



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 6 September 2017 and the information is correct at the time of publication (07:10 P.M., 06 September 2017). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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Notes:

Questions marked thus **[R]** indicate that a relevant interest has been declared.
Questions with identification numbers of **900000 or greater** indicate that the question was originally tabled as an oral question and has since been unstarred.

ANSWERS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ **Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries**

Justin Madders:

[\[5836\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent investment the Government has made to support the supply chain for the automotive sector.

Claire Perry:

[Holding answer 5 September 2017]: Through the Advanced Propulsion Centre, the government has committed £500m over 10 years to accelerate the development of affordable low-carbon vehicle technologies that will form the basis of future vehicle supply chains, and maintain the international competitiveness of the UK automotive sector.

The Automotive Investment Organisation is leading government action to secure investment in manufacturing and R&D facilities. This is central to increasing the level of local content in UK built vehicles, which increased to 44% in 2017, up from 36% in 2011.

The £246m Faraday Challenge, launched in July 2017, will ensure the UK leads the world in battery development.

CABINET OFFICE

■ **Cabinet Office: Legatum Institute**

Tom Brake:

[\[8423\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will publish details of all (a) meetings and (b) telephone calls that have taken place between the Cabinet Secretary and representatives of the Legatum Institute in the last 18 months.

Damian Green:

All meetings of Ministers and Permanent Secretaries with external stakeholders are published as part of the Cabinet Office quarterly transparency releases.

■ **Government Departments: Buildings**

Peter Dowd:

[\[6498\]](#)

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how much has been raised from selling government buildings in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013, (e) 2014, (f) 2015, (g) 2016 and (h) 2017.

Caroline Nokes:

The Government has raised the following from the sale of Government land and buildings in the following financial years.

2010-11 £257,256,884

2011-12 £617,322,479

2012-13 £388,855,250

2013-14 £311,519,975

2014-15 £224,541,513

2015-16 £973,430,475

In the autumn the Government will be publishing details of Government land and buildings sold in 2016/17 including the money raised. Selling surplus land and property is an important part of delivering an efficient and fit-for-purpose Government estate. It delivers value for the taxpayer and supports local growth, including unlocking land for new homes.

TREASURY**■ Air Passenger Duty: Northern Ireland**

Peter Dowd: [\[6508\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to cut air passenger duty in Northern Ireland.

Andrew Jones:

The Chancellor keeps all taxes under constant review, announcing changes at fiscal events. Spring Budget 2017 announced that Air Passenger Duty rates for 2019-20 will be set at Autumn Budget 2017, to provide good notice for the airline industry.

The government will commission a report into the effects of APD and VAT on tourism in Northern Ireland. Further details of this will be announced in due course.

■ Assets: Departmental Coordination

Alex Cunningham: [\[6380\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will establish a cross-departmental working group to implement consistent reporting standards across all asset classes and product structures.

Stephen Barclay:

The Government and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) are committed to ensuring that savers and investors are treated fairly when they make investment decisions and are able to get the best outcomes from their investments.

The Government welcomes the FCA's final report on their competition market study on the asset management sector.

We will be studying the final findings and remedies closely to see what the Government can do to support the regulator's work and deliver the right outcomes for people who rely on their pension savings.

■ Capital Gains Tax

John McDonnell:

[6565]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much revenue was lost to the Exchequer as a result of the reduction of capital gains tax (a) basic rate to 10 per cent and (b) main rate to 20 per cent excluding residential property and carried interest since that reduction was implemented.

Mel Stride:

The estimated effect on Exchequer revenue resulting from the reduction of capital gains tax (a) basic rate to 10 per cent and (b) main rate to 20 per cent excluding residential property and carried interest was published at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508147/PU1912_Policy_Costings_FINAL3.pdf.

■ Corporation Tax

John McDonnell:

[6563]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what equality impact assessment his Department has carried out on the Government's plan to cut corporation tax to 17 per cent by 2020.

John McDonnell:

[6564]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what distributional analysis his Department has carried out on the Government's plan to cut corporation tax to 17 per cent by 2020.

Mel Stride:

The government has not conducted a full distributional analysis of cutting corporation tax to 17%. This is because there is insufficient data about the income distribution of corporate shareholders and uncertainty about the incidence of corporation tax.

However, it is widely accepted, including by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, that a significant proportion of the burden of corporation tax is borne by workers and consumers, not just shareholders.

As with all tax measures, the Government has published a tax information and impact note (TIIN) for this measure which provides our assessment that there are no equalities impacts.

■ Courts: Modernisation

Peter Dowd:

[6491]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the cost of plans to modernise the courts system.

Elizabeth Truss:

The government is investing approximately £1 billion in modernising our courts and tribunals, and improving the digital infrastructure for our criminal courts.

■ **Fire and Rescue Services: Pay****John McDonnell:**[\[6554\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how the Government's estimates for 2017-18 as set out in the Supply and Appropriations (Main Estimates) 2010 will accommodate any increased pay offer to the Fire and Rescue Services.

Elizabeth Truss:

Central Government does not play a role in the pay negotiation process for firefighters. It is the responsibility of the National Joint Council (NJC) to consider what pay award is appropriate, taking into account views of fire and rescue authorities and the budgets available.

■ **Hotels and Restaurants: VAT****Peter Dowd:**[\[6493\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to reduce VAT on hotels and restaurants in Northern Ireland.

Mel Stride:

EU law does not allow for the application of different VAT rates in different regions of the UK. VAT rates must therefore apply across the whole of the UK. The government has considered the economic costs and benefits of a reduced rate of VAT for tourism related activities and has concluded that there is currently insufficient evidence that this would provide value for money.

The government will look again at the impact of both VAT and APD on tourism in Northern Ireland and will commission a detailed consultative report to gather further evidence to recommend how best to build upon the growing success of that sector.

■ **London Stock Exchange: Foreign Companies****John McDonnell:**[\[6592\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has made representations to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) on the regulatory criteria the FCA uses in determining the requirements on companies controlled by other governments in seeking premium status listing status on the London Stock Exchange.

Stephen Barclay:

The criteria used for the UK's listing requirements are a matter for the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The government does not as a matter of course comment on FCA consultations and decisions.

The independence of the FCA is vital to its role. Its credibility and authority would be undermined if it were possible for the government to intervene in its decision-making.

The FCA published its consultation on a proposal to create a new premium listing category for sovereign controlled companies on 13 July 2017. Interested parties have until 13 October 2017 to respond to the new proposals.

■ Mortgages: EU Nationals

Helen Hayes:

[\[6828\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has received (a) representations or (b) reports on an increase in discrimination towards non-UK EU nationals in terms of their access to mortgage financing on account of uncertainty as to the future status of EU citizens; and if he will make a statement.

Stephen Barclay:

The Treasury has not received any representations or reports on an increase in discrimination. UK Finance, the main industry trade body for this sector, have confirmed that mortgage lenders intend to pursue a business-as-usual approach throughout the withdrawal negotiation period, and will continue to treat customers fairly and act in the best interests of customers. Lenders are not currently adopting any changes to their lending criteria regarding citizenship status.

The Government's objective is to provide reassurance and certainty to the 3 million EU citizens living in the UK. Negotiations with the EU have been constructive, and will consider the issue of economic rights at the next round of negotiations.

Helen Hayes:

[\[6829\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has made an assessment of the potential occurrence of discrimination in access to mortgages for non-UK EU citizens; and if he will make a statement.

Stephen Barclay:

The Treasury has not made an assessment of the potential occurrence of discrimination in access to mortgages for non-UK EU citizens. UK Finance, the main industry trade body for this sector, have confirmed that mortgage lenders intend to pursue a business-as-usual approach throughout the withdrawal negotiation period, and will continue to treat customers fairly and act in the best interests of customers. Lenders are not currently adopting any changes to their lending criteria regarding citizenship status.

The Government's objective is to provide reassurance and certainty to the 3 million EU citizens living in the UK. Negotiations with the EU have been constructive, and will consider the issue of economic rights at the next round of negotiations.

■ Offshore Trusts: Taxation

John McDonnell:

[\[6461\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to introduce measures to tackle tax avoidance and evasion by people through nom-dom status and offshore trusts.

John McDonnell: [\[6462\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate his Department has made of the loss of revenue to the Exchequer as a result of (a) tax avoidance and (b) tax evasion by people and companies through offshore trusts in each of the last 10 years.

John McDonnell: [\[6560\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to introduce measures to tackle tax avoidance and evasion by people and companies through offshore trusts.

Mel Stride:

Since 2010, the Government have secured almost £160 billion in additional tax revenue as a result of actions to tackle tax evasion, tax avoidance and non-compliance. This includes more than £2.7 billion from offshore tax evaders, with action both at home and abroad.

The UK already has effective legislation to tackle avoidance involving offshore trusts. We announced our intention to legislate further, making it harder for anybody to avoid paying tax on funds held in offshore trusts and to introduce tougher sanctions for those who fail to declare past UK tax liabilities on offshore interests before October 2018. The Government is introducing legislation which will raise over £1.5bn from non-domiciled individuals over a five-year period.

The UK has been at the forefront of international work which has seen over 100 countries commit to automatically exchange financial account information. Furthermore, we have set up a register for trusts with tax consequences, we have introduced new civil and criminal sanctions for offshore tax evaders and those who help them, and since 2010, we have invested over £1.8 billion in HMRC to tackle evasion, avoidance and non-compliance.

■ Overseas Aid

Chris Law: [\[6257\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to improve oversight of the UK aid strategy across government; and what steps he has taken in response to the National Audit Office recommended in its report on Managing the Official Development Assistance Target that his Department should improve its cross-government analysis of the effect of ODA expenditure.

Elizabeth Truss:

In line with commitments in the UK Aid Strategy, the government has introduced robust monitoring, governance and oversight arrangements to ensure value for money of all Official Development Assistance (ODA) spend, including through setting up an ODA Senior Officials Group which reports to Ministers.

■ Pensions

Alex Cunningham: [6383]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will hold discussions with the Financial Conduct Authority to bring forward its postponed 2017 review of the effectiveness of Independent Governance Committees in protecting consumer interests in contract-based pension schemes.

Stephen Barclay:

This is an operational matter for the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), who are operationally independent from Government.

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

■ Public Finance

John McDonnell: [6549]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what equality impact assessment his Department has carried out on the provisions of the forthcoming Finance Bill; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the relevant documents when that Bill receives its First Reading.

John McDonnell: [6550]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what distributional analysis his Department has carried out on the forthcoming Finance Bill; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the relevant documents when that Bill receives First Reading.

John McDonnell: [6590]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what distributional analysis his Department has carried out on the decrease of capital gains tax (a) basic rate to 10 per cent and (b) main rate to 20 per cent excluding residential property and carried interest.

John McDonnell: [6770]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what equality impact assessment his Department has undertaken on the reduction of capital gains tax (a) basic rate to 10 per cent and (b) main rate to 20 per cent excluding on residential property and carried interest.

Mel Stride:

HM Treasury publishes distributional analysis of the cumulative impact of the Government's tax, welfare, and public service spending decisions at each fiscal event, the latest of which can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/597473/impact_on_households_SB2017_web.pdf

The Government publishes Tax Information and Impact notes (TIINs) for all tax policy changes. TIINs provide an explanation of the policy objective together with details of the tax impact on the Exchequer, the economy, individuals, businesses, civil society organisations, as well as any equality or other specific area of impact. All TIINs,

including those for the Budget 2016 changes to Capital Gains Tax, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tax-information-and-impact-notes-tiins>

■ Public Sector: Pay

John McDonnell: [6555]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what equality impact assessment his Department has carried out on the pay of public sector workers who are not covered by a pay review body; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that assessment.

Elizabeth Truss:

It is the responsibility of relevant departments to consider equalities implications for their workforces.

John McDonnell: [6556]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what distributional analysis his Department has carried out on the pay of public sector workers who are not covered by a pay review body; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that analysis.

Elizabeth Truss:

It is the responsibility of the relevant departments and employers to consider how to distribute the funds available for their annual pay awards.

■ Research: Expenditure

John McDonnell: [6548]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans the Government has put in place to encourage private sector investment in research and development.

John McDonnell: [6593]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate his Department has made of UK research and development spending for 2016; and if he will make a statement.

John McDonnell: [6731]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what proportion of GDP research and development spending accounted for in 2016; and how that proportion compares with average national research and development spending as a proportion of GDP across the (a) OECD, (b) EU and (c) Eurozone.

Elizabeth Truss:

Statistics on R&D are collected and published annually by the Office of National Statistics. The latest data available shows that in 2015, expenditure on R&D performed in the UK was £31.6 billion – its highest level on record. This is the equivalent of 1.7% GDP.

Government will spend an additional £2bn per year by 2020-21, around a 20% increase in total annual government R&D spending. In addition to public investment in R&D – each £1 of public expenditure on R&D leverages an average of £1.36 of private investment across the economy – many other factors encourage private sector investment. These include our competitive tax system and business environment – the government also increased the rate of business R&D tax credits, providing £2.45bn of relief to 21,000 business in 2014-15 – and our ongoing commitment to improving the nations skills, including in STEM subjects.

Information on international spending is published regularly by the OECD and the European Commission is available online. The government's increased spending signals that the UK remains committed to being at the forefront of global science, research and innovation.

■ Russel Griggs

Bill Esterson: [\[6143\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what representations he has received on the appointment of Professor Russell Griggs as the independent reviewer of HBOS Reading fraud cases.

Bill Esterson: [\[6144\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Financial Conduct Authority on the appointment of Professor Russell Griggs as the independent reviewer of HBOS fraud cases.

