40	65
2011	28	38
2012	15	35
2013	11	44
2014	0	15
2015	0	0

	APPLIED FOR ASYLUM IN	NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED
<b>Voluntary</b>	<b>Enforced</b>	
2010	48	77
2011	28	42
2012	18	36
2013	11	44
2014	0	15
2015	0	0

**This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.**

The figures in the below table detail the number of former unaccompanied asylum seeking children who had their asylum claim certified and were aged between 18 and 25 when they were removed from the United Kingdom in each year between 2010 and 2015.

REMOVALS	NO OF CASES
2010	4
2011	5
2012	3
2013	5
2014	13
2015	22

REMOVED IN	NUMBER OF CASES
2010	3
2011	7
2012	8
2013	6
2014	14
2015	22

**This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.**

In the last five years, there has only been one case in which a former unaccompanied asylum seeking child had their claim for asylum certified and later lodged an out of country appeal against this decision. In this case the out of country appeal was dismissed.

The figures in the below table detail how many former unaccompanied asylum seeking children, whose claim for asylum was certified by the Home Office, have been removed from the United Kingdom in each of the last 5 years. The figure for 2015 is correct up to 30 June 2015.

REMOVALS	NO OF CASES
2010	2
2011	7
2012	3
2013	6
2014	13
2015	22

REMOVED IN	NUMBER OF CASES
2010	9
2011	11
2012	13
2013	11
2014	17
2015	24

This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.