Bill Esterson: [\[6145\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what consultation his Department has carried out with people affected by HBOS fraud on the appointment of Professor Russell Griggs as the independent reviewer.

Bill Esterson: [\[6146\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential conflicts of interest in the appointment of Professor Russell Griggs as the independent reviewer of the HBOS fraud cases.

Stephen Barclay:

In March 2017, Professor Russel Griggs was appointed as the Independent Reviewer of HBOS Reading customer compensation cases by Lloyds Banking Group (LBG), in consultation with the Financial Conduct Authority. His appointment is therefore not a matter for government. The government expects that the appointment of Professor Griggs will help LBG to resolve outstanding cases as soon as possible, so that any victims of fraud at HBOS Reading can be properly compensated.

■ Sugar: Taxation**Angela Rayner:** [6484]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much revenue will be raised from the sugar levy in (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19, (c) 2019-20, (d) 2020-21 and (e) 2021-22.

Andrew Jones:

The latest forecast for the revenue raised by the Soft Drinks Industry Levy was published by the Office for Budget Responsibility in March 2017. It is available here: <http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/download/march-2017-economic-and-fiscal-outlook-charts-and-tables-fiscal/>

■ Taxation: Electronic Government**Peter Dowd:** [6497]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the cost of the Government's changes to making tax digital.

Mel Stride:

Information on the Making Tax Digital (MTD) rollout was given in my written statement to the House on 13 July which is available here.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statements/?page=1&max=20&questiontype=AllQuestions&house=commons%2clords&use-dates=True&answered-from=2017-07-13&answered-to=2017-07-13&dept=14&uin=HCWS47>

The Government's changes to the MTD timetable, which will now see MTD phased in over a longer period, will ensure that businesses have plenty of time to adapt to the reforms.

HM Revenue and Customs' impact assessment, published on 8 March, will be updated at Autumn Budget.

■ Taxation: Multinational Companies**Caroline Flint:** [6101]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of automatic exchange of information on beneficial ownership as a means of introducing country-by-country reporting; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such automatic exchange of information for securing a multilateral agreement to introduce public country-by-country reporting.

Caroline Flint: [6102]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he plans to issue guidance to business on the EU definition of commercially sensitive information for the purposes of the use of that term in the final form of Directive 2013/34EU on public country-by-country reporting.

Caroline Flint: [\[6103\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate his Department has made of the number of countries the Government would need to support any multilateral agreement on public country-by-country reporting for the purposes of implementation of paragraph 17 (6) of Schedule 19 of the Finance Act 2016; and what steps he is taking to secure the support of that number of countries.

Caroline Flint: [\[6104\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the Government is assessing the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the EU template for public country-by-country reporting.

John McDonnell: [\[6559\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has for the implementation of the provisions of schedule 19, paragraph 17, line 6 of the Finance Act 2016 on country-by-country reporting.

Mel Stride:

Knowing who ultimately owns and controls a company is a crucial part of the global fight against corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing. The UK is leading by example and our freely accessible public register of company beneficial ownership went live in June 2016.

Last year, the UK co-launched a ground breaking new initiative with the EU G5 for the systematic exchange of beneficial ownership information. Since launching the initiative, over 50 countries, including all of the Crown Dependencies and relevant Overseas Territories, have signed up.

Building on the success of that multilateral approach, the UK is now pushing for multilateral agreement on a model of public country-by-country reporting (CBCR).

It is important that there is a level of international support and co-ordination that leads to both domestic and foreign headquartered groups being required to report information for a comprehensive range of countries in which they operate.

That is necessary to ensure that public CBCR meets its objective and to avoid the initiative distorting business decisions on their group structure and headquarter location.

The UK is, as part of this, engaging constructively with the European Commission proposal for public CBCR.

That includes the high-level aims of the Directive, and the more detailed aspects of the Directive that are alluded to in the question, on which discussions are still ongoing.

■ Taxation: Prosecutions

John McDonnell:

[\[6732\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many cases HM Revenue and Customs has pursued to prosecution for tax avoidance and evasion since 2010.

Mel Stride:

The number of prosecutions for tax avoidance and evasion for each full year since 2010 are as below:

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS (CONVICTIONS + ACQUITTALS)	CONVICTIONS	ACQUITTALS
2010-11	390	336	54
2011-12	449	413	36
2012-13	576	540	36
2013-14	761	716	45
2014-15	709	642	67
2015-16	880	808	72
2016-17	886	807	79

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not act as a prosecuting authority. All prosecutions must be authorized by the relevant independent prosecuting authority, which for England and Wales would be the Crown Prosecution Service; for Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service; and for Northern Ireland, the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Derelict Land: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham:

[\[4796\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what discussions his Department has had with local authorities on the development of brownfield sites for housing in the West Midlands.

Alok Sharma:

[Holding answer 18 July 2017]: My officials have had various discussions with a range of local authorities in the West Midlands. The Government has an ambitious programme to bring brownfield land back into use in England, as set out in the Housing White Paper.

■ Fire Prevention: Disability

Neil Coyle:

[\[5746\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that disabled people being evacuated from buildings that fail fire safety inspections are found suitably accessible housing.

Alok Sharma:

The Government believes it is important that people who require accessible housing are given the right level of priority under a council's housing allocation scheme, and that councils and social landlords are able to make the best use of affordable housing in their area, including accommodation which is accessible or has been adapted. We have retained the statutory 'reasonable preference' requirements which ensure that priority for social housing is given to those who need to move on medical and welfare grounds, and this includes grounds relating to a disability.

The Government also funds the Disabled Facilities Grant, which pays for adaptations to the homes of disabled people to help them live safely and independently. Local housing authorities are under a statutory duty to provide adaptations for those people who qualify for the grant. The Disabled Facilities Grant funding for England for 2017-18 is £431 million.

■ Grenfell Tower: Fires

Andrew Gwynne:

[\[5175\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps have been taken to facilitate communication between survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire separated and housed in various hotels and temporary accommodation.

Alok Sharma:

There are 148 families or individuals from Grenfell Tower who have been provided with key workers and 24 from Grenfell walk.

Ensuring that the community feels properly supported and engaged is a critical part of rebuilding lives. After the tragedy, the Westway Assistance Centre initially provided access to support and government services. The new Community Assistance Centre which opened on 20 July, is now providing official support to those affected by this tragedy and offering space for the community to meet up. We are also supporting the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council's work to engage the local community and will work with them to ensure it fully meets the needs of residents and supporting community organisations.

■ High Rise Flats: Fire Prevention

Helen Hayes:

[\[4090\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, by what date all the non-ACM housing cladding samples received to date will be tested.

Alok Sharma:

In line with advice from a panel of independent experts, the testing process for cladding samples being run by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) is specifically designed to characterise the core of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding samples.

The tests are not designed for, nor can they provide suitable information on, any non-Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding samples.

In each of these cases the landlord will be informed that their sample is not ACM cladding and has not been tested. All non-ACM samples are being kept by the BRE until further notice.

DEFENCE**■ Defence Business Services National Security Vetting: York****Rachael Maskell:**[\[6038\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to his Department's paper Better Defence Estate, published in November 2016, when he plans to announce a decision on the future location of the Defence Business Services National Security Vetting, currently based in York.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Imphal Barracks has been identified for disposal. The Ministry of Defence will reprovide for the Defence Business Services National Security Vetting, a decision on its future location will be made prior to the closure of the site in 2031.

■ Duncombe Barracks**Rachael Maskell:**[\[6118\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to his Department's Better Defence Estate strategy published in November 2016, when he plans to announce a decision on the future of Duncombe Barracks in York.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Duncombe Barracks was announced as surplus to requirements under the Future Reserves 2020 programme on 3 July 2013. This is a separate programme of work to that being undertaken as part of the estate optimisation strategy.

■ Military Aircraft**Mr Kevan Jones:**[\[6204\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what estimate he has made of the whole-lifetime cost of operating RAF (a) Hercules and (b) A400M fleets.

Harriett Baldwin:

The Infrastructure and Projects Authority Annual Report on Major Projects 2016-2017 gives a Whole Life Cost total baseline for A400M Atlas as £3,614.94 million for 22 aircraft.

For Hercules, the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. This is due to their length of service.

■ **Ministry of Defence: Mental Health Services**

Mr Kevan Jones:[\[6739\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many mental health practitioners were employed by his Department in each of the last five years.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The numbers are shown in the following table, rounded to the nearest 5.

	REGULAR	RESERVE	CIVILIAN	TOTAL
2012				
Psychiatrist	20	~	<i>Not available</i>	20
Psychologist	0	0	<i>Not available</i>	0
Mental Health Nurse	120	30	<i>Not available</i>	150
Social Worker	0	0	<i>Not available</i>	0
TOTAL	140	30	<i>Not available</i>	170
2013				
Psychiatrist	10	10	5	25
Psychologist	~	0	10	10
Mental Health Nurse	120	50	10	180
Social Worker	0	0	10	10
TOTAL	130	60	35	225
2014				
Psychiatrist	10	~	5	15
Psychologist	~	0	10	10

	REGULAR	RESERVE	CIVILIAN	TOTAL
Mental Health Nurse	120	40	10	170
Social Worker	0	0	10	10
TOTAL	130	40	35	205
2015				
Psychiatrist	10	~	5	15
Psychologist	~	0	20	20
Mental Health Nurse	110	40	20	170
Social Worker	0	0	10	10
TOTAL	120	40	55	215
2016				
Psychiatrist	15	~	5	20
Psychologist	~	0	25	25
Mental Health Nurse	105	50	15	170
Social Worker	0	0	10	10
TOTAL	120	50	55	225

(~) denotes a number less than five.

■ Queen's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry Museum

Rachael Maskell:

[\[6099\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what plans he has to close the Queen's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry Museum as a result of the proposals in his Department's Better Defence Estate report, published in November 2016.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The Queen's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry Museum was not included in the Better Defence Estate Strategy announcement and there are currently no plans to close it under the strategy.

■ RAF Northolt: Aviation

Gareth Thomas: [\[6451\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to section 4.22 of the Project Ark report by Ernst and Young of 1 February 2012, whether spare capacity at RAF Northolt can accommodate up to 20,000 business jets per year.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6454\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to section 1.24 of the Project Ark report by Ernst and Young of 1 February 2012, for what reasons planning permission has not been sought from the London Borough of Hillingdon for the proposed works at RAF Northolt.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6455\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to section 1.25 of the Project Ark report by Ernst and Young of 1 February 2012, whether the runway at RAF Northolt is operationally capable of receiving large commercial aircraft.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6525\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many meetings his Department have had with commercial airlines on matters relating to RAF Northolt over the last five years.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6527\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he has undertaken a cost-benefit analysis of operating 12,000 commercial flights annually from RAF Northolt.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6533\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he plans for RAF Northolt to apply for a Civil Aviation Authority licence.

Harriett Baldwin:

Between 2011 and 2013 the Government reviewed a range of options for RAF Northolt, including the potential for disposal or transfer of the aerodrome functions to a civil operator. As part of this, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) commissioned the 2012 Project Ark report. The reference to civil licences in the Project Ark report was in relation to some of these options. Following this review, in April 2013 MOD Ministers took the decision to retain RAF Northolt as a military aerodrome, and other options were not taken forward. Therefore, civil licences were not considered further.

The Project Ark report said that there may be potential to increase civil use on the military aerodrome up to 20,000 movements. However, Ministers took the decision to raise the self-imposed cap on civil movements to 12,000 movements per year. There are no plans to revisit this decision.

Following that April 2013 review decision, the Project Ark report was archived, many of its options remained hypothetical, and it is not an active planning document.

Medium-size airliner type aircraft can be operated at RAF Northolt. Alongside the based BAe 146 military airframes, a number of European allies operate medium-airliner-sized military aircraft into RAF Northolt on military business. However, civil movements remain under strict terms and conditions which specifically limit operating hours and the number of passengers, and exclude Scheduled Commercial Operations. This has the effect of limiting the types of civil aircraft which can operate into RAF Northolt to business aviation flights.

No meetings have been held with commercial airlines about RAF Northolt, but Ministers did in late 2015 and early 2016 correspond twice in reply to the Chief Executive of Flybe, following an unsolicited bid from that airline. This was not considered further. There are no plans to change the strict terms and conditions that limit the number of passengers on civil movements and exclude scheduled flights.

As the planned runway works will see the refurbishment of existing infrastructure for military requirements, and no change of use is planned, there is no requirement for planning permission.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6522\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether RAF service personnel are involved in providing services for commercial flights at RAF Northolt.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6523\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many non-military staff are employed at RAF Northolt for the purposes of providing services for commercial flights; and how much the provision of such staff costs.

Harriett Baldwin:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the then Minister of State for Defence Procurement (Mr Phillip Dunne) on 22 February 2016 to Question 26707.

One Ministry of Defence civil servant at Executive Officer grade is employed at RAF Northolt with a salary range of £24,663 to £28,253. There are five personnel employed through the multi-activity contractor, within the Commercial Booking Cell. I am withholding these staff costs as they are commercially sensitive.

Attachments:

1. 26707 - WQnA extract on RAF Northolt [Hansard 22 February 2016 26707.docx]

Gareth Thomas: [\[6524\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether RAF service personnel have been involved in the marketing and promotion of commercial flights at RAF Northolt.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 10 February 2016 to Question 26707.

Attachments:

1. RAF Northolt [Hansard Extract 10 February 2016.docx]

Gareth Thomas: [\[6529\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many tonnes of materials will be excavated from the runway re-surfacing at RAF Northolt; and where that waste will be taken.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Until the detailed design is complete this is an unknown quantity. However, all work will be conducted in line with regulatory standards, following Government guidelines and approvals.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6530\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many lorry movements will be required to undertake the runway re-surfacing works at RAF Northolt.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The amount of lorry movements required to undertake runway re-surfacing works at RAF Northolt is not known. However, all work will be conducted in line with regulatory standards, following government guidelines and approvals.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6532\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what mechanisms RAF Northolt has in place to manage noise complaints from people under the flight path of places using that airfield.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

RAF Northolt maintains extensive links with local community groups where local concerns can be raised. The station invites local community leaders to six monthly meetings of the Community Liaison Group so it can update them on issues such as infrastructure work or expected unusual military aircraft movements.

Members of the public can contact the station direct by telephone or online and a dedicated officer will investigate their concerns and respond to them.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6534\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the cost of the runway re-surfacing works at RAF Northolt will be.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6535\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for what reasons the runway re-surfacing works at RAF Northolt are to cost up to £45 million when similar re-surfacing works at commercial airports have had significantly lower costs.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The cost for the whole RAF Northolt project is £35 - £45 million. The cost includes all work on site and is directly comparable to similar commercial projects. The cost of the runway re-surfacing cannot be separated out.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6536\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for what reasons it is necessary to install Arrestor Beds at RAF Northolt.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6538\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the safety benefits are of installing Arrestor Beds at RAF Northolt.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6539\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether the Arrestor Beds being installed at RAF Northolt are EMAS Arrestor Beds.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

The installation of the Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS) Arrestor Beds at RAF Northolt will give the RAF the ability to ensure site containment and safety in the event an aircraft overrunning the runway.

The EMAS Arrestor system, which will be used at RAF Northolt is currently the only product certified for use in the U.K. which has been scientifically modelled and manufactured to ensure arresting capability.

Gareth Thomas: [\[6537\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether Arrestor Beds have been installed, or are about to be installed, at any RAF station other than RAF Northolt.

Mr Tobias Ellwood:

Arrestor Beds have been installed at RAF Northolt. There are no other plans to install Arrestor Beds at any other RAF station in the UK.

EDUCATION

■ Arts: Education

Layla Moran: [\[6638\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to (a) protect the availability of arts and creative subjects and (b) remove barriers to pupils studying them.

Nick Gibb:

The Government believes all pupils should have a high quality, well rounded education and that arts subjects are central to this.

The new National Curriculum, introduced in 2014, sets out the essential knowledge in the key subjects that schools should teach. In Key Stages 1 to 3, music and art and design are statutory subjects for maintained schools. At Key Stage 4, all pupils in maintained schools must be offered the opportunity to study at least one subject in the arts 'entitlement' area, which includes art and design, music, dance, drama, and media arts.

Beyond the curriculum, we are investing £300 million of ring fenced funding in music hubs in 2016-20. This is intended to ensure all pupils benefit from a high quality music education, including learning to play musical instruments and having the opportunity to play and sing in ensembles.

■ Arts: GCSE

Layla Moran:

[6643]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many students studied (a) art and design subjects, (b) design and technology subjects, (c) drama, (d) media, film and TV studies subjects, (e) music and (f) performing and expressive arts subjects to GCSE level in each of the last seven years.

Nick Gibb:

The number of students, at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2009/10 – 2015/16, who were entered for a GCSE in the requested subjects is published as part of the 'Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England: 2015 to 2016' Statistical First Release (SFR)¹. Within the 'Subject time series tables: SFR03/2017' document, the tab 'Subject time series' lists the student entries for each year. The 'Subject grouping composition' tab lists the subjects that are required to calculate the total entries. Expressive Arts & Performance Studies, Film Studies and Theatre Studies are contained within the Communication studies subject grouping in the SFR and therefore should be included when calculating the total entries.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2015-to-2016>.

■ Children: Disadvantaged

Ian Austin:

[6677]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate her Department has made of the number of children who frequently turn up to school not having eaten breakfast.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

I am sorry but the department does not collect this data.

We know how important it is for pupils to get a good start in the morning and eat a healthy breakfast. We are investing in a breakfast club programme as announced in the Childhood Obesity Plan in August 2016. This committed £10 million a year of the Soft Drinks Industry Levy to expand breakfast club provision in up to 1,600 schools. Further details of the programme will be announced in due course.

■ Class Sizes

Stephanie Peacock:

[6680]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average class size was in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools in (i) Barnsley and (ii) the UK in each of the last seven years.

Nick Gibb:

At local authority level, average class size figures are calculated and published annually for Key Stages 1 and 2, within primary level, for all authorities in England. The most recent figures can be found in local authority and regional table 11 of the statistical first release available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2017>. Local authority level data at secondary level is not available.

A UK figure is not available. As education is a devolved matter, statistics on schools are published separately by the four administrations.

■ **Classroom Assistants: Oldham**

Jim McMahon:**[6112]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many teaching assistants were in post in Oldham schools in each of the last five years.

Nick Gibb:

The following table provides the full time equivalent number^[1] of teaching assistants in service in state funded schools in Oldham local authority and England in November each year between 2012 and 2016.

	OLDHAM	ENGLAND
2012	1,500	232,300
2013	1,500	243,700
2014 [2]	1,600	255,100
2015 [3]	1,300	263,000
2016 [4]	1,600	265,600

SOURCE: SCHOOL WORKFORCE CENSUS

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 teaching assistants.

[2] Excludes figures for one school in Oldham local authority that did not supply teaching assistant data in 2014.

[3] Excludes figures for five schools in Oldham local authority that did not supply teaching assistant data in 2015.

[4] Excludes figures for two schools in Oldham local authority that did not supply teaching assistant data in 2016.

■ Curriculum

Layla Moran:

[\[6613\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of school curriculum changes since 2010 on employment in the creative industries.

Nick Gibb:

First teaching of the current curriculum only started in September 2014. The new National Curriculum was developed with input from employers, Further Education and Higher Education representatives. It is designed to equip pupils with the knowledge they need to go on to further education or careers, including in the creative industries.

■ Graduates

Mr Stephen Hepburn:

[\[6674\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many people from (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) England have graduated from university in each year since 2015.

Joseph Johnson:

Information on enrolments and qualifications obtained at UK higher education institutions is collected and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). More information on HESA is available here: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/>.

The number of qualifiers from higher education courses who were domiciled in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, the North East region and England prior to study in each year since 2014/15 academic year has been provided in the table.

Statistics for the 2016/17 academic year will come available from HESA in January 2018.

Higher Education qualifiers by place of domicile prior to study

UK Higher Education Institutions

Academic years 2014/15 to 2015/16

ACADEMIC YEAR	JARROW	SOUTH TYNESIDE	NORTH EAST	ENGLAND TOTAL
2014/15	585	1,005	20,280	452,275
2015/16	625	1,025	20,715	451,075

Source: DfE analysis of the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Student Record

Notes

- 1) Figures are based on the HESA qualifier population.
- 2) Qualifiers from both undergraduate and postgraduate levels of study.
- 3) Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
- 4) Parliamentary constituency and local authority is derived from the student's postcode prior to study.

■ **Headteachers: Females**

Stephen Timms:

[\[6724\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to tackle the under-representation of women as headteachers.

Nick Gibb:

The Government is committed to increasing the number of women in headship positions.

This is why we have funded a range of activity to support women to progress in their careers. This includes the Leadership Equality and Diversity Fund, which supports schools to develop local solutions to enable more teachers from under-represented groups, including women, to progress into leadership.

The Department has also launched nine regional Women Leading in Education networks, which aim to raise the profile of women in education and offer advice to enable more women to progress into leadership.

Alongside this, we have launched a Leadership Coaching Pledge, inviting women to develop their leadership through free coaching from other experienced school leaders.

We are also working to increase flexible working opportunities for all teachers and will be holding a summit in the autumn to identify ways of overcoming barriers to flexible working in schools.

■ **Health Education**

Layla Moran:

[\[6637\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make it her policy to make promoting wellbeing a statutory duty of a school and include it in the Ofsted inspection framework.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

The 2006 Education and Inspections Act laid a duty on the governing bodies of maintained schools, in discharging their functions relating to the conduct of the school, to promote the well-being of pupils at the school.

Under Ofsted's current framework, school inspectors make a graded judgement on pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare. In reporting on the effectiveness of the school, they also consider pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The school inspection handbook gives more details of how

inspections are carried out and how well-being can be reflected in judgements. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015>.

■ Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Stephen Hepburn:

[6663]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many people from (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) England attended university in each year since 2012.

Joseph Johnson:

Information on enrolments and qualifications obtained at UK higher education institutions is collected and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). More information on HESA is available here: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/>.

The number of enrolments on higher education courses who were domiciled in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, the North East region and England prior to study in each year since the 2012/13 academic year has been provided in the table.

Statistics for the 2016/17 academic year will come available from HESA in January 2018.

Higher Education enrolments by place of domicile prior to study

UK Higher Education Institutions

Academic years 2012/13 to 2015/16

ACADEMIC YEAR	JARROW	SOUTH TYNESIDE	NORTH EAST	ENGLAND TOTAL
2012/13	1,955	3,380	68,110	1,578,245
2013/14	1,905	3,305	65,910	1,529,430
2014/15	1,905	3,275	64,580	1,497,715
2015/16	1,970	3,320	65,300	1,511,890

Source: DfE analysis of the Higher Education Statistics Agency's (HESA) Student Record

Notes

- 1) Figures are based on the HESA standard registration population.
- 2) Enrolments include students across all years and levels of study.
- 3) Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

4) Parliamentary constituency and local authority is derived from the student's postcode prior to study.

■ Overseas Students

Andrew Rosindell:

[6791]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to promote UK higher education abroad to prospective international students.

Joseph Johnson:

The Government fully recognises the important contribution that international students make to the UK's higher education sector, both economically and culturally. We welcome genuine students and there remains no limit on the number of international students who can come here to study. The Government actively encourages study in the UK through the GREAT Campaign and through the British Council, which promotes the UK in over 100 countries, connecting millions of people with the United Kingdom.

Numbers of international (non-EU domiciled) students studying at UK universities remain at record highs - over 170,000 non-EU entrants to UK higher education institutions for the sixth year running. The latest Home Office visa data also shows that, since 2011, university-sponsored visa applications have risen by around 12 per cent.

■ Schools: Finance

Angela Rayner:

[6614]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to her oral statement of 17 July 2017, Official Report, column 565, what estimate she has made of the savings to be made from the healthy pupils capital to increase core schools funding in 2018-19.

Mr Robert Goodwill:

To allow us to prioritise core school funding, we have had to make difficult decisions about other budgets. We have, therefore, decided to make savings of £315 million from healthy pupils capital funding.

We think it is right to maximise the funding that goes directly to all schools, and put decisions about spending in the hands of headteachers who know best how to use their funding to achieve the best outcomes for their pupils. Every pound of England's share of spending funded by the Soft Drinks Industry Levy will, however, continue to be invested in improving child health, including £100m in 2018-19 on healthy pupils capital.

■ Schools: Work Experience

Layla Moran:

[6639]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the number of schools participating in employment and enterprise schemes.

Anne Milton:

We do not collect information on the number of schools participating in employment and enterprise schemes.

The government established the employer-led Careers & Enterprise Company in 2014 to link employers with schools and colleges. The Company has set up an Enterprise Adviser Network of senior volunteers from business to work with schools and colleges to increase opportunities for young people to learn more about the world of work. Over 1,700 Enterprise Advisers are working with over 1,700 schools and colleges to support their careers and enterprise provision.

■ **Teachers: Oldham****Jim McMahon:**[\[6113\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many teachers were in post in Oldham schools in each of the last five years.

Nick Gibb:

The following table provides the full time equivalent number^[1] of teachers in service in state funded schools in Oldham local authority and England in November each year between 2012 and 2016.

	OLDHAM	ENGLAND
2012	2,300	445,400
2013	2,300	449,700
2014 [2]	2,200	454,900
2015 [3]	2,100	456,900
2016 [4]	2,200	457,300

SOURCE: SCHOOL WORKFORCE CENSUS

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 teachers.

[2] Excludes figures for one school in Oldham local authority that did not supply teacher data in 2014.

[3] Excludes figures for five schools in Oldham local authority that did not supply teacher data in 2015.

[4] Excludes figures for two schools in Oldham local authority that did not supply teacher data in 2016.

■ Teachers: Recruitment

Layla Moran: [\[6611\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect on teacher recruitment of the UK leaving the EU.

Nick Gibb:

The Department has not historically collected data on EU nationals in the schools workforce. On 27 July, the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to gather evidence on patterns of EU migration and the role of migration in the wider economy, ahead of our exit from the EU. The MAC's independent advice will inform decisions on future immigration arrangements. Crucially, this commission will enable business, public and voluntary sector employers to submit evidence and views. We are carefully considering the implications over time for future recruitment of teachers from EEA countries, and we will work to ensure that schools continue to be able to recruit the teachers they need.

■ Teachers: Vacancies

James Cartlidge: [\[6814\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the value of a national online platform for advertising teaching vacancies.

Nick Gibb:

The Department is undertaking research to strengthen its understanding of the issues schools face when advertising teacher vacancies and the challenges teachers have finding and applying for jobs. This will inform the development and design of a new national teacher vacancy service.

This service will aim to reduce the time schools spend on publishing vacancies and the cost of recruiting new teachers. It will also make it easier for teachers to find jobs and increase the availability and quality of data on teacher recruitment.

We will provide further details in due course.

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

James Cartlidge: [\[6815\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what his policy is on the use of glyphosate by farmers.

George Eustice:

The Government believes that effective pesticides should be authorised where the scientific evidence shows they do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. The European Food Safety Authority has identified no safety concerns arising from the use of glyphosate and UK scientists agree with that conclusion.

■ Air Pollution

Ruth Cadbury:

[\[6798\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of developing an air quality strategy to improve the capacity of the Government to meet its air quality targets.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Cleaning up the UK's air quality and cutting harmful emissions is a priority for this Government.

In July the Government launched the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations. This will require local authorities to produce local air quality plans which reduce NO₂ levels in the shortest possible time.

In addition to our work on NO₂ we will deliver an updated Clean Air Strategy in 2018. This will set out how we will work towards our international commitments to significantly reduce damaging emissions of five major air pollutants by 2030.

■ Air Pollution: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith:

[\[6471\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether EU Directive 2008/50/EC on Air Quality will be transposed into UK law.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) has already been transposed into UK law.

■ Eels

Jon Cruddas:

[\[6810\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent assessment his Department has made of the fishing industry's compliance with the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009; and if he will make a statement.

George Eustice:

Compliance with the Eel (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 is assessed against the provision of: catch data for eels less than 12cm long; recorded consignments of live eels from aquaculture businesses; and 60% of live eels (12 cm or less) placed onto the market. The Environment Agency 2016/17 assessment of industry compliance received 390 catch returns from 452 authorised fishers and is pursuing the remainder. All other data was provided.

■ Fly-tipping

Stephanie Peacock:

[\[6686\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many actions were taken against fly-tipping in (a) Barnsley and (b) nationally in each of the last seven years; and how many of those actions took the form of fixed penalties.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The number of recorded actions taken against fly-tipping for both England and for Barnsley over the last seven years is set out in the table below together with the number of fixed penalty notices.

Actions relating to fly-tipping for Barnsley and England - 2009/10 to 2015/16

	ENGLAND		BARNSELEY	
	Total Actions	Fixed Penalty Notice	Total Actions	Fixed Penalty Notice
2009/10	537,123	25,874	737	0
2010/11	568,052	32,963	699	0
2011/12	489,815	39,314	525	0
2012/13	425,235	35,433	503	0
2013/14	499,563	36,835	134	0
2014/15	514,914	38,149	152	0
2015/16	494,460	35,888	193	0

sourced from the Fly-tipping Module in WasteDataFlow which replaced Flycapture in October 2015

Fly tipping data is routinely collected at a local level and collated nationally. The data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

Local authorities adopt different strategies for dealing with fly tipping. Some have well developed procedures for issuing fixed penalty notices. Alternative enforcement options include prosecution, vehicle seizure, formal caution and warning letter.

■ Schools: Air Pollution

Layla Moran:

[\[6595\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to monitor air pollution at (a) state schools in urban areas and (b) any school near an A road or motorway.

Layla Moran:

[\[6596\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of schools in England that are in areas known to breach EU limits on nitrogen dioxide pollution.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The UK monitors air quality and its environmental impacts via a network of over 270 monitoring stations. The location and density of monitoring stations is greatest within areas where the highest concentrations of pollutants occur. The number and location of stations is regularly reviewed to ensure sites are appropriately located.

Defra provides guidance and support to local authorities in England on local monitoring. Positioning of local monitors is expected to be in line with national and local priorities, which may include schools and other locations where there is high risk of public exposure to air pollutants. Local authorities in England operate over 700 local monitoring stations.

The Department has not made an estimate of the number of schools in England that are in areas known to breach EU limits on nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

■ **Sewage: Boats**

James Cartlidge:

[\[6817\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate he has made of the amount of waste water being released from residential and non-residential boats.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Department does not hold information in relation to this request.

■ **Transport: Exhaust Emissions**

Anneliese Dodds:

[\[6170\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether local authorities are required to consider the potential implications for air quality when making decisions on (a) permanent and (b) temporary transport schemes.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Local authorities have a critical role in achieving improvements in air quality. Under the Local Air Quality Management system, local authorities are required to review and assess air quality in their areas. They consider sources of pollution, including from transport. They designate Air Quality Management Areas and put in place Air Quality Action Plans to address air pollution issues where national air quality objectives are not being met.

■ Water: EU Law

Jo Stevens: [\[6280\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the UK's waterways that will meet the EU's good ecological and chemical status by 2027.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive within the UK is a devolved matter.

Updated River Basin Management Plans published in 2016 provide the framework for protecting and improving the water environment, and focus on the improvements for the period 2016 to 2021. The Plans for England confirm over £3billion of investment by 2021, leading to improvements in at least 680 water bodies. This includes an overall target to enhance at least 5000 miles of waters by 2021.

The Plans will be reviewed and updated in 2021 taking account of progress that has been made and the best evidence then on what can be achieved by 2027.

HEALTH**■ Asthma: Children and Young People**

Alex Cunningham: [\[6207\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many emergency admissions there were of children and young people under 24-years old with asthma in each of the last six years.

Alex Cunningham: [\[6208\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many emergency admissions there were of children and young people under 24-years old with acute bronchitis in each of the last six years.

Alex Cunningham: [\[6209\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many emergency admissions there were of children and young people under 24-years old in each of the last six years.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The information requested is in the table below, which shows a count of finished admission episodes (FAEs) with an emergency admission method, for:

- Asthma;
- Acute bronchitis; and
- All emergency admissions.

The data is for the whole of England and those aged less than 24 years. The data is for each financial year between 2010-11 and 2015-16.

Activity in English National Health Service Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	
Asthma	29,807	26,302	30,251	27,325	30,092	28,605
Acute bronchitis	618	626	756	830	612	529
All	1,121,415	1,086,573	1,109,767	1,106,448	1,125,604	1,157,629

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, NHS Digital

■ Autism: Depressive Illnesses

Luke Pollard: [\[6367\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of which mental health interventions are effective for treating autistic people with anxiety or depression.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

Deciding what is the most effective and appropriate therapeutic treatment for an individual patient is a matter for individual clinicians or clinical teams, drawing on their professional education and training, and the relevant clinical guidance such as that published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

■ Autism: Diagnosis

Luke Pollard: [\[6042\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether the assessment tools used in the diagnosis of autism are effective in the identification of co-morbid mental health problems.

Luke Pollard: [\[6045\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people with autism in England died in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2014-15.

Luke Pollard: [\[6046\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people with autism in England took their own lives in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2014-15.

Luke Pollard: [\[6268\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people in England have been diagnosed as autistic.

Luke Pollard: [\[6269\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many autistic people were diagnosed with (a) an anxiety disorder and (b) depression in (i) 2016-17, (ii) 2015-16 and (iii) 2014-15.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

Information on the number of people diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum; the number of people on the autistic spectrum who have been diagnosed with having an anxiety disorder or depression; the number of people with autism who took their own lives, and the number of people with autism who have died within the requested timescales is not available centrally.

We have made no assessment of the effectiveness of tools used in the diagnosis of autism in identifying co-existing mental health problems. The use of such tools is a matter for the clinicians concerned, taking into account relevant clinical guidance such as that published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

■ Autism: Mental Health Services**Helen Hayes:**[\[6760\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether his Green Paper on Children and Young People's Mental Health will include specific measures to address anxiety disorders and other mental health conditions among children with autism.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The Departments of Health and Education are currently considering content options for the Children and Young People's Mental Health Green Paper. We aim to publish the Green Paper by the end of the year.

■ Blood: Contamination**Mrs Sharon Hodgson:**[\[6378\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will list the people and organisations that those people represent who attended the meeting of 20 July 2017 to discuss setting up an inquiry into the contaminated blood scandal.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The following organisations were invited to the meeting on 20 July 2017:

- The Haemophilia Society;
- Haemophilia Wales;
- Haemophilia Scotland;
- The Irish Haemophilia Society;
- The Hepatitis C Trust;
- The Tainted Blood Campaign;
- The Contaminated Blood Campaign; and
- The Birchgrove Group.

■ Cancer: Drugs

Pauline Latham:

[\[6302\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when will companies following a recommendation for use from the Cancer Drugs Fund be able to access Cancer Drugs Fund funding for a drug which they have previously been making available to the NHS free of charge by means of the Early Access to Medicines Scheme.

Steve Brine:

Under the new arrangements for the appraisal and funding of cancer drugs introduced in July 2016, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) aims to publish draft recommendations on the use of all cancer drugs before licensing. Where NICE's draft guidance recommends use of the drug for routine commissioning or for use through the Cancer Drugs Fund, NHS England will make Cancer Drugs Fund funding available for its use in National Health Service patients in line with NICE's recommendations from the point of licensing. There should therefore be no gap in the availability of cancer drugs recommended by NICE that had previously been made available before licensing under the Early Access to Medicines Scheme.

■ Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Luciana Berger:

[\[6707\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the Clinical Quality Commission's (CQC's) report, The state of care in mental health services: 2014 to 2017: Findings from CQC's programme of comprehensive inspections of specialist mental health services of 20 July 2017, how many of the patients in the 3,500 beds in locked mental health rehabilitation wards have been there for less than (a) a year, (b) two years, (c) three years, (d) four years, (e) between five and 10 years and (f) over 10 years.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

This information is not collected centrally.

■ Continuing Care

Mr Virendra Sharma:

[\[6261\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people receive NHS continuing healthcare provided by (a) a local government unit and (b) a clinical commissioning group.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

When a person is assessed as eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) their assessed health and care needs are funded by their local clinical commissioning group.

The total number of people eligible for CHC as at 31 March 2017 was 57,773. Of these 17,305 were assessed as eligible through the Fast Track Pathway Tool, and 40,468 through the standard CHC assessment process.

■ Disability Aids**Rosie Cooper:** [6178]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether local authorities are required as providers of adult social care to ensure that any hoists which they supply to residents are replaced in a timely manner should they become damaged.

Rosie Cooper: [6433]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether local authorities are required as providers of adult social care to ensure that any hoists that they supply to residents are replaced in a timely manner should they become damaged.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014, against which the Care Quality Commission regulates, sets out that equipment used to deliver care and treatment must be maintained and used properly. The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Section 3 puts a duty on owners and providers to maintain safe equipment.

■ Doctors: Training**John Grogan:** [6570]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the timetable is for increasing medical training places by 1,500; and what assessment he has made of the need for new medical schools as a result of that increase.

Mr Philip Dunne:

500 additional places have already been allocated to existing medical schools and will be made available for students commencing courses from 1 August 2018.

We have consulted on how best to allocate the remaining 1,000 places by August 2019.

The Government response to the consultation was published on 9 August 2017 and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/expanding-undergraduate-medical-education>

Luciana Berger: [6644]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the latest recruitment statistics are for medical training positions starting from August 2017.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The latest recruitment data for medical training positions starting from August 2017 were published by Health Education England on 4 July and are available at:

<https://hee.nhs.uk/our-work/attracting-recruiting/medical-recruitment/specialty-recruitment-round-1-acceptance-fill-rate>

For specialties that have more than one round of recruitment, round 2 data will be published in due course once the recruitment round has been completed.

■ Health Services: Children and Young People

Alex Cunningham: [\[6002\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that children and young people who frequently miss health service appointments for reasons connected to mental health receive the necessary support and treatment.

Alex Cunningham: [\[6003\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that people aged 16 and 17 who miss health service appointments for reasons connected to mental health receive the necessary support and treatment.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The Department expects clinicians and professionals to work together in an integrated way across health and care system to support the needs of children and young people. This includes between professionals working in mental and physical health. This process should be supported by appropriate sharing of information to support the individual's care.

"Future in Mind," the report of the Children's and Young People's Mental Health Task Force, published in 2015, also sets out the importance of services monitoring attendance and suggests that services actively follow up families and young people who miss appointments. It also suggests that it may be necessary to find alternative ways to engage the child, young person or family.

Not attending appointments should not lead to a family or young person being discharged from services, but should be considered as an indicator of need and actively followed up.

■ Health Services: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: [\[6672\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much funding the Government plans to provide for NHS services in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each of the next five years.

Mr Philip Dunne:

Hemel Hempstead is served by the Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Allocations for core CCG services (programme allocation) have been scheduled for up to 2020/21 and are set out below.

YEAR	ALLOCATION (£ MILLION)
2017-18	753.6
2018-19	775.4

YEAR	ALLOCATION (£ MILLION)
2019-20	798.7 (indicative)
2020-21	836.2 (indicative)

NHS England has not yet published the allocations for 2021-22.

■ Incinerators: Health Hazards

Dr David Drew: [\[6370\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will publish the results of his Department's research into the health effects of incineration.

Steve Brine:

Public Health England (PHE) has a published position statement, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/municipal-waste-incinerator-emissions-to-air-impact-on-health>

The statement states that while it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from modern, well-regulated municipal waste incinerators with complete certainty, any potential damage to the health of those living close by is likely to be very small, if detectable.

PHE will review its advice in light of new substantial research on the health effects of incinerators published in peer reviewed journals. To date, PHE is not aware of any evidence that requires a change in their position statement.

PHE is funding a study to further extend the evidence base as to whether emissions from modern municipal waste incinerators affect human health. Papers from this project are expected to be submitted to peer reviewed journals in summer 2017, and it is likely to be a few months after submission for the papers to be published.

■ Mental Health Services

Luciana Berger: [\[6683\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, when Health Education England plans to publish its five-year mental health workforce strategy.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The Mental Health Workforce Plan was published on Monday 31 July.

Luciana Berger: [\[6684\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and what proportion of services in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme also offer (a) financial and (b) employment advice.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

In the 2015 Improving Access to Psychological Treatment (IAPT) Workforce Census Report, 50% of responding IAPT services reported either delivering an employment service themselves, giving a whole time equivalent for specialist employment advisor, providing the service by contracting it out to another organisation or providing a percentage of psychological wellbeing practitioner's time spent on employment advice.

The full report can be found online at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/mentalhealth/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2016/09/adult-iapt-workforce-census-report-15.pdf>

IAPT services do not provide financial advice however individuals can be signposted to the appropriate service by a clinician.

Luciana Berger:**[6836]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of services in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme accepts self-referrals.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

All Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programmes accept self-referrals and the proportion of services for self-referrals is not limited.

Luciana Berger:**[6837]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much NHS England spent on (a) low and (b) medium-secure inpatient mental health care in each year since 2010.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

Prior to April 2013 low and medium secure inpatient mental health care was commissioned regionally by primary care trusts. We do not have the information requested for years 2010 to April 2013.

Since April 2013 NHS England has been responsible for commissioning all secure inpatient mental health care services nationally, but we do not hold the information in the format requested for low and medium secure services.

■ Mental Health Services: Counter-terrorism**Luciana Berger:****[6720]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what discussions his Department has had with the Home Office on the mental health needs of people on the Prevent programme.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

Officials in the Department of Health and the Home Office have regular discussions about implementing the Prevent programme in the health sector including how this will impact on people with mental health needs.

■ Mental Health Services: Patients' Rights

Luciana Berger: [\[6835\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information is issued to (a) adults and (b) children on their rights when they are admitted to inpatient mental health care.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

Chapter 4 of the Mental Health Act Code of Practice sets out guidance in relation to information for patients, nearest relatives, carers and others. Under the Mental Health Act, providers need to give patients information about their rights, verbally and in writing, as soon as possible after the start of their detention or community treatment order. The Code of Practice also states that informal patients (i.e those not subject to the Mental Health Act) should have their legal position and rights explained to them.

Chapter 6 of the Code of Practice sets out guidance in relation to independent mental health advocates (IMHA) as an additional safeguard for patients who are subject to the Mental Health Act. IMHAs support patients in obtaining and understanding information not exhaustive to: their rights under the Mental Health Act, the rights which other people have in relation to them under the Act, medical treatment and reasons for that treatment.

Chapter 19 of the Code of Practice sets out additional guidance in relation to children and young people under the age of 18. This makes clear that guidance in relation to provision of information and IMHAs applies to children and young people as well as adults. It also states that hospital managers should ensure that staff providing children and young people with information about their rights have sufficient knowledge and experience to be able to provide information to children and young people and determine whether the information has been understood. Written information must always be made available. Such information should be age appropriate and include an explanation about when they have the right to see an IMHA under the Act and an explanation of how one can be made available.

■ Mental Health Services: Private Sector

Luciana Berger: [\[6693\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what meetings his Department has had with private providers of mental health care; and with whom and when such meetings took place.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The Department does not hold this information centrally.

■ Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mrs Anne Main: [\[6073\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many prescription charge prepayment certificates have been purchased in each of the last five years.

Steve Brine:

The number of 3-month and 12-month Prescription Prepayment Certificates (PPC) purchased in each of the last five calendar years is provided in the table below:

YEAR	NUMBER OF PPCS SOLD
2012	1,468,233
2013	1,531,016
2014	1,651,977
2015	1,798,037
2016	1,916,220

Source: NHS Business Services Authority

Mrs Anne Main:[\[6074\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the process is for reviewing the prescription charge exemption criteria.

Steve Brine:

There is no set process or timeframe for reviewing prescription charges exemptions. With a range of charge exemptions already in place, almost 90% of items prescribed are free on the National Health Service in England. Furthermore, the cost of prepayment certificates has been frozen, ensuring people can get access to affordable prescriptions.

Alec Shelbrooke:[\[6289\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, for what reasons the cost to the public of a Prescription Prepayment Certificate has remained at the same level while costs of individual prescriptions have risen.

Steve Brine:

The Government is committed to making prescriptions affordable to everyone, including to people who may need a large number of prescriptions. Whilst the standard prescription charge has been uplifted year on year to remain broadly in line with inflation and raise valuable revenue for the National Health Service, the Government took the decision to freeze the cost of the three-month and 12-month prescription prepayment certificates to support those with the greatest need.

Mrs Anne Main:[\[6421\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, (a) how many times and (b) when the prescription charge exemption criteria have been reviewed in the last 30 years.

Steve Brine:

It is not possible to confirm how many times the full list of exemptions have been subject to review in the last 30 years. To identify and confirm details of each review would be of disproportionate cost as the information may not be fully held centrally.

■ **Respiratory System: Drugs****Tom Brake:**[\[6416\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how much the NHS has spent on respiratory medicines in each of the last five years.

Steve Brine:

The cost of respiratory medicines to the National Health Service, by primary and secondary care, in England from years 2012 to 2016 is shown in the following table.

	PRIMARY CARE NET INGREDIENT COST (£)	SECONDARY CARE COST (£)	TOTAL COST (£)
2012	1,009,505,840	39,842,049	1,049,347,889
2013	1,020,038,047	39,938,913	1,059,976,960
2014	1,032,783,044	38,983,420	1,071,766,464
2015	1,044,951,211	38,600,943	1,083,552,154
2016	1,034,877,082	38,547,801	1,073,424,883

Source: Prescription Cost Analysis; 2016 QuintilesIMS: Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index

These figures do not include costs for treating respiratory infections or cancers, as the medicines required (antibiotics and chemotherapy) are used for other therapy areas and are not specific to respiratory disease. These costs are at list prices, and discounts achieved by hospitals and community pharmacy have not been included.

■ **Running****Nick Smith:**[\[6486\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information his Department holds on how many British running clubs have organised Couch to 5K programme since the inception of that programme.

Nick Smith:[\[6692\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information his Department holds on how many running clubs have organised Couch to 5K programmes since the inception of that programme.

Nick Smith: [6831]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what methods his Department uses to evaluate the (a) effectiveness and (b) value for money to the public purse of the NHS Choices Couch to 5K programme.

Steve Brine:

In 2016, Public Health England (PHE) launched a mobile app in partnership with British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Get Inspired, based on NHS Choices' Couch to 5K web site. The method of evaluating the effect and value for money of the Couch to 5K app in England involves tracking the number of downloads and conducting qualitative research.

The app has received more than 500,000 downloads since launch¹. The feedback from users is positive with many referencing the voice-over from popular coaches being especially motivating.

The app does not record mobile sensor data and there is no historical app data available to compare pre and post usage.

The app has been especially designed for people who have done little or no running. We hold no information on the activities of running clubs in relation to the Couch to 5K programme.

¹ Source: Google Analytics

■ Self-harm: Accident and Emergency Departments

Luciana Berger: [6832]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people attended accident and emergency due to intentional self-harm by (a) gender and (b) age group in (i) 2015-16 and (ii) 2016-17.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

The information is not available in the format requested.

■ Self-harm: Children and Young People

Chris Ruane: [6281]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2017 to Question 4953, what information his Department holds on incidents of non-fatal self-harm among children and young people.

Jackie Doyle-Price:

NHS Digital collects data on finished admission episodes for people of all ages in England who have been treated in hospital for non-fatal self-harm incidents.

NHS Digital also published the latest Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey: Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, England, 2014 last year:

<http://content.digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB21748>

The Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey shows data on the self-reported experiences of mental health in people aged 16 and over in England, and includes information on the prevalence of self-harm.

■ Watford Hospital

Mike Penning:

[\[6671\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what proportion of visits to Watford hospital accident and emergency department resulted in admission to hospital in each year from 2010.

Mr Philip Dunne:

The proportion of patients who attended Watford General Hospital accident and emergency (A&E) department and were admitted is not held centrally. Data are reported at a trust level rather than by hospital.

The number and proportion of attendances at accident and emergency departments in West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust that resulted in a patient being admitted to hospital is given in the table below.

A&E Attendances and Admissions via A&E for West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

YEAR	ATTENDANCES AT ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS	ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL VIA ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY	PROPORTION OF ATTENDANCES THAT WENT ON TO BE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL
2010	119,346	17,475	14.6%
2011	122,222	19,167	15.7%
2012	131,011	23,844	18.2%
2013	129,238	26,990	20.9%
2014	135,416	29,757	22.0%
2015	136,277	30,788	22.6%
2016	141,401	33,078	23.4%
2017 to May	56,798	13,124	23.1%

Sources: 2010 data is from the Quarterly Monitoring of Accident and Emergency collection.

1 November 2010 to 30 June 2015 data is from the A&E Attendance and Emergency Admissions Weekly Sitrep collection.

From 1 July 2015 data comes from the A&E Attendance and Emergency Admissions Monthly Sitrep collection.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

■ House of Commons: ICT

Sir Greg Knight:

[\[5732\]](#)

To ask the right hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington, representing the House of Commons Commission, what steps he is taking to improve the reliability and speed of the internet and the email system used by hon. Members and their staff; and if he will make a statement.

Tom Brake:

The Digital Service is delivering a major investment programme for Parliament's network. The programme will make improvements to Parliament's ICT network, including internet access and email system. The delivery will address issues around speed, resilience and most importantly security when accessing internet based services. A tranche of improvements will be completed in September 2017, in particular:

- Speed of access – Network design simplification, increase in throughput of security devices and increase of internet circuit bandwidth;
- Resilience – dynamic routing with fast failover times with multiple routes out to the internet.

The programme will provide further resilience and security enhancements for the network (Campus LAN) operating within the Parliamentary estate by the end of December 2017. The final tranche in the first half of 2018 will see performance and security enhancements for the WiFi network infrastructure within the estate. The Digital Service will continue to work to improve the security and protections in place around email, which in turn supports the reliability of email by reducing the impact that malicious email can have.

The improvements are primarily focused on the reliability and security of Parliament's network. However, the changes will provide Members with a more consistent user experience and speed of access when using the network, including access to the Internet. Responsiveness of Internet sites is also dependent upon factors outside of Parliament's network.

JUSTICE

■ Legal Ombudsman

Richard Burgon:

[\[5789\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when the office of the Ombudsman will be placed on statutory footing.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Robust, independent scrutiny is an essential part of our prison system. We take reports from the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) extremely seriously and will continue to ensure the PPO has the access and cooperation they need from prisons to fulfil their critical functions.

We will continue to seek an opportunity to legislate on these matters when Parliamentary time allows.

■ Prison Officers: Death

Richard Burgon: [\[6048\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what discussions he has had with the Prison Officers Association on recent trends in the number of deaths among prison officers; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

Since his appointment in June 2017, the Justice Secretary has met with the POA and discussed a wide range of topics, including his priorities in respect of prison safety and violence reduction. We are committed to making our prisons safe, decent and secure places to work and the government has taken steps with the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that any offender who assaults a member of our staff is dealt with through appropriate legal channels.

■ Prisons and Probation Ombudsman

Richard Burgon: [\[5935\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when he plans to respond to the 2016-17 annual report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

We are grateful to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for his annual report which identifies important areas for improvement in our prison system. We take these issues extremely seriously.

We have regular, constructive discussions with the Ombudsman and we shall continue to do so.

We have created a new unit within HM Prison and Probation Service to ensure relevant recommendations from the Ombudsman are being taken forward in a timely manner and to track how they are being implemented by prisons.

■ Sexual Offences: Rehabilitation

David Hanson: [\[3724\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when the review into the Sex Offender Treatment Programme was commissioned; and which Minister commissioned that review.

Mr Sam Gyimah:

The recently published study in to Core Sex Offender Treatment Programmes was commissioned in December 2014 by the then MOJ Director of Analysis as part of ongoing evaluative work undertaken by the Department.

■ **Wills****Sir Greg Knight:**[\[5730\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether it is his policy to support the proposals made by the Law Commission to allow a will or other testamentary disposition to be created by text message or by another similarly informal route; and what assessment he has made of the potential of such a course of action to lead to increased fraud and litigation.

Dr Phillip Lee:

The Law Commission has not made proposals to allow wills and other testamentary dispositions to be created by text message or similar informal routes. The Law Commission is, however, currently considering the law of Wills, including how the law can provide for the making of electronic wills, whilst ensuring testators are protected against risks of fraud and exploitation. As part of this project, the Commission published a consultation paper Making a Will (Consultation Paper 231) on 13 July inviting views on a wide range of issues relating to the law of wills. The paper is available at <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/wills/>. The consultation period closes on 10 November.

The Government will carefully consider any recommendations made by the Commission, but, at present, has no plans to change the legal requirements for creating a valid will or other testamentary disposition. No assessment of the potential for fraud and litigation arising from a relaxation of those requirements has, therefore, been made.

SCOTLAND■ **Devolution: Stirling and Clackmannanshire****Luke Graham:**[\[6224\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what recent progress has been made on the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Deal.

David Mundell:

Following my meeting with the hon Gentleman and the MP for Stirling, on 4 August I met with the Leader of Stirling Council and his officials to discuss progress with the Deal.

My officials followed up by meeting Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils on 29 August. We are keen to reach agreement on the terms of an ambitious Deal as soon as possible, recognising this will require intensive engagement by the local partners.

■ Devolution: Tayside**Luke Graham:** [\[6223\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what recent progress has been made on the Tay City Deal.

Kirstene Hair: [\[6424\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what progress he has made on negotiations with the Scottish Government and local partners on the next phase of the Tay Cities Deal; and if he will make a statement.

David Mundell:

The UK Government continues to press ahead with discussions with the Tay City partners and I can confirm that further talks took place at the end of August.

Local partners have put forward a large number of proposals, and the next step is to scrutinise these proposals rigorously to identify together which can deliver transformational change for the economy of the Tay Cities region.

■ High Speed 2 Railway Line: Scotland**Alan Brown:** [\[6385\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, with reference to the Government's announcement of 17 July 2017, Huge economic boost for Scotland as Transport Secretary confirms new HS2 routes, what the evidential basis is for the economic benefits to Scotland.

Alan Brown: [\[6394\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, with reference to the Government's announcement of 17 July 2017, Huge economic boost for Scotland as Transport Secretary confirms new HS2 routes, what estimate the Government has made of the number of new seats that will be available on trains from London to (a) Glasgow and (b) Edinburgh.

Alan Brown: [\[6395\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, with reference to the Government's announcement of 17 July 2017, Huge economic boost for Scotland as Transport Secretary confirms new HS2 routes, what estimate the Government has made of the number of new trains that will be operating between London and (a) Glasgow and (b) Edinburgh.

David Mundell:

HS2 benefits Scotland through faster journeys and more frequent services. The Economic Case for HS2 Phase Two, published in July 2017, provided the latest evidential basis and showed that the overall benefits of HS2 across the UK, including wider economic impacts, are estimated at around £92bn in net present value terms.

HS2's business case assumes two 400m HS2 trains per hour between London and Scotland once HS2 is completed in 2033. Each train will split or join at Carstairs, with half serving Glasgow and half serving Edinburgh. Final decisions on the train service will be made closer to the opening of HS2.

Each 400m HS2 train is assumed to have 1,056 seats. Assuming 16 hours of departures per day, the services assumed in the business case would provide a total of 34,000 seats between London-Glasgow and London-Edinburgh on HS2 in both directions each day.

■ **Scotland Office: Advertising**

Deidre Brock: [\[6287\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what external advisers or companies his Department uses for advertising.

David Mundell:

Agencies are procured as and when required and are not held on a retainer basis. We do not currently contract any services for advertising.

Deidre Brock: [\[6288\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what his Department spent on advertising other than on social media in each month since January 2016; and how much of that spending was on (a) newspaper, (b) magazine, (c) billboard or similar, (d) radio, (e) television and (f) cinema advertising.

David Mundell:

Nothing has been spent on any of these advertising channels in the period in question.

■ **Scotland Office: Social Media**

Deidre Brock: [\[6586\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to the Answer of 17 July 2017 to Question 3978, if he will publish the scoring and evaluation conducted by his Department of its social media advertising campaigns since January 2016.

David Mundell:

Due to the commercially sensitive nature of government social media advertising, this information cannot be shared.

■ **Scotland Office: Staff**

Deidre Brock: [\[6194\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, if he will list the job titles and numbers of staff under each job title in his Department.

David Mundell:

Information on staffing, including a breakdown of staff by grade and gender, is published in the Scotland Office Annual Report:

[Scotland Office Annual Report 2016/17](#)

A detailed list of job titles and number of staff by each job title not published, as to do so would potentially make staff identifiable when numbers are less than five.

Space Technology: Ayrshire**Bill Grant:****[6023]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the local economy of the construction and establishment of a UK spaceport in Ayrshire.

David Mundell:

The UK has a strong small satellite manufacturing sector, and forecasts suggest that the global satellite launch and spaceflight industry could be worth as much as £25 billion pounds over the next 20 years. By establishing a spaceport to enable these activities, growth and skilled jobs will be created in regions of the UK that need them most.

The UK Space Agency is leading work across Government to enable the UK to play a leading part in the growing commercial space market. As part of this programme, the Space Agency is working with a number of different sites across the UK that have expressed interest in becoming a spaceport, and have recently invited proposals from partnerships of potential spaceports and space vehicle operators.

Glasgow Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire has been looking into starting spaceport operations for some years now, working closely with the Space Agency to develop their plans. Any proposal for a UK spaceport will be assessed on both value for money and benefit – both local and national. I cannot discuss the details or identities of any bids as this is an on-going commercial process, but I will update the hon Member as soon as possible.

TRANSPORT**A15: Dual Carriageways****Sir Greg Knight:****[5731]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will ask the Highways Agency to undertake an assessment of the benefits of upgrading all or part of the A15 between Lincoln and the M180 motorway to a dual carriageway; and if he will make a statement.

Jesse Norman:

The section of the A15 referred to is a local road and, as such, is the responsibility of Lincolnshire County Council and North Lincolnshire Council, as Local Highway

Authorities. The route is not part of the Strategic Road Network, which is managed by Highways England, formerly the Highways Agency.

It is for Local Highway Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships to consider the benefit of improvement works on their roads, and to source funding to carry out these works, if they see fit.

I understand that the two Local Highway Authorities, with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, have considered potential benefits of improvement works on the A15. My rt hon Friend may wish to contact them to find out more about their work on this.

It would be for the Local Highway Authority to develop and propose any improvements and, if necessary, seek funding from central Government.

In addition, the Department for Transport plans to consult later this year on establishing a Major Road Network, which would include the most important local 'A' roads. A share of the National Roads Fund, funded from 2020 by Vehicle Excise Duty, will be set aside to fund improvements on the Network.

WALES

■ Trade Agreements: Wales

Chris Law:

[\[900698\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for International Trade on ensuring that the Welsh Government is consulted on future trade deals.

Martyn Day:

[\[900699\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for International Trade on ensuring that the Welsh Government is consulted on future trade deals.

Neil Gray:

[\[900703\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for International Trade on ensuring that the Welsh Government is consulted on future trade deals.

Alun Cairns:

I am in regular contact with the Secretary of State for International Trade and our departments will continue to collaborate to ensure that we work closely with the Devolved Administrations. I can assure you, this Government is committed to developing a trade policy that works for the whole of the UK, reflecting the needs and individual circumstances of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

■ WAG First Minister**Martin Docherty-Hughes:** [\[900696\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, when he plans next to meet the First Minister of Wales.

Alun Cairns:

My Rt hon Friend the First Secretary of State and I met the First Minister on Monday to discuss the Withdrawal Bill. In particular, the next steps to correct deficiencies and where frameworks are needed when powers are returned from the EU.

WORK AND PENSIONS**■ Access to Work Programme****Mrs Anne Main:** [\[6072\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people have (a) applied for and (b) received support from the access to work scheme, whose main disabling condition was recorded as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis or inflammatory bowel disease, in each of the last five years.

Penny Mordaunt:

The information requested is not available

■ Department for Work and Pensions: Brexit**Hywel Williams:** [\[6022\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what amount of his Department's annual expenditure is allocated to work relating to the UK leaving the EU.

Damian Hinds:

EU Exit is an all-of-government operation. The Department for Work and Pensions is working closely with the Department for Exiting the European Union to support the UK's exit from the EU.

Given the interactions between EU Exit work and the Department's other priorities, it would not be possible to provide a precise figure on the annual expenditure of work relating to the UK leaving the EU.

■ Department for Work and Pensions: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**Hywel Williams:** [\[6060\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate his Department has made of the potential number of Acts or parts of Acts that will be subject to repeal as a result of provisions in the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

Damian Hinds:

Government departments have been analysing the UK statute book and directly applicable EU law in their areas of responsibility to enable an assessment of the

scale of the changes needed. This is likely to include the repeal, but also the amendment, of provisions in Acts but we are not in a position to give a sense of scale at this time.

In the Government White Paper on the Repeal Bill 'Legislating for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union', published on 30 March 2017, we estimated around 800 - 1,000 EU-exit related **Statutory Instruments** will be required.

■ Department for Work and Pensions: Welsh Language

Hywel Williams:

[6064]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, which of his Department's online services are available in the Welsh language only on request.

Caroline Dinenge:

Most DWP services are available in Welsh without the need for a request, via the online services provided by the Department through GOV.UK:

Jobseekers Allowance Online

Carer's Allowance

Access to Work

Reporting Benefit Fraud

Universal Jobmatch

Budgeting Loan

Find a Lost Pension

Check Your State Pension

State Pension Online

Tell Us Once

An Online complaints portal, to allow customers to raise any complaints about Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit, is also available in Welsh from the DWP corporate pages on GOV.UK.

Universal Credit can be claimed online in English. We are planning a Welsh Language solution due in 2018. In the interim, Universal Credit can be claimed in Welsh over the telephone via our Service Centres.

■ Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs Anne Main:

[6069]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people have (a) applied for and (b) received employment and support allowance, whose main disabling condition was recorded as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, in each of the last 10 years.

Penny Mordaunt:

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008.

The available information is shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Number of individuals making an initial claim to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) whose main disabling condition was recorded as Crohn's Disease or Ulcerative Colitis, Great Britain, 2008 - 2016

YEAR OF ESA CLAIM START	INITIAL ESA CLAIMS
2008 (Oct – Dec)	300
2009	2,200
2010	2,200
2011	2,600
2012	2,800
2013	2,700
2014	2,800
2015	2,600
2016 (Jan - Sep)	1,800

Table 2: Number of individuals assigned to ESA Support Group or the ESA Work Capability Group following their Work Capability Assessment (for initial, repeat or IB reassessment claims), whose main disabling condition was recorded as Crohn's Disease or Ulcerative Colitis, Great Britain, 2008 - 2016

YEAR OF ESA CLAIM START	INITIAL ESA CLAIMS	REPEAT ESA ASSESSMENTS	IB REASSESSMENTS
2008 (Oct – Dec)	100	100	.
2009	700	600	.
2010	800	700	.
2011	1,100	1,300	1,300
2012	1,600	1,900	2,300
2013	1,200	1,000	1,800

YEAR OF ESA CLAIM START	INITIAL ESA CLAIMS	REPEAT ESA ASSESSMENTS	IB REASSESSMENTS
2014	1,200	400	200
2015	1,200	300	100
2016 (Jan - Sep)	700	-	-

Source for Tables 1 and 2: Application data is derived from administrative data held by the DWP and assessment data provided by the Healthcare Provider.

Notes for Tables 1 and 2:

1. The figures are rounded to the nearest 100. ‘-’ denotes figures that are zero or less than 50. ‘.’ denotes not applicable.
2. The information for 2016 is provided up to September 2016 only; this is the latest data available at time of request.
3. Data is available for ESA from October 2008 and for IB reassessment claims from April 2011.
4. An individual may have made more than one ESA claim or assessment in any given year. These individuals will only be counted once in each of the figures provided.
5. The primary medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming ESA on the basis of Crohn’s disease or Ulcerative Colitis would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the work capability assessment.

■ **Employment: Disability**

Catherine West:

[\[6225\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to support disabled people to gain (a) employment and (b) skills and further training.

Penny Mordaunt:

The Work, Health and Disability Green Paper *Improving Lives* demonstrated our strong commitment to providing the support required to help disabled people to be able to work. For example: we are more than doubling the number of Disability Employment Advisors (to over 500) to provide specialist expertise to help disabled people enter employment, we are spending £60m next year on additional support for new claimants with limited capability for work (and this figure will rise to £100m a year by 2020); we are investing in the skills and capabilities of Jobcentre Plus work coaches to enable them to better support people with a wide range of health conditions, including mental health conditions; and our new Personal Support

Package includes an enhanced menu of employment support upon which for work coaches can draw.

The Work and Health Programme will launch from the end of this year and will play a crucial role in offering support at the right time to those who have difficulty accessing the labour market. We expect the majority of people who will start the programme will be disabled people.

Specialist Employability Support (SES) provides employment support for those with complex barriers to work for whom other employment support such as Work Choice is not suitable.

For those in work, or just about to enter work, Access to Work provides practical and financial support with the additional costs faced by individuals whose health or disability affects the way they do their job and is also available for pre-employment activities such as Traineeships, Supported Internships and work trials.

We will continue to develop our approach drawing on responses to the Green Paper consultation.

■ **Employment: Hearing Impairment**

Bill Esterson:

[\[6457\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what support his Department provides for businesses to assist with the employment of staff with a hearing impairment.

Penny Mordaunt:

The Department does not provide such support direct to businesses, but for individuals whose health or disability affects the way they do their job who are in work, or just about to enter work, Access to Work provides practical and financial support with additional costs.

The type of support is tailored to an individual's needs and can include travel to work, support workers and specialist aids and equipment for the individual, as well as advice for employers and awareness raising sessions for their staff.

Access to Work does not replace the duty an employer has under the Equality Act to make reasonable adjustments. Instead it provides support that is over and above that which is a reasonable adjustment.

In addition, the new Disability Confident scheme, launched by the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work in November 2016, works with employers to create a movement for change, by encouraging them to think differently about disability and to take action to improve how they attract, recruit and retain disabled workers. This involves business talking to business, with disability confident employers sharing their evidence and experiences with other employers.

■ Housing Benefit: Supported Housing

Kate Green: [\[6220\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 15 September 2016 on housing benefit, what estimate he has made of the size of the top-up fund for supported accommodation.

Kate Green: [\[6221\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 15 September 2016 HCWS154, what progress has been made on the administration of the supported accommodation top-up fund.

Caroline Dinenge:

Developing a workable and sustainable funding model for supported housing is a priority for the Government. We will set out further details on the Government's plans in the autumn.

■ Jobcentres: Oldham

Jim McMahon: [\[6353\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether his Department plans to invest in the Jobcentre Plus building in Union Street, Oldham; and if he will make a statement.

Damian Hinds:

There are no changes planned for the Jobcentre plus building in Union Street, Oldham (Tweedale Jobcentreplus) however, there will be appropriate investment in the building and the services delivered from it.

■ Low Pay

Debbie Abrahams: [\[6004\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of low pay on levels of social security spending for (a) public and (b) private sector employees by (i) industrial sector and (ii) region.

Damian Hinds:

HM Government have not made an assessment of the effect of low pay on levels of social security spending.

■ Motability

Caroline Lucas: [\[6307\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to Written Statement HCWS603 of 20 April 2017, if individuals subject to an appeal lodged before that statement will have their mobility vehicles returned.

Penny Mordaunt:

When the Written Statement was issued on 20th April 2017, Motability contacted customers who were in the process of returning cars following an unsuccessful PIP reassessment.

Claimants who had already handed back their vehicles before this date and who win on appeal can normally reapply for the Motability Scheme immediately, providing that they repay the Support money.

While the Department works closely with Motability, it is an independent charitable organisation that is wholly responsible for the terms and the administration of the Motability scheme and the Transitional Support package. Any questions relating to the operation of the scheme itself should be directed to Motability itself.

Occupational Pensions: Low Pay

Alex Cunningham: [\[6400\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans his Department has to extend auto-enrolment to low earners.

Alex Cunningham: [\[6401\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that carers have access to workplace pensions.

Guy Opperman:

Personal care assistants who meet the eligibility criteria for automatic enrolment must already be automatically enrolled into a workplace pension by their employers.

My Department is currently undertaking a review of the policy and operation of automatic enrolment. This includes looking at the existing policy coverage and how to achieve the right balance between enabling as many people as possible to save into a workplace pension, whilst ensuring that it should make economic sense for them to do so. The review report will be laid before Parliament at the end of the year. The review will have regard to the Equality Act and the principles of fairness, affordability and sustainability. This includes the need to balance the needs of individuals with the costs to employers and ensuring value for money for the taxpayer.

Occupational Pensions: Self-employed

Alex Cunningham: [\[6007\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans he has to bring self-employed workers into auto enrollment.

Guy Opperman:

The Department is undertaking a review of the policy and operation of automatic enrolment, supported by an external Advisory Group. I refer you to the scope of this review set out by my Hon Friend Richard Harrington MP on 12 Dec 2016. It will look at the diverse group of self-employed people and how they might be better enabled to

save for their retirement. The review report will be laid before Parliament at the end of the year.

■ Pensions

Alex Cunningham:

[\[6010\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index, for what reasons pensioners in countries such as the Netherlands receive a 50 per cent higher income in retirement than their British counterparts.

Guy Opperman:

Although international comparisons are insightful it is difficult to draw a direct parallel due to different historical impacts and systems.

The Government has and is continuing to work hard to ensure financial security in later life.

The UK system is based on a foundation income from the State in the form of the new State Pension, with provision above that from private saving, facilitated by auto-enrolment and pensions flexibilities. Thanks to triple lock, in April 2017, the basic state pension was over £1200 a year higher than it was in April 2010. The government is committed to the triple lock for the remainder of this parliament. The basic state pension it is now at one of its highest rates relative to earnings for over two decades, reversing a trend of decline we saw between 1997 and 2010.

Recent reforms to private pensions including the introduction of Automatic Enrolment are also helping to improve retirement outcomes for future generations.

Alex Cunningham:

[\[6384\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans he has to implement the recommendations of the Law Commission on clarifying the duties of pension providers in respect of long-term investment factors.

Guy Opperman:

We want pension schemes to take account of all financial long-term risks when making investment decisions, and we therefore welcome the Law Commission's report.

We are concerned that some investment decisions may be made with short-term considerations in mind. This can exclude consideration of options that take account of longer term financial factors, such as those arising from material environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks.

We are concerned that some investment decisions may not appropriately take into account longer term financial factors, such as those arising from material environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks.

One of the key recommendations is for trustees and providers to clearly distinguish financial risk factors – which must be taken account of; and non-financial (ethical)

factors – which can be taken account if certain conditions are met. We will consider afresh whether our current legislation is clear enough in light of the report.

However, we also wish to address some of the behavioural biases that may exist in the industry, such as the assumption that social motivation and good investment returns are not compatible.

In line with the protocol agreed by the Lord Chancellor with the Law Commission, we aim to provide an interim response to both the 5 recommendations and the 11 options for reform by December 2017. We will respond in full within one year of publication, by June 2018.

■ Pensions: Fees and Charges

Alex Cunningham: [\[6008\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps he is taking to secure a full transparent market for asset purchase and sales.

Alex Cunningham: [\[6009\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he has identified the cost collection templates negotiated with the Investment Association as his Department's preferred methodology for cost collection.

Alex Cunningham: [\[6011\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps he is taking to ensure that all of the recommendations in the Financial Conduct Authority's asset management market review are implemented.

Alex Cunningham: [\[6012\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps he is taking to end the practice of hidden fees being taken from pension pots by asset managers.

Alex Cunningham: [\[6381\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to tackle the issue of hidden costs in pension pots.

Alex Cunningham: [\[6382\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to improve the transparency of pension costs.

Guy Opperman:

It is important that pension savers know the costs and charges they are paying and the government is committed to making this happen. We want pension scheme members to have confidence that there are no hidden charges or fees being taken from their pots.

Since 2015, we have required occupational and personal workplace pension schemes offering money purchase benefits, including master trust schemes, to produce an annual statement, which is available to members; which sets out the level

of charges and, as far as they are able, transaction costs applicable to all funds; and the extent to which these charges and costs represent good value for members.

It has previously been difficult for schemes to obtain information about the charges and transaction costs they incur. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) consulted last year on proposals requiring asset managers to disclose this information to trustees of occupational schemes offering money purchase benefits, and the governance committees for workplace personal pensions.

The FCA will publish a Policy Statement later in the year setting out the final rules and guidance to disclose costs in a standardised format. We then intend to consult on how we can provide information about these costs and charges to the members of occupational schemes and to publish it. The FCA will, thereafter, introduce similar provisions for personal workplace pension schemes members.

The FCA's Asset Management Market Study indicated that there are significant issues with the way the investment market works. Savers, trustees, and scheme sponsors need a transparent, competitive and cost-effective investment market to provide for their security in later life and to keep their pension provision affordable. We will be studying the recommendations and proposed remedies closely to see what else government can do to support the FCA's vital work in this area, which could deliver favourable outcomes for pension savers.

To drive competitive pressure on asset managers the FCA recommended we look at barriers to scheme consolidation. We know that smaller pension schemes may not be able to negotiate or drive lower prices within this market, which in turn can lead to better outcomes for savers. Following a recent Call for Evidence, we are actively considering ways that we can simplify scheme consolidation and enable pension scheme scale to develop further.

■ Personal Independence Payment

Caroline Lucas:

[\[6014\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make it his policy to replace the 20 metre walking distance for personal independence payment mobility criterion with the 50 metre walking distance used for disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement.

Penny Mordaunt:

The 20m distance is not the only factor considered when applying a descriptor for the Moving around activity. Individuals who can walk more than 20 metres can still receive the enhanced rate of the mobility component, if they cannot do so safely, to an acceptable standard, repeatedly and in a reasonable time period.

Mrs Anne Main:

[\[6070\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people have received personal independence payments whose main disabling condition was recorded as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis since 2013.

Penny Mordaunt:

Between April 2013 and April 2017 there have been 3,700 awards for Personal Independence Payment where the main disabling condition recorded was Crohn's disease and 1,300 awards where the main disabling condition was ulcerative colitis.

Caroline Lucas:[\[6270\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of personal independence payment claimants had the original decision on their application overturned as a result of (a) mandatory reconsideration, (b) the lodging of an appeal, without that appeal being heard and (c) an appeal hearing in each month for which data is available.

Jo Churchill:[\[6706\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of personal independence payment claimants has the original decision on their application overturned as a result of (a) mandatory reconsideration, (b) the lodging of an appeal, without that appeal being heard and (c) an appeal hearing in each month for which data is available.

Penny Mordaunt:

The latest available data on personal independence payment (PIP) clearances split by type of clearance (i.e. whether the claim was awarded, disallowed or withdrawn) can be found at <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>. Guidance on how to use Stat-Xplore can be found here: <https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/index.html>

a) Statistics on outcomes of Mandatory Reconsiderations split by month can be found in published statistics in tables 7B of:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics>

These statistics relate to normal rules claims (i.e. excluding special rules cases for the terminally ill).

b) The following table gives the number of decisions overturned by DWP after an appeal had been lodged, but before the appeal was heard by the tribunal for the period Apr13-Mar17.

MONTH/YEAR CASES WERE SETTLED	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jan		#	200	300	800
Feb		#	300	200	700
Mar		#	400	200	900

MONTH/YEAR CASES WERE SETTLED	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Apr	0	#	300	300	
May	0	#	400	400	
Jun	0	#	400	300	
Jul	0	100	300	300	
Aug	0	100	200	400	
Sep	0	100	200	400	
Oct	#	100	200	500	
Nov	#	200	300	600	
Dec	#	200	200	500	
Total	0	900	3400	4300	2500

Fewer than 50 claims in this category

Between April 2013 and March 2017 11,000 cases were settled by the Department after the Mandatory reconsideration had taken place and an appeal been lodged, but before the tribunal hearing.

c) Quarterly statistics on overturned cases at appeal can be found in published statistics from the Ministry of Justice in table SSCS.3 of:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics#history>

■ Social Security Benefits

Caroline Lucas:

[6159]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to his Department's freedom of information response 1740 of 15 May 2017, what factors his Department took into consideration in setting the 80 per cent of the original decisions are to be upheld measure for monitoring mandatory reconsideration; and if he will make a statement.

Penny Mordaunt:

The department has not set a target for upholding original decisions at Mandatory Reconsideration. The 80 per cent figure, which was used in the answer to Freedom of Information request 1740, is not considered by the decision maker when they carry out a Mandatory Reconsideration but is used to assess the quality of benefit decisions. In order to ensure we have consistently accurate decisions we track and monitor Mandatory Reconsiderations to assess the quality of our initial decision making and to help understand and improve our processes.

■ State Pension Age Independent Review

Alex Cunningham: [6403]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the Government's response to the Cridland review.

Guy Opperman:

The Pensions Act 2014 sets a statutory requirement for the Government to publish its review of State Pension age before 7 May 2017, but this was delayed because of the General Election being called before that date. The event of an election meant that the new Government needed to consider and make their own judgements on such issues. This was a significant decision with a weighty evidence base and it would have been irresponsible of this Government not to give this issue the consideration it deserved.

The review was published on Wednesday 19 July 2017. Please find the below web link to the published report.

[Governments State pension age review final report](#)

■ State Retirement Pensions: Age

Alex Cunningham: [6402]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate his Department has made of the number of adults who would have to work longer as a result of proposals in the Cridland Review.

Guy Opperman:

We estimate that 6 million people in Great Britain would be affected by bringing forward the rise in State Pension age from 67 to 68 from 2044-46 to 2037-39 (those born between 6 April 1970 and 5 April 1978). These people would see their State Pension age increased by up to one year.

For those who can work longer, doing so brings benefits both for individuals, through sustaining social networks and boosting subsequent retirement income, and for the economy. Research carried out in 2013 showed that, if everyone worked for one year longer, it would add 1% to GDP.

■ Winter Fuel Payments

Peter Dowd: [6499]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the cost of means-testing the winter fuel allowance.

Guy Opperman:

There will be no change to the universal nature of the Winter Fuel Payment for the length of this Parliament.

MINISTERIAL CORRECTIONS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ Energy: Vale of Clwyd

Chris Ruane:

[\[6347\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of constituents in Vale of Clwyd constituency eligible for the safeguard price cap for energy.

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 5 September 2017. The correct answer should have been:

Margot James:

Ofgem is considering options to protect vulnerable consumers and has yet to announce a formal proposal. ~~Alongside this Ofgem has announced a package of measures to help consumers move away from poor value tariffs.~~

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

■ **Sale of the Green Investment Bank: Employee Indemnity**

Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry (Claire Perry): [\[HCWS114\]](#)

The Government completed the sale of the Green Investment Bank (GIB) to Macquarie on 18 August 2017. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (SoS) has provided an indemnity for GIB employees in relation to a specific diligence and disclosure exercise conducted as part of the sale process. This indemnity created a notifiable contingent liability.

On 7 March 2017, Government notified the Chairs of the PAC and BEIS Committees of its intention to enter into this contingent liability in accordance with the non-standard notification procedure set out in *Managing Public Money* because the GIB sale process was subject to strict commercial confidentiality agreements that limited the information that could be disclosed publicly by either bidders or the Government. The indemnity was then entered into on the 19 April 2017, the date on which the Government signed an agreement to sell GIB to Macquarie.

The indemnity is for GIB employees who were involved in a specific diligence and disclosure exercise, in their personal capacity and not for GIB as an organisation, as it was never intended that any individual GIB employee would assume personal liability for claims made as a result of the support that they have provided the SoS, except where there has been fraud, wilful default or bad faith. The indemnity is uncapped and not time limited. The prospect of a claim is assessed as remote and that of a claim against the Government's indemnity very remote. This indemnity cannot be called upon by any of the parties to the sale as they have waived the right to bring a claim against GIB employees. A claim can only be brought by a third party.

If the liability is called upon, provision for payment will be made through the normal supply procedure. The Treasury approved the proposal in principle prior to the then Chairs of the PAC and BEIS Committees being notified.

As a matter of record, I have today laid a copy of a Departmental Minute for both Houses explaining the procedure followed and containing a description of the liabilities undertaken.

■ **The Government's response to consultation on the Corporate Governance Reform Green Paper**

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Greg Clark):
[\[HCWS112\]](#)

One of the UK's biggest assets in competing in the global economy is its reputation for being a dependable and confident place in which to do business. This has been maintained by keeping the corporate governance framework up to date.

The Government published the Green Paper on corporate governance reform last November. It focused on three specific aspects of corporate governance where the Government saw particular scope to strengthen the current framework – executive pay, corporate governance in large privately-held businesses, and the steps that company boards take to engage and listen to employees, suppliers and other groups with an interest in corporate performance.

The Green Paper attracted 375 responses from a wide cross-section of business and society and has provided Government with a solid basis on which to take decisions. It has also benefited from the work of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee which published recommendations for corporate governance reform in April.

Three key themes emerged from responses to the consultation.

First, in relation to executive pay, there were widely held concerns that a small minority of companies are not responding adequately when they encounter significant shareholder opposition to levels of executive pay and that remuneration committees need to do more to demonstrate that they are sensitive to pay and conditions across the wider workforce.

Second, a widely held view that large companies could do more to strengthen the employee, customer, supplier and wider stakeholder voice at boardroom level as a key factor in improving boardroom decision-making, delivering more sustainable business performance and building wider public confidence in the way businesses are run.

Third, there was a widely held view that there should be more transparency and accountability for corporate governance in large privately-held businesses, reflecting their economic and social significance.

The Government has now published its response to the consultation setting out the proposals that it now intends to take forward to address these and other corporate governance issues. They involve a combination of secondary legislation, enhancements to the UK Corporate Governance Code (which is overseen by the Financial Reporting Council) and voluntary, business-led action.

The Government intends to introduce secondary legislation to:

- Require quoted companies to report annually the ratio of chief executive total remuneration to the average pay of the company's UK employees, and to set out more clearly in remuneration policies the impact of share price growth on long-term executive pay outcomes;
- Require all companies of significant size to explain how their directors comply with their requirements under Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 to have regard to employee and other interests;
- Require the UK's largest companies, including privately-held businesses, to disclose their corporate governance arrangements, including whether they follow any formal code, except where they are already subject to an equivalent reporting requirement.

The Government has also invited the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as part of its consultation on a revised UK Corporate Governance Code later this year, to consider a number of new provisions including:

- Giving company remuneration committees a broader responsibility for overseeing pay and incentives across the company and explaining how these relate to executive pay incentives;
- Requiring companies to be more specific about the steps they should take to address significant shareholder dissent on executive pay (and other matters);
- Requiring companies, on a comply or explain basis, to adopt one of three employee engagement mechanisms: a designated non-executive director, an employee advisory council or a director from the workforce.

The Government has asked business and professional bodies to take forward related business-led initiatives, including:

- Inviting the CBI, the Institute of Directors, the British Venture Capital Association and the Institute of Family Businesses to work with the FRC to develop a voluntary set of corporate governance principles for large, privately-held businesses; and
- Asking the Investment Association to implement its proposal to establish and maintain a public register of companies receiving significant shareholder votes against resolutions, including on executive pay.

In addition, the Government has asked the FRC, the Financial Conduct Authority and the Insolvency Service to conclude new or, in some cases, revised letters of understanding with each other before the end of this year to ensure the most effective use of their existing powers to sanction directors and ensure the integrity of corporate governance reporting. The Government will consider, in the light of this work, whether further action is required.

Implementation of these measures will improve shareholder scrutiny of executive remuneration, strengthen the employee voice in board-rooms and build confidence in the way companies, both listed and private are run. They will build on the UK's corporate governance strengths and help ensure that we are equipped for the economic opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

The Government's full response to the Green Paper consultation is available on the gov.uk website and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

TREASURY

■ Draft legislation for the Finance (No.2) Bill

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mel Stride):

[\[HCWS113\]](#)

As has been previously announced, the Government will introduce a Finance Bill following the autumn Budget.

In line with the approach to tax policy making, set out in the 2010 'Tax Consultation Framework', the Government is committed, where possible, to publishing most tax legislation in draft for technical consultation before the relevant Finance Bill is laid before Parliament.

The Government will publish draft clauses for the Finance Bill on Wednesday 13 September 2017, along with accompanying explanatory notes, tax information and impact notes and other supporting documents.

The consultation on the draft clauses will be open until Wednesday 25 October 2017.

■ **Operation of the UK's Counter-Terrorist Asset Freezing Regime: 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2016**

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Stephen Barclay): [\[HCWS115\]](#)

Under the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 (TAF 2010), the Treasury is required to report to Parliament, quarterly, on its operation of the UK's asset freezing regime mandated by UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1452.

This report covers the period from 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2016.[1] This report also covers the UK implementation of the UN's ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida asset freezing regime (ISIL-AQ) and the operation of the EU asset freezing regime in the UK under EU Regulation (EC) 2580/2001 which implements UNSCR 1373 against external terrorist threats to the EU.

Under the ISIL-AQ asset freezing regime, the UN has responsibility for designations and the Treasury, through its Office of Financial Sanctions implementation (OFSI), has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011.

Under EU Regulation 2580/2001, the EU has responsibility for designations and OFSI has responsibility for licensing and compliance with the regime in the UK under Part 1 of TAF 2010.

A new EU asset freezing regime under EU Regulation (2016/1686) was implemented on 22 September 2016. This permits the EU to make autonomous Al-Qaida and ISIL (Da'esh) listings. Once a designation is made under this regime it will appear in the table attached.

Annexes A and B to this statement provide a breakdown, by name, of all those designated by the UK and the EU in pursuance of UN Security Council Resolution 1373.

The table attached sets out the key asset-freezing activity in the UK during the quarter.

Legal Proceedings

1. In November a Court of Appeal considered whether or not Begg met the minimum criteria for the grant of a Protective Costs Order and concluded that he did. The Court of Appeal thereafter remitted the matter back to the High Court for the Protective Costs Order to be granted.

Annex A: Designated persons under TAF 2010 by name [2]

INDIVIDUALS

1. Hamed ABDOLLAHI*
2. Imad Khalil AL-ALAMI
3. Abdelkarim Hussein AL-NASSER*
4. Ibrahim Salih AL-YACOUB*
5. Manssor ARBABSIAR*
6. Usama HAMDAN
7. Hasan IZZ-AL-DIN*
8. Mohammed KHALED
9. Musa Abu MARZOUK
10. Khalid MISHAAL
11. Khalid Sheikh MOHAMMED*
12. Abdul Reza SHAHLAI*
13. Ali Gholam SHAKURI*
14. Qasem SOLEIMANI*

ENTITIES

1. BASQUE FATHERLAND AND LIBERTY (ETA)
2. EJERCITO DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (ELN)*
3. HIZBALLAH MILITARY WING, INCLUDING EXTERNAL SECURITY ORGANISATION*
4. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE - GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP-GC)*
5. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)*
6. SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL)*

Annex B: Persons designated by the EU under Council Regulation (EC) 2580/2001[3]**PERSONS**

1. Hamed ABDOLLAHI*
2. Abdelkarim Hussein AL-NASSER*
3. Ibrahim Salih AL-YACOUB*
4. Manssor ARBABSIAR*
5. Mohammed BOUYERI
6. Hassan Hassan EL HAJJ

7. Hasan IZZ-AL-DIN*
8. Farad MELIAD
9. Khalid Sheikh MOHAMMED*
10. Dalokay SANLI
11. Abdul Reza SHAHLAI*
12. Ali Gholam SHAKURI*
13. Qasem SOLEIMANI*

GROUPS AND ENTITIES

1. ABU NIDAL ORGANISATION (ANO)
2. AL-AQSA E.V.
3. AL-AQSA MARTYRS' BRIGADE
4. BABBAR KHALSA
5. COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INCLUDING NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA), PHILIPPINES
6. DEVRIMCI HALK KURTULU PARTISI-CEPHESI — DHKP/C (REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY/FRONT/PARTY)
7. EJÉRCITO DE LIBERACIÓN NACIONAL (NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY)*
8. GAMA'A AL-ISLAMIYYA (A.K.A. AL-GAMA'A AL-ISLAMIYYA) (ISLAMIC GROUP — IG)
9. HAMAS, INCLUDING HAMAS-IZZ AL-DIN AL-QASSEM
10. HIZBALLAH MILITARY WING, INCLUDING EXTERNAL SECURITY ORGANISATION
11. HIZBUL MUJAHIDEEN (HM)
12. HOFSTADGROEP
13. ISLAMI BÜYÜK DOĞU AKINCILAR CEPHESI (IBDA-C) (GREAT ISLAMIC EASTERN WARRIORS FRONT)
14. KHALISTAN ZINDABAD FORCE (KZF)
15. KURDISTAN WORKERS PARTY (PKK) (A.K.A. KONGRA-GEL)
16. LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE)
17. PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD (PIJ)
18. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE — GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP-GC)*
19. POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)*

20. SENDERO LUMINOSO (SL) (SHINING PATH)*

21. TEYRBAZEN AZADIYA KURDISTAN (TAK)

[1] Financial institutions update OFSI on individual account balances annually. The figures in the first row of the table are based on account balances which were last reported to HM Treasury on 30 September 2016. At the end of each quarter HM Treasury will adjust the figures to reflect any accounts that have been frozen or unfrozen in that quarter.

[2] For full listing details please refer to

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-list-of-designated-persons-terrorism-and-terrorist-financing>

[3] For full listing details please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-list-of-designated-persons-terrorism-and-terrorist-financing>

* EU listing rests on UK designation under TAFE 2010

Attachments:

1. This table sets out the key frozen assets. [The following table sets out the key asset.pdf]

EDUCATION

■ Childcare Update

The Minister of State for Children and Families (Mr Robert Goodwill):
[[HCWS110](#)]

On 1 September 2017, 30 hours of free childcare for working parents of three and four year olds went live nationally in England, saving families up to £5,000 per year per child. Alongside the childcare support the Government provides through Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit, this additional free childcare is easing working families' budgets, helping them to balance the cost of childcare with work.

The Government investment programme will deliver a record £6 billion per year in childcare by 2020, which includes an extra £1 billion per year to deliver the free entitlements. In addition, a further £100 million in capital funding has been committed to help providers create additional 30 hours places.

More than 200,000 30 hours codes have been issued to eligible parents wishing to take up a place this autumn, which exceeds our target for this term. These families join the existing 15,000 families who are already benefitting from 30 hours free childcare in the twelve early delivery areas.

An independent evaluation of four of these early delivery areas, published on 31 August, found that 30 hours incentivised many parents to increase their working hours or move into work, and parents were overwhelmingly positive about the offer. The report can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-rollout-of-30-hours-free-childcare-](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-rollout-of-30-hours-free-childcare)

[evaluation](#). These findings build on the evaluation of the first eight delivery areas, which found that 23% of mothers and around one in ten fathers are working more as a result. The evaluation also shows that more than three quarters of parents reported greater flexibility in their working life as a result of 30 hours, enabling them to spend more time together at home with their children, reducing stress and improving family finances. Importantly, the report found that more than eight out of ten childcare providers who are offering the existing 15 hours entitlements also went on to offer 30 hours. This demonstrates that the sector has responded very positively to the additional demand for childcare places from working families.

During the autumn, I will be closely monitoring delivery to ensure continued improvements to the offer for parents and providers. The Childcare Choices website has now received over 1 million visits since launching in March, and the Department for Education will continue to work with local authorities to ensure parents have high quality information about accessing the offer.

I will continue to work closely with Her Majesty's Treasury Ministers to ensure that parents are able to access the HMRC-run childcare service smoothly. The majority of parents have successfully applied using the childcare service. Some parents experienced difficulties accessing the service through the system by the 31 August application deadline but those parents who are eligible, and applied before the deadline, will have a code to allow them to access our 30 hours free childcare.

EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION

■ Publications on the UK's future partnership with the EU

Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Mr David Davis):

[\[HCWS111\]](#)

Over the summer, the Government has published a series of papers setting out key issues that form part of the Government's vision for the future deep and special partnership between the UK and the EU.

Each paper reflects the engagement the Government has sought from external parties with expertise in these policy areas, drawing on the very extensive work undertaken across government since last year's referendum. Taken together, these papers are an essential step towards building a new partnership to promote our shared interests and values.

These future partnership papers published to date are:

- Future customs arrangements (15 August);
- Providing a cross-border civil judicial cooperation framework (22 August);
- Enforcement and dispute resolution (23 August); and
- The exchange and protection of personal data (24 August).

Today we are publishing the next paper in this series: Collaboration on Science and innovation.

Since the start of summer recess, the Government has also published position papers in advance of formal negotiation rounds with the EU, and technical notes to support the negotiations.

The position papers are:

- Northern Ireland and Ireland (16 August);
- Confidentiality and access to documents (21 August); and
- Continuity in the availability of goods for the EU and the UK (21 August).

The technical notes are:

- Spent fuel and radioactive waste (28 August);
- Existing contracts for the supply of nuclear material (28 August);
- Functionality and Protocol 7 (28 August); and
- The comparison of EU-UK positions on citizens' rights (joint technical note) (first published 20 July; updated 31 August).

Copies of all these papers, and any further position and future partnership papers, will be deposited in the libraries of both Houses.

HEALTH

■ Update on Infected Blood Inquiry

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Jackie Doyle-Price):
[\[HCWS109\]](#)

Following the announcement of the Government's intention to hold an inquiry into infected blood on 11th July, I am writing to update the House on progress.

Bishop James Jones, former Chair of the Hillsborough Independent Panel and Chair of the Gosport Independent Panel, had a telephone meeting with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood and a number of the campaign groups on 27th July. Following this meeting, the Bishop informed the Department of Health of the request to remove the 18th August deadline for views on the format and scope of the upcoming independent inquiry. The Government also heard this view from the correspondence we have received. It is important that the inquiry is informed by the views of the people who have been affected by contaminated blood.

The Government has therefore decided to extend the deadline to 18th October 2017, to ensure that we hear as many opinions as possible. The government has written to the beneficiaries of the payment schemes directly to inform them of this change. We are grateful to those who have already sent their views; these will be taken into consideration.

We are also aware of the requests from some stakeholders to move the sponsorship of the inquiry to another Government department. We can confirm that this is being considered as part of the consultation and that no decision has yet been taken on sponsorship.

The Government will provide a further update to the House after the consultation closes on 18th October.